

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
41st SOUTHEASTERN
UNDERGRADUATE
SOCIOLOGY SYMPOSIUM (SEUSS)**

**“WHAT IS ENGAGED EMANCIPATORY
SOCIOLOGY?”**

**SPONSORED BY:
MOREHOUSE COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
EMORY UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

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MOREHOUSE COLLEGE, ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

PROGRAM

41st Southeastern Undergraduate Sociology Symposium (SEUSS)

Friday, February 24, 2023

Leadership Center, Room 238 (Building #34)

4:00 – 5:30 pm Check-In for Registered Participants

6:00 – 8:00 pm Opening Banquet

Do It Anyway

Dr. Karida L. Brown,

Professor of Sociology, Emory University

Saturday, February 25, 2023

Wheeler Hall, 2nd Floor (Building #27)

9:00 am – 10:00 am Check-In

Wheeler Hall 214F

10:15 am – 11:00 am Session One

- Education
- Gender & Media
- Health / Wellness

11: 15 am – 12:00 pm Session Two

- Policing / Incarceration
- Race & Media
- Violence

12:15 am –1:00 pm Closing Session and Awards

Wheeler Hall 214

Saturday, February 25, 2023

Paper Sessions

10:15 am - 11:00 am – SESSION ONE

EDUCATION

Wheeler Hall 206

Moderator: Shawn Brooks

Yunjeong Choi, Emory University

An Investigation into How International Student Status Affects Students' Aspirations for Occupational Prestige

Faculty Advisor: Ju Hyun Park, Emory University

E. Dawn Redd, Agnes Scott College

Racial Microaggressions at a Small Private Liberal Arts College

Faculty Advisor: Yvonne D. Newsome, Agnes Scott College

Leon Zhan, Emory University

Costs and Benefits Analysis of Participating in Multicultural Greek Council and National Pan-Hellenic Council

Faculty Advisor: Cassidy Puckett, Emory University

GENDER & MEDIA

Wheeler Hall 208

Moderator: Cynthia Hewitt

Lilia Memarzadeh, Agnes Scott College

How Do Emerging Adults Form Their Identities on Dating Applications?

Faculty Advisor: Douglas Falen, Agnes Scott College

Mackenzie Williams, Emory University

Horror Movies and Gender Role Perception

Faculty Advisor: Cassidy Puckett, Emory University

HEALTH / WELLNESS

Wheeler Hall 216

Moderator: Taura Taylor

Royale Randall, Agnes Scott College

A Silent Impact: The Power of Both Nature and Nurture on the Development of Black Autistic Children and Students

Faculty Advisor: Yvonne D. Newsome, Agnes Scott College

Lucy Yates, Emory University

Biomedical Power: Addressing Inequalities in Endometriosis Diagnostic Delays

Faculty Advisor: Kanika Sharma, Emory University

11:15 am – 12:00 pm – SESSION TWO

POLICING / INCARCERATION

Wheeler Hall 206

Moderator: Bilal King

Marquis Collins, Morehouse College

Police Abolishment

Faculty Advisor: Nia Reed, Morehouse College

Grace Cooper and Cecilia Palmer-Peutz, Agnes Scott College

A Systematic Divide: The Differences in Racial Opinion on the U.S. Incarceration System

Faculty Advisor: Douglas Falen, Agnes Scott College

RACE & MEDIA

Wheeler Hall 208

Moderator: Douglas Burnett

Sanaa LaCore, Agnes Scott College

The Virility of Blackness: An Analysis of Meme Culture and the Commodification of Digital Blackface

Faculty Advisor: Yvonne D. Newsome, Agnes Scott College

Isaiah Wilson, Morehouse College

A Critical Analysis of Gender Performance in RuPaul's Drag Race

Faculty Advisor: Taura Taylor, Morehouse College

NOTES

NOTES

SEUSS 2023 ABSTRACTS

Yunjeong Choi
Emory University

An Investigation into How International Student Status Affects Students' Aspirations for Occupational Prestige

Students at undergraduate institutions often face the dilemma of choosing a post-graduation career plan as they struggle between which career value they must prioritize. By focusing on occupational prestige as a measure of career value, I attempt to broaden the study of the different factors that influence an undergraduate student to attribute a higher level of importance to prestige in their desired occupation. My study dissects the issue of career prestige from the perspective of international students. Despite the growing number of international students in American institutions, there is insufficient research conducted on them as a population. This study presents data gathered through a mixed methods approach whereby surveys and in-depth interviews were utilized. I conducted 8 in-depth interviews with individuals who identified as either an international or domestic student at Emory University and utilized data administered from a survey that systematically sampled undergraduate students at Emory University. I also explore the relationship between students' emphasis on occupational prestige and how it influences their aspirations to pursue a graduate degree. Previous literature suggests that cultural differences that arise from international and domestic students who were raised in different cultural backgrounds would result in a different value system for individuals of both groups. Quantitative results indicate that international student status influences occupational prestige as international students are more inclined than domestic students to assert a higher level of importance to prestige when it came to their desired occupation. However, qualitative results suggest that there is a stronger relationship between socioeconomic status over international student status. Family influence, peer influence, neighborhood, ethical conundrums, and external validation were identified as the most significant sources of influence.

Faculty Advisor: Ju Hyun Park, Emory University

Marquis Collins
Morehouse College
Police Abolishment

The United States of America is in an uproar. We are amidst the global Covid-19 pandemic, continued race and discriminatory oppressions, and unwarranted police killings and violence. Our great nation is dying daily. The cure within every individual should be to practice ideologies of love, respect, and great morals. However, police brutality negatively affects this nation's progression economically, socially, and politically. Within this paper, I analyze the complexities of eradicating the US police force through the House of Representatives lens. I state the problems demonstrated by the police, describe why these problems will not be solved in the status quo, provide a plan for solutions, and describe the advantages and disadvantages of my plan. Abolishing the police will be a nearly impossible feat within the United States of America. However, valid reasoning and advice will contextualize the significance of eradicating the police force.

Faculty Advisor: Nia Reed, Morehouse College

Grace Cooper and Cecilia Palmer-Peutz
Agnes Scott College

A Systematic Divide: The Differences in Racial Opinion on the U.S. Incarceration System

The incarceration system in the US is very unique among industrialized countries, notably higher prisoner population levels compared to total population. Prior years headlines involving detainee abuse such as cases of forced sterilization of migrant women and poor maintenance resulting in horrendous living conditions. The treatment and perception of inmates is critical to document to illustrate the larger sociological issues present in the United States. The process of documentation needs to be continuous because as long as prisons are around they need to be monitored to prevent violations of human rights. In order to continue the monitoring of carceral institutions in the United States we are proposing to measure current attitudes on incarceration and how they differ based on racial identity. The data for this study would be a mixture of qualitative and quantitative for best results. Existing literature on the issue focuses around media, law, policy, stigma, human rights, and opinions. In order to explain and analyze the data we collect, we utilize a Critical Race Theory (CRT) and Interpretivist lens. This research is basic and meant to add to and continue the measurement of attitudes on systems of incarceration in the US. By examining opinions long term through our study and previous research we can add to existing literature so that future studies can determine longitudinal changes in attitudes and as a result, find how to more effectively move forward in prison reform. To simply put it, like many other fields a key aspect of research is re testing and consistently measuring what is going on, in this instance it is our social and political spheres.

Faculty Advisor: Douglas Falen, Agnes Scott College

Sanaa LaCore
Agnes Scott College

The Virility of Blackness: An Analysis of Meme Culture and the Commodification of Digital Blackface

When engaging with the media, it does not take long for one to come across images of Black people being applied to a multitude of emotions and situations by non-Black users; while seemingly innocent in its employment, I argue that this practice is harmful and results in negative racialized, sexualized, and gendered connotations for Black people. Throughout this paper I seek to uncover the various intentions behind utilizing digital Blackface, whether that be through the commodification of a constructed Black persona, or the use of Blackness and Black faces when participating in “meme culture” during online discourse. To better understand these motives, I bring forth the work of various scholars and critics to examine the relevance of Blackness in the age of social media along with the causes that lead to the virality of Black ‘characters’ and personas. I maintain the assertion that this conversation must be considered through the racialized and gendered lens of its victims, regardless of the subconscious state in which users claim to reside when taking part in conversations online.

Faculty Advisor: Yvonne D. Newsome, Agnes Scott College

Lilia Memarzadeh
Agnes Scott College

How Do Emerging Adults Form Their Identities on Dating Applications?

The Formation of Identities on Dating Applications Literature Review Abstract Agnes Scott College In order to be successful on dating applications, users understand that they must self-present as an ideal partner for an unseen audience. They make a variety of considerations in their choices. This literature review examines previous research on this topic to understand the factors that affect the construction of profiles on mobile dating applications. The different motivations users have for participating in digital dating and how their intentions translate into their self-presentation are explored. Literature that emphasizes the importance of profile pictures in these dating ecosystems is presented. Aspects and traits that optimize impression management are introduced. Through deconstructing the unique architecture of these applications insights into the behaviors these applications encourage are revealed. The immense amount of literature on the role of gender in the digital dating experience is also presented. There is a discussion of the limitations of previous research. While digital dating is a fairly new phenomenon, there is a rapidly growing body of literature that has built off past theories of self-presentation and applied them to this new ecosystem. Further research combining all of the aforementioned factors is needed to have a more holistic understanding of how digital daters present themselves on dating applications

Faculty Advisor: Douglas Falen, Agnes Scott College

Royale Randall
Agnes Scott College

A Silent Impact: The Power of Both Nature and Nurture on the Development of Black Autistic Children and Students

While there is little research done on the experiences of Black autistic children, what is available contributes to the concept that nurture—the amount of nurture to be specific—is one of the leading and determinant factors of the overall well-being and development of the child, in addition to the environment that they grew up in. In fact, further research suggests that generally, there are no inherent differences in intelligence, behavioral skills, and overall functionality between black children and their white peers, rather than the key impacts on these factors are how much wellness is being given to the child by the caregiver as well as the factors in their environment, such as socioeconomic status, culture, and environmental/racial trauma. Other key contributors are prenatal, postnatal, and perinatal factors such as bodily stress during pregnancy and birth complications, as well as stressors on the child due to the extenuating circumstances above.

Faculty Advisor: Yvonne D. Newsome, Agnes Scott College

E. Dawn Redd
Agnes Scott College

Racial Microaggressions at a Small Private Liberal Arts College

Students at undergraduate institutions often face the dilemma of choosing a post-graduation career plan as they struggle between which career value they must prioritize. By focusing on occupational prestige as a measure of career value, I attempt to broaden the study of the different

factors that influence an undergraduate student to attribute a higher level of importance to prestige in their desired occupation. My study dissects the issue of career prestige from the perspective of international students. Despite the growing number of international students in American institutions, there is insufficient research conducted on them as a population. This study presents data gathered through a mixed methods approach whereby surveys and in-depth interviews were utilized. I conducted 8 in-depth interviews with individuals who identified as either an international or domestic student at Emory University and utilized data administered from a survey that systematically sampled undergraduate students at Emory University. I also explore the relationship between students' emphasis on occupational prestige and how it influences their aspirations to pursue a graduate degree. Previous literature suggests that cultural differences that arise from international and domestic students who were raised in different cultural backgrounds would result in a different value system for individuals of both groups. Quantitative results indicate that international student status influences occupational prestige as international students are more inclined than domestic students to assert a higher level of importance to prestige when it came to their desired occupation. However, qualitative results suggest that there is a stronger relationship between socioeconomic status over international student status. Family influence, peer influence, neighborhood, ethical conundrums, and external validation were identified as the most significant sources of influence.

Faculty Advisor: Yvonne D. Newsome, Agnes Scott College

Mackenzie Williams

Emory University

Horror Movies and Gender Role Perception

In this study I examine horror films as a cultural object, which Wendy Griswold defines as a “socially meaningful expression” that can be audibly, visibly, or tangibly articulated (2013: 11). For many people, movies are accessible via television, online services and cinemas (Chronaki 2020). There is a wide variety of genres available to satisfy the tastes of consumers (Hanchard et al 2019). In particular, horror movies appeal to a unique audience while also maintaining general popularity in the film industry, which is why I consider them cultural objects. Many consider horror to be an adrenaline-inducing form of entertainment. As instruments of terror, angst, and suspense, these films also reflect and express societal changes and fears (Shand et al. 2014). Both the cinema and streaming platforms like Netflix and Hulu help enrich the already vast film genre, increasing audience interest and engagement with its often-controversial messages and depictions (Chronaki 2020: 1).

Faculty Advisor: Cassidy Puckett, Emory University

Isaiah Wilson

Morehouse College

A Critical Analysis of Gender Performance in RuPaul's Drag Race

Writer Julia Serano defines trans-antagonism as “being fundamentally opposed to transgender people for specific moral, political, and/or theoretical reasons. In what ways does the Emmy winning series *RuPaul's Drag Race (2009-current)* and *RuPaul's Drag Race All-Stars (2012-current)* produced by RuPaul Charles and Michelle Visage reproduce trans-antagonistic

structures of oppression under the guise of representation? In particular, the ways those structures manifest themselves against Black contestants economically and socially. Moreover, I am interested in how those structures embroil Black adolescents and young adults in the ways they come to perform and understand their own sexuality and gender identity. These inquiries are important because they seek to explain how Patriarchy is re-territorialized in clandestine fashions that render Black non-normative identities illegible or non-existent. These interweaving oppressions make Black queer identity more of a corporate project rather than one with liberatory aspirations.

Faculty Advisor: Taura Taylor, Morehouse College

Lucy Yates
Emory University

Biomedical Power: Addressing Inequalities in Endometriosis Diagnostic Delays

This paper examines how physicians' social power allows them to exert their own social biases intentionally and unintentionally onto patients, using endometriosis as a case study.

Endometriosis is a painful disease which affects around 10% of people with uteruses. Symptoms include extreme menstrual pain (dysmenorrhea), digestion disfunction, excessive bleeding, and pain during sex. Despite its prevalence and intensity of symptoms, it can take seven to twelve years to be diagnosed. I review sociological, medical, and historical literature to delineate the underlying causes and issues that arise from biomedical discrimination in doctor-patient relationships. I examine research into "gaslighting," a manipulation tactic in which an individual's gender and/or sexuality is used to belittle them. This tactic, when used implicitly or explicitly by doctors, contributes to diagnostic delays, and may cause psychological damage. Further, my content analysis explores literature on the "somatization" of menstrual pain, as women and girls are trained to underscore the intensity of their monthly symptoms.

Constructively, I analyze research which touts the benefits of doctors listening to their patients and treating them with respect. These findings underscore the importance of addressing physicians' social biases in their patient interactions. Alongside gendered assumptions, racialized patients must face historical and systemic inequalities which further exaggerate endometriosis diagnostic delays. I explore the history of racism in endometriosis diagnosis and treatment, and the larger historical evidence of gendered racial injustice in medicine. Further, I address medical studies which display large disparities in endometriosis diagnostic delays between hegemonic and nonhegemonic patients. Current research into endometriosis needs to incorporate interdisciplinary approaches. My analyses emphasis the interconnectedness of medicine, sociology, and history in addressing biomedical power in the modern healthcare system.

Faculty Advisor: Kanika Sharma, Emory University

Leon Zhan
Emory University

Costs and Benefits Analysis of Participating in Multicultural Greek Council and National Pan-Hellenic Council

Fraternalities and Sororities are perhaps the best representation of the social side of college life. Compared with Interfraternity Council (IFC), and National Panhellenic Conference (NPC), the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), the governing organization for all historically Black fraternities and sororities and Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) were founded under different context with different purposes. The NPHC was founded on May 10, 1930, at Howard University during a period when African Americans were being denied essential rights and privileges. The primary purpose of NPHC is community awareness and action through education, economic, and cultural service activities (NPHC 2022). MGC was founded on November 1981 aiming to celebrate all cultures and provide bicultural or multicultural students the diversity they sought. The primary purpose is to create a community dedicated to the promotion of diversity and service (NMGC 2022). The cultural object can be defined as a socially meaningful expression that is auditable, visible, or tangible or that can be articulated (Griswold 2013a: 11). The cultural object of my study is students from the MGC and NPHC at a predominantly white institution (PWI) in the south. The area of society my study represents is higher education and research demonstrates that social and cultural capital influence whether students attend college, the kinds of institutions they attend, and whether they stay to complete their degree (Stevens 2008: 132). The form of cultural capital possessed by students of color, particularly, is less valued in higher education compared with their white counterparts and past study also validates this statement. Wells (2008) concludes that Hispanics are, on average, equipped with the least amounts of 3 transitionally-valued social and cultural capital on entry, which have significantly lower possibilities of persisting than students with higher capital (Wells 2008: 122).

Faculty Advisor: Cassidy Puckett, Emory University

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MOREHOUSE COLLEGE CAMPUS MAP



1. Samuel T. Green Hall
2. Joseph T. Moore Hall/Pres. Office
3. Sosa Hall Annex
4. Sosa Hall
5. John Hope Hall
6. John Hope II, Technology Tower
7. Duane W. Hall
8. William H. Johnson Chapel
9. William H. Johnson Chapel
10. Walter Karpis-Wright Hall
11. Physics Bldg.
12. Wm. A. Poynter Business Hall
13. E.S. Arnold Hall/James B. Eason College Memory
14. Franklin L. Johnson Annex
15. Samuel H. Archer Hall
- 16a. Kappa Business Hall
- 16b. Thomas Oliver Jr. Campus Center
17. Campus Police
- 18a. Ouseley/Lam Dining Hall
- 18b. Benjamin C. Hayes Hall
19. LTC Residence Hall

20. Charles O. Hubert Residence Hall
21. W.E.B. Dubois Residence Hall
22. Frederick Douglass Research/Archives Center
23. William A. Henson Health Residence Hall
24. Luther E. Carney Hall
25. Career Center
26. Benjamin C. Stanley Hall
27. James H. Clarke Student Support Bldg.
28. Joseph E. Clarke Student Support Bldg.
29. Project Farm Management Bldg.
30. E.T. Young Scholarship Bldg. Park
31. Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
- 31a. Green Hall

32. Howard Thurman Memorial District
33. Martin Luther King Jr. Statue
34. Walter E. Henson Learning Center
35. Shirley M. Henson Learning Center
36. Othello Hall Annex
- 37a. Performing Arts
- 37b. Performing Arts
38. Museum of Blackness
39. Museum of Blackness
40. The Ben Chavis Performing Arts Center
- 40a. Harba Robinson Hall

41. Campus Police
- 42a. Dawson House (East Street Entrance)
- 42b. Dawson House (West Street Entrance)
43. ROTC Building
44. Odey Hiss Jr. Residential Suite
45. ROTC Program
46. Campus Campus

Robert W. Woodruff Library
 Licensed user campus on James B. Braxley Drive, the Robert W. Woodruff Library is designed to serve the instructional, informational and research needs for member institutions of the Atlanta University Center Consortium, the world's largest and oldest consortium of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The institutions that make up the Atlanta University Center Consortium are Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine and Spelman College.