

UNDERGRADUATE SOCIAL SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

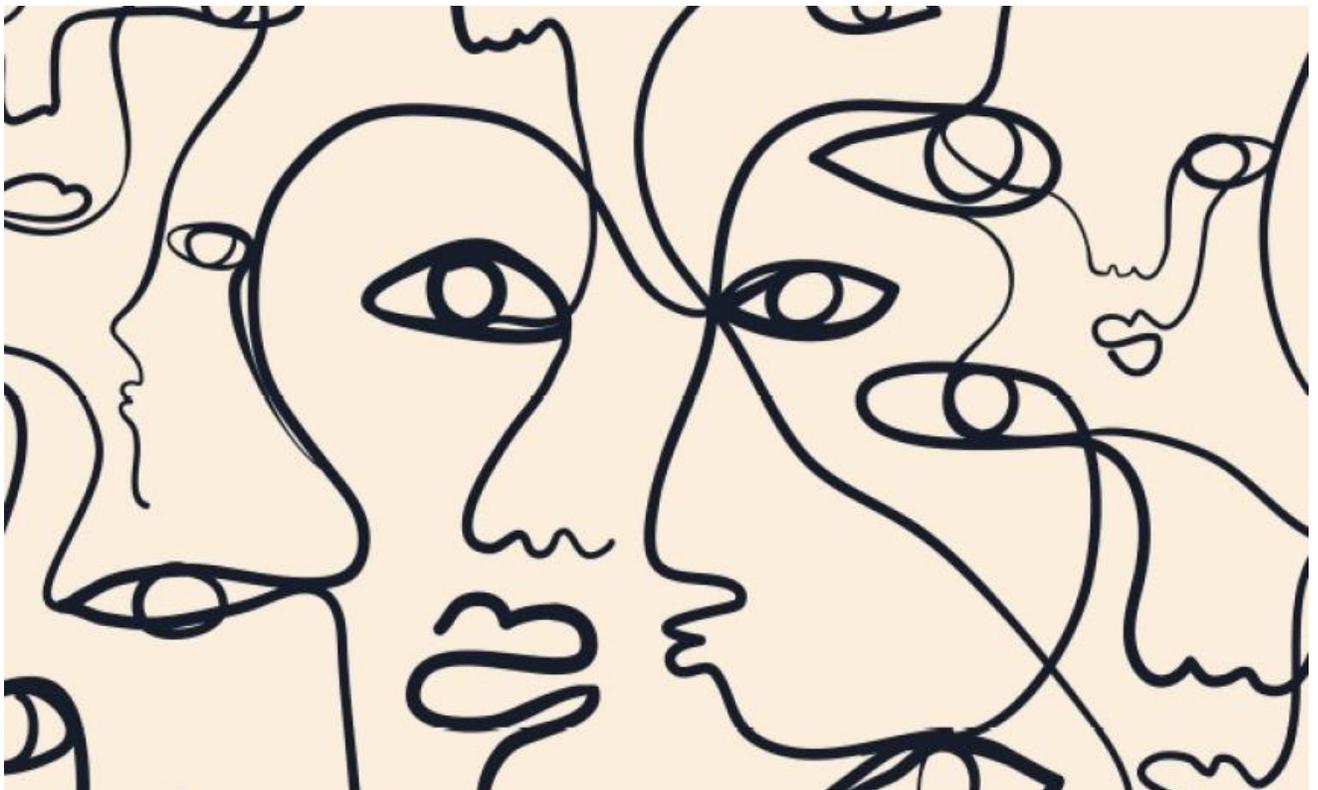
28th Annual

Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium

Middle Tennessee State University

Tom Jackson Building

April 11th, 2024





Program

28th Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium

All events are free and open to the public

All USSS events are in the Tom Jackson Building at MTSU

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Registration

Refreshments

9:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Introduction and Welcome

Dr. Ashleigh McKinzie, Dr. Brandon Wallace

9:40 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.

Paper Session, Social Justice

Moderator: Ashleigh McKinzie

- Abi Calzada Gonzalez “Prisoner Reentry”
- Triston Beckley “Mass Incarceration”
- Karen Deyarmon “Sex Education”
- Amaya Carter “Black Women and Sexual Assault”

10:30 to 11:10 a.m.

Student poster session

POSTERS

Emily Kelly “The Projectile Points of The Castalian Springs Mound Site”

This poster depicts what was going on at and around the Castalian Springs Mound Site through the projectile points found at the site. As well as why they were created and when they were created. This poster covers ppks from the Paleoindian period up to the Mississippian period. The main goal of this poster is to show that a ppk can help us have an idea on the thought process of their creation.



Sabrina Jacques “General Conspiracy Beliefs”

Our group conducted research on general conspiracy beliefs, this includes conspiracy beliefs based on the government, extraterrestrial life, and other forces. We studied how conspiracy beliefs differ between age groups, demographics, and individual personalities. We found that General Conspiracy Beliefs Scale had high internal validity since Cronbach's alpha was greater than 0.7. Our group also found that those with higher education and high vocabularies scored lower than expected on the General Conspiracy Beliefs scale. Lastly, we found that individual personalities had no influences on one's personal conspiracy beliefs. We were able to find these results by using correlation matrix, flex plots, and violin plots on the data we gathered.

11:20 a.m. to 12:25 p.m.

Paper Session “Translating Faith: Language, Sincerity, and Practice in Global Christianities”
Moderator: Dr. Brandon Wallace

One of the earliest focal points to emerge in the anthropology of Christianity was arguably language, particularly as expressed in Protestant contexts. This emphasis is unsurprising, given the historical importance placed on translating the Bible for missionary work and the longstanding focus on sincerity in prayer and worship, all of which highlight the centrality of language in

developing Christian models of personhood, individualism, and relationality. This panel explores how Webb Keane’s notion of the sincere speaking subject in language ideologies, adherence, and practice can contribute to the comparative study of global Christianities within the academic study of religion and through the lens of leading anthropological theories.

- Nathan Belmont “Hungarian Dreams, Spanish Myths, and Melanesian Marriage: An Indirect Approach to Sincerity”
- Kaelan Mullins “Lessons in Sincerity”
- Matthew Pierce “Saved and Sincere: The Jesus People Movement”

1:00 p.m. to 2:25 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kendall Blanchard

Introductory Remarks: Dr. Kevin Smith

“From the Anthropology of Sport to University President: Lessons Learned as a Social Scientist”

Undergraduate
**Social Science
SYMPOSIUM**
at Middle Tennessee State University



Dr. Kendall Blanchard was MTSU faculty in the department of Sociology and Anthropology from 1971 to 1987 and department chair of the Sociology and Anthropology Department from 1978-1987. After leaving MTSU, Kendall served as a dean (Emporia State and Lamar University), Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (UT Martin), and University President (Fort Lewis College and Georgia Southwestern State). He is one of the leaders in establishing the anthropology of sport as a recognized subdiscipline which also influenced the emergence of sport and society in sociology. His textbook *The Anthropology of Sport* was the only textbook of its kind for many years. He also authored *The Mississippi Choctaw at Play: The Serious Side of Leisure*, which remains one of the most influential works on stickball and southeastern indigenous sports. He has authored numerous other publications in the *Journal of Physical*

Education, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Play and Culture, Human Organization, American Indian Quarterly, and many others.

2:40 p.m. to 4:05 p.m.

Paper Session

Moderator: Dr. Rachel Davis

- Khadijah Alnassari “The Implementation of Harry Potter in Positive Youth Development Programs”
- Nethaniel Belmont "Exotic Capital: Religious Fad or Last Resort?"
- Olivia Yanda “Antisocial and Psychopathy Traits' Relationship to Childhood and Socialization”
- Bismah Aslam “The Effects of Increasingly Deviant Themes in Music on American Youth”
- Deanna Lack “Morality in Retrospect: A Theological History of American Enslavement”

4:20 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Presentation of Paper Awards and Closing Remarks

Dr. Ashleigh McKinzie



The Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium is sponsored by:

College of Liberal Arts
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Middle Tennessee Student Sociologists

Organizing Committee

Dr. Meredith Dye (Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts)
Dr. Brandon Wallace (Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology)
Dr. Shannon Hodge (Incoming Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology)
Dr. Angela Mertig (Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology)
Dr. Rachel Davis (Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology)
Sophia Roberts (Middle Tennessee Student Sociologists)
Robin Wilson, Secretary, Sociology and Anthropology
Dr. Ashleigh McKinzie (Associate Professor, Sociology and Anthropology)



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