

Here are some sample abstracts to consider. These are good examples of abstracts because they are concise, they clearly explain the research methodology (e.g., archival research, literature review, interview, etc.), and they incorporate the following format: 1-2 sentence description of the purpose and why the study is being conducted, 1-2 sentences explaining the research methods, and 2-4 sentences describing the results and conclusions.

Myssa T. Saleh, CHHS:

The purpose of this paper was to review current research evidence on the effects of exercise and physical activity intervention on Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM). With a prevalence as high as 9.2%, GDM is one of the most common complications of pregnancy. Some studies suggest that exercise interventions may yield effective results in lowering the risk or preventing the development of GDM. The Medline database was used to search for peer-reviewed journal articles from 2011-2016; studies on exercise interventions for GDM and GDM in obese women were included. Although some studies have shown potential in the reduction and development of GDM through exercise intervention, most randomized controlled studies to date show little to no statistical significance in reducing GDM risk through physical activity and exercise. Furthermore, the study results suggested that women who are active prior to their pregnancy are at lower risk of developing GDM.

Julie M. Kissel, COE:

The purpose of this study was to understand the emergence and evolution of Washtenaw Community College (WCC), using institutional theory grounded by Scott's regulative, normative, and cultural-cognitive pillars. This qualitative, historical case study used archival research to identify themes and the institutional building blocks for the junior college movement at large and the transition of the junior college to the comprehensive community college in the 1950s and 1960s as it served to buffer and bridge the post-secondary world. This study discovered that WCC was not a grassroots endeavor by the community with an interest to create opportunities for the county residents. Instead, WCC emerged and evolved by agent-based construction or through intentionality and purpose by county leaders who used regulative and normative means to create a narrative that a "community" college would best serve the interests of the public. These findings can help educational leaders understand the historical underpinnings of the community college and its relationship to other educational institutions and the community it is designed to serve.

Vishal Muralidharan, COT:

Petroleum based polymeric materials and their use for coating applications are reaching a terminal decline due to the depleting stocks of crude oil. The need of the hour is to look for renewable sources such as oils from plant sources. The use of vegetable oil-based derivatives such as soybean oil opens up new ways of making eco-friendly polymers and coatings from renewable resources.

In this work, we have tried to use epoxidized soybean oil (ESO) as a starting material and develop a methylated derivative of ESO for further reaction with isocyanate based silane to generate a bio based silane end grouped polymer. These unique bio-based silane terminated polymers on moisture curing provide siloxane based coatings with enhanced properties. This work provides a promising way to design 'green' high performance hybrid coatings.

Jerrica Pitzen, Jessica Riggs, and Shannon Franz, CAS:

Reflective functioning, or the ability for individuals to understand others' mental states, is believed to play an important role in the development of affect regulation (Fonagy et al., 2002). Prior research has shown that parents with higher levels of parental reflective functioning (the ability to understand their child's mental states) are more likely to engage in more sensitive and less negative parenting behaviors during interactions with their infants (Grienenberger et al., 2005; Rosenblum et al., 2008; Stacks et al., 2014). However, few studies have examined relationships between parental reflective functioning and parenting behavior and their impact on children's affect.

The present study seeks to examine how parental reflective functioning is associated with observed parenting behaviors and child affect. Data come from a larger study of 120 pregnant women, many of whom were economically disadvantaged. Analyses showed that after controlling for maternal age, education, and SES, positive parenting behaviors mediated the relationship between reflective functioning and positive infant affect. Additionally, negative parenting behaviors mediated the relationship between reflective functioning and negative infant affect. These results suggest that the ways in which parents think about their child's mental states have important implications on caregiving behavior, as well as their infants' emotional expression.

Haley McAlpine, CAS:

While the kitchen pantry may appear as a staple in the modern American home, its popularity in middle class housing has long been susceptible to changing social and economic trends. Once praised as a crucial workspace in the 1880s, the pantry would fall sharply out of fashion by the 1930s. By 2005, however, the pantry made a stunning come back as a crucial component in the ideal kitchen. How, then, did the kitchen pantry evolve from a utilitarian work space in the late nineteenth century to a display of wealth by the early twenty-first century? Why did it seemingly disappear from popular American floor plans by the 1930s? Prescriptive literature, like women's magazines, trade publications, published floor plans, and advertisements help develop the interesting history of the pantry. The popularity of the pantry and its inclusion in the ideal American kitchen has fluctuated with the social and economic trends of the last 150 years. This fluctuation can be attributed to the rise of specialized goods and domestic service in the late 1800s, a new emphasis on efficiency and convenience in the 1920s and 1930s, and a trend towards sprawl and space in the late 1980s through the 2000s.

Grace Mauk, CAS (performance):

Dominated by two world wars, almost continuous regional conflict, and the threat of the “cold” war, the art and music of the 20th century often reflects the anxieties, reactions, and most importantly, the resistance, of artists and composers forced to acknowledge this milieu while creating works of meaning and beauty.

After a brief summary of the entire project, this presentation will focus on a description and performance of Fredric Rzewski’s “Down by the Riverside.” American composer, Fredric Rzewski, listened to the sounds of struggle and dissent during the Vietnam era and responded to the cries of the protesters. In the 1960’s and 1970’s, he was inspired by the universal social unrest to compose the politically charged set of pieces entitled, North American Ballads. In the third movement, he used the tune to “Down by the Riverside,” which was an important symbol of peace during the Vietnam War era. He drew from musical and historical sources to create vivid imagery and powerful symbolism in this movement.