MAPSS and MACSS PRESENT
THE ANNUAL INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE CONFERENCE (IGC)
June 25th 2021
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Note from the Organizers:
Concerned with the many theoretical and methodological commitments of the social sciences, the Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference (IGC) follows our MA programs’ tradition of approaching intellectual questions from a variety of perspectives. Each presentation is comprised of original research connected to a topic or theme, and some are viewed through the lenses of various disciplines.

**SCHEDULE (all listed times are CDT):**

**Canvas Poster Session (Accessible Wednesday, June 23rd to Friday, June 25th)**

| Children and Adults Use Linguistic Cues to Inform Pedagogical Preferences |
| Adolecence: A Critical Period of Vulnerability for Substance Use |
| Examining the Impact of Parental Substance Use, Abuse on Homeless Youth’s Psychopathology, Adjustment, Alcohol and Substance Use |
| (Not) Knowing how to know others: Examining perspective getting in China and the United States |
| Relevance Insensitivity to Information on the Start of an Event Leads to Biased Outcome Prediction |
| Children’s Perception of Different Language Speakers |

**Panel Talks**

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* **Lunch Break**

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Session 1-1
Restructuring Social Relations: The Experience of China | Zoom Link
Discussant: Wen Xie, MAPSS Preceptor

In an era of pervasive polarization and deficit of political trust, what role could the government play in the public sphere for generating public support and images of unity? Contemporary China has been considered by many as an exceptional success in maintaining legitimacy and unifying energy, yet some have also observed potential risks and tensions. This panel discusses the Chinese authoritarian government’s efforts to restructure the society, focusing on the Party-state’s strategies of mobilizing institutional, symbolic and ideological instruments to alter conceptions of social interests and class relations. Based on abundant first-hand materials, the four panelists develop theories that shed light on crucial and timely issues of state-society relations.

- “Embedded Red Engines”: Organizational Foundations of Delegation and Credit Claiming in China | Hanning Luo
- Denouncing Overwork without Challenging the Work Ethic: the Chinese Government's Uneasy Re-Engineering of Hard Work Discourses during the 996 Debate | Zhantao Luo
- Imagining Data-driven Governance: Surveillance and Regulation in the Social Credit System | Shibing Zhou, Panel Organizer
- The Liberal vs. New Left Debate in China: Chinese Political Intellectuals in Relation to State Ideology | Yu-Hsuan Sun

Session 1-2
Judgment and Decision-Making in Social Situations | Zoom Link
Discussant: Dr. Margaret Echelbarger, Postdoctoral Principal Researcher, Booth School of Business

This panel examines judgment and decision-making in social situations involving conflict at different levels of analysis. We integrate research from sociology, psychology, and economics to provide a comprehensive investigation into conflict resolution and interpersonal relationships. We start with behavior, looking at the influence of situational features on the choice to engage in debate versus dialogue for disagreements, and then the impact of social perceptions on the use of indirect versus direct speech to prompt for gratitude. A third behavioral study utilizes a decision-making game and simulation to look at discrimination under different levels of identity. Finally, a review of theoretical and empirical data on moral decision-making and underlying psychological mechanisms provides further support and insight into these social behaviors.

- Drama at the Dinner Table: Influences on the Likelihood of Having a Debate or a Dialogue in Disagreement | Anastasiya Apalkova, Panel Organizer
- Prompting for Gratitude: The use of indirect and direct speech to elicit thanks for missed appreciation | Mei Arditi
- Nested Identities: Experiment on Discrimination and Simulation on Feminism | Yier Ling
- A Critical Review of Dual Process Theories and How the Lack of Human Empathy Influences Utilitarian Decision-making | Liuyi Chen
According to Aristotle, humans are in constant search of how to live a good life. The goal of our panel is to gain a better understanding of the human pursuit of a virtuous life. Pursuing epistemic and moral virtues allows us to transcend ourselves and live meaningfully. Therefore, exploring the ways in which they interact with our lives enables us to understand how humans can achieve their highest potential. The present panel aims to answer this question by discussing research on the motivations, development, and consequences of living a virtuous life.

- Examining whether studying abroad increases virtues and civic engagement | Mierel Rehich
- The Role of Social Support and Individual Differences in Wisdom that drive Resilience in Communities impacted by Covid-19 | Megan Loh, Panel Organizer
- Quantifies and builds an economic game theoretic model around morality | Thomas Zhang
- Going Beyond the Call of Duty: Supererogation and Meaning in Life | Ishita Singhal

SESSION 2: 10AM – 11AM CDT

Session 2-1

Barriers to Civic Society and Anxieties of Contemporary Liberal Democracy | Zoom Link

Discussant: Dr. Dawn Herrera, Johnson Instructor in Political Science, MAPSS

This panel seeks to understand both how our society’s structure inhibits civic participation as well as why there is an upsurge of democratic anxiety within contemporary liberal democracies. This understanding is sought through examining community organization’s responses to systemic barriers as well as by shedding light on the causes of democratic anxiety and its potential remedies. J.D. Carpenter identifies the problem of democratic anxiety as being produced by pluralism, such that the need for an overlapping consensus is required. D. Kaiser highlights difficulties and barriers common in the process of post-prison reentry and analyzes the various advocacy efforts of community organizers in response. J. Salzman evaluates voting barriers put in place by states and discusses how the community-organized Get Out the Vote campaigns are impacted by their implementation. P. Trommelen discusses the inherent possibility of institutional decay and possible institutional reform. Understanding these topics allows for an in-depth look into the creation and maintenance of systemic barriers and democratic anxieties by exploring how these barriers impact different population’s civic participation as well as into how themes of citizenship, institutional reform, and democracy interrelate.

- Theorizing with History: Charles Taylor, John Rawls, and the Concept of Overlapping Consensus | J.D. Carpenter
- Coalition-building in Prisoner Reentry | Devin Kaiser
- Get Out the Vote and Election Laws: How Laws Impact GOTV Effects | Jenna Salzman
- Political Decay in Liberal Democracy: Five Core Principles to Battle Systemic Corruption and Promote More Democracy | Pim Trommelen

Derek Kennedy, Panel Organizer
Session 2-2

The Diffusion of Knowledge and Technology: Dynamics of its Recombination and Boundaries within Innovation | Zoom Link

**Discussant: Dr. James Evans, Faculty Director, MACSS | Professor, Department of Sociology**

This panel aims to present the topic of innovation. Creative works have experienced an exponential growth over the past decades. Increasing number of scholars have tried to answer the mechanism of innovation emergence and its spillover effect. However, many nuanced questions remain unanswered in this field. The panel contributes to the understanding of novelty in various contexts (GitHub toolkits development, knowledge diversity in research teams, gender equality in the movie industry and scientific research). In particular, our panelists hope to explore how technology innovation contributes to society, how novelty should be measured and what is the heterogeneity behind the collaboration and innovation.

- Knowledge Diversity and Team Innovation: the Dynamics of Knowledge Recombination and Boundaries within the Innovation | **Chuqing Zhao, Panel Organizer**
- Representation Learning and Novelty Detection in Open Source Community: A case study of GitHub repositories | **Yutao Chen**
- Novelty, Disruption, and the Evolution of Scientific Impact | **Yiling Lin**
- Gender imbalance and technology innovation in the workplace | **Sirui Zhou**

Session 2-3

Applied Macroeconomics and Empirical Finance: Implications for Economic Policies | Zoom Link

**Discussant: Dr. Kanit Kuevibulvanich, Assistant Instructional Professor, Department of Economics**

Empirical economic research is considered especially important for deriving policy implications, relevant for firm dynamics, economic policymaking, and ultimately, economic growth. This panel is aimed at discussing the results of three empirical studies in the field of Economics and Finance, that utilize unique numerical and alternative data in order to answer policy-related questions on both macro and micro levels. Ekaterina and Enkhzaya will present their macroeconomic research that can enhance monetary and fiscal policies in the developing world, while Tian will examine the effect of earnings conference calls on abnormal market reactions, extracting value-relevant information from the company-level data. Using advanced machine learning, Francisco will present his findings on the way crop modal price volatility in India can be predicted using remote sensing data and road networks.

- Macroeconomic policies and economic activity around the booms of private credit | **Ekaterina Vashinskaya, Panel Organizer**
- Monetary Policy Transmission in Small Open Economy: Evidence from Mongolia | **Enkhzaya Demid**
- Reading ease of managerial speech: How market respond to conference calls | **Tian Chen**
- Remote Sensing for Equitable Development: Predicting Crop Modal Price Volatility Using Normalized Difference Vegetation Index and Road Network Centrality Measures | **Francisco Romaldo Mendes**
Session 3-1
New Stakes in Digital Media | Zoom Link
Discussant: Dr. Mary (Ella) Wilhoit, Johnson Instructor in Anthropology, MAPSS

This panel will feature four research projects centered around the larger theme of digital media’s impact on culture and institutionality. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, many people have relied on digital media and social media technologies as prostheses to normal life. Looking at concepts such as relationship strengths, social mobility, data ethics, and algorithmically inspired cosmology, the authors of this panel seek to engage in discourses related to the reality of human-technological interactions as they are evidently intimate, confounding, idealizing, expansive, and existent, nonetheless.

● “If You See This, This is For You”: A Cosmic Stake in Recognition and Reciprocity Inspired by Algorithmically Orchestrated Experiences on TikTok | Micaela Davis, Panel Organizer

● Chai Dhaba to Cafe: The cultural commodification and socio-spatial politics of chai retail in urban Pakistan | Aiza Hussain

● The Friendship Utopia: How COVID-19 Exposed the Neoliberal Paradox of Female Friendship in the 21st Century | Isabel Goddard

● Algorithmic Injustice: How “AI ethics” have enabled more unethical data practices | Fosca Majnoni d’Intignano

Session 3-2
Migration, Displacement, Diaspora | Zoom Link
Discussant: Dr. Amit Anshumali, Johnson Instructor in Sociology, MAPSS

The goal of this panel is to explore how migrants, displaced persons, and diasporic communities contend with modern realities of globalization, climate change, capitalism, and neocolonialism. Participants in this panel explore how their interlocutors employ diverse self- and place-making strategies in order to contend with precarity and navigate their regionally-specific contexts. The diverse work of these participants enable engagements with common threads that emerge in their research, such as the workings of capitalist and imperial power in the racialized subjugation of their interlocutors, while also pointing towards the importance of context-specific approaches to migration and diasporic studies.

● Contested Foodways: Negotiations of Self, Place, and Precarity amongst Mexican Farmworkers in Wisconsin Dairies | Sophie D’Anieri, Panel Organizer

● Constructing Refugee English Language Learners and the Other through Institutional Language Ideologies | Alicia Taylor

● Discursive Contexts in International and U.S. National Obligation to Climate Displaced Persons | Annie Hawkins
Identity, Conflict, and International Relations in the Twenty-First Century | Zoom Link

Discussant: Yan Xu, MAPSS Preceptor

Broadly speaking, this panel will explore themes of identity, conflict, and international relations. While Spencer uses anthropological theory to explore the social effect of memory, foreign intervention, and civil conflict in Libya, Ali and Cindy utilize their political science training to examine international influence in Somali state-building and the effects of Chinese ‘national identity’ on diplomacy, respectively. Beyond its pressing political relevance, this panel presents a unique opportunity to think these concepts across disciplines and geographies.

- Contemporary Ottomans? Imperial Genealogies in a Postcolonial World | Spencer Cook, Panel Organizer
- Statebuilding in Somalia: The Role of International Actors and Actions | Ali A. Isse
- China’s Anti-Hegemony National Identity and Non-Alliance Stance | Xinyu (Cindy) Wang

SESSION 4: 2PM-3PM CDT

Session 4-1

“The Enemy Sleeps Not”: Perspectives on Conspiracy and “The Other” | Zoom Link

Discussant: Dr. John McCallum, Assistant Instructional Professor in History, MAPSS

Conspiracy theories dominate the modern political landscape. QAnon, once a fringe online group, has spread internationally and infiltrated Congress. Far from a product of the internet age, conspiracy theory has long played a role in the political history of the West. Our panel will discuss four distinct historical occurrences of conspiracy, from England to France to Peru to the United States. We will examine how different groups conspire and construct conspiracies for their own political benefit. Most importantly, we will discuss how conspiracy theories, despite their various points of origin, create “the other” as the target of these theories.

- Fair is Foul and Foul is Fair: Anti-Catholic Conspiracy in the reign of Elizabeth I | Reggie Musnuff
- Jews, Freemasons, and Satanists: Catholic Conspiracy Theories in fin-de-siecle France | Ian Gregory, Panel Organizer
- “A Political Pawn on a Political Chessboard”: Southern Opposition to the Civil Rights ‘Conspiracy’ in 1948 | Andrew Cerise
- Evangelical Aviation, Linguistic Conspirators, and Amazonian Alterity: The Invasion and Extractive Colonization of the Ucayali Region of Peru from 1945-1973 | C.A.R. Hawkins Lewis
Session 4-2

A Light in the Darkness: How Religion Shaped Eras of Turbulence | Zoom Link

Discussant: Dr. Karin Krause, Assistant Professor, Department of Art History, Medieval Studies Program

Throughout history, religion has been both a way to make sense of the world and a tool for legitimacy, power, control, and societal advancement. In this panel, we will explore the good, the bad, and the ugly results of religious experience during moments of societal upheaval and turbulence. From the breakdown of Alexander the Great’s Empire to the Black Death of 1348, and finally to art and literature in the time of the Reformation, the institutions and practices of religion played decisive roles that can teach us about the ways in which religion can unite and divide us.

- Return of the King: Early Seleucid Interaction with Mesopotamian Religion (312 - 261 BCE) | Jonathan Tao
- Blame and Worship: Religious Response to Plague in Medieval Europe | Monica Barry
- Women Writing God: Devotion and Gender in Italian Poetry of the Renaissance | Rebecca Ries-Roncalli, Panel Organizer

Session 4-3

Memorability: A Stimulus-Centric Framework for Analyzing Memory Performance | Zoom Link

Discussant: Dr. Wilma Bainbridge, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

Memorability is a stimulus-centric framework for the analysis of memory. Motivated by observations of high consistency in what people remember, memorability research attempts to understand why certain stimuli are more often remembered than others. Our panel highlights research in memorability using behavioral and computational paradigms. The research conducted by our panel examined the underlying structure of memorability, the effect of memorability on retrieval and decision making, and novel models for predicting memorability. A comprehensive understanding of why certain stimuli are more often remembered than others will benefit fields beyond psychology including advertising, patient care, and computer vision.

- Memorability Has Powerful Effects Even as a Context in Criterial Recollection Experiments | Paige Hanson
- Characterizing Memorability in Representational Space | Max Kramer, Panel Organizer
- The Effect of Memorability on Food Choice: Do people prefer more memorable foods? | Xinyue Li
Session 5-1

History & Psychology: Institutional, Intellectual & Modern Approaches to Mental Health | Zoom Link

Discussant: Dr. Robert Richards, Morris Fishbein Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Science and Medicine

This panel hopes to bridge historical and modern psychological approaches to mental health. Since the early 1850s public interest in psychological topics has steadily grown. In recent decades institutional and intellectual transformations have dramatically changed the landscape of psychological thought. Understanding why modern psychology has taken the form which it has can provide vital insight into modern psychological study. Our panelists will address this topic pragmatically by presenting institutional and intellectual histories along with a sample of modern psychological research.

- From Taboo to Tourist Attraction: Assisted Suicide in Switzerland | Seline Messmer
- The Role of Stress on the Association between Food Insecurity and Eating Disorders: A Current Investigation | Jackie Kosmas
- Deinstitutionalization and Privatization in Michigan | Lindsay Apperson
- Happiness By Many Means: William James’s Conception of Happiness (1842-1910) | Richard S. Young, Panel Organizer

Session 5-2

Negotiating Worker Identity: Inclusion and Exclusion | Zoom Link

Discussant: Dr. Ross Stolzenberg, Professor, Department of Sociology

This panel sheds light on the experiences of groups typically considered “outsiders” in the labor market by critically examining the role of programs or institutions influencing our understanding of work and the worker. We focus on two major groups -- women and immigrants -- to explore the reconfiguration of worker identity in the corporate and legal spheres. Gracia presents on the political advocacy of women entrepreneurs while Susan investigates returnship programs promoting women’s re-entry into the corporate world. Aria assesses the effects of diversity programs on immigrants while Tanaya probes into public reappraisal of undocumented workers during the pandemic.

- Neither Dependent Nor Disadvantaged: How Women Entrepreneurs Make Claims for Government Assistance | Gracia Lee, Panel Organizer
- Relaunching through The Returnship Model: A Study of Return-to-Work Programs | Susan Lyons
- Landscaping Diversity and Inclusion Programs in Canada: How do Skilled Immigrants Experience D&I Programs in the Workplace? | Aria Huang
- The State of the Undocumented Essential Worker During the COVID-19 Pandemic | Tanaya Pange
This panel engages with the diversity of contemporary extremist subgroups in the American right, exploring gender, politics, and culture. We seek to address the idiosyncrasies of the 21st century far-right, often lost in contemporary analyses reliant on a longstanding body of literature focused on historical accounts of American extremism -- from the KKK to modern militias -- or reduce much of it to Trumpism. Unprecedented cosmopolitanism, globalism, and multiculturalism; ever dynamic means of digital communication and online socialization; and contemporary reconfigurations of gender and sexuality, have fabricated a unique set of circumstances through which contemporary extremism must be understood.

- “Red Pilled America:” Expressions of Far-Right Extremism, Myth, and Acts of Political Violence Online | Benjamin Popp
- Misogyny as Medication: The Red Pill, Self-Help, and Neoliberal Masculinity | Théo Evans
- When the Proud Boys Went to the Capitol: Presentation of Self and Other in the American Alt-Light | Teo Icliurek, Panel Organizer
Children and Adults Use Linguistic Cues to Inform Pedagogical Preferences | Sharanya Bashyam

Adolescence: A Critical Period of Vulnerability for Substance Use | Zhengyi (Sissi) Huang

Examining the Impact of Parental Substance Use, Abuse on Homeless Youth’s Psychopathology, Adjustment, Alcohol and Substance Use | Leyi (Lindsay) Kang

(Not) Knowing how to know others: Examining perspective getting in China and the United States | Yin Li

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Children’s Perception of Different Language Speakers | Diqi Zeng

2021
Conference Committee

Samantha Fan (Co-Chair and Organizer)
Cate Fugazzola (Co-Chair and Organizer)
John McCallum (Co-Chair)
Benjamin Soltoff (Co-Chair)
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Dawn Herrera
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Shelly L. Robinson