Advisory burdens reduce equity in access to college financial aid
• 35-50% of high school students fail to complete the burdensome FAFSA
• Lower/middle income students lose estimated $9,700 in grant and loan aid annually (Bird et al., 2019)
• In aggregate, this complexity carries a $4 billion price tag each year

School counselors may provide critical support to students navigating burden (Barnes, 2020; Bell et al., 2020).
• Oklahoma implemented a 450-1 student-counselor ratio policy to reduce counselor workload and increase support to students.

Research Questions:
– 1) How does reducing counselor workload impact student access to burdensome means-tested college financial aid?
– 2) How does administrative burden moderate the impact of workload on equity in program access?

Theoretical Framework
Hypothesis 1: Increasing the number of school counselors will positively impact the proportion of low-income students receiving burdensome means-tested financial aid.

Hypothesis 2: Increasing the number of school counselors will positively impact the number of low-income and racially marginalized students receiving financial aid.

Hypothesis 3: The impacts of reducing counselors’ workload on low-income students will be concentrated in the years following expansions in administrative burden.

Methods
We leverage Oklahoma Staffing Policy, which mandates 450:1 ratio, to conduct a regression discontinuity design where we estimate effects of workload reduction on equity in access to two college financial aid programs:
1. Pell Grant requires FAFSA completion, which many low-income and racially minoritized students struggle to complete
• Early application/commitment (by 10th grade)
• First dollar, AGI <= $55,000
• High administrative burden
• Counselors disseminate info, monitor student progress, & certify compliance

Two Data Sources:
2. Merged data from the National Center for Education Statistics

Conclusion
Reducing counselor workload increases equity in program access, potentially mitigating the negative impacts of administrative burden on equity

Administrative burdens could contribute to racial disparities not only by imposing costs, but also by enhancing complexity/ambiguity, which creates room for discrimination

Potential Mechanisms:
– More time with each student/fewer students in caseload develop better relationships
– Engage in more resource-intensive practices
– Reduction in discrimination
– Peer effects – learning from colleagues or increased productivity when being watched
– Specialization of duties (e.g., one counselor manage all college applications, all other behavioral management)
BACKGROUND

Older adults are the fastest growing segment of the United States population and represent a vulnerable target for crime. The consequences of victimization for older adults are oftentimes greater than for younger victims of crime. However, the codification of laws that define crimes committed specifically against older adults is relatively new and there is little known about the perpetrators and criminal justice system response. Understanding these factors is an important step for preventing and reducing rates of victimization of older adults.

CURRENT STUDY

Using data from the Florida Office of the State Court Administrator, Office of Economic and Demographic Research, and Department of Law Enforcement, this study explores trends, offender characteristics, and criminal justice processing for violations of Florida’s criminal statute for crimes against older adults.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

(1) What are the trends in arrests for crimes against older adults in Florida from 2000-2020?
(2) What are the demographic characteristics of those arrested for crimes against older adults?
(3) How are crimes against older adults processed by the criminal justice system?
(4) Is there county-level variation in criminal justice processing of crimes against older adults?

RESULTS

There were 10,386 people arrested for crimes against older adults from 2000-2020 in Florida.

TRENDS

From 2000-2020, there was a: 47% increase in arrests for abuse/aggravated abuse 20% decrease in arrests for exploitation 36% increase in arrests for lewd/lascivious conduct

OFFENDER CHARACTERISTICS

White males were most likely to be arrested and the average age at the time of arrest was over 40.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM PROCESSING

Most charges were dismissed by the prosecutor and those who were older and white had lower odds of having charges filed against them after arrest. Probation was the most common punishment. Younger, white, and male offenders had higher odds of receiving a jail or prison sentence. There was significant variation at the county-level in prosecutorial filing decisions and punishments.

CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

These findings are a first step in developing a profile of offenders and describing how the criminal justice system responds to crimes against older adults, which can help reduce rates of victimization among this vulnerable population.

Immediate next steps include: (1) identifying factors at the county-level that influence variation in criminal justice responses and (2) comparing the profile of those arrested for crimes against older adults with the overall offender population. A longer-term project involves conducting a qualitative assessment exploring prosecutorial filing decisions.

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Selection in the Prison-Based Therapeutic Community (TC)

- The prison-based TC is a treatment program for individuals with substance use disorders (SUDs) that is widely used across the US
- The TC model is based on social learning and peer influence
- Recent research on a prison-based TC shows evidence of selection into peer groups of similarly engaged residents as opposed to peer influence or diffusion of treatment engagement (Kreager et al., 2019)
- Within-person treatment engagement shows minimal change, further evidence of selection into stable levels of treatment engagement (Davidson & Young, 2019)
- The graph to the right illustrates within-person change in treatment engagement over time in TC treatment (up to 4 months)
- There is about 3x as much between-person variation in treatment engagement than within-person change in treatment engagement (Davidson & Young, 2019)

Project Aims & Initial Findings

- Given evidence of selection into stable levels of treatment engagement, positive program effects are seemingly being fueled by selection bias
- Understanding what pre-treatment factors predict baseline treatment engagement enables targeted intervention to increase program effectiveness for a sample of men with SUDs
- Preliminary analyses suggest that measurable pre-treatment factors are related to baseline treatment engagement in the prison-based TC, including:
  - **Age (positive effect)**
  - **Time in prison (negative effect)**
  - **Race (identification as white has negative effect)**
  - **Specific items in the TCU Drug Screen** diagnostic form, administered at intake (variable effects by item)
- Importantly, pre-treatment factors with no discernable relationship to baseline treatment engagement include offense severity, type of drug(s) used, educational attainment, and score (0-9) on the TCU Drug Screen diagnostic form

Multivariate OLS Regression of Pre-Treatment Factors on Baseline Treatment Engagement (n = 135)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model 1 (Demographics)</th>
<th>Model 2 (+ TCU Drug Screen)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>.010** (.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCU Score</td>
<td>.006 (.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offense Gravity</td>
<td>-.011 (.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time In Prison</td>
<td>-.004 (.02)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highest Grade</td>
<td>.004 (.02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race (White)</td>
<td>-.266 (.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCU Item 1</td>
<td>-.149 (.15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCU Item 2</td>
<td>.050 (.11)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>.165 (.14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TCU Item 4</td>
<td>-.356* (.14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prior Treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time, Importance</td>
<td>-.009 (.05)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**p < .01, *p < .05, †p < .1

Qualitative Data

Respondents were asked “what do you think of the TC so far?” Presented are themes from those with low (n = 23) & high (n = 26) baseline treatment engagement (one standard deviation above and below the mean)

**Low Engagement:**

“It’s okay, the information is good but not necessarily the people who teach it. How can you teach something that you don’t know yourself?”

“‘It’s kind of a joke because it’s not voluntary, like court mandated rehab, so it messes it up for everyone because no one is here by choice.”

**High Engagement:**

“I think it’s a very encouraging program, the way [counselor] is running it, she is very fair, open-minded, understanding, and forgiving. We respect each other as men and as equals.”

“The group sessions have you communicate with others in the program, that is a good point, because most inmates are nonsocial, I’ve seen older individuals open up...”

Sources


Caribbean Family Resilience: Connections between Art and Spirituality

Background
Caribbean people are repeatedly exposed to several events that increase stress and trauma throughout the year. It was explained that the culture relies on family and religious leaders during crises (Alessi, 2016). Heise (2013) believed that artmaking fosters resilience which could provide families with opportunities to express their unique stories. However, it is unclear how mental health professionals, including art therapists, should integrate spirituality in supporting the well-being of Caribbean families.

Aims
This research sought to combine Caribbean people’s reliance on family and spirituality to contribute to the practice of art therapy with Caribbean families. The main research question was: What is the relationship between the arts and spiritual practices on family resilience among Caribbean families?

Methods
An art-based convergent mixed methods research design was used. Qualitative and quantitative data were collected during the same phase with separate analyses and integration during the discussion of the findings.

Field notes, Interviews, Visual art
Thematic Analysis
Interpretation
Scales:
Family Resilience, Spiritual Experience, Religiosity
Multiple Regression
One-way Analysis of Variance

Data were collected from Caribbean families who resided in Grenada and identified with a spiritual group. Qualitative data were in-person family interviews, that included artmaking, and field notes. Visual and thematic analysis were completed in NVivo. Surveys were completed in-person or online. They contained scales on family resilience (Sixbey, 2005), spiritual experiences (Underwood, 2011), and religiosity (Koenig & Büssing, 2010). Multiple linear regression and one-way ANOVA were analyzed from those surveys through SPSS.

Results
Interviews: 15 families: 5 Christian, 2 indigenous spirituality, 4 Muslim, and 4 Rastafarian
4 religious/spiritual leaders: 1 Christian, 1 indigenous spirituality, 1 Muslim, 1 Rastafarian
Surveys: 61 responses: 29 Christian, 11 indigenous spirituality, 10 Muslim, and 11 Rastafarian

Art & Themes | Survey
---|---
Prayer (Figure 1) | The overall model on the relationship between family resilience and religiosity and spirituality was significant, \( F(2, 52) = 14.61, R^2 = .37, p < .001 \), and accounted for 3.7% of the variance. Of the variables, only spirituality was significant. Families had greater family resilience when they were more spiritual \( \beta = .55, p < .001 \).
Expressive Arts (Figure 2) | There was no significant difference in family resilience according to religion, \( F(3, 57) = 1.21, p = .28 \).
Nature (Figure 3) |

Implications & Future Directions
There should be cultural awareness of spirituality and a variety of expressive arts in helping Caribbean families cope with severe stress. Art therapists should include families’ spiritual beliefs in interventions. This can be done through the use natural materials, collage images that depict nature, and symbols of prayer. It is also important to not only use the visual arts, but also the expressive arts, such as music, dance, and drama that aligns with spirituality above and beyond religious beliefs. Art therapists and other mental health clinicians should integrate Caribbean values of spirituality, family, and the arts in supporting resilience.

Future work will expand on the existing results. Participation was lower than predicted; therefore, the next steps will be to extend recruitment to Caribbean families in other countries. Afterwards, the focus will be on research related to the types of expressive arts interventions for art therapists and other mental health professionals to sustain or foster family resilience among Caribbean families.
Atomic nucleus: Z protons, N neutrons.

What are the limits of nuclear stability, i.e. how many protons and neutrons can stay together?

Physics of exotic nuclei.

1. Strong test for models: either a nucleus exists, or it does not.
2. Exotic nuclei have extreme N/Z ratios.
3. Models can be tested using the sensitivity of emergent properties.

New: Facility for rare isotope beams (FRIB) at Michigan State University ($1.5B DOE investment). Will double the number of isotopes we can produce. Theory is behind experiment.

Test of nuclear forces: Investigate the presence of a soft dipole mode (SDM) in 6He.

The 6He (exotic) nucleus: 2-neutron halo above 4He.

If a SDM exists, it would be a resonant state with spin and parity $J^P = 1^-$. Nuclear models disagree on its existence.

→ Resonance with both single particle and collective features. Difficult to describe.

Preliminary results: Convergence studies in 3H, 3He, and 4He. Demonstrate feasibility.

Solve the fermionic quantum many-body problem for protons and neutrons using the no-core shell model on the high-performance computing center at FSU.

The extension to 6He will require using the density matrix renormalization group method in the Berggren basis. Tests are underway.
Development of an imaging platform to visualize the integrated HIV-1 DNA

Ashwanth C. Francis, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences
Institute of Molecular Biophysics, Florida State University

1. Background: Live-cell single virus imaging resolves the spatial and temporal aspects of HIV-1 cell-biology

2. Current limitations in HIV-1 imaging and focus of FYAP

3. Results: Detection of HIV-1 integrated DNA by adapting CRISPR/Cas9 technology

4. Results: Labeling endogenous HIV-1 DNA during reverse transcription by Click-Chemistry

5. Conclusions/ Future Directions

- In this FYAP proposal we are developing new approaches to label the HIV-1 DNA and address the critical gap-in-knowledge about how the local environment surrounding an integrated provirus affects virus replication.
- Ongoing experiments will systematically test whether pLexi-Self-dCas9-GFP system (Fig. 3) or the Click-Chemistry based DNA labeling (Fig. 4) detect HIV DNA more robustly.
- We will then analyze the extent and frequency of RNA transcription from the DNA sites, using FRAP.
- We plan additional investigations into the effect of these labeling approaches on virus infection steps and publish a manuscript.
- We thank the FSU and the FYAP program for supporting our research.
MAINTAINING THE FEELING

ANALYZING THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF QUEBRADITA DANCING & ITS EFFECTS ON SOCIAL CREATIVITY AND TRANSNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

ARGUMENT: This investigation asks how these measures of standardization, promoted as a modernized progression and growth for quebradita, a Mexican/Mexican American social dance genre, have both positive and negative effects on the transnational community of dancers. I argue that standardization practices fulfill the opportunity for working-class Mexicans and Mexican Americans to acquire travel visas and forms of certification that would allow them to obtain funds and documents to cross the U.S.-Mexico border. However, these practices also invisibilize dancers who have long contributed to the form but whose economic situation, citizenship status, or same sex dance choice impedes their ability to join unification efforts. Similarly, undocumented U.S. dancers who have maintained transnational connections to the dance form risk marginalization since they will not have the ability to travel to Mexico for certification. In analyzing these dynamics, we can begin to identify ways of protecting and upholding social dance participants as they reckon with dominant ideas of dance and professionalization that alter, marginalize, and change the makeup of their communal ties and values, as well as the dance form’s unique essence. As previous research had revealed for me, rasquachismo, what Chicano Studies scholar Tomás Ybarra-Frausto contextualizes as a DIY, underdog artistic sensibility amongst Mexican and Mexican American populations, was and is an integral part to creativity in quebradita dancing. This approach has allowed brown, working-class bodies to thrive by allowing them to use their bodies as tools to connect with others beyond borders. AMEDABA institutionalization will shift this DIY approach, constituting a new form of connection that only privileged participants will be able to access.

INSTITUTIONALIZATION BENEFITS:
- WORK VISAS
- DANCE CERTIFICATION
- OFFICIAL RECOGNITION
- TRAINING

NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION:
- UNIFORMITY IN AESTHETICS THAT WERE ONCE UNIQUE CREATIVITY
- COSTLY TRAINING
- MARGINALIZATION OF SAME SEX COUPLES
- SOCIAL DANCE HIERARCHIES

ADDITIONAL OUTCOMES: course of investigation revealed a sense of pedagogy, what I am terming rasquache pedagogy, amongst the quebradita community. Engaging Chicano Studies scholar Tomás Ybarra-Frausto’s definition of rasquachismo as a DIY, underdog sensibility employed by Chicana/o communities to repurpose the intended use value of materials, I examine how quebradita dancing teaches participants to strategically hybridize aesthetics in order to reshape the world around them. I contend that rasquache pedagogy is an affectively embodied lesson of belonging that Brown, working-class peoples engage to cope with the instability of the U.S.-Mexico border and times of crisis. Moreover, I examine how these creative strategies are utilized by bodies to reclaim subjectivity during moments that national ill/legalities dehumanize their existence and connections.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS: This research has helped to develop two articles that are in the process for publication. One article, focusing on rasquache pedagogy within the quebradita dance community, will be featured in El Camino Real Journal. A second article that examines quebradita social dance techniques as methods for belonging among Mexican and Mexican American working-class dancers will be featured as a chapter in a popular dance anthology edited by Dr. Jen Atkins.

This research will constitute a new chapter for my book manuscript to be completed by year 5 of my track at FSU. The manuscript highlights the creative dance constructions and ways of connecting across the U.S.-Mexico border that quebradita participants have formed since the 1990s. My book project, Quebrando Transnationalism, will emphasize how queer, undocumented, and working-class dancers in Mexico and the U.S. survive in the face of assimilative, xenophobic, and volatile environments by developing their dance as a form of resistance.

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mgonzalez@fsu.edu
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
TAKING A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO PORTFOLIO DESIGN

For recent or future college graduates from design programs it is important to understand the portfolio as the vehicle in which they showcase their skills & fundamentals through thoughtfully curated professional work. The project setting process for students can seem overwhelming and daunting in its execution; however, when done correctly, fundamentals and as many professionals stated it is more about the quality of content and not the quantity that makes the difference. Job seekers should focus on simplicity. A strongly curated portfolio that emphasizes work that is related to your field is what will set you apart from the crowd.

In the research survey as well as interviews the design firms frequently referenced the portfolio as a teaser, the agent that ultimately gains you into the door and sets the parameter for the conversation you will be having when interviewing.

The transformation that allows you to meet your full potential.

WHAT ARE THEY MISSING?

The portfolio as a whole is much more than just a collection of images that you think are your best work. It should be a fully curated look at your professionals, abilities, and personality.

WHAT BEHAVIORS ARE CELEBRATED IN THE INTERVIEW PROCESS?

WHAT ARE YOU ASKING?

WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPACTFUL FUNDAMENTALS PRESENT IN PORTFOLIOS OF HIRED CANDIDATES ACCORDING TO EMPLOYERS?

FINDINGS

When hiring, design professionals are looking for several key elements as they search for the “best fit” for the role. One interviewee stated they receive over 100 portfolios each summer, and review an average of 100 of the 1000. The design professionals frequently referenced the portfolio as a teaser, the agent that ultimately gains you into the door and sets the parameter for the conversation you will be having when interviewing.

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WHAT SKILLS & FUNDAMENTALS ARE IMPORTANT IN A PORTFOLIO?

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

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WHAT SKILLS & FUNDAMENTALS ARE IMPORTANT IN A PORTFOLIO?
Interaction of dietary prebiotics and resistant starches with aging gut microbiome

BACKGROUND
- Our gut microbiome, i.e., the diverse and complex community of thousands of bacterial species inhabiting our gastrointestinal tract, plays a fundamental role in our intestinal and metabolic health and aging.
- Diet is one of the most prominent factors that shape and regulate our gut microbiome.
- Diets rich in prebiotics (fiber) foster a healthier microbiome thereby improving our metabolic health and promoting healthier aging, but how different types of resistant starches from dietary beans and pulses versus plant-based fiber (e.g., inulin from chicory) modulate the microbiome especially during old age remains unclear.

OBJECTIVE:
Using an aging mouse model (approx. corresponding to ~60-65 years old human), we sought to examine how feeding of resistant starches from different beans and pulses (i.e., pinto beans, black-eyed peas, lentils, and chickpeas) compared to inulin (from chicory roots) for 12-weeks affect and regulate the gut microbiome diversity and composition.

SALIENT FINDINGS:

Fig. 1. Distinct patterns of microbiome beta-diversity in mice fed with resistant starches from pinto beans (RS1), black-eyed peas (RS2), lentils (RS3) and chickpeas (RS4) versus Inulin (from chicory roots).

Fig. 2. Distinct arrays of gut microbiome alpha-diversity (species richness) in mice fed with resistant starches from pinto beans (RS1), black-eyed peas (RS2), lentils (RS3) and chickpeas (RS4) versus Inulin (from chicory roots).

Fig. 3. Unique gut microbiome signatures in mice fed with resistant starches from pinto beans (RS1), black-eyed peas (RS2), lentils (RS3) and chickpeas (RS4) and inulin (from chicory roots) compared to control counterparts.

CONCLUSION AND PROSPECTS:
These data provide insights into how resistant starches from dietary beans and pulses modulate the gut microbiome and demonstrate that this interaction varies based on the type/source of starches. Our immediate next step is to examine how these distinct microbiome signatures may differently influence host metabolic and cardiovascular health. We ultimately plan to use these data as prelim findings for our prospective grant applications for the USDA pulse crop health initiative program.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
The support from the CRC-FYAP grant program to carry out this research work is highly appreciated.
Firm Strategies in Competitive Environments: The Case of European Soccer

How do firms facing resource (financial) disadvantages develop strategies to compete in efficient markets? This was the question driving my research as I explored two primary questions through the lens of professional club soccer in Europe:

a. How do the labor market strategies of firms entering new, competitive markets impact their survival in the industry?

b. Do firms possess certain capabilities or inherent philosophies that drive performance, or are their resource-picking actions in the labor market the key determinants of productivity?

Analyzing 18 seasons of financial and performance data from the English Premier League (EPL), I found:

- Just 61% of newly promoted clubs survive their first season in the EPL; the majority (53%) are relegated at the end of year two (see Fig. 1).

- There is a strong correlation between individual player value and team success \((r = .79)\) in the EPL, but Fig. 2 also shows that clubs can vary in efficiency.

- The prior amount invested in the squad is highly important (Fig. 3) in determining initial survival; the additional value of new players is also important, though funds should not be invested in the defense. Loan (temporary) players also have a negative effect on survival.

The initial implications are that firms will likely have to invest in a blend of old and new human capital to be successful. They should further avoid being overly defensive with their acquisition & deployment strategies and forego temporary solutions.
Social Media’s Impact on Instruction:
Beginning Teachers’ Self-Directed Professional Learning

- Social media offer **new opportunities** but also introduce **new challenges**
- Beginning teachers must juggle more outlets and potentially competing voices for professional learning
- Unclear how professional learning through social media impacts instructional practice
- This qualitative study collected weekly diary entries from and interviews with 5 teachers

“"It’s a lot of different pieces that I’m trying to hold at once.

It feels like I’m trying to fold a fitted sheet.

You know how annoying that is… just as soon as you get one corner that you think is maybe done right, you look at the other half of the sheet and it's a disaster.""

**Key Finding:** Beginning teachers are trying to build professional learning systems and improve instruction
- Pedagogical knowledge: *How to teach*
  - deepening understanding; practicing skills; reviewing concepts
- Content knowledge: *What to teach*
  - getting ideas and inspiration; staying up-to-date on news and topics; giving students different perspectives,

**Next Steps:** Recruit larger sample and further refine longitudinal design to study social media use and instructional practice across a full school year.

Read the full paper:

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FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION