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Clinical social work practice with children and youth: A content analysis of social work practice literature 1947-1973

Author: Hinchman, Madison Guy

Abstract: Abstract not available.

Links:

A MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS OF CONDITIONS ATTENDANT TO CONCUSSION INJURIES IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL: 1975-1982 (SPORT MEDICINE)

Author: Buckley, William E

Abstract: The purpose of this investigation was to examine risk patterns of concussion injury in college football.
Univariate and multivariate models were used to interpret the data. Specifically, log-linear modeling and analysis techniques were incorporated into the investigation. The data used in the study were drawn from the National Athletic Injury/Illness Reporting System (NAIRS). There were an average of 49 college teams over the eight-year study period (1975-1982). This represented over 36,000 athlete-seasons and 395 team-seasons. The data selected were limited to 1005 game-related concussion injuries. The general hypotheses tested were the null hypotheses that the variables of team (offense and defense), player position, situation (rushing and passing), and activity (block and tackle) had no effect on the occurrence of these game-related concussion injuries. Concussion accounted for 75% of the total number of injuries on or about the head. As these concussion injuries were examined relative to position, situation, and activity using a log-linear modeling technique, interactions among the variables were established. In order to estimate levels of risk associated with observed cell frequencies, exposure ratios for each variable were calculated. This technique, along with the log-linear modeling function, provided an excellent mechanism by which sports injury data interpretation was enhanced. This study generally revealed that the position, activity, and situation at the time of the game-related concussion injury were integral components to the occurrence. The highest risk of concussion injury was to offensive and defensive players involved in a block on a rushing play. More specifically, the running back demonstrated the highest risk of concussion injury. The lowest measures of risk were for
offensive linemen and quarterbacks while blocking on any type of play. Defensively, the secondary exhibited the highest level of risk of concussion injury while being blocked on a running play. The smallest risk of concussion injury was demonstrated by linebackers on passing plays. The investigation demonstrated the viability of multivariate analysis of sport injury data. The utility of the log-linear analysis on qualitative data was confirmed. Further research using the log-linear and other methods of multivariate techniques was encouraged.

Links:

Subject: Health education

Classification: 0680: Health education

Identifier / keyword: Education

Title: A MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS OF CONDITIONS ATTENDANT TO CONCUSSION INJURIES IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL: 1975-1982 (SPORT MEDICINE)

Pages: 175 p.

Number of pages: 175
Changes in predictors of obesity prevalence among United States subpopulation groups over the past decade

Author: Obayashi, Saori
Abstract: Obesity is a leading public health issue in the U.S., and its prevalence continues to increase. The prevalence of obesity and its rate of increase, however, vary widely among sociodemographic subpopulation groups. With an ultimate goal to design effective nutrition intervention programs specific to the targeted populations, we aimed to examine differences in obesity prevalence among the subpopulation groups by gender, income, and race/ethnicity, and to identify differences in predictors of obesity prevalence among the subpopulation groups over the past decade. Used in the study were NHANES 1988-94 and 1999-2002; and SAS Callable SUDAAN in order to adjust for sample weights and the complex survey design. The prevalence of obesity from 23.6 to 31.1% between the two surveys was minimally accounted for by aging U.S. population, and recorded highest in black middle-income women (53.3%) and lowest in black low-income men (21.7%) in 1999-2002. The variability in obesity prevalence among the subpopulation groups was explained by lifestyle, reproductive, and psychosocial variables, specifically smoking, hours of TV watching or computer use, alcohol intake, leisure-time and non-leisure-time activity, the number of live births, age at first menarche, perception and attitudes about own weight status, attempt to lose weight, energy intake, fat intake, breakfast intake, and the number of eating occasions. The
change in obesity prevalence was the highest in Mexican-American high-income women (25.1 to 39.3%), whereas lowest in Mexican-American low-income men (23.6 to 23.4%). These changes were associated with smoking, alcohol intake, leisure-time activity, age at first menarche, energy intake, fat intake, and breakfast intake. In developing nutrition intervention programs to reduce obesity prevalence, one must consider these predictors that are specific for subpopulation groups in the U.S.

Links:

Subject: Nutrition

Classification: 0570: Nutrition

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Obesity, NHANES, Income, Gender, Health disparity, Sociodemographic subgroups, Nutrition, Race

Title: Changes in predictors of obesity prevalence among United States subpopulation groups over the past decade

Number of pages: 543

Publication year: 2007

Degree date: 2007
Employment sectors as opportunity structures: The effects of location on male and female scientific dissemination
Abstract: This project examines an understudied aspect of gender and scientific careers - the extent to which employment sectors act as opportunity structures for increasing or decreasing gender disparities in scientific dissemination. I capture productivity across sectors and work settings by focusing specifically on commercial science, using patenting activity as coinage for career productivity that spans academic and industrial contexts. Analyzing the structure of work settings across sectors provides new insight into the ways in which organizational context affects gender inequality in productivity. Using data from the NSF Survey of Doctorate Recipients and a comprehensive sample of life scientists, I examine how the structure of work organization influences gender disparities in patenting behavior. I show how scientists' individual characteristics interact with the arrangement of their work environment to produce noticeably different gender disparities across sectors and work settings. In particular, women with children appear to be the principally commercially disadvantaged group in the university setting. However, there is no gender difference in involvement in certain industrial work settings--those characterized by flatter, more flexible organizational structures--than in
hierarchically-arranged organizational settings such as academia and large, diversified industrial companies. I propose that differences in the social arrangements and reward incentives of academia and industry contribute to differences in gender disparities across sectors. Using networks built from inventor collaborations in biotechnology patents from 1976-2002, I explore how the relational structure between industrial and academic scientists embodies these sector-level differences. The structure of scientific collaboration closely follows the social incentives of work in the academy and industry. Investigations of scientists' locations in these two settings suggest that women in the academy are located in more peripheral and less central collaborative relationships than men in the academy. Furthermore, academic women benefit less from central positions than their counterpart women in other locations. The results suggest that commercialization may be a new arena for gender disparities in scientific productivity. However, a complex relationship between (1) organizational form, (2) the structure of sector-level rewards and incentives, and (3) collaborative relations is at work in bringing about differences in gender outcomes across sectors and work settings.

Links:
Subject: Labor economics; Labor relations; Organizational behavior; Organization theory; Gender; Gender differences; Scientists; Polls & surveys; Work environment; Personality
traits; Colleges & universities; Commercialization; Organizational structure; Studies

Classification: 0510: Labor economics; 0629: Labor relations; 0703: Organizational behavior; 0703: Organization theory; 0733: Gender

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Employment, Opportunity, Location, Scientific dissemination, Gender, Social network, Organizational theory

Title: Employment sectors as opportunity structures: The effects of location on male and female scientific dissemination

Pages: n/a

Number of pages: 236

Publication year: 2007

Degree date: 2007

School code: 0212
Health disparities under market transition: Evidence from nine provinces in China, 1991--2004

Author: Liang, Ke
Abstract: Existing research on socioeconomic inequality in health has documented significant associations between health and socioeconomic status (SES). Typically, income, education, and occupation are employed to measure the three major dimensions of stratification, including property, prestige, and power. Yet, it remains unclear how state power influences health status. Despite the large body of literature on the developed world, the developing countries have only recently come to the attention of researchers. As such, it has become increasingly interesting and important to explore the socioeconomic inequalities in health in developing countries, especially in countries where state policy has important influences on social stratification. This dissertation investigates social and economic inequalities in health in contemporary China, with a focus on the health implications of traditional SES components, as well as state policies. My findings indicate significant associations between health and the three major SES components. Income acts as a robust promoter of health, as well as an important mediator for associations between health and marriage, education, and political capital. Education impacts health in multiple ways. When other sociodemographic factors are considered, direct educational returns to health are only observed in rural areas. Meanwhile, in both rural and urban areas, the well educated are more likely to be hired and keep their jobs, to
have higher income and more health knowledge, and to enter into and be promoted in the Chinese bureaucratic system. Through these pathways, education influences health indirectly. Being out of the labor force shows a negative influence on health. A dramatic increase in the unemployment rate in cities partially accounts for an emerging urban disadvantage in self-reported health between 1991 and 2004. Findings regarding self-reported health suggest a decline in health in both urban and rural areas between 1991 and 2004, as a consequence of continuous industrialization and social transition. During this period, urban residents are more likely to be exposed to physical, socioeconomic and psychological health risks, which accounts for an emerging urban-rural difference in self-reported health, in favor of rural residents. An increasing level of health expectation and awareness of disease among urban residents further inflates this urban health disadvantage. Political capital has significant and robust influences on health as well. Membership in the Communist Party shows considerable direct rewards for health. Being a cadre is associated with better monetary and non-monetary rewards, both of which are important health-promoting resources.

Links:

Subject: Public health; Social structure

Classification: 0573: Public health; 0700: Social structure
"Restoring honor": Japanese Pacific War disabled war veterans from 1945 to 1963

Author: Fujiwara, Tetsuya

Abstract: This dissertation examines the lives of Japanese disabled war veterans and the activism of the Japanese Disabled Veterans Association (JDVA: Nippon Shōigunjin kai) in the early postwar period, beginning immediately following the Allied Occupation in the summer of 1945 and ending in 1963, when the National Diet passed the "Act on Special Aid to the Wounded and Sick Retired Soldiers" (Senshōbyōsha Tokubetsu Engo-hô). Established in 1952, the
JDVA would play a leading role in securing welfare for Japanese disabled war veterans.

Links:

Subject: History; Military history; Military studies

Classification: 0332: History; 0722: Military history; 0750: Military studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Allied occupation, Disability, Japan, Veteran, War

Title: "Restoring honor": Japanese Pacific War disabled war veterans from 1945 to 1963

Number of pages: 212

Publication year: 2011

Degree date: 2011

School code: 0096

Source: DAI-A 76/06(E), Dec 2015
What effect do medical marijuana laws have on illicit drug activity?
Abstract: Ever since the state of California adopted the first law permitting the medical usage of marijuana in 1996, opponents of the legislation have expressed concerns that such state laws could lead to increased drug use among the general public. This paper uses variation in the timing of these laws to determine if their passage is correlated with increases in illicit drug activity, as measured by arrests and self-reported usage, while controlling for fixed and linear effects as well as state demographic characteristics that vary from year to year. While previous studies have attempted to measure the relationship between medical marijuana laws and drug use, none simultaneously use fixed effects and demographic controls, both of which control for state variation across time and help isolate the relationship between medical marijuana laws and illicit drug activity. Using data from 1997-2009 for drug crimes and 2002-2009 for drug usage, my research does not find a relationship between the passage of medical marijuana laws and changes in illicit activity for either marijuana or hard drugs. Dynamic estimates show that a brief increase in marijuana crimes within a state may exist in the year following passage of a law. My findings suggest that fears about
medical marijuana laws leading to increased drug activity may be overblown. Moving forward, I recommend that policymakers consider creating more comprehensive databases of drug-related arrests. More research is also needed on whether medical marijuana laws have an effect on state expenditures in healthcare and law enforcement.

Links:

Subject: Law; Public policy

Classification: 0398: Law; 0630: Public policy

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences

Title: What effect do medical marijuana laws have on illicit drug activity?

Number of pages: 39

Publication year: 2012

Degree date: 2012

School code: 0076

Source: MAI 50/05M, Masters Abstracts International
Prevention of birth defects in a national study

Author: Khodr, Zeina
Abstract: The following analyses covered two main objectives focused on the prevention of and identification of risk factors for birth defects, the leading cause of infant mortality. All analyses utilized data from the National Birth Defects Prevention Study (NBDPS), an ongoing, population-based, case-control study of major structural birth defects. The first objective was to identify predictors of folic acid supplementation among women of reproductive age. To meet this objective, a previous analysis of potential predictors of periconceptional folic acid use in the NBDPS was repeated using data from more recent years (1997-2000 versus 2001-2005). The results of these analyses were consistent with the initial analyses, indicating that folic acid use is associated with maternal race/ethnicity, age, education, pregnancy awareness, smoking status, first prenatal care visit, previous live births, and fertility treatments). In addition, data from NBDPS controls were used to identify predictors of preconceptional folic acid use, since supplementation is optimally initiated prior to pregnancy (rather than after conception). These analyses indicated that maternal race/ethnicity, education, age, nativity, employment status, income, number of dependents, smoking, and birth control are significantly associated with preconceptional folic acid supplementation. Ultimately the results of these analyses can be used to guide the development of targeted interventions for preconceptional folic acid use. The second objective was to investigate the association between parental Hispanic acculturation and the risk of gastroschisis, a congenital malformation of the
abdominal wall, in offspring. Significant association were not observed for mothers < 20 years of age at conception. Among mothers ≥ 20 years of age, white parents were at a decreased risk of having a child with gastroschisis as compared to Hispanic parents who were born in the United States (US) [odd ratios (ORs) ranging from 0.60 to 0.55] and Hispanics parents who predominantly spoke English (ORs ranging from 0.65 to 0.58). Compared to Hispanic mothers born in the US, the risk of gastroschisis was lower among Hispanic mothers who had lived in the US < 5 years (OR=0.36, 95% CI: 0.42, 0.81) at the time of delivery and Hispanic mothers who migrated to the US at ≥ 20 years of age (OR=0.48, 95% CI: 0.26, 0.89). The results of these analyses provide further evidence that the risk of gastroschisis in offspring is associated with parent Hispanic ethnicity and, among Hispanics, with the degree of parental acculturation. Future studies should focus on characteristic differences between less and more acculturated parents to better understand the relationship between acculturation and gastroschisis.

Links:
Subject: Epidemiology

Classification: 0766: Epidemiology

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Birth defects, Folic acid supplementation, Gastroschisis, Parental acculturation

Title: Prevention of birth defects in a national study
A comparative study of adult mortality in Taiwan and the United States in the twentieth century

Author: Chang, Yu-Ting


Abstract: This dissertation is a historically comparative study of adult mortality between Taiwan and the United States throughout the 20th century. The 20th century was characterized by the largest rise in life expectancy at birth and the most rapid decrease in mortality in recorded human history. This dissertation aims not only to examine and compare the trends and levels of life expectancy in Taiwan and the United States over an extended period of time, but
also to evaluate the extent to which smoking behavior and obesity play an important role in the recent levels of adult mortality in the United States. I used logistic models of mortality to examine and compare the trends and levels of life expectancy in Taiwan from 1906 to 2008 and in the United States from 1933 to 2007. Second, I re-estimated life expectancy by introducing smoking-attributable mortality to further compare the levels of life expectancy between the two countries. Third, I estimated event history models to investigate whether and how smoking behavior and obesity are related to mortality in the United States in the 1990 to 2006 and the 2000 to 2006 periods. At the end of the 20th century, the level of life expectancy at birth for females in the U.S. was higher than in Taiwan, but they were close. In this century, however, the level of life expectancy at birth in Taiwan has increased to a higher level than in the U.S. The levels of male life expectancy at birth for the two countries are similar in this century, but there were significant differences in the 20th century. The great improvements in juvenile, background and senescent mortality rates in Taiwan may be used to explain this correspondence of life expectancy between the two countries today. Besides, higher smoking-attributed mortality can also serve as another possible reason for the stagnant levels of life expectancy in the U.S. Finally, smoking-related and obesity-related mortality have become progressively more important as predictors of adult mortality in the U.S. in past decades.
Subject: Epidemiology; Demography

Classification: 0766: Epidemiology; 0938: Demography

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Health and environmental sciences, Adult mortality, China, Cox hazard model, Life expectancy, Logistic order of mortality, Obesity, Smoking, Taiwan, United States

Title: A comparative study of adult mortality in Taiwan and the United States in the twentieth century

Number of pages: 187

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

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Advisor: Poston, Dudley L., Jr.

Committee member: Kwok, Oi-Man; McIntosh, William Alex; Saenz, Rogelio

University/institution: Texas A & M University

Department: Sociology

University location: United States -- Texas

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English
An analysis of the impact of surgical volume and diffusion on bariatric surgery outcomes

Author: Johns, Roger A.
Abstract: Statement of Problem/Objectives: Obesity has become a major national public health concern as the percentage of Americans who are overweight and obese has increased at an alarming rate over the past 15 years. With increasing evidence of its effectiveness in weight loss and health improvement, the use of bariatric surgery increased more than nine-fold from 1998 to 2004. Although several studies have been published on outcomes of bariatric surgery, current information is limited regarding the impact of individual surgeon or facility volume variation on complications, length of stay (LOS), and cost outcomes, particularly since the introduction of laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding (LAGB). The specific impact of the introduction of laparoscopic approaches to bariatric surgery, especially LAGB, on the rapid diffusion of bariatric surgery has not been adequately evaluated and may impact the clinical outcome, cost, and rate of growth of bariatric surgery. Methods: The first research question addressed the effect of volume variation by individual surgeon and hospital on the complications, cost, and LOS associated with bariatric surgery. Outcomes were adjusted for the effect of bariatric surgery type, patient age, and patient gender. Robust regression modeling approaches were used for the analysis, and clustering between surgeon and facility was considered. The second research question addressed the
longitudinal pattern of diffusion of total bariatric surgery and open bypass, laparoscopic bypass, and LAGB approaches in the context of classical diffusion theory, and its effect on LOS, surgeon and facility payment, and complication outcomes. Results: The adoption and diffusion of bariatric surgery and the type of bariatric surgery changed markedly over the period of 2002 to 2008. After a dramatic increase in bariatric surgery in the decade preceding and including the first two years of this study, overall bariatric surgery plateaued in BCBSm, consistent with nationwide volumes. However, marked changes occurred in the diffusion of bariatric surgery by type, influenced by factors consistent with classical diffusion of innovation. Open gastric bypass surgery, which was performed almost exclusively in 2002, began to decline sharply as laparoscopic gastric bypass came into favor in 2004. With the rapid growth in LAGB, by 2008 open gastric bypass cases declined to less than 4% of open cases done in 2002 and laparoscopic bypass began to plateau. New surgeons who perform only LAGB entered the market beginning in 2005, and LAGB continued on a steep upward phase of diffusion. These changes led to reductions in LOS, cost, and complications. Potential factors influencing the diffusion patterns of bariatric surgery over this time period are assessed in the context of classical theory on diffusion of innovations. Conclusions: Higher surgeon and higher facility volume each reduced the number of serious complications after bariatric surgery. The perioperative infection nature of many of these volume-related complications suggests the potential for prevention through current and planned changes in reimbursement.
policy based on quality outcomes. Increased volume also shortened LOS and reduced costs. Facility effects influenced differences in payment to both surgeon and facility and could reflect regional differences in contracts and reimbursement. Patterns in changes in frequency of bariatric surgery by type over the period of 2002 to 2008 and the reasons for such changes provide comprehensive evidence that classical theories of diffusion of innovation are highly relevant to bariatric surgery. The rapid displacement of gastric bypass by LAGB may have negative implications for health outcomes and surgical efficacy in obesity. LAGB results in markedly less weight loss than bypass approaches, may have a limited duration of weight loss in some patients, and has been recently recognized to have a high longterm rate of failure and reoperation. Thus the overall health benefit associated with bariatric surgery could decrease if current diffusion curves continue. These findings can strongly inform policy in regard to appropriate incentives to reduce complications and in providing caution and guidance in determining the appropriate approach to bariatric surgery. (Abstract shortened by UMI.)

Links:
Subject: Public health; Public policy; Health care management

Classification: 0573: Public health; 0630: Public policy; 0769: Health care management
Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Health and environmental sciences, Bariatric surgery, Complications, Health care utilization, Obesity, Technology diffusion, Volume effect

Title: An analysis of the impact of surgical volume and diffusion on bariatric surgery outcomes

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Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781303555879
Networks of resistance: Opposition to strip coal mining in central Appalachia, 1977-2012

Author: Perdue, Robert Todd


Abstract: This dissertation uses the case of strip mining resistance in central Appalachia to shed light on the factors that bring social movement groups together in collaborative relationships, and conversely, the factors that can inhibit such partnerships. These dynamics are an important realm of study because such intergroup relationships influence
how change is sought, and in turn, the level of success a movement attains. I use social network analysis and semi-structured interviews with movement participants to bring these collaborative mechanisms into focus. I begin by documenting the evolution of this network of resistance since the passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) to 2012. A major theme emerging from this component of study is the critical impact the law can have on movements, and vice versa. The passage of SMCRA thwarted collaboration and had a general deflating effect on the movement, while amendments to the Clean Air Act in 1990 accelerated the use of mountaintop removal mining (MTR) and catalyzed resistance to the practice. An examination of the current network reveals the importance of tactics in generating collaborative relationships. We see that the different tools groups pull from the "tactical toolbox", such as litigation, lobbying, and direct action, significantly influence the propensity of groups to forge alliances within the movement. Finally, the dissertation highlights how certain factors have the potential to stifle collaboration, including: insider/outsider dynamics, intergenerational divides, conflict between the grassroots and national environmental organizations, and religious differences. In general, however, such conflicts are scuttled for the "greater good", as activists are overwhelmingly pragmatic, realizing the importance of collaboration in their uphill fight for environmental justice in the mountains of Appalachia.
Subject: Regional Studies; Environmental Justice; Labor relations

Classification: 0604: Regional Studies; 0619: Environmental Justice; 0629: Labor relations

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Strip mining, Appalachia, Coal, Mountaintop removal mining

Title: Networks of resistance: Opposition to strip coal mining in central Appalachia, 1977-2012

Number of pages: 241

Publication year: 2013

Degree date: 2013

School code: 0070

Source: DAI-A 76/06(E), Dec 2015

Place of publication: Ann Arbor
Trust and Consequences: Biorepositories, Health Learning Systems, and Beyond

Author: James, Cyan
Abstract: The functions and nature of trust have been widely explored within the context of biobanks. As an established body of literature demonstrates, trust is believed vital for conducting modern research in which thousands of human tissue specimens are linked with de-identified information from medical records in a "Big Data" approach to finding genomic patterns and correlations behind disease manifestations. Without trust, the literature holds, potential donors are liable to refuse donation out of fear of weak data security or of researcher misconduct. With transparency, security, oversight, and proper engagement practices, biobanks hope to secure donor trust. Trust is also important, albeit much less examined, in health care learning systems where a similar situation—researchers seeking to conduct research with subjects recruited within clinical spaces—prevails. Both biobanks and health learning systems are becoming increasingly popular means of finding answers to biomedical problems, and how trust functions in these settings cannot be overlooked. Purpose: This dissertation aims to 1) examine stakeholder preferences, including those particular to trust and patient consent and engagement preferences, during the establishment of the Northwest BioTrust, a biorepository resource local to Seattle, WA, 2) qualitatively analyze IRB and patient views on trust as they apply to the health care learning model, and 3) explore
significant policy ramifications remaining to be explored within the literature on trust in biomedical spaces. The overarching purpose of the project is to better inform research practices, to promote research obligations in trust-building ways, and to strengthen our research ecosystem.

Methods: My methods include: 1) semi-structured interviews with local biobanking experts and stakeholders, a focus group of King County citizens, and a systematic literature review spanning work published from 2000-2010 focusing on elements of trust and communication methods involving biobank donors and research participants, 2) qualitative content analysis of focus groups at leading Northwest clinics convened to discuss the ethics of research on medical practices, and 3) the linked advancement of a normative argument based on relational ethics.

Results: Trust is critical, and in clinical spaces, potential participants prefer trust to be established relationally with one's care professionals, instead of with researchers or within research contexts; this characteristic adds important considerations to ongoing trust-building policy, particularly with regards to health learning systems. Conclusion: Trust is relational and not simply transactional. Though consent forms are the most common way of seeking to build trust and of encapsulating donor and researcher expectations and duties, they fail to capture several elements of trust-building that merit consideration. Researchers should examine their assumptions about the regulatory and ethical duties they must discharge in the light of relational ethics.
Subject: Medical Ethics; Public health
The enfreakment of language: Disability, eugenics, and rhetoric

Author: Wheeler, Stephanie Kristin
Abstract: This project is motivated by the presence of eugenics in our dominant approaches to meaning-making: what does it look like, and why should we care? To begin to answer these questions, this dissertation works from two concepts: enfreakment - the identification of elements that are desirable or wanted - and eugenicist logics, the removal of what is not wanted or deemed necessary for the desired outcome, or alternatively, the replication of the elements that are considered useful. To observe the interaction between the logic of eugenics and enfreakment within ableist systems, this dissertation develops the enfreakment of language, a term that encompasses both the process of enfreakment and the heuristic that allows us to see that process in action. The enfreakment of language uncovers how particular modes of Western and Euro-American meaning-making depend on the logic of eugenics, a dependency that is detrimental to the bodies that become subjected to the power gained through this logic. Focusing on some of the implications of the overlap and interaction between the logics of eugenics and enfreakment within ableist systems, this project demonstrates the operation of eugenics as a logic that motivates discourses around human variation. I offer three examples of representations of disability and eugenics in America to illustrate reproductions of the freak show and eugenicist practices within the production and consumption of the "abnormal"
body. I first show how a system based on eugenicist logic operates by examining how eugenicist logic in the language of U.S. Ugly Laws is mirrored in Nazi euthanasia practices. Next, I illustrate the collapse of a system based on eradication through an examination of representations of Anne Frank, demonstrating how eugenicist logics of Nazi programs dis/able her as the "face of the Holocaust." Finally, I look at the attempts to create an alternate, anti-eugenicist system in contemporary public rhetorics through an analysis of Lady Gaga’s references to Nazi eugenics and disability in her work. Ultimately, this dissertation argues that Disability Studies is essential if the academy is to account for the bodies and practices that have been erased in the attempt to define categories of "abnormal."

Links:
The enfreakment of language: Disability, eugenics, and rhetoric

Number of pages: 214
Abstract: This study was conducted to fill a gap in the social work knowledge base by investigating social work content on autism and autistic persons published in peer-reviewed journals between 1970 and 2013. How social workers engage in practice is influenced by the knowledge they receive. What they know and how they know it drives practice, education, and research. This study critically examined one source of social workers' knowledge, peer-reviewed social work journals, to assess the social work profession's representation of autism in its scholarly literature from 1970 through 2013. This study employed a two phase approach to identify and assess content used to represent autism in articles published in peer-reviewed
social work literature, over a 43-year period, to answer the following research questions: 1. What themes have been used to represent autism in the social work literature published between 1970 and 2013? 2. What does a quantitative content analysis of the social work literature on autism published between 1970 and 2013 reveal about representations of autism in the social work literature? Phase one findings revealed information about representations of autism related to six separate themes that included (a) explaining the nature of autism, (b) interventions to treat autism, (c) effects of autism, (d) what it means to be autistic, (e) social workers' roles related to autism, and (f) researching autism. Phase two findings showed historical trends in the manifest and latent content related to lead author gender, lead author degree, interdisciplinary collaboration, disability model, perspective, and agenda, as well as key word frequencies. In addition, the quantitative content analysis in phase two was used to re-contextualize the findings from the qualitative content analysis conducted in phase one. The dissertation concludes with a discussion of findings, implications for social work practice and research, and recommendations for future studies.

Links:
Subject: Social work; Clinical psychology; Mass communications

Classification: 0452: Social work; 0622: Clinical psychology; 0708: Mass communications
Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Communication and the arts, Psychology, Autism, Content analysis, Critical theory, Disability, Diversity, Social work

Title: Representations of autism in the social work literature from 1970 to 2013: A critical content analysis

Number of pages: 203

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Advisor: Houser, Linda

Committee member: Wyatt, Jeannette; Brabender, Virginia

University/institution: Widener University

Department: Social Work

University location: United States -- Pennsylvania

Degree: Ph.D.

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A Historical Materialist Analysis of Transnational Capitalism and Shifts in Poverty and HIV Prevalence among Women in Uganda, 1983 - 2013

Author: Smiley, Sabrina Lynn
Abstract: The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is the leading cause of death of women of economically active and reproductive age (15-49) worldwide. To explain the disproportionate impact of HIV among women in Uganda, studies have pointed to factors pertaining to the behavioral context and stemming from middle range theoretical perspectives that place the individual at the center of analysis. This research makes the case that a deep and comprehensive understanding of the global political economy is the context for exploring shifts in poverty and HIV prevalence among women in Uganda. To do so, this research uses historical materialist theory to analyze shifts in poverty and HIV prevalence among women in Uganda within the structural context of transnational capitalism. This historical case study provides insight into the relationship between the global political economy and shifts in poverty and HIV prevalence among women in Uganda by examining the relationship within three political economic periods: (1) the period of the imposing of Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) (1983-1992); (2) the period of the expansion of transnational investment through finance capital speculation (1993-2002); and (3) the period of the militarization of global accumulation during the global financial crisis (2003-2013). The methodology employed for this research study was a historical materialist theoretical framework coupled with a case study research design. This research study revealed that during the period of transnational capitalism in the epoch of globalization, HIV prevalence among women in Uganda grew most quickly
under Policy Period I--transnational capitalism and the imposing of Structural Adjustment Programs; decreased under Policy Period II--the expansion of transnational capital through finance speculation; and increased again under Policy Period III--the militarization of global accumulation during the global financial crisis.

Links:

Subject: African Studies; Public Health Education; Public health; Science history; Public policy

Classification: 0293: African Studies; 0500: Public Health Education; 0573: Public health; 0585: Science history; 0630: Public policy

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Health and environmental sciences, Human immunodeficiency virus, Women, Reproductive age, Uganda

Title: A Historical Materialist Analysis of Transnational Capitalism and Shifts in Poverty and HIV Prevalence among Women in Uganda, 1983 - 2013

Number of pages: 151
China's Health Insurance Reform and Disparities in Healthcare Utilization and Costs: A Longitudinal Analysis

Author: Zhao, Henu


Abstract: China’s economic success during the past 30 years was not mirrored in its health care system. As a result, the rural-urban disparities in health insurance coverage and the related health care areas became prominent. Since the late 1990s, China has been expanding insurance coverage, in order to provide accessible and affordable health care to all residents. My study analyzes whether the insurance expansion reduces rural-urban disparities in terms of health care utilization and financial protection. To my knowledge, this is the first study to address the disparity issue by examining China's health care reform policies over an extended 18-year period (1993-2011). It is also the first study to address the dynamic phenomenon of rural-urban migration during the study period by separating the study group into 4 subgroups in terms of respondents in residential areas versus household
registration type. Drawing on seven waves of data from the China Health and Nutrition Survey and applying multivariate analysis techniques, such as difference-in-difference analysis and generalized linear model, I find that rural-urban disparities in formal care and outpatient utilization were significantly reduced by the expanded health insurance coverage in rural area in 2003. The rural-urban disparity in total health costs is also significantly reduced. However, no evidence shows that the policy changes in health insurance coverage had impact on disparities in inpatient utilization or having high out-of-pocket payments. By conducting several sets of sensitivity analyses, my study also finds that the expanded health insurance coverage impacted richer province more than poorer provinces, and impact high-income families more than medium- and low-income families. The study findings have important policy implications for China's ongoing health care reform. First, China's policy makers should provide better health care coverage and more health care resources to rural areas to further reduce the rural-urban disparity. Second, since prior policy changes affected rich province more than poor province, new policy should target specifically poor provinces. Third, given the finding that the positive impact on health care utilization of policy change in 2003 happening mainly in high-income groups, new policy change should focus more on medium- and low-income group.

Links:
http://RT4RF9QN2Y.search.serialssolutions.com/?ctx_ver=Z3
Subject: Public health; Public policy; Health care management
Classification: 0573: Public health; 0630: Public policy; 0769: Health care management

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Health and environmental sciences, Health insurance, Health care costs, China, New rural cooperative medical care, Health care utilization

Title: China’s Health Insurance Reform and Disparities in Healthcare Utilization and Costs: A Longitudinal Analysis

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Advisor: Yu, Hao

University/institution: The Pardee RAND Graduate School

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Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: 3662266

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"Absolutely sort of normal": The common origins of the war on poverty at home and abroad, 1961-1965

Author: Aksamit, Daniel Victor

Abstract: Scholars identify the early 1960s as the moment when Americans rediscovered poverty - as the time when Presidents, policymakers, and the public shifted their
attention away from celebrating the affluence of the 1950s and toward directly helping poor people within the culture of poverty through major federal programs such as the Peace Corps and Job Corps. This dissertation argues that this moment should not be viewed as a rediscovery of poverty by Americans. Rather, it should be viewed as a paradigm shift that conceptually unified the understanding of both foreign and domestic privation within the concept of a culture of poverty. A culture of poverty equally hindered poor people all around the world, resulting in widespread illiteracy in India and juvenile delinquency in Indianapolis. Policymakers defined poverty less by employment rate or location (rural poverty in Ghana versus inner-city poverty in New York) and more by the cultural values of the poor people (apathy toward change, disdain for education, lack of planning for the future, and desire for immediate gratification). In a sense, the poor person who lived in the Philippines and the one who lived in Philadelphia became one. They suffered from the same cultural limitations and could be helped through the same remedy. There were not just similarities between programs to alleviate poverty in either the Third World or America; the two became one in the mid-1960s. Makers of policy in the War on Poverty understood all poverty around the world as identical and approached it with the same remedy. President John Kennedy inspired the paradigm shift. After reading about the culture of poverty in Dwight Macdonald's review of Michael Harrington's book The Other America: Poverty in the United States, Kennedy began to bring together experts within a new mentality to discuss a program to end poverty. The experts had been
working for separate programs that focused on seemingly disparate issues--juvenile delinquency, poverty in New England, and Third World development--but they now realized that they were all working on the same problem, namely, the culture of poverty. The understanding that cultural values created poverty led them to unify their programs and approaches as they created the War on Poverty in 1964. The discovery was not the beginning of national attention on poverty but a culmination that brought together prominent people, ideas, and programs already in existence within a new paradigm.

Links:
Subject: American history

Classification: 0337: American history

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Culture of poverty, Great society, Kennedy, John F., Modernization, Poverty, War on poverty

Title: "Absolutely sort of normal": The common origins of the war on poverty at home and abroad, 1961-1965

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ISBN: 9781321529210

Advisor: Mrozek, Donald J.

Committee member: Dickinson, Torry; Paul, Bimal; Hoff, Derek; Krysko, Michael

University/institution: Kansas State University
The Great Recession and Health Disparities: A Study of Maternal and Child Health Outcomes in Washington and Florida

Author: Blakeney, Erin L.


Abstract: Introduction: The Great Recession (GR) (December 2007-June 2009) resulted in widespread increases in need, prompting concern about negative effects on maternal and child health (MCH) outcomes. This dissertation explores relationships between MCH outcomes and disparities before, during, and after the GR in three research papers. Methods: Analyses for each paper (1, 2, 3) utilized de-identified birth certificate and linked community characteristic data from Washington (WA) and Florida (FL). First (1), Healthy People protocols were used to assess the degree of disparities on
seven MCH outcomes (study period 2005-2011; n= 897,483). Next (2), regression modeling was used to estimate relative contributions of individual, community, and local health department (LHD) expenditure covariates on the probability of a pregnant woman entering prenatal care late or not at all (late/no PNC) (study period 2005-2010; n= 678,235). Finally (3), interactions between enrollment in the WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program and individual characteristics in relation to BW were modeled among a higher need subset of the study population (study period 2005-2009; n= 226,835). Results: In the first paper (1), MCH disparities increased for some groups during and after the GR. There were more total increases in disparities in WA than in FL and more disparity increases after the GR than during. The second paper (2) revealed consistent contributions of individual-level maternal predictors (e.g., young age, low education) to late/no PNC but varied associations among some community-level predictors (e.g., % voting Republican; LHD expenditures). Also, women enrolled in WIC had a lower probability of late/no PNC than those without WIC. In the third paper (3), WIC interactions revealed beneficial BW effects for infants of mothers with late/no PNC and non-Hispanic Black infants. Supplemental materials are available. Conclusions: Some MCH outcomes and disparities worsened during the GR (1). In the case of late/no PNC, augmented associations between percent voting Republican and LHD expenditures should be further explored (2). Beneficial WIC interaction effects on BW were found among some groups in a high-need population. Further research is needed to explore how benefits of WIC and other
programs might be increased or extended to more comprehensively address MCH disparities (3).

Links:
Subject: Nursing; Public health

Classification: 0569: Nursing; 0573: Public health

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Florida, Great recession, Health disparities, Maternal and child health, Washington

Title: The Great Recession and Health Disparities: A Study of Maternal and Child Health Outcomes in Washington and Florida

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BIOLOGICAL RELATIONSHIPS OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO WOODLAND PEOPLES: THE EVIDENCE OF DISCONTINUOUS CRANIAL MORPHOLOGY

Author: Molto, Joseph Eldon

Abstract: The purpose of this study is to present a synthesis of biological relationships during the Woodland period of southern Ontario prehistory. The data base consists of a battery of discontinuous nonmetric cranial traits which were used to compute C. A. B. Smith's Mean Measure of Divergence (MMD) between 17 large (N (GREATERTHEQ) 20 crania) Woodland samples. The research design involved testing a series of hypotheses which were formulated from a review of previous skeletal and archaeological studies in the research area. The main strategy of the research design vis a vis the hypotheses, was to eliminate, as much as possible, those factors potentially biased towards producing Type I or Type II statistical errors. In particular, the methodology emphasized the selection of an appropriate battery of traits to compare the samples, since inappropriate data would ruin attempts to estimate biological distance from the start. From an initial list of 50 discontinuous traits a final battery of 21 precisely scored, highly variable, relatively age stable and independent traits were chosen. Significant sex differences in 8 of the 21 traits constituted a potential weakness of this trait list. This was controlled by calculating the combined % contribution of these traits to each MMD to determine which coefficients were most affected by the sex bias. It proved not to be problematic. The distance analysis was supplemented by two multivariate taxonomic statistical procedures and by considering the spatial-temporal distributions of the traits and their % contributions to each MMD. The MMD results support the hypothesis of genetic continuity between the Middle and Late Woodland peoples of the region. Morpho-
genetic evidence supporting the view that the Late Woodland Iroquois were a product of biological admixture between the ancestors of distinct indigenous Middle Woodland populations representing Saugeen and Point Peninsula cultures was also provided. This admixture resulted in a homogeneous biological population across most of southern Ontario before A.D. 1300. Biological relationships among the Ontario Iroquois after this date show varying degrees of synchronic biological homogeneity, with MMDs indicating greater regional variability between A.D. 1400-1500 than in the preceding or following periods of the Late Woodland sequence. From a morpho-genetic standpoint the St. Lawrence Iroquois are much closer to the Iroquois of south-central Ontario and Huronia than are the Orchid Iroquois of the Niagara Peninsula. Overall the MMD results suggest that the microevolution of the Woodland peoples was a gradual process. The gene pool appears to have remained stable over considerable time. This view was reinforced by the evidence showing that the large MMDs noted between the Middle Woodland and later Late Woodland groups probably overstates the amount of genetic change because these coefficients reflect dietary as well as genetic differences in the morphology. In addition, some of the diachronic differences noted between historical affiliates is directly attributable to gene flow. Gene flow, is then used to explain both the diachronic heterogeneity and the synchronic homogeneity noted between the Woodland groups. It was suggested that the evidence of extensive gene flow among the Late Woodland horiculturalists is consistent with what is known of between group
interactions in extant horticultural societies. A consequence of this pattern is that biological relationships among the Ontario Iroquois are not easily delimited by geographical or political factors. Genetic drift and directional selections appear to play minor roles in the 'in situ' development of the Iroquoian speaking Woodland peoples of southern Ontario.

Links:
STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE LOWER LIMB BONES WITH AGING AT PECOS PUEBLO

Author: RUFF, CHRISTOPHER BRITTON
Abstract: To interpret structural variation in the skeleton in biomechanical terms, accurate measurements of important structural characteristics, including cross-sectional geometry, must be available. In addition, because of normal inter-individual variation in these properties, large numbers of individuals are necessary if clear sex and age differences are to be determined. In the present study, structural data, including cross-sectional geometric properties and bone mineral content, were gathered for a large sample of femora and tibiae from the Pecos Pueblo, New Mexico archaeological site. 120 skeletons, equally divided between males and females and six adult age groups, were obtained from the Pecos collection (Harvard Peabody Museum). Femora and tibiae were sectioned at five diaphyseal sites and one site through the femoral neck. Using interactive computer software (SLICE) and an electronic digitizer, cross section photographic slides were manually traced and used to determine all important section properties--bone areas, principal moments and their orientations, polar moment, section modulus. Bone mineral content (BMC) was determined using ('125)I photon absorptiometry. In addition, directly measured bone density was derived from femoral midshaft cores for a subset of the sample. Major results of the study may be summarized as follows: (1) As in modern populations, with aging endosteal resorption and cortical thinning occur, more so in females. However, subperiosteal expansion with aging limits age-related losses in cortical area, and produces age-related increases in second moments of area, averaging 10% in males and 7% in females. (2) Cross-sectional geometric characteristics
indicate that males in the sample are adapted for relatively higher A-P bending loads in the lower limb, females for M-L bending loads. This could be related to both sexual dimorphism in the pelvis and different sex-related activity patterns at Pecos. (3) Age changes in BMC closely parallel those in cortical area, and directly measured bone densities show little age reduction. Thus, age changes in compact bone are mainly volumetric, with no large changes in tissue density. The results illustrate the fruitfulness of a combined biomechanical-demographic approach to these issues. Using these methods, structural differences in the skeleton are used to investigate in vivo mechanical stresses and their relationship to bone remodeling.

Links:
Subject: Physical anthropology

Classification: 0327: Physical anthropology

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, New Mexico

Title: STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE LOWER LIMB BONES WITH AGING AT PECOS PUEBLO

Number of pages: 505

Publication year: 1981
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Source: DAI-A 42/06, Dissertation Abstracts International

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University/institution: University of Pennsylvania

University location: United States -- Pennsylvania

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis
Abstract: The demographic aspects, stature, metric and nonmetric features, and skeletal pathologies of 254 pre-Columbian mummies from the Azapa valley of northern Chile were analyzed. The skeletal series were from five cultural periods as follows: Azapa (1000-600 B.C.), Cabuza (350 A.D.), Tiwanaku (500 A.D.), Maitas-Chiribaya (850-1000 A.D.), and Regional (1100-1400 A.D.). Skeletons from two Peruvian cultures, Huacho (3000 B.C.) and Tuquillo (800 A.D.) were used for comparative purposes. The objectives of this research were: (1) To describe the adult morphology of the people in the Chilean cultures according to their metric measurements. (2) To determine by statistical analysis the affinity of these people to each other by comparing their metric and nonmetric traits. (3) To compare the Chilean people to the Peruvian people by comparison of their metric measurements. (4) To describe their skeletal pathology. The major conclusions are as follows: (1) Based on the analysis of the metric and nonmetric features, the Azapa valley people from 800 B.C. to 1400 A.D. appear to represent a homogenous group. The lack of differences suggests a population continuity existed. (2) There was a high frequency of skull fractures as opposed to postcranial fractures. Fifty percent healing was observed in the cranial fractures and 100% healing in the long bone fractures. Only one fracture was observed in children. (3) There was a higher incidence of vertebral osteophytosis in females than
in males. The Maitas culture had a higher percentage of cervical osteophytosis possibly caused by the use of the capacho, a basket attached to the forehead by a tumpline. There does not appear to be a decrease in the incidence of vertebral osteophytosis as compared to a modern population. (4) A low incidence (24.5%) of porotic hyperostosis was observed in the Maitas and Regional children. (5) Evidence of possible tuberculosis, treponemal and parasitic infections were noted. (6) The Maitas culture was the only culture with evidence of neoplasia. The observed tumors were as follows: A button osteoma of the skull in an adult male, an osteochondroma of the right femur in an adolescent, a cranial hemangioma in a child, a vertebral hemangioma in an adult female and a metastatic tumor with lesions affecting the skull and postcranial bones of an adult woman. A low incidence of neoplasia (5/254, 2%) was observed in the Azapa valley population.

Links:
THE HUMAN BIOLOGY OF BUDEC, CZECHOSLOVAKIA: A STUDY OF BIOCULTURAL ADAPTATION IN THE SLAVIC AND MEDIEVAL PERIODS (OSTEOLOGY, PATHOLOGY, SKELETONS)

Author: Stuckert, Caroline Morris


Abstract: This study concentrates on biocultural adaptation as reflected primarily at the site of Budec in Bohemia, and secondarily in the relationship of these samples to others from similar cultural and chronological contexts. The biocultural adaptation of these populations relative to each other and through time are incompletely understood, especially as they relate to morphological, demographic and pathological conditions influenced by physiological stress resulting from nutritional inadequacies, disease loads, or certain cultural practices. Data were collected from 72 individuals in the Budec cemetery (Slavic period) and a large collection of disarticulated bones representing at least 89 individuals in the Budec ossuary (Medieval period). These data included age, sex, metric and nonmetric traits, stature, cranial and postcranial indices, dental pathology and vari-
ants, and bone pathology. Similar data from the published literature were obtained for 8 contemporaneous Slavic period and 4 Medieval period sites in Bohemia. Quantitative and qualitative comparisons were made both spatially and temporally. Results indicate that the Budec cemetery and Ossuary samples fall well within the range of variation characteristic of Slavic and Medieval period samples in Bohemia. Demographic data suggest changes through time in patterns of childhood and female mortality, and lengthened lifespan. Morphological data indicate increased brachycephalization and decreased levels of platymeria, with little change in stature. Dental and pathological data give little evidence for severe nutritional deficits, but indicate fairly heavy infectious disease loads which most severely stress young adult females and children, especially in the immediate post-weaning period. Additional sources of disease stress introduced in the Medieval period include bubonic plague and syphilis. Differential activity levels by sex are indicated by rates of traumatic injury that are much greater for males than females. These results suggest that although the Medieval period witnessed the assault of new diseases, the reorganized social and economic structure increased resources and provided new buffering elements against a wide range of stress factors. In terms of a biocultural system, there may have been less negative environmental pressure, an increasingly successful adaptive response, or a synergistic interaction of these elements.
Subject: Physical anthropology

Classification: 0327: Physical anthropology

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences

Title: THE HUMAN BIOLOGY OF BUDEC, CZECHOSLOVAKIA: A STUDY OF BIOCULTURAL ADAPTATION IN THE SLAVIC AND MEDIEVAL PERIODS (OSTEOLOGY, PATHOLOGY, SKELETONS)

Pages: 445 p.

Number of pages: 445

Publication year: 1985

Degree date: 1985

School code: 0175
Abstract: For most parts of the human body, the morphometry and its variation with regard to
microevolutionary and secular trends, sexual dimorphism and individual aging are well known. Surprisingly, studies focusing on the vertebral column have so far primarily used either a macroevolutionary or a clinical focus. The aim of this study is to address the osteometry and variation of the human spine from a special perspective, possible microevolutionary alterations. A total of 348 human skeletons, dating from 28,000 B.C. to the mid 20th century A.D., from 24 sites mostly in Switzerland and Southern Germany, and without macroscopic pathology, were measured with a caliper by a single observer. These measurements at vertebral levels cervical 3 and 7, thoracic 1, 6 and 10, and lumbar 1 and 5 were taken: ventral and dorsal vertebral body height, sagittal and transverse vertebral body and spinal canal diameters, spinous and transverse process length, pedicle height and intervertebral foramen widths; as well as the diameters of the foramen magnum, humerus and femur length and circumference, femur head breadth and bi-iliac widths. With the exception of most of the bony outlines of the neural pathways, males show larger osteometric dimensions than females. No side difference of bilaterally measured variables was found. Variables of neighbouring vertebrae correlate to a higher extent than more distantly located variables; similar measurements at different vertebral levels correlate generally better than non-related measurements. With greater individual age, especially in males, the diameters of the vertebral body and pedicle height increase. A positive microevolutionary trend, with both increasing mean values and standard deviations, could be found; this trend was
independent of stature for selected measures. The samples show a microevolutionary increase in most of the spinal variables. Since both, mean values and standard deviations, increased, one may explain this higher intra-group variability to be a result of relaxed natural selection. Various environmental or genetic factors could explain the short-term alteration of the spinal osteometry. Furthermore, the relative smaller size and decrease with age of the bony outline of the neural pathways in males, could explain their higher vulnerability to modern lower back pathologies.

Links:

Subject: Physical anthropology; Anatomy & physiology

Classification: 0327: Physical anthropology; 0287: Anatomy & physiology

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Biological sciences, Osteometric variation, Spine, Microevolutionary, Switzerland, Germany, Paleolithic

Title: Osteometric variation of the human spine in Central Europe by historic time period and its microevolutionary implications

Pages: 439 p.
Basicranial ontogeny and evolution in Homo sapiens

Author: Richards, Gary Dean


Abstract: Research interest in the human basicranium derives from its developing in the junctional zone between numerous functional cranial matrices, and because it has undergone significant evolutionary modification during hominid evolution. Because the basicranium comprises a series of interrelated functional matrices, understanding the evolutionary trajectory of this composite and its components requires detailed knowledge of the development of osseous and cartilaginous tissues within a functional environment, as well as a broad knowledge of ontogenetic variation in its regional anatomy. Published data on basicranial ontogeny for the embryonic-to-adult stages in humans, fetal-to-adult stages in recent hominoids and cercopithecoids, and infant-to-adult stages in fossil hominoids are reviewed. Based on strengths and deficiencies identified by this assessment, metric and non-metric observations of both dry bones and radiographs were compiled for the best-known species, Homo sapiens. A large, well-aged ontogenetic sample population (n = >480) was analyzed. Results include the following advances: (1) a significantly expanded metric and morphological description
of the bony fetal prechordal region and nasal capsule and
developmental units comprising the postnatal cranial base;
(2) a detailed description and assessment of cranial
junctures in the fetal through postnatal periods; (3) the
integration of new soft tissue observations into skeletal unit
assessments; and (4) an integration of these individual
datasets into a new descriptive framework detailing the
ontogeny of the individual and composite components of the
cranial base. New insights emerge from combining this
reconsideration of the physiology, biomechanics, and
developmental history of cranial base ontogeny in Homo
sapiens with the expanded morphological and metric
descriptions of the fetal-adult cranial base. These are
integrated into a comparative anatomical and evolutionary
framework to clarify previously published observations and
conclusions and create a more extensive and fine-grained
delineation of the ontogeny of cranial base skeletal
elements. This work expands understanding of human
cranial base ontogeny and defines pathways for future
comparative and evolutionary investigations.

Links:
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ulast=Richards&amp;rft.aufirst=Gary&amp;rft.date=2007-01-
Subject: Anatomy & physiology; Physical anthropology

Classification: 0287: Anatomy & physiology; 0327: Physical anthropology

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Biological sciences, Basicranial ontogeny, Evolution, Cranial base, Bone biology

Title: Basicranial ontogeny and evolution in Homo sapiens
Diet and Society in Prehistoric Puerto Rico An Isotopic Approach

Author: Pestle, William J.

Abstract: Some 6,000 years ago, humans first arrived on the island of Puerto Rico. In the millennia between this initial human colonization and the arrival of Europeans in the 15th century AD, Puerto Rico and the other islands of the Antilles bore witness to the in situ development of a diverse and vibrant complement of human societies. Traditionally, the place and role(s) of food in these societies have received short shrift, an unfortunate oversight given that patterns of food production, distribution, and consumption can both reflect, and actively help to produce, social, economic, and political formations. While the rules and customs that govern food differ by people, place, and time, it is something approaching an anthropological universal that food in human societies is more than a source of energy; food is socially, economically, and politically alive. To remedy this significant lacuna in Caribbean archaeological knowledge,
the present study takes as its focus the biocultural dimensions of subsistence among the pre-Columbian, Ceramic Age inhabitants of Puerto Rico. Using a combination of archaeological, osteological, stable isotopic, and radiometric analysis of the skeletal remains of 270 individuals from three ancient Puerto Rican archaeological sites (Paso del Indio, Punta Candelero, and Tibes), I attempt to evaluate some existing hypotheses on the social, economic, and political organization of prehistoric Puerto Rico and, when appropriate, offer new formulations thereof. In the course of this work, I examine dietary variation related to age, gender, biogeography, time, ecological (mis)management, and social inequality, thereby providing previously unobtainable insights into the lifeways of the pre-Columbian inhabitants of Puerto Rico. The earnest intent of this dissertation is to shine a bright light on the diversity and vitality of the societies and peoples of prehistoric Puerto Rico, a task for which bioarchaeology alone is uniquely suited given the island's post-Colonial experience. This multi-disciplinary study of the foodways of these prehistoric Puerto Ricans thereby provides valuable data on the embodied experiences of the island's past peoples and on the social processes that shaped their lives.

Links:
Subject: Archaeology; Biochemistry; Geochemistry

Classification: 0324: Archaeology; 0487: Biochemistry; 0996: Geochemistry
Title: Diet and Society in Prehistoric Puerto Rico An Isotopic Approach

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ISBN: 9781124499802
Environmental and genetic effects on growth of the human skeleton—a bioarchaeological investigation

Author: Garofalo, Evan M.

Abstract: Human growth is regulated by a complex interaction between genetic and environmental factors. Illness and malnutrition depress growth rates, especially during infancy and early childhood when growth is most sensitive to environmental factors. Later childhood and adolescent growth is thought to be more responsive to genetic (combined with environmental) factors. Although long bone length and stature are often used as indicators of
population health, other relevant skeletal variables have the potential to elucidate the ontogenetic impact of environmental versus genetic influences. Endosteal dimensions respond to diet and disease and should reflect environmental factors during early growth; whereas articular growth is thought to be more genetically canalized, thus differences should become more evident during adolescence. In this study, growth in multiple skeletal features—long bone lengths, epiphyseal dimensions, and cross-sectional geometry—was evaluated in four skeletal samples and examined in two components. Component 1 examines growth between socioeconomic groups from a very large, relatively genetically homogeneous population (Barton-upon-Humber, UK). Component 2 compares growth between genetically (and environmentally) disparate skeletal samples (Barton-upon-Humber; Alaskan Tigara; Arikara from South Dakota; and Neolithic Çatalhöyük, Turkey). Variables were examined using osteometric techniques and reconstructed cross-sectional geometry. Growth analysis was conducted through direct variable comparisons and polynomial regression residuals. Results indicate that socio-economic status has little effect on body size in Barton-upon-Humber, but cross-sectional dimensions suggest inadequate feeding and more vigorous mechanical loading before mid-adolescence in higher status burials. Settlement history may affect the biological impact of socio-economic status on the ontogenetic process. Component 2 identified potential sample-specific growth rates and similar endosteal dimensions during early growth. Sample-specific differences in body size emerge after 8 years of age.
However, sample-relative body proportions and cross-sectional dimensions emerge in the first year of life. This indicates slight environmental disparities and an increasing impact of genetics on body size, while ecogeographic-related body form and diaphyseal robusticity may be more attenuated to genetic variation during ontogeny. Increased understanding of the complex and subtle contributions of genetic and environmental influence on multiple skeletal variables has broad bioarchaeological implications for the assessment of health, growth, and skeletal variation in past populations.

Links:

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Advisor: Ruff, Christopher

Committee member: DeLeon, Valerie; Humphrey, Louise; Mays, Simon

University/institution: The Johns Hopkins University

Department: Functional Anatomy and Evolution
University location: United States -- Maryland

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

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Empathy and Compassion in the Medicine and Literature of the First and Second Centuries AD

Author: Porter, Amber J.


Abstract: This dissertation examines the emotions of empathy and compassion in the first and second centuries AD of the Greco-Roman world. It focuses on the medical texts of the period, but also explores the other genres of the ancient Greek novel and moral philosophy. Despite lacking a specific word for it, the first and second-century Greeks and Romans understood and expressed empathy in their writings. Compassion, on the other hand, does have a vocabulary. The terms which are used to express it often conform to traditional Greek definitions; however, many instances also show that it has widened its application as well. There also appears to be a significant amount of 'cross-chatter' between some of the literature in this era. The medical writer Aretaeus demonstrates a high level of
empathy and compassion towards his patients and their families. A contextual and philological analysis of each passage exhibiting these emotions serves to highlight and evaluate Aretaeus' empathy and compassion and the conditions that elicit these manifestations of emotion in his text. Soranus and Rufus, two other contemporary medical writers, show an acknowledgement and awareness of patients' emotions, beliefs and attitudes as well. They also exhibit compassion within the construct of the patient-physician relationship. Two other physicians, Caelius Aurelianus and Scribonius Largus, take compassion to a new level, using the terms misericordia and humanitas, which serve to connect with the emotion of compassion and the concept of medical ethics. Plutarch, a moral philosopher, and the novelists, Achilles Tatius and Chariton, exhibit this 'cross-chatter' between genres of the period. Plutarch's Moralia shows his compassionate concern with the moral implications of breeding and slaughtering animals. Chariton's Chaereas and Callirhoe contains many references to the concept of ϕιλανθρωπία as an expression of mercy, compassion, benevolence and humanity. Achilles Tactius' Leucippe and Clitophon explores the power one's suffering has to affect another through empathy and compassion. Finally, Aretaeus' ability to 'feel' his way into organs and diseases through personification demonstrates his empathy. Taken all together, this suggests that a permeability of genres appears to have occurred in this era whereby empathy and compassion became a common concern.
Subject: Ancient languages; Classical studies; Medical Ethics; Ancient history; Science history

Classification: 0289: Ancient languages; 0294: Classical studies; 0497: Medical Ethics; 0579: Ancient history; 0585: Science history

Identifier / keyword: Language, literature and linguistics, Social sciences, Health and environmental sciences, Aretaeus, Greece, Medicine, Empathy, Compassion, Pity, Literature, Roman Empire

Title: Empathy and Compassion in the Medicine and Literature of the First and Second Centuries AD

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Advisor: Toohey, Peter

Committee member: Sigismund Nielsen, Hanne; Hume, James; Cebrian, Reyes Bertolin; Stahnisch, Frank; Rosen, Ralph

University/institution: University of Calgary (Canada)

Department: Greek and Roman Studies

University location: Canada

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses
Neuroscience and Galen: Body, selfhood, and the materiality of emotions on the early modern stage

Author: Wallace, Devon


Abstract: From antiquity until the turn of the nineteenth century, temperament, mood and personality were believed to exist within, be managed by, and interact with material substance. Before the medical revolution of the late seventeenth century, early modern theories of anatomy and medicine were primarily based on the writings of Galen, who lived in the second century but was him influenced by a much older medical and philosophical tradition. In this period, the playwrights raise the same central question that now appears in so many reactions to the increasingly accepted "neurocentric" world view: "to what extent do I have an emotional "self" who is autonomous from my physical, mortal form?" For both the Galenic and the neuroscientific thinker, the internal workings of the body not only affect, but are one's emotional and psychological state. I argue that neither the theory of the material humoral body nor the theory of the material chemical brain can provide a stable explanation for emotional experiences. Instead, both the early modern writers and my contemporaries weave together "dualistic habits of thought" and the monistic,
materialistic language (of either Galenic humoralism or neurobiology) to narrate their emotions, desires and self-knowledge. I explore how the understanding of emotion as bodily material (the Galenic humors, being moved by passions and animal spirits, or brain neurons, transmitting and reabsorbing neurotransmitters) affects the extent to which we believe we can govern our emotional responses.

Links:
Subject: Theater; Cognitive psychology; Theater History

Classification: 0465: Theater; 0633: Cognitive psychology; 0644: Theater History

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Psychology, Dualism, Emotion, Galen, Neuroscience, Shakespeare, Theater

Title: Neuroscience and Galen: Body, selfhood, and the materiality of emotions on the early modern stage

Number of pages: 205

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School code: 0112

Source: DAI-A 76/06(E), Dec 2015

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781321539240

Advisor: Knapp, James

Committee member: Kendrick, Christopher; Gossett, Suzanne

University/institution: Loyola University Chicago

Department: English

University location: United States -- Illinois
Death, writing, and remembrance in Anglo-Saxon England

Abstract: The Anglo-Saxon conversion to Christianity was as much a revolution in literacy as it was in religion. I argue that within this new textual culture, the Anglo-Saxons exploited writing's aura of permanence to counter the social, spiritual, and physical oblivion of death. By using writing both to preserve the dead metonymically through the textualization of their absent bodies and to project their metaphorical inscription in heaven, Anglo-Saxon authors defined selfhood and community in relation to death and the afterlife. Whether inscribed on stone, inked on parchment, or carved into the very landscape, the written text was therefore a mechanism and a metaphor for remembrance of the dead. I trace the Anglo-Saxon ways of "writing the dead" and the metaphoric and metonymic uses of inscription in several genres, including Old English heroic and religious poetry, Anglo-Latin prose, and commemorative texts and inscriptions. Each chapter explores a manifestation of the power of writing to embody the dead in the community of
the living. Chapter 1 examines Anglo-Saxon funerary inscriptions and libri vitae, which figure salvation as the writing of the dead in the "book of life"; Chapter 2 reads Cynewulf's runic signature as a figure of his decomposing and sinful body, which is made whole by the reader through reconstituting his name and praying for his salvation; Chapter 3 expands on the notion of the textualized body and argues that the liturgical and biblical texts recited and written by the dying Bede (as recorded in Cuthbert's account of his death) function as "textual relics" and mnemonics for Bede that enable postmortem prayer for his soul; and Chapter 4 demonstrates that the Beowulf-poet imagines heroic death in the familiar terms of text and inscription, mapping onto the legendary past the mechanisms of remembrance that were at work in the Anglo-Saxon present. These material and metaphorical modes of writing created fixed points in a decaying and transient world, inscribing the dead in the memories and prayers of the living.

Links:
Subject: Medieval literature; Medieval history; British and Irish literature

Classification: 0297: Medieval literature; 0581: Medieval history; 0593: British and Irish literature

Identifier / keyword: Language, literature and linguistics, Social sciences, Religious conversions, Anglo-Saxons, Old English literature, Medieval literature, Death in literature, Writing, Commemoration
Committee member: Trilling, Renee R.; Camargo, Martin; Schulman, Jana K.

University/institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Department: English

University location: United States -- Illinois

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

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Embodied knowledge: Midwives and the medicalization of childbirth in early modern Italy

Author: Kosmin, Jennifer F.

Abstract: In addition to being highly visible figures in the ritual life of Italian society, midwives were bearers of a unique expertise of the body and sexuality which granted
them entrance into the legal and political worlds of early modern Italy. This dissertation examines the development of midwifery in three northern Italian states (Savoy, Lombardy, the Venetian Republic) from roughly 1600-1800, a period which spans both the earliest efforts by Church and State to regulate practice and the eventual institutionalization of midwifery education. This study aims to understand how both cultural meanings and the management of sexuality, gender, and reproduction were changing over the course of the early modern period. Because male birth attendants remained rare in Italy during this period, the development of Italian midwifery presents a unique perspective on the medicalization of childbirth in Europe. Although historians of medicine have tended to consider early maternity institutions as starting points in studies of the medicalization of childbirth, this project emphasizes the continuities between eighteenth-century institutions and earlier asylums for women which emerged, especially in Italy, in the era of the Counter Reformation. Throughout the eighteenth century, maternity hospitals and schools for midwives were therefore informed by impulses which were simultaneously scientific, religious, charitable, and disciplinary, defying any singular categorization. Furthermore, despite the fact that medical thought in the well-connected northern Italian cities of Turin, Milan, and Venice was significantly influenced by continental medical culture, I argue that these cities developed distinct, "Italian", modes of thought with respect to the science and management of childbirth.
Brandy Nan and Farmer George: Public perceptions of royal health and the demystification of English monarchy during the long eighteenth century
Abstract: This dissertation investigates how public comments related to the body natural and the body politic of the English monarchs, particularly in newspapers and other forms of print culture, changed between 1688 and 1789. It argues that by examining the depth and type of reportage on royal health and the sovereign's body, coupled with Parliament's increasing involvement in such activities, it is possible to see the irregular trajectory of how the English monarchy was demystified during the long eighteenth century. Additionally, this work shows how the topic of monarchical health went from being an illicit subject, to one associated with a popular claim that English citizens had a right to know the full details of their monarch's private life. Furthermore, the dissertation provides a prosopographical examination of those individuals near the English kings and queens, who helped supply the confidential information about the sovereign's health, which precipitated the process of demystification. The importance of this work is that it provides a more nuanced discussion of the process of demystification, over a wider period of time, than earlier scholarship. Moreover, it shows that there is an under-studied connection among the history of medicine, the court, and the rise of the public sphere.
Harnessing Change: Human Health through the Lens of Evolution and Dynamical Systems Theory

Author: Maher, M. Cyrus
Abstract: Over 2000 years ago, Heraclitus noted, "Everything changes and nothing stands still." While this truth has long been evident to the wise, we have only recently developed the tools necessary to scientifically characterize sweeping patterns of change in large dynamical systems. Despite rapid progress, new methods and data sources are still sorely needed to further illuminate the intricate and dynamic nature of reality. In this dissertation, we will focus our investigations on understanding patterns of change with direct relevance to human health. In the first two chapters, we develop novel methodologies that lend insight into the evolutionary history of the human race and the genetic basis of human-specific traits and disease. Chapter 2 presents MOSAIC, a new python package for improved detection of genetically related genes between species. This inference is a foundational step towards understanding the function of proteins and the evolutionary pressures they have faced. This tool, along with a combination of other methods, facilitates our analysis in Chapter 3. In this section, we use the patterns of mutations along the human lineage to discover genes and even specific mutations that may play important roles in intelligence, obesity, mental health, as well as a variety of basic biological functions. These findings provide insight into the genetic architecture of health and disease. At the same time, they leave open
questions about how genetic factors interact with the broad array of environmental and ecological variables that fundamentally shape downstream phenotypes. In Chapter 4, we introduce CauseMap, a tool I built to understand causal relationships within complex dynamical systems using time series data. It is our hope that this method will help us to interpret human health and disease as states of the bodily dynamical system embedded inextricably within an evolving social, economic, and environmental network. This perspective, we hope, will allow us to understand the characteristics of human health that emerge from an time-handed dynamic equilibrium with the world within and around us.

Links:
Subject: Genetics; Statistics; Computer science

Classification: 0369: Genetics; 0463: Statistics; 0984: Computer science

Identifier / keyword: Pure sciences, Biological sciences, Applied sciences, Dynamical systems, Evolution, Evolutionary medicine, Open source software, Personalized medicine

Title: Harnessing Change: Human Health through the Lens of Evolution and Dynamical Systems Theory
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1. The plays of Eugene O'Neill: A psychological analysis
2. Psychiatry, psychology and social work: The clinical professions' twentieth-century search for identity

3. The effects of the Holocaust for six Polish Catholic survivors and their descendants

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5. Neuroscience and Galen: Body, selfhood, and the materiality of emotions on the early modern stage


7. The Dimensions of Hardiness and Resiliency for Combat PTSD

8. The language of martial arts: The transformative potential of Brazilian jiu-jitsu through the lens of depth psychology

9. Freud's jaw and other lost objects: Psychoanalysis and the subjectivity of survival
Document 1 of 9

The plays of Eugene O'Neill: A psychological analysis

Author: Hahn, Vera Theresa


Abstract: Abstract not available.

Links:
Subject: Social psychology; Theater; American literature

Classification: 0451: Social psychology; 0465: Theater; 0591: American literature

Identifier / keyword: Language, literature and linguistics, Communication and the arts, Psychology

Title: The plays of Eugene O'Neill: A psychological analysis
Psychiatry, psychology and social work: The clinical professions' twentieth-century search for identity

Author: Albert, Julie Maehling


Abstract: Abstract not available.

Links:
Subject: Mental health; Social work

Classification: 0347: Mental health; 0452: Social work

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Health and environmental sciences

Title: Psychiatry, psychology and social work: The clinical professions' twentieth-century search for identity

Number of pages: 448
The effects of the Holocaust for six Polish Catholic survivors and their descendants

Author: Montague, Kristen M.
Abstract: It is now well known that six million Jews, 220,000 Roma, 250,000 disabled persons, and thousands of Homosexuals and Jehovah’s witnesses were murdered in the Holocaust. It is less understood that due to their ethnic identity that approximately, 1.9 million Polish Catholic citizens were murdered during the Holocaust and that 1.7 million Polish non-Jews were imprisoned in concentration camps in Siberia, 2.0 million were deported as forced laborers for the German Reich and 100,000 were killed in Auschwitz. To date, there are no studies within Western psychology that address the effects of the Holocaust for this population and/or their descendants. Given the known after-effects of Holocaust-related trauma for Jewish Holocaust survivors and their families, the trauma response observed in other genocide survivors, and the lack of psychological research aimed at exploring the experience of non-Jewish Holocaust survivors, there is a need to study the lived experience and effects of Holocaust-related trauma with Polish Catholic survivors and their families. This is an interpretative study that explores the lived experience of six Polish Catholic survivors and their descendants. The sample included 12 participants comprised of six survivors, four second generation and two third generation participants. Semi-structured interviews were used to examine participants’ perception of how Holocaust related trauma
influenced their lives. Textual analysis found that the Holocaust has lasting effects for survivors and their descendants. Findings indicate that the effects of the Holocaust for its Polish Catholic survivors are similar to the effects of the Holocaust observed in Jewish survivors and survivors of other genocides. Survivors conveyed that the Holocaust related trauma they experienced continues to effect them in their present day life through: loss of family, feelings of sadness, Holocaust related flashbacks and nightmares, and disturbances in memory or the ability to recall Holocaust related trauma. Findings indicate that the Holocaust has intergenerational effects for the survivors’ descendants. Children and grandchildren of survivors described themes about loss of family, the effects of the Holocaust on survivors’ parenting, on familial interactions and on second and third generation parenting. The findings in this study offer ways for psychologists to understand the long-term effects of persecution, suffering, and genocide, and the experience of survival in the aftermath of the Holocaust. The electronic version of this dissertation is at OhioLink ETD Center, www.Ohiolink.edu/etd

Links:
Subject: Religion; Philosophy; European history; Mental health; Psychobiology; Clinical psychology; Judaic studies

Classification: 0322: Religion; 0322: Philosophy; 0335: European history; 0347: Mental health; 0349: Psychobiology; 0622: Clinical psychology; 0751: Judaic studies
Identifier / keyword: Philosophy, religion and theology, Social sciences, Psychology, Health and environmental sciences, Intergenerational trauma, Non-jewish, Polish catholic holocaust survivors, Psychological effects of genocide, Second generation, Third generation

Title: The effects of the Holocaust for six Polish Catholic survivors and their descendants

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Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States
Depiction of mental illness in Disney animated films

Author: Ahmed, Sasha
Abstract: This quantitative content analysis examined how mental illness is portrayed in Disney animated films. The content of the Walt Disney Company's feature films has increasingly been the subject of empirical research. For example, studies analyzing portrayals of substance use (Ryan & Hoerrner, 2004), violence (Montgomery, 1995), and even attitudes towards death (Cox, Garret, & Graham, 2005) within Disney films have been published, and their authors conclude that the films overwhelmingly expose viewers to tobacco, alcohol use, and violence as well as send some ambiguous meanings about death that may confuse children. Although it may seem clear that popular children's films are a medium for entertainment, given these new empirical findings, we may also question whether or not the films have the potential to impact children's beliefs and social behavior. It is this line of questioning which underlies the present research. Although a previous study (Lawson & Fouts, 2004) has investigated the frequency of verbal references of mental illness in Disney films, there has not been any research to date which examines: (a) the content about mental illness in the Disney films released over the past decade, or (b) what types of characters are typically portrayed as mentally ill in the films (i.e., age, gender, race, protagonist or antagonist). This researcher analyzed the content of 30 Disney animated feature films released in theatres between the years 2001-2011 and assessed diversity variables of the characters who made comments and received comments about mental illness in the films. Eighty-seven percent of the films in the sample included verbal references to mental illness, all of which were
derogatory. A significant relationship was found between the gender of a character and his/her likelihood to make or receive comments about mental illness. Male characters were more often seen to make comments about mental illness as well as be the intended target of the derogatory comment about mental illness. The findings of the present study lay a rich foundation of ideas for further research. It would be beneficial to conduct further analysis of the race and ethnicity variables among characters in the films. Furthermore, a study that deeply investigates micro-aggressions, micro-assaults, and prejudice in the films would be beneficial to examine messages children may be learning about race and diversity in the films. Also, research that focuses on the views children have about how mental illness is depicted in Disney animated films may have strong clinical implications. Specifically, whether children may imitate behavior they see on screen or whether viewing derogatory comments about mental illness may impede an individual's desire to seek mental health treatment.

Links:
Subject: Clinical psychology; Film studies

Classification: 0622: Clinical psychology; 0900: Film studies

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Psychology, Animated, Disney, Film, Media psychology, Mental illness, Mental illness stigma

Title: Depiction of mental illness in Disney animated films
Neuroscience and Galen: Body, selfhood, and the materiality of emotions on the early modern stage

Author: Wallace, Devon


Abstract: From antiquity until the turn of the nineteenth century, temperament, mood and personality were believed to exist within, be managed by, and interact with material substance. Before the medical revolution of the late seventeenth century, early modern theories of anatomy and medicine were primarily based on the writings of Galen, who lived in the second century but was him influenced by a much older medical and philosophical tradition. In this period, the playwrights raise the same central question that now appears in so many reactions to the increasingly accepted "neurocentric" world view: "to what extent do I
have an emotional "self" who is autonomous from my physical, mortal form?" For both the Galenic and the neuroscientific thinker, the internal workings of the body not only affect, but are one's emotional and psychological state. I argue that neither the theory of the material humoral body nor the theory of the material chemical brain can provide a stable explanation for emotional experiences. Instead, both the early modern writers and my contemporaries weave together "dualistic habits of thought" and the monistic, materialistic language (of either Galenic humoralism or neurobiology) to narrate their emotions, desires and self-knowledge. I explore how the understanding of emotion as bodily material (the Galenic humors, being moved by passions and animal spirits, or brain neurons, transmitting and reabsorbing neurotransmitters) affects the extent to which we believe we can govern our emotional responses.

Links:
ateriality+of+emotions+on+the+early+modern+stage


Subject: Theater; Cognitive psychology; Theater History

Classification: 0465: Theater; 0633: Cognitive psychology; 0644: Theater History

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Psychology, Dualism, Emotion, Galen, Neuroscience, Shakespeare, Theater

Author: Natinsky, Ari

Abstract: In recent years, there have been several ways in which researchers have attempted to integrate
psychotherapy and neuroscience research. Neuroscience has been proposed as a method of addressing lingering questions about how best to integrate psychotherapy theories and explain their efficacy. For example, some psychotherapy outcome studies have included neuroimaging of participants in order to propose neurobiological bases of effective psychological interventions (e.g., Paquette et al., 2003). Other theorists have used cognitive neuroscience research to suggest neurobiological correlates of various psychotherapy theories and concepts (e.g., Schore, 2012). These efforts seem to embody broader historical trends, including the hope that neuroscience can resolve philosophical questions about the relationship between mind and body, as well as the popular appeal of contemporary brain research. In this hermeneutic dissertation I examined a popular neuropsychotherapy text in order to explore the historical fit between neuroscience and psychotherapy. The study identifies the possible understandings of the self (i.e., what it means to be human) that could arise from Western therapy discourses that are based on neuroscientific interpretations of psychotherapy theories. The methodology of this dissertation consisted of a critical textual analysis of Louis Cozolino’s (2010) The Neuroscience of Psychotherapy: Healing the Social Brain. The primary content, rhetorical strategies, and recurring themes in Cozolino’s book were outlined and interpreted from a hermeneutic perspective. This included a historical critique of Cozolino’s claims about the origins, purpose, and efficacy of psychotherapy, his assertions about the relationship between self and brain, and examples of his psychotherapy case vignettes.
Rhetorical strategies in his writing included analogy, ambiguity, speculative language, and figures of speech such as metaphor and personification. A discussion of these findings addressed the implications of Cozolino’s efforts with regards to patient care, psychotherapy theory integration, and the possible effects that these efforts may have on the profession of psychology. The electronic version of this dissertation is at OhioLink ETD Center, www.ohiolink.edu/etd.

Links:

Title: Psychotherapy and the Embodiment of the Neuronal
"The Neuroscience of Psychotherapy: Healing the Social
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ISBN: 9781321525083

Advisor: Cushman, Philip
Abstract: Research suggests that the personality factor hardiness may aid in resilience to combat PTSD. The need to understand resiliency factors like hardiness becomes more
urgent as the depth of the epidemic of combat PTSD among veterans becomes more evident. Hardiness consists of three dimensions: (a) commitment, (b) control, and (c) challenge. This study was designed to explore the relationship between the dimensions of hardiness and combat PTSD in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) veterans. Participants were contacted through college veterans offices across the nation, and measures were anonymously completed online. Veterans who participated in the study were asked to complete measures of demographics, hardiness, PTSD, and combat exposure. Correlations suggest that commitment hardiness is a better predictor of resilience to combat PTSD, than challenge or control hardiness. A significant correlation of lesser magnitude was also found for challenge hardiness and combat PTSD. The relationship between control hardiness and combat PTSD was nonsignificant. The relationship between commitment hardiness and combat PTSD is consistent across relevant studies. Further research is needed to clarify the reliability of the relationship between challenge and control hardiness, and to learn whether interventions to increase commitment hardiness result in lower levels of PTSD in veterans. Keywords: Hardiness, resiliency, PTSD, combat, commitment, challenge, control

Links:


Subject: Mental health; Clinical psychology; Military history; Military studies; Physiological psychology

Classification: 0347: Mental health; 0622: Clinical psychology; 0722: Military history; 0750: Military studies; 0989: Physiological psychology
Title: The Dimensions of Hardiness and Resiliency for Combat PTSD

Number of pages: 91

Publication year: 2014

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School code: 1595

Source: DAI-B 76/06(E), Dec 2015

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States
The language of martial arts: The transformative potential of Brazilian jiu-jitsu through the lens of depth psychology

Author: Reusing, Holly McClung
Abstract: Although Carl Jung and Joseph Campbell were both avid athletes, research and theory around engaging in sports as a valuable psychological process is quite rare. Athletic experience has hardly been looked at through the lens of the archetypal hero’s journey, or the path of the warrior, in spite of the fact that mythology and literature are filled with stories of such characters and they are often the primary subject of contents of dreams, reverie, and active imagination. Given that martial arts is steeped in rich cultural traditions, and intertwined with political history as well as mythology, this lack of study creates a gap in Jungian literature, particularly with regard to the archetypes of initiation and individuation. This phenomenological hermeneutic study explores the lives of five Brazilian jiu-jitsu black belt professors. The Literature Review was framed around historical perspectives of Brazilian jiu-jitsu, Jungian psychology and somatics, sports philosophy, phenomenology, and hermeneutics. It provides an in-depth perspective of lived experience of a very popular martial art used for self-defense. Brazilian jiu-jitsu was chosen for a variety of reasons, including the ability to teach highly dangerous techniques to a wide range of participants, and because the rapid growth of jiu-jitsu may indicate places where collective energy is moving. This raises the questions, Why Brazilian jiu-jitsu? Why Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu right now? The implications of this study and the qualitative data gleaned from the interviews show that the practice of Brazilian jiu-jitsu can offer a great deal to individuals and communities, and can impact either, depending on intention.
The practice, as lived by five interviewees and many other practitioners who were consulted, offers a safe environment for personal transformation, coupled with a spirited playful atmosphere, an emphasis on social values, and teamwork. With these structures in place, Brazilian jiu-jitsu schools frequently become places to improve quality of life and to inadvertently address a wide variety of maladaptive and clinical issues. Key Words: martial arts, Jungian psychology, jiu-jitsu, phenomenology, sports, archetypal.

Links:

Subject: Behavioral psychology; Kinesiology; Physiological psychology

Classification: 0384: Behavioral psychology; 0575: Kinesiology; 0989: Physiological psychology

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Health and environmental sciences, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, Grappling, Judo, Jungian psychology, Martial arts, Sports psychology

Title: The language of martial arts: The transformative potential of Brazilian jiu-jitsu through the lens of depth psychology
Freud's jaw and other lost objects: Psychoanalysis and the subjectivity of survival

Author: Lin, Lana

Abstract: This dissertation examines the psychic effects of cancer, in particular how cancer disrupts the security with which a body ordinarily feels coincident with the self. Using psychoanalytic theory and literary analysis of atypical pathographies, the study shows how cancer prompts a loss of feelings of unity, exposing the vulnerability of bodily integrity and agency. The thesis analyzes how three exemplary figures, psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, poet Audre Lorde, and literary theorist Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, grapple with life-threatening illness that is compounded with other violences to their identities, such as racism and
homophobia. Cancer's destruction demands from each a creative response that mediates their relationship to morbidity and mortality. Freud's sixteen-year ordeal with a prosthetic jaw, the result of oral cancer, demonstrates the powers and failures of a prosthetic object in warding off physical and psychic fragmentation. Lorde's life writing reveals how losing a breast to cancer recapitulates the loss of the original "first object," the maternal breast, and the reassurance of wholeness and protection that it promises. Drawing on Lorde's critique of breast prostheses, I interpret the social pressure to reconstruct the absent breast as fetishistic. Sedgwick's memoir and breast cancer advice column function as explicitly reparative projects that seek to come to terms with impending death by disseminating a public discourse of love and pedagogy. I conclude by interrogating reparative efforts at the rival Freud Museums. In London, where Freud fled to "die in freedom," the analyst's possessions are mobilized to symbolically defy his death, while in Vienna, photographs taken prior to Freud's exile are recruited to compensate for the Museum's material and historical losses. Affliction has the capacity to uncover knowledge that is typically repressed in quotidian existence, for instance, awareness of death's immanence in life. Psychoanalytic intervention clarifies problems that physical trauma can pose, which cut across the tenuous divide between the conscious and unconscious. I argue that the habitual threat to life forces the unconscious to become conscious, a process that is disconcertingly destabilizing and itself divisive. However, the prospect of imminent
destruction paradoxically incites a creativity that I suggest is a requisite albeit inadequate reparative endeavor.

Links:

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Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781321556216

Advisor: Sturken, Marita

Committee member: Kafka, Ben; Pellegrini, Ann; Clough, Patricia; Salamon, Gayle

University/institution: New York University

Department: Media, Culture, and Communication

University location: United States -- New York
Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

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2. Four decades of child welfare services to native Indians in Ontario: A contemporary attempt to understand the "sixties scoop" in historical, socioeconomic and political perspective
3. "Do something!... Do anything!" Poliomyelitis in Canada, 1927-1967

4. The evaluation of the effects of the 1977 firearm legislation (Bill C-51) on suicide in Canada

Document 1 of 4

BIOLOGICAL RELATIONSHIPS OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO WOODLAND PEOPLES: THE EVIDENCE OF DISCONTINUOUS CRANIAL MORPHOLOGY

Author: Molto, Joseph Eldon


Abstract: The purpose of this study is to present a synthesis of biological relationships during the Woodland period of southern Ontario prehistory. The data base consists of a battery of discontinuous nonmetric cranial traits which were used to compute C. A. B. Smith's Mean Measure of Divergence (MMD) between 17 large (N (GREATERTHEQ) 20
crania) Woodland samples. The research design involved testing a series of hypotheses which were formulated from a review of previous skeletal and archaeological studies in the research area. The main strategy of the research design vis a vis the hypotheses, was to eliminate, as much as possible, those factors potentially biased towards producing Type I or Type II statistical errors. In particular, the methodology emphasized the selection of an appropriate battery of traits to compare the samples, since inappropriate data would ruin attempts to estimate biological distance from the start. From an initial list of 50 discontinuous traits a final battery of 21 precisely scored, highly variable, relatively age stable and independent traits were chosen. Significant sex differences in 8 of the 21 traits constituted a potential weakness of this trait list. This was controlled by calculating the combined % contribution of these traits to each MMD to determine which coefficients were most affected by the sex bias. It proved not to be problematic. The distance analysis was supplemented by two multivariate taxonomic statistical procedures and by considering the spatial-temporal distributions of the traits and their % contributions to each MMD. The MMD results support the hypothesis of genetic continuity between the Middle and Late Woodland peoples of the region. Morpho-genetic evidence supporting the view that the Late Woodland Iroquois were a product of biological admixture between the ancestors of distinct indigenous Middle Woodland populations representing Saugeen and Point Peninsula cultures was also provided. This admixture resulted in a homogeneous biological population across
most of southern Ontario before A.D. 1300. Biological relationships among the Ontario Iroquois after this date show varying degrees of synchronic biological homogeneity, with MMDs indicating greater regional variability between A.D. 1400-1500 than in the preceding or following periods of the Late Woodland sequence. From a morpho-genetic standpoint the St. Lawrence Iroquois are much closer to the Iroquois of south-central Ontario and Huronia than are the Orchid Iroquois of the Niagara Peninsula. Overall the MMD results suggest that the microevolution of the Woodland peoples was a gradual process. The gene pool appears to have remained stable over considerable time. This view was reinforced by the evidence showing that the large MMDs noted between the Middle Woodland and later Late Woodland groups probably overstates the amount of genetic change because these coefficients reflect dietary as well as genetic differences in the morphology. In addition, some of the diachronic differences noted between historical affiliates is directly attributable to gene flow. Gene flow, is then used to explain both the diachronic heterogeneity and the synchronic homogeneity noted between the Woodland groups. It was suggested that the evidence of extensive gene flow among the Late Woodland horiculturalists is consistent with what is known of between group interactions in extant horticultural societies. A consequence of this pattern is that biological relationships among the Ontario Iroquois are not easily delimited by geographical or political factors. Genetic drift and directional selections appear to play minor roles in the 'in situ' development of the Iroquoian speaking Woodland peoples of southern Ontario.
Subject: Physical anthropology

Classification: 0327: Physical anthropology

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences

Title: BIOLOGICAL RELATIONSHIPS OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO WOODLAND PEOPLES: THE EVIDENCE OF DISCONTINUOUS CRANIAL MORPHOLOGY

Pages: 1

Number of pages: 0

Publication year: 1980

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School code: 0779

Source: DAI-A 42/01, p. 281, Jul 1981
Four decades of child welfare services to native Indians in Ontario: A contemporary attempt to understand the "sixties scoop" in historical, socioeconomic and political perspective

Author: Timpson, Joyce Barbara

Abstract: This research seeks to understand the high rates of Indian children in the care of Ontario's Childrens Aid
Societies from the 1950s to the 1970s. It examines historically the interaction of public policy, child welfare services and First Nations' social, economic and cultural change. The author uses interview data from Native persons, CAS workers and public servants. In addition, government archives and the records of one child protection agency are used as data sources. The research examines in-care rates of Reserve Status Indian children from 1955 to 1976 in Ontario and admissions rates in one agency. It uses financial reports to complement and explain some trends. Admissions rates between 1964 and 1974 show variations between and within communities that are analyzed using oral histories, archival data and the literature. An association between sudden change and child-in-care rates is demonstrated. The reasons for the high rates of Indian children in care are complex. Many of the Ontario Indian children in care in the 1690s and 1970s were children and grandchildren of two generations damaged by the effects of post World War II expansion. Aboriginal people in Northern Ontario experienced serious cultural trauma following relocation, loss of independent means of support, and new educational systems that were incompatible with their traditional beliefs and life styles. These stressors revealed themselves in a high rate of alcohol abuse precipitating incidents involving the child protection agency. Traditional systems were either strained or inaccessible to the Childrens Aid Societies. Child welfare workers, faced with new problems in the late 1950s and 1960s, recognized differences and made creative adaptations probably keeping the in-care rates lower than might have been expected.
Gaps in jurisdiction and accountability in the larger system prolonged the situation of escalating rates because the out-of-control costs and their implications could not be easily detected. Three interacting pandemic factors drove program development and hindered the development of more appropriate approaches despite a flexible federal-provincial agreement. They were: equality ideology; an ignorance about Aboriginal people; and lack of systemic disincentives for other approaches in Indian child welfare financial administration. Individual service providers and the public servants were pivotal in hindering or maximizing the agreement's potential. This hinged on their denial or recognition of inherent differences in the First Nations. Jurisdiction and accountability disputes still prevail. First Nations' self-governing institutions face the dual task of healing the wounds of the past and building appropriate systems to deal with the future.

Links:
ecades of child welfare services to native Indians in Ontario: A contemporary attempt to understand the 'sixties scoop' in historical, socioeconomic and political perspective

Subject: Social work

Classification: 0452: Social work

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, First Nations
"Do something!... Do anything!" Poliomyelitis in Canada, 1927-1967

Author: Rutty, Christopher James

Abstract: During the first half of the twentieth century poliomyelitis became one of Canada's most prominent public health challenges. Each "polio season" this paralyzing disease primarily struck children suddenly and capriciously, leaving in its wake life-long physical disabilities. As epidemics worsened, their frightening public image and high costs generated an escalating response from provincial governments that established new precedents in the provision of free and unconditional hospitalization and medical services. After World War II, the growing polio threat stimulated new levels of federal intervention and
financing, including the imposition of national standards and control in the distribution and evaluation of polio vaccines between 1955 and 1962. This dissertation explores the factors underlying the Canadian response to polio, especially its terrifying nature and high visibility, and within a context of growing public expectations for action and protection, the profound frustrations associated with its scientific and medical understanding, diagnosis, prevention, control, treatment and after-care. Of particular significance was the middle class' unusual vulnerability to polio, especially during the post-war "baby boom." The broad response of Canadian governments to polio was built upon the leadership and shared values of a number of key individuals involved in public health that were closely connected to the provincial and federal health departments. The University of Toronto's Connaught Laboratories and its medical research and biological production efforts was a central link between these elements. Strong government intervention differentiated the Canadian polio experience from the American, although there were important U.S. influences. In particular, the conjunction of American enthusiasm for a series of hopeful polio "weapons" with major Canadian epidemics had a direct impact on the growth of provincial polio services. A major force on governments and voluntary efforts north of the border was the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis ("March of Dimes"), with its unprecedented fundraising, patient care and research program. There were also important influences from north to south. Financed by American dimes, and by significant Canadian funding, comprehensive polio research
efforts at Connaught proved critical to the development and unprecedented field trial of the Salk vaccine and the ultimate control of this disease.

Links:

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ISBN: 9780612073777, 0612073777

University/institution: University of Toronto (Canada)

University location: Canada

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: NN07377
The evaluation of the effects of the 1977 firearms legislation (Bill C-51) on suicide in Canada

Author: Gribov, Rafael
Abstract: The objective of this thesis is to evaluate the effect of the firearm legislation of 1977 (Bill C-51) on suicide in Canada. Bill C-51 limited the ability of the citizenry to acquire and own several types of firearms. One of the expected results of this legislation was a reduction in suicide rates by firearms and overall. Many studies evaluated the effectiveness of gun control legislation. Most of them concentrated on the effect of Bill C-51 on violent crimes. Studies, which estimated the effect of Bill C-51 on suicide, vary in their conclusions. This study was conducted in two stages. The first one examined the trends and patterns of suicide in Canada before and after the implementation of C-51 (1965-1995). It examined the gender, age, and regional differences in suicide in general and in firearm suicide in particular. It also examined the pattern of use of different types of firearms in suicide. The results showed that while firearm suicide declined after the implementation of Bill C-51 in most jurisdictions in Canada and over most age groups, the overall suicide remained stable or increased. The second part was based on a study conducted by Mauser and Holmes (1992). In that study the authors evaluated the effects of Bill C-51 on homicide in Canada. The pooled cross-section, time series model used in Mauser and Holmes study was modified and extended to a 31 year period. One new independent variable was introduced into the model: proportion of the divorced people. The statistical analysis showed that although Bill C-51 may have contributed to the reduction of the male firearm suicide rate, it did not have a desirable effect on the overall suicide rates for either males or females, and on the female
firearm suicide rates. Both parts of the study lead to the conclusion that 1977 firearm legislation (Bill C-51) did not achieve its objectives in the reduction of suicide rates.

Links:

Subject: Law; Public health

Classification: 0398: Law; 0573: Public health

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Social sciences

Title: The evaluation of the effects of the 1977 firearm legislation (Bill C-51) on suicide in Canada

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Number of pages: 226

Publication year: 1999

Degree date: 1999
William H. Sheldon and the culture of the somatotype

Author: Gatlin, Stephen H

Abstract: The burden of this dissertation is to show that William Sheldon's somatotype project should be seen as an integral aspect of modernist culture. Sheldon engaged the same problems with modernity and the "Second Industrial Revolution" (urbanization, overpopulation, industrialization, alienation) that confronted modernist poets, novelists, and philosophers. In this I am elaborating Dorothy Ross's recent metaphor, "modernist impulses in the human sciences" (1994). Both scientists and artists were responding to the social chaos and fragmentation engendered by WWI, by capitalism, and by a science and technology that was often felt to have run amok. Advocacy of eugenics for Anthony Ludovici, William Sheldon, and Aldous Huxley (polemics against "promiscuous breeding", overpopulation, medical and psychological holism, "aristocracy", nobility) was another means of defending conservative values against the onslaught of modernism. The German romantic, holistic, tradition (the "Goethean vision") in the physical and biological sciences that has been treated recently by Ann Harrington (1996) carried reactionary assumptions and priorities that duly influenced British and American constitutionalists. Sheldon's quest of the somatotype, his attempt to map the human physique scientifically, was, at least in his case, a means of salvaging personality, character, and soul in a way that was consonant with the aims of German holism and hence, to a significant degree, with the aims of the nazis, who appropriated the tradition for political purposes and propagandized it in their art. Sheldon's studies in human constitution possessed the same "value-base" (Weingart) as much of German medicine and
psychology during the first four decades of this century. Sheldon's anti-Freudian position was intended to reinculcate a place for moral character and eugenic breeding in psychology. Sheldon insisted that character was a seasoned and hard-won proposition, as opposed to a cheap jettisoning of sexual inhibitions. Sheldon opposed the sexual origin of neurosis and replaced it with a highly disciplined character-building that was consistent with a nineteenth-century masculine ethos.

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Subject: Science history; Literature; Personality

Classification: 0585: Science history; 0298: Literature; 0625: Personality

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Psychology, Language, literature and linguistics, Culture, Somatotype, Sheldon, William H., Modernism

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Table of contents

1. Three Essays in Applied Microeconomics: Evaluating Pathways to Improving the Human Condition

Document 1 of 1

Three Essays in Applied Microeconomics: Evaluating Pathways to Improving the Human Condition

Author: Sarshar, Vilma Helena
Abstract: Chapter one examines the long-term impact of the state prohibitions of alcohol in the United States. Between 1851 and 1920, thirty-four states enacted statewide prohibitions of alcohol at different times. Making use of the variation in state prohibition as a natural experiment, the long-term labor market outcomes of cohorts exposed to state prohibition during the critical early development period is examined. Female cohorts exposed to alcohol-reduced environments during the critical interval from the prenatal period and up to three years of age are shown to have increased labor force participation and increased income in 1960. The results are mainly driven by exposure in the prenatal period. No results were found for male cohorts, which might be explained by the selective prenatal mortality of the frailest male cohort members unexposed to state prohibition. Chapter two provides an impact evaluation of the Brazilian National Land Credit Program. Making use of a panel dataset and a pipeline control group, the chapter evaluates the impact of the program on the outcome variables of agricultural production and earned income, using both difference in differences and individual fixed effects models. Because beneficiaries acquired land at different times, the heterogeneous effect of additional years of land ownership is investigated. The findings suggest that the program is successful in increasing beneficiaries'
agricultural production and earned income, but only after four years of land ownership. Once the repayment of the loan is taken into consideration, however, the benefits of the program largely go to making debt payments and improving the net worth of the beneficiaries rather than to raising current household expenditures. Chapter three evaluates the impact of the Brazilian National Land Credit Program on the heights of beneficiary children. Making use of a family fixed effects model, the program is shown to significantly increase the height for age z-scores of beneficiary children exposed to parents' land ownership in the second, third or fourth year of life. The increases in height for age z-scores are likely attained through the mechanism of increased nutritional security with the acquisition of land through the program.

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aulast=Sarshar&amp;rft.aufirst=Vilma&amp;rft.date=2014-01-01&amp;rft.volume=&amp;rft.issue=&amp;rft.spage=&amp;rft.isbn=9781321551525&amp;rft.btitle=&amp;rft.title=Three+Essays+in+Applied+Microeconomics%3A+Evaluating+Pathw
Subject: Economic history; Economics; Economic theory

Classification: 0509: Economic history; 0510: Economics; 0511: Economic theory

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Beneficiary children, Brazil, Market assisted land reform, National Land Credit Program, Prohibition
1. Failure to Reproduce: Assisted Reproductive Technology Policy in Canada

Abstract: Comparative political science concerning assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) has faced two problems: first, it has not adequately defined the field; second, it has focused almost exclusively on policy produced by national governments. This dissertation uses Canada as a case study to demonstrate how a new six-part typology for ART policy, coupled with a focus on multiple policymakers, can produce greater clarity. It uses historical institutionalism to trace Canadian policy, and finds that the 1993 Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies—a "critical juncture"--
engaged in constitutionally unstable framing strategies that shaped policy for decades to come. The Commission framed certain practices and technologies by combining a pro-technology "medical-scientific" discourse with a "national" discourse to justify federal government intervention. These framing strategies were recreated in path-dependent ways leading up to the 2004 Assisted Human Reproduction Act. However, framing the positive aspects of ART policy from a primarily "medical-scientific" perspective deprived the federal government of much of the constitutional ammunition that would permit a "national" response. This constitutionally risky strategy was confirmed in 2010 when a majority of Supreme Court justices struck down much of the Assisted Human Reproduction Act for violating provincial jurisdiction. In the face of this sub-optimal policy outcome, provincial governments, courts, and medical organizations have engaged in considerable policymaking concerning surrogacy, parentage, and assisted conception policy. While much of Canadian ART policy constitutes a "patchwork" of prohibitions, regulations, common law rulings, and clinical guidelines, it is a mistake to call it "unregulated." The Canadian case study provides several conclusions for comparative scholars. First, combining the six-part typology with a focus on multiple policymakers can better explain ART policy variation within and across regimes. Second, policy framing strategies must take into account existing institutional structures; how actors frame jurisdictional responsibilities can matter as much as how they frame policy content. Finally, scholars should pay more attention to how ideas become (or do not become)
institutionalized. While policy framing can create ideational path dependence, the actual transfer from ideas to institutions often requires more than legislation.

Links:
Table of contents

1. What effect do medical marijuana laws have on illicit drug activity?

Author: Murray, Patrick L.

Abstract: Ever since the state of California adopted the first law permitting the medical usage of marijuana in 1996, opponents of the legislation have expressed concerns that such state laws could lead to increased drug use among the general public. This paper uses variation in the timing of these laws to determine if their passage is correlated with increases in illicit drug activity, as measured by arrests and self-reported usage, while controlling for fixed and linear effects as well as state demographic characteristics that vary from year to year. While previous studies have attempted to measure the relationship between medical marijuana laws and drug use, none simultaneously use fixed effects and demographic controls, both of which control for state variation across time and help isolate the relationship between medical marijuana laws and illicit drug activity. Using data from 1997-2009 for drug crimes and 2002-2009 for drug usage, my research does not find a relationship between the passage of medical marijuana laws and changes in illicit activity for either marijuana or hard drugs. Dynamic estimates show that a brief increase in marijuana crimes within a state may exist in the year following passage of a law. My findings suggest that fears about medical marijuana laws leading to increased drug activity may be overblown. Moving forward, I recommend that policymakers consider creating more comprehensive databases of drug-related arrests. More research is also needed on whether medical marijuana laws have an effect on state expenditures in healthcare and law enforcement.
Advisor: Robles, Omar

University/institution: Georgetown University

Department: Public Policy & Policy Management

University location: United States -- District of Columbia

Degree: M.A.

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