

College of Humanities and Social Sciences
2018 Summer Research Grant Recipients Project Summaries

Alice Gooding, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Title: *Anatomical Identity: Testing Craniometric Variation in University Teaching Skulls*

Summary: Universities commonly house collections of unidentified human skulls for anatomical study. Although the origin of these specimens cannot be determined, it may be possible to assess their individual sex and ancestry. This project uses measurements of the cranium to analyze the sex and ancestry of anatomical skulls, and tests whether the total sample may come from common region(s) of the world. This summer I will focus on three outcomes: data collection at five universities, analysis, and submission of a conference abstract.

Awarded \$6,000

Jesse Benjamin, Associate Professor of Sociology and International Conflict Management

Title: *Time and the Swahili Other: Decolonial Inversions of Race, Nation, Episteme*

Summary: The goal of this original research on culture, race and power in coastal East Africa, conducted since 1990, is to turn my findings into a book on the nineteenth century origins of race and nationalism in the constitution of contemporary social hierarchies at Kenya's coast: *Time and the Swahili Other: Decolonial Inversions of Race, Nation, Episteme*. Using decolonial theory and extending Johannes Fabian's theory of *allochronism*, I demonstrate that time and its particularly colonial characteristics are central to these processes, and central to decolonizing contemporary epistemologies.

Awarded \$6,000

Ken Williamson, Associate Professor of Anthropology

Title: *Spirituality and Social Movements: Candomblé and Black Political Activists in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil*

Summary: This research project details the centrality of Candomblé as a spiritual practice in the resistance movement of Black Activists in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. Candomblé continues to serve as a shelter and resistance against racism and oppression. Black activists defend Candomblé in the face of withering racist attacks from ultra-nationalistic, xenophobic, homophobic and racist parties, policies and politicians. Black activists and Candomblé stand in in sacred collective resistance in order to promote religious and cultural diversity and social, racial and gender equality in Brazil.

Awarded \$6,000

Paul Dover, Associate Professor of History

Title: *Article on Diplomats and Spies for Information: a Historical Companion*

Summary: To support research and writing in the summer of 2018 on an article for inclusion in the volume *Information: a Historical Companion*, forthcoming in 2019 from Princeton University Press.

Awarded \$6,000

Sha Huang, Assistant Professor of Chinese

Title: *Authentic Materials in Foreign Language Chinese Classroom: A Survey Study about Learners' Perceptions*

Summary: Authentic materials refer to language data produced in the process of real-life communication. Examples of authentic language materials include news, literature, TV shows and movies, etc. Second language scholars believe authentic materials have multiple benefits for language learning. Investigation into the perceptions of Chinese-as-a-foreign language (CFL) learners regarding the use of authentic materials in Chinese classes will inform pedagogy to guide classroom instruction. By collecting data from multiple universities in the U.S., this study will investigate: 1) How are authentic materials currently used in identified university-level CFL classrooms in the U.S.? 2) How do learners in these universities perceive the effects of authentic materials on their Chinese learning? 3) Do learners' perceptions about authentic materials vary according to instructional levels and family background? 4) What types of authentic materials do learners prefer, and what are their rationales? Learners' voices help instructors to integrate appropriate authentic texts into different levels of Chinese teaching. This study will also address gaps in previous literature, which mainly focuses on instructional materials used to teach alphabetic languages.

Awarded \$6,000

Susan Raines, Professor of Conflict Management

Title: *What we Thought We Knew About Domestic Violence & Divorce Mediation: New Findings*

Summary: Policy surrounding mediation for divorce is predicated on untested assumptions that the presence of domestic violence (DV) will increase the likelihood of unfair settlements through fear and coercion. My experience as a mediator indicated that highly violent couples rarely settled their cases in mediation...yet some benefitted quite deeply. This study's goal is to gather, analyze and disseminate data needed for court mediation programs to predict which cases can be safely and productively mediated and which cannot.

Awarded \$6,000

Teresa Raczek, Associate Professor of Anthropology

Title: *Archaeology as an Adventure: Children's Books and the Indus Valley Civilization*

Summary: This project proposes a content and digital text analysis of children's books and high school textbooks on the Indus Civilization. I will examine the accuracy of facts, the messages they send about archaeology and ancient societies, and the patterns of argument employed. The research investigates the ways that children's books teach children how to discern fact from interpretation, and how to use facts to support arguments about the past. These lessons shape the ways that future adults process information and build arguments in general.

Awarded \$6,000

Tom Okie, Associate Professor of History and History Education

Title: *The Pushcart Economy and the Problem of Decay, 1900–1940*

Summary: Despite the increased attention paid to food in recent years, we give surprisingly little to food's *distribution*. This essay addresses this attention deficit by focusing on one particular distribution node: the New York City pushcart. During the first four decades of the twentieth century, pushcarts were usually manned by recent immigrants from central and eastern Europe and typically congregated in the city's poorest neighborhoods. Pushcarts earned more than their share of earnest attention from urban reformers, even as they played a critical role in managing the fundamental biological and environmental fact of fresh fruit and vegetable distribution: decay.

Awarded \$6,000

Wenhua Jin, Associate Professor of Chinese

Title: *Acquisition of Chinese tonal sandhis by English speaking learners*

Summary: Previous studies on Chinese tones are mainly concerned with the errors in the production of the categorical lexical tones, and research efforts on Chinese tonal sandhis are still limited (Yang 2016). There is barely any empirical study on Yī, Bù, and Tone 2 changes, and available research on Third-tone/ Half-Third tone sandhis often led to contradicting results (Yang 2016; Zhang 2013). With an aim to fill the gap in the literature, this study examines the acquisition patterns of the five tonal sandhis by English speaking learners of Chinese, providing thereby valuable implications for L2 Chinese acquisition and instruction.

Awarded \$6,000