

11th Annual Graduate Research Forum
Sponsored by the Academic Research Committee & Office of Graduate Studies
Tuesday, April 21, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Germany Lecture Hall, MCC

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Dr. David H. Magers, Chair, Academic Research Committee

Presentations
[Time Limit, 15 Minutes]

Beth Kirchner, TESOL

Beth Stapleton, Ph.D., Introduction

Speech Acts and the English Language Learner

Research Director: Beth Stapleton, Ph.D.

Speech acts are used in language for the purpose of communicating such things as apologies, requests and complaints. In order to perform any type of speech act successfully, a person must not only have knowledge of a language but also understanding of how to appropriately use that language within a given culture. This research will examine how Asian English language learners' comprehension of speech acts and the culture of the American university classroom affect their use of and understanding of the English language. This research is especially significant for those who teach students from other cultures.

Rebekah Gannaway, Communication

Tim Nicholas, Ph.D., Introduction

Violent Media and Its Effects:

The Relationship between Violent Video Games and Aggression in Adult Males

Research Director: Tim Nicholas, Ph.D.

As violent content continues to penetrate into television and video games, the possible effects of such content have been of interest to researchers. This correlation study employed the Pearson Product Moment Correlation to determine the relationship between violent video game content and aggression in adult males. The study also looked at bloody/gory content and aggression in adult males. 43 adult males between the ages of 21 and 30 were surveyed to determine their "most played" video games and the amount of violent and/or bloody/gory content they contained. The males' trait aggression was also measured using the Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire. Results determined that as males increase in age, the relationship between violent content, as well as bloody/gory content and trait aggression also increases. Violent and bloody/gory content had no relationship with verbal aggression, and a negative relationship with hostility.

Lauren Elizabeth Cliatt, Law

Mark C. Modak-Truran, Ph.D., J.D., Introduction

Turkey's Fight to Join the EU: Are Europeans Ready to Accept a Partial Muslim Identity

Research Director: Mark C. Modak-Truran, Ph.D., J.D.

Although globalization has enabled more interaction between Europe and Islamic Asia, the two are still not reconciled. There is a deeply rooted fear of Islam among members of the European community. This fear is commonly referred to as Islamophobia. Europeans pride themselves on their secular "European identity." However, the Islamophobia that permeates the European countries has prevented Turkey, the only non-Christian country applicant to the EU, from officially joining the "West." The purpose of this paper is to show that the EU's treatment of Turkey is the product of Islamophobia associated with a misplaced view of secularism and the European identity. In fact, the fear of Islam and the effect it would have on the European identity is an irrational one and is a hindrance to the development of a greater European Union and is actually counter to the ideas of "Europeanness."

Kelsey Hornback, English

Jim Everett, Ph.D., Introduction

Empathizing with the Psychotic:

Why First Person Narration is So Disturbing in John Fowles' *The Collector*

Research Director: David Miller, Ph.D.

This paper is about the narrative structure of John Fowles' premier novel *The Collector*. It argues that the use of first person narrative by both the kidnapper, Clegg, and the victim, Miranda, enhances the disturbing effect of the novel upon the reader. The paper examines the book primarily through Reader Response Criticism.

Intermission – 15 minutes



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***Joseph Learned Odenwald , Higher Education Administration Debbie Norris, Ph.D., Introduction
To Search or Not to Search?: A Pertinent Question for Residence Hall Directors***

Research Director: Debbie Norris, Ph.D.

The paper examines the major changes in the application of the Fourth Amendment to institutions of higher education since 1971, pointing out the differences between the courts' application of the Fourth Amendment to public and private institutions and offering suggestions for the implementation of sound policy. Major cases are cited and discussed.

Lisa Pappas, Law

Cecile C. Edwards, J.D., Introduction

***A Contradiction in Interpretations:
A Look at the Circuit Split Regarding Creditor Derivative Standing in Bankruptcy***

Research Director: Cecile C. Edwards, J.D

This comment begins with a look at the split among the circuits regarding creditor derivative standing in bankruptcy. It explains the policies in favor of and against granting creditors the ability to bring suit on behalf of the bankruptcy estate in order to avoid fraudulent transfers by the debtor in possession. Next, it examines two significant cases that further add to the controversy; including a Supreme Court case that, if followed, should have ended the debate by holding that language in the Bankruptcy Code was exclusive and that only a trustee may bring a suit to avoid fraudulent transfers by the debtor in possession. This comment then scrutinizes a Third Circuit case in which the court found an equitable power inherent in the Bankruptcy Court to grant creditors derivative standing and to bring claims on behalf of the estate. Finally the paper concludes with notifying readers of available alternatives that are expressly provided to creditors in the Bankruptcy Code.

Meredith Wilkaitis, Art

Stephen D. Cook, M.F.A., Introduction

The Evolution of Illuminated Manuscripts during the Anglo-Saxon, Romanesque and Gothic Periods

Research Director: Stephanie Busbea, Ph.D.

A thriving industry of book and manuscript production and trade existed in Western Europe during the Middle Ages. The creation and use of illuminated manuscripts shifted from monastic communities to secular ones during the Anglo-Saxon, Romanesque and Gothic periods, while maintaining basic techniques of production. This presentation explores this shift, as well as the types of texts used and the stylistic characteristics of each period.