

# **Worth Every Penny? Debt, Education, and Opportunity**



**23rd Annual  
Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium  
Middle Tennessee State University  
James Union Building  
October 29 and October 30, 2014**

**Sponsors**

College of Liberal Arts  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
Office of Research  
University Honors College  
Sociology Club  
Distinguished Lecture Series  
Office of the University Provost

# Welcome

On behalf of the MTSU Undergraduate Social Science Symposium Committee I would like to welcome you here today. The Symposium seeks to encourage student engagement in the active study of human interaction and to foster intellectual and professional growth, while at the same time providing opportunities for the intellectual exchange of ideas. We hope that you will enjoy the special events we have planned this year, including a thematic session on “Connecting Students to the Real World and their Futures: Understanding Education, Employment, and the Economy” followed by a thematic panel discussion on student educational costs and a wide range of lively and timely student paper presentations.. We also are excited for our keynote address by Dr. Joel Best, co-author of *The Student Loan Mess: How Good Intentions Created a Trillion Dollar Problem*.

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology is very proud to continue a tradition begun over thirty years ago by Dr. Rodger Bates at Lambuth College in Jackson, Tennessee. In hosting this Symposium, we recognize his commitment and tireless efforts. We also acknowledge the significant contributions of Professor Ben Austin here at MTSU, who with his enthusiasm and commitment strengthened this Symposium program greatly over the past three decades. We would not be here today were it not for his outstanding leadership. Because of the work and dedication of our predecessors we are confident that the Symposium will continue to provide a unique and valuable learning experience for our students.

This year’s Symposium would not be possible without the assistance of numerous members of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the cooperation of faculty, staff, and students across the campus and the region. Special thanks are due to Dean Mark Byrnes, College of Liberal Arts, who has been a generous supporter of the Symposium. We also thank Dr. Brandon Wallace, Interim Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, for his support of this year’s program. We are especially grateful to the Distinguished Lecture Committee, Office of Research, Honors College, College of Liberal Arts, Department of Sociology/Anthropology, the Office of the University Provost, and Sociology Club (through student activity fees) for generously funding our keynote speaker and symposium events. We also would like to thank Dr. Maria Edlin, Center for Economic Education, Jackie Morgan, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Nashville Office, and Mallory Melton, MTSU alum and academic advisor, for their valued participation and expertise on our thematic panel.

We are immensely grateful to the graduate students and faculty who have volunteered to moderate or to organize student paper sessions. Most of all, we offer our thanks and appreciation to the students who have agreed to make presentations, and for whom this event is primarily focused. All of us who attend the Symposium will benefit from their efforts!

We thankfully recognize the contributions of Betty Woodley, Pansey Carter, and Connie Huddleston. Without their dedicated work in multiple stages of the symposium planning and preparation process, the committee would have been unable to make this program a reality. Their work has been vital to the success of this year’s Symposium.

Finally, we thank everyone in attendance for their contributions to the success of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium.

## *Program Chair*

Meredith Dye, Assistant Professor of Sociology

## *Program Planning Committee*

Betty Woodley, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology Secretary  
Connie Huddleston, Events Coordinator, College of Liberal Arts  
Brandon Wallace, Interim Chair, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology  
Andrew Wyatt, Assistant Professor of Anthropology  
Gretchen Webber, Associate Professor of Sociology  
Vicky MacLean, Professor of Sociology  
Daphne Bunch, Student Representative

**Program Summary**  
**2014 Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium**  
***Worth Every Penny? Debt, Education and Opportunity***

*All sessions to be held in the James Union Building, MTSU*  
*All events are free and open to the public*

**Wednesday, October 29**

**8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Registration..... Lobby, James Union Building**

8:00 a.m. – 8:55 p.m. Student Paper Sessions

**1. Student Paper Session .....Hazelwood**  
Organizer & Moderator: Professor Tanya Peres

***Garbology***

Chris Lane & Matt Stanfill “Trash from Cars”

Eric Stockton, Ginny Whaley, & Jade Underland “Differential Littering in Parking Lots on MTSU Campus”

McKenzie Wallace “Disposals of Dependents: Garbology of Child and Elderly Care Facilities”

9:10 a.m. – 10:05 a.m. Student Paper Sessions

**2. Student Paper Session..... Dining Room C**  
Organizers & Presenters: Amanda Brown, Josh Lester, & Georgianna Giampietro

***Sociology of Appalachia***

**3. Student Paper Session..... Hazelwood**  
Moderator: Professor Meredith Dye

Sherry Teal “Whispered Narratives: A Linguistic Anthropological Perspective of the Use of and Reference to Native American Languages Within Historical Writings From 1917 Until 2012”

Dylan Miller “Literary Criticisms of Flannery O'Connor's "A Good Man is Hard to Find"”

Dylan Miller “An Analysis of the Positive Messages in Hayao Miyazaki's Movies”

**10:20 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Thematic Session.....Tennessee Room**

***Connecting Students to the Real World and Their Futures:  
Understanding Education, Employment, and the Economy***

Dr. Maria Edlin, Assistant Director, Center for Economic Education,  
Middle Tennessee State University

Jackie Morgan, Senior Economic and Financial Education Specialist  
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta – Nashville Branch

**11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Short Video: *Voices of Debt* .....Tennessee Room**

**11:30 a.m. – 12:25 p.m. Thematic Panel Discussion.....Tennessee Room**

*Organizers: Professors Meredith Dye and Andrew Wyatt  
MTSU, Department of Sociology and Anthropology*

Panelists:

Jackie Morgan, Senior Economic and Financial Education Specialist  
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta – Nashville Branch

Dr. Maria Edlin, Assistant Director, Center for Economic Education,  
Middle Tennessee State University

Trina Wilson, Assistant Director of the Federal Student Loan Program  
Middle Tennessee State University

Mallory Melton, College of Liberal Arts, Academic Advisor and MTSU Alumni (B.S. Anthropology)  
Middle Tennessee State University

Dr. Joel Best, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, University of Delaware  
Co-author, *The Student Loan Mess: How Good Intentions Created a Trillion Dollar Problem*

12:40 p.m. – 2:05 p.m. Student Paper Sessions

4. **Student Paper Sessions** ..... **Hazelwood**  
Organizer: Professor Gretchen Webber & Moderator: Marcus Brooks

*Graduate Student Research*

Marcus Brooks “Navigating Life with ‘the HIV’: A Qualitative Analysis of Coping and Stigmatization among HIV-Positive Gay Men”

Michelle Estes “Is it the Same?: The Depiction of Same Sex Couple Violence in Newspaper Articles”

Lauren Cummerlander “Drag and Political Messages”

River Johnson “Transgendered Community Inequalities and the Importance of Perceived Social Support”

2:20 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Student Paper Sessions

5. **Student Paper Sessions**..... **Hazelwood**  
Organizer: Professor Foster Amey & Moderator: Daphne Bunch

*Senior Seminar Capstone Papers, 2014*

Jessica Schwendimann “Sub-Saharan Africa: A Look at Family Planning and Reproductive Health”

Travis Rollins “Women’s Work: American Socialization of Sex-Roles in the Workplace”

Daphne Bunch “The Effectiveness of Parent Education on Child Abuse Prevention”

Mellissa Browne “How Gateway Theory Explains Support for Legalizing Marijuana in the U.S.”

**Thursday, October 30**

**8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Registration Continues**..... **Lobby, James Union Building**

**9:30 am**      *Welcome and Student Paper Awards*.....**Tennessee Room**

**9:40 a.m.-11:05 a.m. Keynote Speaker** .....**Tennessee Room**

***The Student Loan Mess: How it Got Here and Why it’s not Going Away***

**Dr. Joel Best**

Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, University of Delaware

11:20 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Student Paper Sessions

6. **Student-Meets-Author Session.....Hazelwood**  
Organizer & Moderator: Professor Meredith Dye  
Author: Dr. Joel Best

7. **Student Paper Session.....Dining Room C**  
Organizer: Professor Vicky MacLean & Moderator: Amber Pogacsnik

*Theoretical Applications to Contemporary Social Issues*

Charlotte Archer "The Cost of Education: A Sociological Cost/Benefit Analysis"

Kenneth Orlowski "Religion and Politics: The Reciprocal Relationship between Religion and Political Agenda In Times of War, Past and Present, From a Durkheimian Perspective"

Jacob Lax "Staying" at Home: An Application of Gilman's Sexuo-economic Relation to Pregnancy and Motherhood in Today's Workplace"

Amber Pogacsnik "Breastfeeding and the Workplace: An Exploratory Investigation of Restaurant Employees' Attitudes towards Breastfeeding"

Amanda McIntire "Childless by Choice: Sibling Influences on Student's Attitudes"

1:00 p.m. - 2:25 p.m. Student Paper Sessions:

8. **Student Paper Session.....Hazelwood**  
Organizer and Moderator: Professor Aaron Deter-Wolf

*Anthropology of Tattooing I*

Abbey Wilkerson "Geek Ink: Where Geek Identity and Tattoos Intersect"

Arthur Dickerson Reed III "You Keep Away From this Bath House: A Comparative Analysis of the Adoption of Tattoos as Cultural Signifiers in Criminal Organizations"

JaQuisha Y. Gray "One of Us: The Effect of Tattooing on the African American Gang System"

Jessica A. O'Neill "Kagya Kinship: Tracing Tibetan Tattooing"

**9. Student Paper Session .....Dining Room C**  
Organizer and Moderator: Professor Brian Hinote

***Graduate Sociological Theory***

Linxin Xie "Economic Development Path Comparison between Pittsburg and Birmingham: The External and Internal Causation Explanation"

Daphne Bunch "Bureaucracy in the Welfare System"

Lesley Hanlin "Communism as an Ideal Type"

Amanda Brown "Rationalizing Fracking"

Yaasameen Al-Hamdani "Hands Up, Don't Shoot": An Application of De Bois and Simmel to Police Misconduct

Amber Pogacsnik "Food Insecurity and Deviance: A Mertonian Application of Anomie, Individual Adaptation, and Strain."

2:40 p.m. - 4:05 p.m. Student Paper Sessions

**10. Student Paper Session.....Hazelwood**  
Organizer: Professor Aaron Deter-Wolf

***Anthropology of Tattooing II***

McKenzie Wallace "Inked Animals: The History of Animal Marking and Tattooing"

Charlotte Rose Whittaker "Health Dangers of Tattooing"

Wm. Matthew "the Admiral" Whitten "Power of the Prick: Tattoo Bundle Kits of the North American Plains"

Lauren Tootle "Fleshed Narratives: The Role of Tattooing in Eating Disorder Recovery"

*Special Thanks to MTSU Staff and Associates*

Connie Huddleston  
Special Events Coordinator  
College of Liberal Arts

Pansey Carter  
Executive Aide  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Betty Woodley  
Secretary  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

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