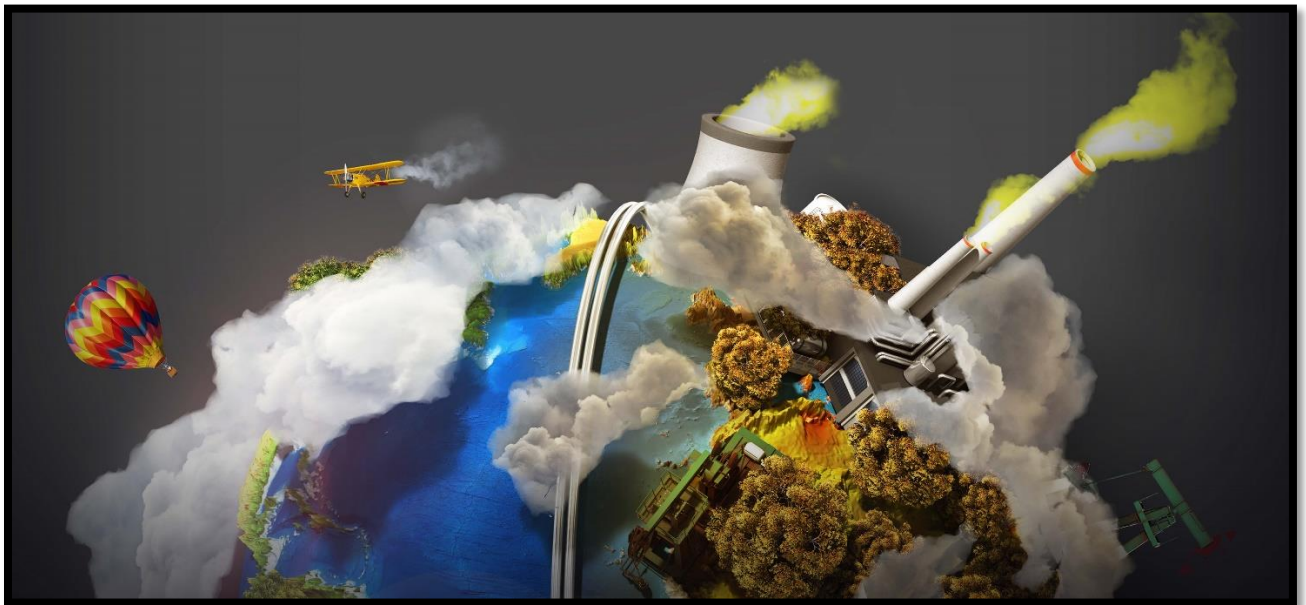


FROM THE ICE AGE TO THE ANTHROPOCENE: HUMAN RESPONSES TO GLOBAL CHANGE



27th Annual
Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium
February 27th – 28th
Middle Tennessee State University
Student Union Building

Program

27th Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium

All events are free and open to the public

Wednesday, February 27th

7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Registration.....2nd floor, Student Union Building

8:00 a.m. - 8:55 a.m.

Student Paper Session.....STU Room 224

Body Rituals and Culture

Moderator: Dr. Andrew Wyatt (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)

- "Permanent and Tattooed Makeup" (Kasey Bowe)
- "Kinky Ink: Stigmatophilia and Tattoo Fetish Culture " (Hannah Newcomb)
- "The Rise of Alternative Japanese Fashion in America" (Karissa Selby)

9:10 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.

Student Paper Session..... STU Room 224

Education Abroad

Moderator: Dr. Meredith Huey Dye (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)

- Britteny Johnson, MTSU Global Ambassador
- Hannah Solima, MTSU Global Ambassador
- Melissa Miller, Advisor, MTSU Office of Education Abroad

10:20 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Student Paper Session..... STU Room 221

Social Inequalities

Moderator: Dr. Jackie Eller (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)

- "The Identification of Racial Inequality of African Americans in the U.S." (Olivia Bunting)
- "Types of Violence and How They Affect Society" (Tabitha Tripp)
- "Poverty's Relationship to Crime Rates" (Jamal Jones)
- "Deviance" (Cristen Rachelle Nokes)

10:20 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Student Paper Session..... STU Room 224

Social Roles and Identities

Moderator: Dr. Ashleigh McKinzie (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)

- “Dirty/Traveling Kids: A Sociological Examination of the Transient Community” (Sarah Camille Comer)
- “The Effect of War and Genocide on Identity” (Devin Adcox)
- “Gender Roles of Southeast Asia: A Look Through the Decades” (Krysta Hawk)

11:15 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

Introduction and Welcome.....STU Ballroom

Dr. Andrew Wyatt

Dr. Karen Petersen, Dean Liberal Arts and Sciences

11:30 a.m. -12:25 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Laura McKinney.....STU Ballroom

Introductory Remarks: Dr. Ashleigh McKinzie (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)

Intersectionality and the Environment



Dr. Laura McKinney is an associate professor in the Sociology Department at Tulane University. Her current research projects engage macro-comparative sociology, synthesize theories from the social, physical, and natural sciences, employ innovative empirical techniques to aid in theoretical integration, and utilize environmental sociology to examine nature-society interactions and sustainability at national and global levels. Additionally, she investigates the distribution of disasters, waste, and recycling across the southeastern United States and collaborates on urban agriculture in New Orleans. McKinney's new research examines a recently declared Superfund site in Louisiana to understand the needs of individuals in the surrounding community

and how scientific research can address them. She has been awarded numerous internal grants for her research and has also been supported by the National Science Foundation, CPRA, and The Andrew Carnegie Foundation.

12:40 p.m. -2:25 p.m.

Student Paper Session STU Room 221

Why I Majored in Sociology

Moderator: Dr. Meredith Huey Dye (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)

Discussant: Dr. Laura McKinney

- Cara Carr
- Nina Donovan
- Amy Duke
- Cass Jones
- Keyonna Jones
- Megan Kipker
- Haley Lambing
- Mary Lentz
- Cameron Maier
- Luis Marrero
- Jennifer Meyers
- Donita Stanley
- Erica Yearwood

Student Paper Session STU Room 224

Comparative Religion

Moderator: Dr. Rohit Singh (Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies)

- "The Exploration of the Grey Areas: Religion in American Horror Story" (Brandon White)
- "A Look at Vaccinations and Religion in America through an Unusual Medium" (Ashley Duchac)
- "Imagining Religion" (Timothy Allen)
- "Nationalism: Modernity in Question" (Joshua Clemens)
- "It All About Perspectives!" (Amy Conner)
- "Ancestral Death Cults and the Kurgan Cultures" (Jake Furnish)
- "Holy Fortune Ministries: Building a Church and a Community" (Skyla Weyrich)

2:30 p.m. -4:30 p.m.

Film: *Before the Flood* STU Video Theater, 2nd floor

Organizer: Kimberly Leifker (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)

Before the Flood presents a riveting account of the dramatic changes now occurring around the world due to climate change, as well as the actions we as individuals and as a society can take to prevent catastrophic disruption of life on our planet. The film follows Leonardo DiCaprio as he travels to five continents and the Arctic speaking to scientists, world leaders, activists and local residents to gain a deeper understanding of this complex issue and investigate concrete solutions to the most pressing environmental challenge of our time.



Thursday, February 28th

7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Registration.....2nd floor, Student Union Building

8:00 a.m. - 9:25 a.m.

Student Paper Session..... STU Room 224

Intersections of the Social and Physical Environment

Moderator: Dr. Shannon Hodge (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)

- "Social Factors in Relation to the Suicide Domino Epidemic" (Haley Burt)
- "Mortuary Practices at the Anthropology Research Facility" (Devin Adcox)
- "Anthropogenic Soils in the Amazon" (Tabatha Wadford)
- "The Anthropocentric Causes and Ramifications of the Darby Mine No. 1 Explosion" (Emma Wiley)
- "The Prehistoric and Historic Occupation at the Site of Castalian Springs, Tennessee" (Brittany Hunter)

9:40 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

Thematic Panel..... STU Ballroom

Moderator: Dr. Angela Mertig (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)

Panelists:

- Dr. Jeremy Aber, Assistant Professor, MTSU Geosciences & Chapter Chair, Rutherford County SOCM (Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment)
- Dr. James Fraser, Visiting Scholar, University of Minnesota & Urban Policy Consultant
- Caleb Powell, Environmental Scientist, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation & Alumnus and current graduate student, MTSU
- Dr. Laura White, Associate Professor, MTSU English, Women's and Gender Studies & Africana Studies



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT
People working together for social, economic, and environmental justice in Tennessee



11:20 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Student Paper Session:STU Room 224

Internship Experiences

Moderator: Dr. Meredith Huey Dye (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)

- Whitney Leake
- Megan Kipker
- Regan Harlow
- Tierra Brooks

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

Student Paper Awards STU Ballroom

Presented by Dr. Andrew Wyatt (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Erle Ellis STU Ballroom

Introductory Remarks: Dr. Andrew Wyatt (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)



Evolving Toward a Better Anthropocene

Dr. Erle Ellis is professor of Geography and Environmental Systems at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County (UMBC) where he directs the Laboratory for Anthropogenic Landscape Ecology. His research investigates the ecology of human landscapes at local and global scales to inform sustainable stewardship of the biosphere in the Anthropocene. Ellis' first book, *Anthropocene: A Very Short Introduction*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2018. Ellis is a member of the Anthropocene Working Group of the International Commission on Stratigraphy, a Fellow of the Global Land Programme, and a Senior Fellow of the Breakthrough Institute.

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

Student Paper Session:STU Room 224

Sociology of Religion

Moderator: Dr. Ashleigh McKinzie (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)

- "Religion, the Environment, and Buddhism" (Kelsey Carter)
- "One with Nature" (Luis Marrero)
- "The Pentecostals: A Look into Their Beliefs about the Environment" (Mikayla Flagg)
- "Hinduism and the Environment" (Disha Trivedi)
- "Christianity and Factory Farming" (Valerie Risk)
- "The Space Inside the Cup" (Joshua Fuchear)

The Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium is sponsored by

- Office of the Provost
- College of Liberal Arts
- Global Studies and Human Geography
- Distinguished Lecture Series
- Department of History
- Department of Sociology and Anthropology
- Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

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