



Sociology Students to Present Papers at Eastern Sociological Society Conference

Two Masters of Sociology students and one undergraduate Sociology student will be presenting their papers at the Eastern Sociology Society (ESS) Conference in New York, New York. The conference runs from Thursday, February 26th 2015 until Sunday, March 1st 2015 and features the theme of “Crossing Borders.” More information about the conference can be found [here](#).



Jennifer Alpert, *A Critical Analysis of Food Guides in the United States from 1894-1992*

Jennifer’s thesis is an eye-opening examination of the development of food guides in the United States. It started as an exploratory research project to appreciate the nature of USDA food guides and quickly turned into a critical analysis of their content and presentation. Jennifer reviewed government documents and searched for relevant literature in order to analyze the intention and efficacy of food guides at communicating nutrition information to the general population of the United States. In particular, Jessica Mudry and Nestle Marion’s critical opinions helped to guide her analyses of this topic.

Jennifer examined the unique historical and cultural processes that affected the development of food guides in the United States from Atwater’s food composition tables in 1894 to the Food Guide Pyramid in 1992. She then analyzed the food guides in the context of four topics that she identified to evaluate their design and dissemination. Those four topics are: presentation, audience, comprehension, and economy. Presentation examines the discourse and imagery utilized in each guide; audience examines the assumed reader and relevant populations of each guide; comprehension examines how relatable the guides are for the assumed reader and relevant populations; and, economy examines the progression of the relationship between food purchases and food guides as well as food guides and industry.



Theresa Mejia, *Indoor Air Pollution and Women's Status: A Comparative Investigation of Gender Inequalities and Environmental Health in Poor Nations*

Household air pollution is a leading cause of death globally, as over 4.3 million people die prematurely each year from illness attributable to use of solid fuels. Although gender inequalities are likely to shape the global distribution of solid fuel use and its negative health consequences, comparative research on gender and global health lacks investigation of these dynamics. We conduct an analysis of 99 developing nations using structural equation models. The results reveal important interrelationships involving women's socio-health status, solid fuel use and female respiratory deaths across developing nations. Women's socio-health status mediates other key predictors, such as level of economic development. Overall, the results confirm that solid fuel use is a "silent killer" of women in the developing world, and that reducing gender inequalities is an important avenue in addressing this global pandemic.

Theresa and Dr. Kelly Austin will be co-presenting this research.

Min Jun "Minni" Kim, *Hip Hop and Basketball: Sociology at the Intersection*

Minni's research explores the interrelated spheres of hip-hop and basketball cultures and their respective industries. The overall purpose of observing these spaces is to better understand how social and economic forces created and reproduced by these industries affect social inequalities in society.

This research is part of his senior thesis and Eckardt Project and is connected to his work in his entrepreneurship independent study which looks at connections between hip hop and entrepreneurship.