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# The Interactionist

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## Senior Thesis Presentation Titles

Sarah Nelson

Are Springfield Businesses and Schools as Likely to Recycle as Upper Arlington Businesses and Schools? A Study of Recycling and Social Factors

Kris Gingerich

Role of Probation in Juvenile Delinquency: An Exploratory Study

Kara Guss

The Portrayal of the Homeless Population in Mass Media: A Study of Homeless Men and Women in Movies

Brandi Bobo

Aggressive Behavior among Young Adults in Public Places

Amelia Boyer

A Trophy Child Athlete: The Effects of Parent Pressures on Student Athletes

Emily Beavers

Military Recruitment of High School Students: Does Socioeconomic Status, Academic Achievement and Race Influence the Prevalence of Military Recruitment among High School Students?

Abby Reese

Second-Shift Work: The Effects of Male Job Status

Chase Bryson

The Dynamics of Informal Associations among Students: An Analysis of College Drinking Games

Cassidy Short

A Gender Comparison: Do College Students' Perceptions of Their Professors Affect Their Academic Achievement?

Melissa Straight

Attitudes towards the "Coming Out" of

## **COMMUNITY IFTAR ORGANIZED BY SOCIOLOGY PROFESSOR AND HIS CLASSES ON ISLAM**

On October 24 Dr. Pankhurst's classes on Islam and Islamic Societies (SOCI 277) joined members of the Wittenberg and greater Springfield community for a "Community Iftar." An Iftar is the celebration of the breaking of the fast at sundown during the Muslim Holy Month of Ramadan. This year's Community Iftar was the third consecutive one organized by Dr. Pankhurst and his classes.

The Wittenberg Community Iftar brought together local Muslims and other Springfield area residents with faculty, staff and students to learn about Islam and its practices during Ramadan. Muslims abstain from all food and water during the days of Ramada and seek to come closer to God through prayer and fasting. The fast begins at daybreak and ends at sundown. The daily end of the fast is marked by specific prayers and a meal that typically is served to extended families and friends. At the Wittenberg Iftar, Non-Muslim guests were given information concerning the prayers and were invited to observe the prayer at sundown. After those who were fasting broke the fast with the traditional dates and water or fruit juice, the call to prayer was movingly chanted by Springfield cardiologist Dr. Akber Mohammed. The prayers were led by Imam Mustafaa Islam of the An-Nur Islamic Center.

The main Iftar meal followed, and while participants waited for their turn in line to pick up their food, they chatted with each other at the tables. One of the most important goals of the Community Iftar is to encourage one-on-one interaction between the members of the Muslim community and their Wittenberg neighbors. Students in the SOCI 277 class have found these conversations very helpful in order to learn about the more personal or family-based aspects of being Muslims in America.

After a pause for the meal, Mrs. Parveen Mohammed, who is an Adjunct Professor of Arts and Science at Urbana University and President of the Islamic Speakers Bureau of Ohio, discussed a wide range of topics related to Islamic practice and, especially, her family's experiences living out their faith in Springfield. Mrs. Mohammed is one of the founders of the Global Peace and Education Network in Springfield and has received a Citizen Award from the Springfield Police Department for her contributions to the city. She ended her presentation by answering a series of questions that had been submitted by Dr. Pankhurst's students prior to the event.

As in other years, the Sociology Club was one of the supporters of the Iftar, and students who were not taking the course on Islam joined club members in participating in the event. Many expenses were underwritten by the Faculty Endowment Fund. Other supporters included Global Studies, the Office of Multicultural Programs, the Pastors to the University, the Provost and the President. Both Provost Bladh and President Erickson gave remarks expressing Wittenberg's welcome to guests from the community, as well as faculty, staff and students. They also affirmed the commitment of Wittenberg to supporting multicultural and interfaith experiences like the Iftar.

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## INFORMATION ON SENIOR THESIS IN THE SOCIOLOGY MAJOR

As part of the major in Sociology, students are required to complete a senior thesis under the supervision of the "Senior Thesis Professor" and a "Primary Reader" who has a related scholarly interest. The thesis is seen as a capstone experience for majors in that it allows them both to explore research and analytical skills that they have learned earlier and to develop these skills with direct application. In addition, in the process of research and writing, the student develops new skills for the analysis that grow out of the first-hand

research tasks. Finally, the thesis process allows the department to assess how well it is doing in preparing students for critical and creative thinking, and for professional or allied careers using their major.

The topic of thesis research is chosen in consultation between the student and the faculty. Hands-on empirical research is encouraged, sometimes using available data sets -- including those developed through the surveys carried out in the Research Methods course in the department -- and

sometimes requiring the full initiation and carrying out of data gathering in the form of a survey, participant observation project, content analysis or other research method.

Senior theses are completed largely during the fall semester of the sociology students' last year at Wittenberg. However, revision tasks normally run into the spring semester, and a presentation of the research paper in a student conference format is carried out in the middle of spring semester. The Senior Thesis Presentation is one of the

programs in the departmental colloquium series, so an audience made up of students, faculty and local guests has an opportunity to hear about the studies carried out by the senior majors.

Outstanding and accomplished majors are encouraged to seek to earn department honors in Sociology by preparing a Senior Honors Thesis in place of the regular Senior Thesis. The honors thesis is more extensive and requires completion of a more complex and detailed research paper comparable to those found in journals in the discipline.

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## Reflections from the Department Chair Professor Doubt

This is a difficult year for  
the Sociology Department.  
We miss Professors Beek

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Hello, this is Tony Ottomanelli.

Just wanted to check in to see how everything is going. I hope all is well. I'm about 20 credits into the Master's Program at DePaul University and loving every minute of it! I am currently taking 12 credit hours this quarter which unfortunately includes the course "Statistics for the Social Sciences." Of course, I love Sociology, but I don't understand the quantitative aspect of it. I mean, I do see the significance in implementing Statistics for Social Research, but most of the material we learn, I can't imagine ever applying it. Any kind of numbers ar

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It has been awhile since I have talked with some of you, but I have some exciting news to share with all of you. I recently was accepted into the Air Force Social Work Residency Program. The program will allow me to finish up my requirements for licensure while learning and meeting the mental and emotional health needs of the thousands of our brave men and women returning from Ir

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LOCAL CONFERENCE AT CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY ON QUALITATIVE  
RESEARCH, CALL FOR PAPERS

Dear Qualitative Researchers,

This e-mail comes with three information pieces regarding the Ethnographic & Qualitative Research Conference (EQRC) and Journal of Ethnographic & Qualitative Research (JEQR). I hope this information will assist with your research and writing efforts this academic year, in addition to planning your conference travel expenses.

First, the 2009 date has been set for June 5-6 at Cedarville University. The conference typically is held the first weekend in June, so no changes are occurring--but we want to ensure you pencil-in the date on your calendars. Watch for the formal call for papers early in the Spring semester. The registration fee will be \$95 for students and \$125 for faculty and will include a breakfast buffet and luncheon each day.

Second, Kay McFarlane no longer will provide coordination for the conference. As you know, Kay has provided utmost quality in her EQRC efforts; recent personnel shifts have made it necessary to delegate Kay's EQRC responsibilities to another individual. Consequently, you will be receiving future word from Amanda Hutchinson who will provide continued excellence in coordinating the details of EQRC. My grateful appreciation is explicitly expressed for ALL of Kay's excellent work.

Third, we thank all authors for their contributions to the 2008 EQRC. For more information, please contact Amanda Hutchinson at 726-1722 or 726-2040.



## Study Abroad in the Balkans

SIT Study Abroad announces a group site visit for academic year 2008-2009. SIT Study Abroad group site visits are designed for study abroad staff, faculty and administrators to learn about field-based, experiential study abroad; gain a deeper understanding of specific programs; and consider how programs can be integrated into their own curriculum. Participants will have opportunities to meet Academic Directors and affiliated faculty, observe classes and fieldwork assignments, and interact with students and homestay families. SIT group site visits utilize the same methodology of our field-based programs and require visitors to actively engage with the program content and local culture.

February 28-March 7, 2009 CZECH REPUBLIC -  
LIC: Arts, Community, and Transition and  
THE BALKANS: Post-Conflict Transformation  
in Croatia, Bosnia, and Serbia.

This site visit will provide insight into two programs that offer students the opportunity to study the long transition processes in post-communist countries. Now that the Czech Republic has joined the European Union, nongovernmental organizations and arts programs are attempting to empower socially marginalized communities, revive rural towns, and revitalize the country. Participants will spend the first half of the week in Prague exploring these issues and meeting local resource people from the SIT network. The latter part of the week will be spent in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia and once the capital of Yugoslavia. This energetic city, the site of an educational excursion for the Balkans program based in Zagreb, embodies the contradictions and tensions between pro-EU democrats and radical nationalists. Here, SIT explores topics such as political and personal responsibility: dealing with the past; and politics of differences presented by professors at the Faculty of Media and Communication of Singidunum University.

Participants are generally responsible for all air travel, visa and immunizations expenses, and a few meals during the week. SIT generally covers most in-country expenses. If your institution prefers to cover all costs associated with site visits, we can provide an invoice for hotels, meals, activities and related costs.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE:** To be considered for this site visit, please submit a letter of interest answering the following questions. It would also be helpful to know of your experience in the region (if any).

We will begin reviewing applications on August 1, and continue until all positions are filled. Final selections must be made by December 1.

- ¥ How do the themes of the SIT program relate to your institution's curriculum?
- ¥ What is your position or departmental/institutional affiliation, and what are your objectives in visiting the program(s)?
- ¥ How would you anticipate sharing the results of this visit upon your return to your college or university?

Address letter and inquiries to [betsy.judson@sit.edu](mailto:betsy.judson@sit.edu) or call 888-272-7881

## Medieval Stecak in Bosnia



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## Lutheran Volunteer Corps

Lutheran Volunteer Corps is a year-long national volunteer service program for people seeking to unite faith, social justice, intentional community, and practice simple and sustainable living. Vol-

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## Sociology Web Page Links of Great Interest

At this link, there are four search engines for looking at graduate schools. For example, if you are interested in a graduate program in Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Peace Studies, go to the Peterson Guide, click search

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REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR IN SOCIOLOGY  
REVISED SPRING 2007

The sociology minor is comprised of Sociology 101 and 16 additional hours in sociology courses. Eight of these 16 hours must be at the 300 or 400 level. Sociology 490 and 491 can be used toward the minor only with Departmental approval.

SOCI 101. Introduction to Sociology    !    !    !    \_\_\_\_\_

Sixteen hours selected from the following:

110 Cultural Anthropology!    !    !    !    \_\_\_\_\_

201 Topics in Sociology/Anthropology!    !    !    !    \_\_\_\_\_

203 Sociology of Education    !    !    !    \_\_\_\_\_

210 Sociology of Family!    !    !    !    !    \_\_\_\_\_

230 Welfare and Human Services!    !    !    !    \_\_\_\_\_

245 Gender and Society!    !    !    !    !    \_\_\_\_\_

250 Sociology of Deviance!    !    !    !    !    \_\_\_\_\_

270 Sociology of Minority Groups!    !    !    !    \_\_\_\_\_

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## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY

Revised Spring 2007

The sociology major is comprised of 37 semester hours in sociology. The student selecting the major is required to complete Sociology 101, 307, 360 and 498. Twenty additional semester hours are to be selected from departmental offerings; eight of these hours must be at the 300 or 400 level. The student may use only four semester hours in Sociology 460, 490, or 491 toward the major. A 2.0 GPA in sociology courses is required, and majors are expected to attend regularly scheduled Sociology Colloquia.

Majors must complete a course in statistics #5, Psychology 107, Mathematics 127 or 227 or Management 210 and must demonstrate computing competency before taking Sociology 307.

### Required Courses: 17 hours

SOCI 101	Introduction to Sociology	_____
SOCI 307	Research Methods	_____
SOCI 360	Sociological Theory	_____
SOCI 498	Senior Thesis (See Note 1)	_____

### Elective Courses: 20 hours

110	Cultural Anthropology	_____
201	Topics in Sociology/Anthropology	_____
210	Sociology of Family	_____
230	Welfare and Human Services	_____
245	Gender and Society	_____
250	Sociology of Deviance	_____
270	Sociology of Minority Groups	_____
277	Islam and Islamic Societies	_____
280	Animals and Society	_____

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The student may use

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LOOKING FOR A FEW INTREPID ADVENTURERS Stephen R. Smith

This coming summer, Prof. Marcia Frost (Economics) and I will be leading a month long tour of the Silk Road in China. The Silk Road is a network of trade routes dating from time immemorial to the present, but taking its name from the period when camel caravans carried exotic goods and people and new ideas between Asia and the Roman Empire. Our tour will stay within China and focus not only on the history of the trade routes, but also on the relationship between the modern Han - the majority ethnic group, whom we think of as the Chinese - and some of the minority peoples. This program requires no Chinese language and no previous knowl-

but, but we will make every effort to adjust the program to meet student interests. Last time (2007) there were students interested in medicine, so we arranged to visit a Uyghur medical college and a hospital. The emphasis of this program is on experiential learning. There is usually a morning lecture, then students go off in small groups to visit relevant sites, and we all gather again at dinner time to discuss what people have found. You also will have numerous opportunities to meet with English speaking Chinese.

Essential information:

May 17-June 15, 2009

6 credits, C or S

No pre-requirements (No Chinese language, No East Asian classes)

Limited to 20 students

Anticipated cost: \$4,750 (all expenses included), plus international airfare

I hope that I can interest a few hardy sociologists, with a desire to experience the world, in joining us on the Silk Road this coming summer.

For more information please contact me at

[srsmith@wittenberg.edu](mailto:srsmith@wittenberg.edu) or

Prof. Marcia Frost, Economics Department,

[mfrost@wittenberg.edu](mailto:mfrost@wittenberg.edu), 327-7935.

## Study Popular Culture this Summer

### San Diego COMIC-CON International

Earn credit while studying the dynamics of popular culture at the largest comic arts event in the world.  
July 22-26, 2009

#### The Field Study Program

While at Comic-Con, students will study popular culture through the methods of participant ethnography. We will be examining the intersection of practicing fan culture and the political economy of industrial marketing. Thus, most of

Arts Conference at Comic-Con International since 2006. Taken by Comic-Con opportunity for study, he invites interested students to share the experience.

Dr. Smith teaches Comic Books as Culture at Wittenberg and is co-author of the forthcoming textbook, The Power of Comics. He has spoken and written about comics and other popular culture phenomena, including reality television and web sites.

He is chair of the Department of Communication and President of the Ohio Communication Association.

\$ 1199 estimated program cost for 2009

#### Interested? Contact

[msmith@wittenberg.edu](mailto:msmith@wittenberg.edu) or  
check out  
[www.powerofcomics.com](http://www.powerofcomics.com)





! Peggy Hanna  
Academic Department  
Assistant, in Sociology

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activism. She was inspired by the number of colleges attending the conference who offer peace and justice majors and minors and hopes that Wittenberg will soon do the same.

**Peggy** also presented a paper, "If It's in The Newspaper, It Must Be True," at the Media, War and Conflict Resolution Conference held at Bowling Green State University, September 18-19. The Conference was sponsored by the Communications Department at BGSU.

**David Nibert's** essay with a former student, Bill Winders, who teaches now at Georgia Institute of Technology, is a chapter in the anthology, *Between the Species: A Reader in Human-Animal Relations* at Allyn & Bacon. The title

2007. He presented a

of the essay is, "Consuming the Surplus: Expanding Meat Consumption and Animal Oppression." Winders and Nibert critically explore the connections between the market, state policy and animal oppression. They also analyze how this relationship has likewise affected workers and peripheral nations in the world economy.

**Keith Doubt** attended the European Sociological Association Meeting on Social Theory in Innsbruck, Austria September 2008, hosted by the same department where he taught sociology courses as a Fulbright Scholar Spring

Surplus