

International Research Conference for Graduate Students

Nov. 4-5, 2009

Program

Preconference Workshop

Wednesday, November 4

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LBJ Student Center, 3.14.1

Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Michael Willoughby, Dean, The Graduate College, Texas State

Conducting Effective Research

- **Five Lessons About Doing Research**

Dr. Tom Grimes, Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication, Texas State

- **Responsible Conduct of Research**

Dr. Gail R. Ryser, Director, Testing Research-Support/Evaluation Center, Texas State

- **Grant-Funded Research**

Dr. Michael T. Blanda, Assistant Vice President for Research and Federal Relations,
Texas State

- **Effective Research Presentations**

Dr. Patricia M. Shields, Professor of Political Science, Texas State

Moderator: Johanna Ostling, Geography, ASG Graduate House Representative

Conference Opening

Wednesday, November 4

Supple Building, Room 112, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Welcoming Remarks:

Dr. Mike Willoughby, Dean of the Graduate College, Texas State

Lauren Morgan, ASG Graduate House Leader, Texas State

Dr. Debbie Thorne, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs,
Texas State

Opening Address:

"Understanding Others and Ourselves: Conducting Research in Intercultural and International Contexts"

Dr. Arvind Singhal, Samuel Shirley and Edna Holt Marston Endowed Professor of Communication and Director of Research and Outreach, Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies, The University of Texas at El Paso

Reception:

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Mitte Art Galleries

Sponsored by the Graduate College, Equity and Access Committee, Associate Vice President for Research and Federal Relations, The Department of Communication Studies, and the ASG Graduate House

Keynote Address

Thursday, November 5

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

LBJ Student Center, 3-14.1

Welcoming Remarks:

Dr. Sandy Rao, Assistant Dean, The Graduate College, Texas State

Keynote Address:

"Innovation and Originality in Research"

Dr. Roger Wiemers, Fulbright Scholar and Associate Professor of Educational Administration and Leadership and doctoral program coordinator at Tennessee State University

**Sponsored by the Graduate College, the Common Experience, and the
College of Education**

Coffee Break

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

10:30 a.m.-12 noon: Concurrent Sessions

LBJSC 3-3.1

Panel 1

- **The Triadic Nature of Women in Katherine Anne Porter's Fiction**
Parish Conkling, English, Texas State
- **Sylvia Beach: Only geniuses here**
Whitney Oldfather, English, Texas State
- **Digital is the New Literacy: Emerging literacies in the digital age**
Chrishaun "Sique" Keller, English, Texas State
- **Examining Imperialistic Rhetoric**
Justin Tucker, English, Texas State

Judge and Moderator: Dr. Graeme Wend-Walker, English, Texas State

LBJSC 3-5.1

Panel 2

- **Experiences of First-Generation Immigrants as First-Generation College Students**
Rhonda Adams Smith, Sociology, Texas State
- **Research Capacity Building in Developing Countries: A Literature Review**
Ann Brooks and Monirith Ly, Educational Administration and Psychological Services, Texas State
- **Self-Reflective Inquiry Project**
Naomi Garcia, Educational Administration and Psychological Services, Texas State
- **Education Behind the Veil: The Impact of the Cultural Revolution on Women's Higher Education in Iran**
Reza Rezaee, Mathematics, Texas State

Judge and Moderator: Dr. Federico Subervi, Journalism and Mass Communication

10:30 a.m.-12 noon: Concurrent Sessions Contd.....

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Panel 3

- **Under One Roof: A proposed 21st century consolidation in the Lower Little Conemaugh River Valley**
Larry Kleitches, Geography, Texas State
- **The undemocratic capitalist states, the rise of the multi-national corporate ‘person’, and the challenges now facing traditional liberal economic ideals and the democracies that engendered them**
Clay R.Fuller, Political Science, Texas State
- **Policy Implications for Life Cycle Assessment: A Biofuels Example**
Daniel Reed, Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries, University of Tennessee
- **Deconstructing Myths: A Mythic Analysis of ‘Confusing God and Government’**
Dana Pedersen, Communication Studies, Texas State

Judge and Moderator: Dr. Ted Hindson, Political Science, Texas State

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Panel 4

- **Interstate Health Insurance Competition and Mandates, Why and Why Not?**
Clay R. Fuller, Political Science, Texas State
- **The Court Giveth and the Court Taketh Away: Eroding the rights of the criminally accused in the United States**
Jeffrey Edwards, Political Science, Texas State
- **Texas Employers Should Have a Legal Duty to Discourage Fatigued Employees from Driving Home**
John A. Haislet, Political Science, Texas State
- **Case Scenario for Legal Memorandum**
Polly J. Robertson, Political Science, Texas State
- **Transforming Principal Preparation: From educational administration to leadership for social justice**
Sarah Nelson; Juan Manuel Nino; and Israel Aguilar, Educational Administration and Psychological Services, Texas State

Judge: Dr. Gilbert Martinez, Mass Communication, Texas State

Student Moderator: Zack Hughes, Criminal Justice, ASG Graduate House Representative, Texas State

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Panel 5

- **Characterization of *pic7*, an Auxin Resistant Mutant of *Arabidopsis thaliana***
Amarah Ulghani; Jessica Villareal; Bryan Boyd; Sunethra Dharmasiri; and Nihal Dharmasiri, Biology, Texas State
- **Amphibian Chytrid Fungus Across The Vertical Strata Of An Amazonian Lowland Rainforest**
Shawn McCracken, James Gaertner; Michael R.J. Forstner; and Dittmar Hahn, Biology, Texas State
- **Isolation and Characterization of a Putative Auxin Resistant Mutant, *ada2* that Regulates Growth and Development of *Arabidopsis thaliana***
Nirmala Karunarathna; Sherry Albers; Sunethra Dharmasiri; and Nihal Dharmasiri, Biology, Texas State
- **Discovery and Efficacy of a Hypersensitive-like Plant Defense in Live Oak Against a Host-specific Gall Former**
Cristina Campbell and James Ott, Biology, Texas State
- **Probiotic Lactobacilli Decrease Invasion of Metastatic Human Colon Cancer Cells in Vitro**
Juanita Escamilla; Michelle Lane; and Vatsala Maitin, Family and Consumer Sciences, Texas State

Judge: Dr. Yixin Zhang, Biology, Texas State

Student Moderator: Aundra Hawkins, Political Science, ASG Graduate House Representative, Texas State

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Panel 6

- **Audience Satisfaction with Ethiopian Television *Amharic Evening Program***
Abel Adamu Gebeyehu, Journalism and Communication, Aarhus University, Denmark, and Kenneth Andresen, Gimlekollen School of Journalism and Communication, Norway
- **Globalization of National Media Programs: A new dimension of international broadcasting programming?**
Alejandro De La Sen, Radio – TV, Arkansas State University
- **“Don’t mean nothin’”: A propaganda analysis of selected films from the World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War eras**
Philip Poe, Mass Communication, Texas Tech University
- **Correlations Between Media Violence and a Desensitized Audience**
David P. Tarasi, Journalism and Mass Communication, Texas State

Judge and Moderator: Dr. Ray Niekamp, Journalism and Mass Communication, Texas State

Luncheon

12:15p.m.-1:45p.m.

Ballroom, LBJSC

Booths with Information on Doctoral Programs

2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions

LBJSC 3-3.1

Panel 1

- **Gopher Esker Soil Temperature and Possible Impact on Conifer Establishment in Subalpine Meadows**
Clayton J. Whitesides, Geography, Texas State
- **Freshwater Turtle Conservation in Texas: Lingering Harvest Effects and Efficacy of the Current Management Regime**
Donald J. Brown; Vincent R. Farallo, Biology, Texas State; James R. Dixon, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University; John T. Baccus; Thomas R. Simpson; Michael R. J. Forstner, Biology, Texas State
- **Herpetofauna of Palmetto State Park and the Ottine Wetlands with Comments on Temporal and Spatial Trends**
Romey L. Swanson; Thomas R. Simpson; Michael R. J. Forstner; and Francis L. Rose, Biology, Texas State
- **Why So Many Forms? Field Tests of the Selective Pressures on Color Pattern Variation and its Maintenance in the Mottled Rock Rattlesnake (*Crotalus lepidus lepidus*)**
Vincent R. Farallo and Michael R. J. Forstner, Biology, Texas State

Judge and Moderator: Dr. Joseph Veech, Biology, Texas State

LBJSC 3-5.1

Panel 2

- **Self-regulation of Private Presses in Ethiopia: Prospects and Challenges**
Gudeta Seifu Tura, Journalism and Communication, Addis Ababa University, Denmark
- **An Emerging Democratic Realism?: Realism, The Democratic Peace and Democratic Alliance Systems**
Jason Ozment, Political Science, Texas State
- **Presidential Election in Local and Student Newspapers: What are Differences of 2008 Presidential Election News Coverage in Student and Local Newspapers?**
SangHee Park, Journalism and Mass Communication, Texas State
- **Political Influence on the Graphic Novel from the Great Depression to Post 9/11**
Robert John Bexar II, Political Science, Texas State

Judge and Moderator: Dr. Coy Callison, Texas Tech University

2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions Contd.....

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Panel 3

- **Toward A Cyborg Mentality: A phenomenological shift in consciousness**
Jamie McNeil, Sociology, Texas State
- **Oculomotor Plant Biometric Identification**
Sampath Jayarathna; and Oleg V. Komogortsev, Computer Science, Texas State; Cecilia R. Aragon, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab.; and Mechehoul Mahmoud, Computer Science, Texas State
- **Effective Search Heuristics for Automatic Performance Tuning on High-end Microprocessors**
Santosh Sarangkar, Computer Science, Texas State
- **Performance of Optimized Matrix-Matrix Multiplication on Multi-core Architecture**
Suman Vara, Computer Science, Texas State

Judge and Moderator: Dr. Carol Hazlewood, Computer Science, Texas State

LBJSC 3-10.1

Panel 4

- **Population Density and Probability of Detection: Implications for population estimation for the golden-cheeked warbler *Dendroica chrysoparia***
Christopher C. Warren; James R. Ott; Floyd Weckerly, Biology, Texas State
- **A Changing Ritual Landscape: The sacred sites of San José Chacayá**
Michael P. Saunders, Anthropology, Texas State
- **The Rationale for Expanding the Pipar Pheasant Reserve of Nepal: A perspective from surveys of the Galliformes population in Santel**
Naveen K. Mahato, Biology, Texas State; Poorneshwar Subedi, Department of Forest, Nepal; Laxman Poudel, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal; Michael R. J. Forstner, Biology, Texas State

Judge and Moderator: Dr. Rich Warmes, Anthropology, Texas State

2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions Contd.....

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Panel 5

- **Electrochemical Study of Gold Electrodes Surface-Modified with Metal Schiff Bases**
Drew K. Brown, Chemistry, Texas State
- **Glass Reinforced Biobased Polyurethane Nanocomposites**
Adekunle T. Akinola and Jitendra S.Tate, Engineering Technology, Texas State
- **Fire Retardant Phenolic Nanocomposites**
Dmitri Kabakov and Jitendra S.Tate, Engineering Technology, Texas State

Judge and Moderator: Dr. Bahram Asiabanpour, Engineering, Texas State

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Panel 6

- **The Survival and Livelihood Strategies of Rural-urban Migrant Street Children in Bahir Dar Town, Ethiopia**
Addisu Birhanu Ejigu, Rural Livelihoods and Development, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
- **The 1996 Rural Land Redistribution: Processes & Socio Economic Consequences-A Case Study in Libo Kemkem Woreda (South Gondar)**
Askebir Gebbru, Institute of Development Research, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
- **Volunteer Participation in Humanitarian Projects in West Africa: A qualitative study**
Christi Delgatty, Sociology, Texas State
- **Projects of Development and Exclusion in Nahá, Mexico**
Cristina Ocón, Anthropology, Texas State
- **Chwuech Manimba: Indigenous creative education among women of the Luo community of Kenya**
Pamela Wadende, Adult, Professional and Community Education, Texas State

Judge: Dr. Catherine Hawkins, Social Work, Texas State

Student Moderator: Brent Ferguson, Music, ASG Graduate House Representative, Texas State

3:30 p.m.-5:00p.m.: Concurrent Sessions

LBJSC 3-3.1

Panel 1

- **Affectionate Communication and Relational Satisfaction: An attachment theory perspective**
Brendan Radomski, Communication Studies, Texas State
- **“I’m sorry. Do you forgive me? Let’s get back together”:** A negotiated morality perspective on forgiveness’ role in reconciliation of romantic relationships
Brittani Crook, Communication Studies, Texas State
- **Love in the Dark**
Emily Honea, Communication Studies, Texas State
- **Community Participation in Later Life: A qualitative examination of older age**
Amber Titus-Love, Sociology, Texas State
- **Refracting Messages: The Dark and Light of Manipulative Communication**
Dana Pedersen, Communication Studies, Texas State

Judges: Dr. Shirley Ogletree, Psychology and Dr. Maureen Keeley, Communication Studies, Texas State

Student Moderator: Lauren Morgan, Music, ASG Graduate House Leader, Texas State

LBJSC 3-5.1

Panel 2

- **The Genetic Architecture of Reproductive Isolation in Louisiana iris: *I. nelsonii* x *I. hexagona***
Sunni Taylor and Noland Martin, Biology, Texas State
- **Reproductive Patterns of Texas River Cooter (*Pseudemys texana*) and Red-Eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) at Spring Lake, Hays County, Texas**
Ivana Mali; Thomas R. Simpson; Francis Rose; and Floyd Weckerly, Biology, Texas State
- **When Species Hybridize: The case of two Texas snakes (*Elaphe bairdi* and *Elaphe obsoleta*) using evidence inferred from Microsatellite and Mitochondrial DNA data**
Michael W. Vandewege, Biology, Texas State; David Rodriguez and Jeremy P. Weaver, Biological Sciences, Texas Tech University; Troy D.Hibbits, Bracken, Texas; Michael R.J.Forstner, Biology, Texas State; Llewellyn D. Densmore III, Biological Sciences, Texas Tech University
- **The Use of a GIS to Delineate Potential Urban Deer Habitats and Analyze their Spatial Distributions**
Matt Anding, Geography, Texas State
- **Mate-finding Allee Effects and their Impact on Wetland Management in the Conservation of Endangered Anurans**
Michele A. Gaston; Akiko Fuji; Michael R. J. Forstner, Biology, Texas State

Judge and Moderator: Dr. John Baccus, Biology, Texas State

Student Moderator: Sam Jayarathna, Computer Science, ASG Graduate House Representative, Texas State

3:30 p.m.-5:00p.m.: Concurrent Sessions Contd.....

LBJSC 3-9.1

Panel 3

- **ER and Entertainment-Education: A qualitative analysis of successful storytelling as related to vicarious learning, self-efficacy development, and parasocial interaction**
Anthony Galvez, Electronic Media and Communications, Texas Tech University
- **Characters of Mozart**
Brent Ferguson, Music, Texas State
- **The Web Slings Black Man: Representations and the re-appropriation of Blackface in Spiderman 3**
Brett Fails, Journalism and Communication, Texas State
- **Twenty Years Later: A qualitative determination of the photography industry's definition of ethics, and an analysis of the level of ethical acceptance of digital image manipulation in popular press magazines since the introduction of Adobe Photoshop**
Jerod Foster, College of Mass Communications, Texas Tech University

Judge and Moderator: Dave Nolan, Journalism and Mass Communication, Texas State

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Panel 4

- **An Assessment of College Aspirations among African American Children in Secondary Education**
Christina Thomas, Sociology, Texas State
- **The Challenges of Novice Principals: What It Means for Preparation Programs**
Sarah Nelson; Juan Manuel Nino; and Israel Aguilar, Educational Administration and Psychological Services, Texas State
- **The Effect of Gardening Activities on Motor Skills Development of Pre-K and Kindergarten Students**
Melody Rose Baker and Tina Marie (Waliczek) Cade, Agriculture, Texas State
- **The Neurocognitive Model: A new approach to the teaching of Spanish as a second language**
Claire Meadows, Modern Languages, Texas State
- **Mix It Up: Correlated Space Science and Geology & Math Teacher Professional Development - Program Evaluation**
Melissa Duran and Sandra West, Biology, Texas State

Judges: Dr. Ann Brooks, Educational Administration and Psychological Services, Texas State, and Dr. Roger Wiemers, Tennessee State University

Student Moderator: Johanna Ostling, ASG Graduate House Representative, Texas State

3:30 p.m.-5:00p.m.: Concurrent Sessions Contd.....

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Panel 5

- **Road Densities and Their Effect on the Red-eared Slider in the Lower Rio Grande Valley**
Brian E. Dickerson and Michael J. Forstner, Biology, Texas State
- **Effects of Recreational Activity on the Avian Community of Green Spaces within Sunset Valley, Texas**
Mary N. Tibbets; Thomas R. Simpson; Timothy H. Bonner; and Michael Clay Green, Biology, Texas State
- **Defining Habitat for Recovery of Ocelots (*Leopardus Pardalis*) in the United States**
Amy Connolly; Thomas R. Simpson; Michael Clay Green; Biology, Texas State and John Young, Texas Parks and Wildlife
- **An Analysis of Trends in Sea Turtle Rehabilitation on the Texas Coast**
Rebecca J. Holihan, and Michael R.J. Forstner, Biology, Texas State

Judge and Moderator: Dr. Chris Nice, Biology, Texas State

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Panel 6

- **Groundwater Marketing in Texas: Private Interests vs. Public Policy**
Carol Macdonell, Political Science, Texas State
- **“Blue Water” Veterans and Agent Orange**
Debra J.Haskell, Political Science, Texas State
- **Can Industrial Districts accelerate Local Economic Development?: A relation analysis**
Md. Akhter Hossain, School of Local Development, University of Trento, Italy
- **A Climatology of Tornadoes Associated with Gulf Coast-Landfalling Hurricanes (1950-2005)**
Todd W. Moore and Richard W. Dixon, Geography, Texas State

Judge and Moderator: Dr. Nate Currit, Geography, Texas State