

SECTION V – SOCIAL SCIENCES
Paper Session I
Thursday Morning 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Arthur J. Bond Engineering Building, Room 102
Susan D. Herring, Presiding

1. 9:00 THE CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AND THE CHARACTERISTICS ASSOCIATED WITH HIGH RISK HOMELESSNESS: A REVIEW OF INTERCITY AND INTRACITY HOMELESSNESS DATAT. *Deden Rukmana*, Alabama A&M University.

Two different city-level homelessness data types, intercity and intracity data, have been used by many homelessness studies in the United States. Intercity homelessness data are collected through cross-sectional surveys to estimate the number of persons experiencing homelessness in each city or metropolitan area. Intracity homelessness data are collected through prior address information reported by persons experiencing homelessness within a city's jurisdiction. This article reviews and compares both city-level homelessness data types. The comparison of intercity and intracity data offers insight into the strength and weaknesses of each data type in identifying the causes of homelessness and the characteristics associated with a high risk of homelessness. Intercity homelessness data examine the effect of policy and institutional variables and community-level variables that vary across cities on the prevalence of homelessness. Meanwhile, intracity homelessness data focus on the spatial variation of demographic, socioeconomic, housing, and other neighborhood factors that contribute to the incidence of homelessness within a jurisdiction that has the same policy and institutional variables. The findings from intracity and intercity homelessness data are not contradictory but complementary. The complementary findings between intercity and intracity homelessness data provide important information for planners to address homelessness at local levels.

2. 9:20 MANAGING CONTRACTS: DOD APPROACH.. *Charles Roberts*, Bryan Kennedy, Athens State University.

This case study has been conducted to identify and analyze the ineffective and inefficient practices within the DOD contract management process. The research for this project utilized both secondary analysis and survey analysis to pursue the formation of hypotheses and evidence-based solutions. An analysis of 14 secondary sources was conducted in conjunction with a survey that netted 156 respondents, from both government and contractor entities, of 8 carefully constructed questions regarding the contract management process. The results of the secondary analysis and corresponding survey responses showed several problems within the DOD contract management process. The problems identified were excessive fraud, waste and abuse, deficiencies in workforce training and development, improper employment of contract types, enlistment of contract services when DOD personnel can handle the work, inadequate contractor reporting requirements and overfunding.

3. 9:40 CONTRACTING IN THE PRESENCE OF INSURANCE: THE CASE OF BIOENERGY CROP PRODUCTION. *Mohit Anand*, Miles College; Ruiqing Miao, Auburn University; Madhu Khanna, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The recent billion-ton study (USDOE 2016) envisions miscanthus and switchgrass as two promising bioenergy crops meeting a dominant share of the billion tons of biomass supply in 2030. Similar to conventional crops, yield and price risks are prevalent in bioenergy crop production. Moreover, the availability of crop insurance for conventional crops makes the production of bioenergy crops without crop insurance relatively riskier than conventional crops. Therefore, risk management strategies and the need for coordination of biomass supply between farmers and bio-refineries is likely to necessitate reliance on long-term contracts and on insurance programs for bioenergy crops. A few recent studies have investigated contracts for bioenergy crops or the effects of crop insurance on bioenergy crop production. However, none of these studies considers the interaction between contracts and crop insurance for bioenergy crops. In this paper, we investigate the interaction of crop insurance and contracts in improving the risk management ability of farmers who produce bioenergy crops. Numerical simulation was conducted for 1,919 U.S. counties east of the 100th Meridian that had yield data for corn and for at least one of miscanthus and switchgrass. The purpose of this paper is to investigate how crop insurance for bioenergy crops affects the optimal contract design and land allocation under three types of contracts (namely, fixed price contract, land lease contract, and revenue sharing contract).

4. 10:00 AN ETHICAL DILEMMA, OR DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES. *Thomas Pieplow*, Bryan Kennedy, Susan D. Herring, Athens State University.

This case study presents micro-shots of group dynamics occurring in the same general time frame in a large bureaucratic federal organization. On the surface, the events appear to be independent of each other. Your responsibility in responding to the case study is to decide if the events are related or unrelated and to determine how management might best handle the situation.

9. 10:20 CLIMATE-INDUCED RISKS, FOOD SECURITY, AND RESILIENCE IN THE DEEP SOUTH. *Berneece Herbert*, Judith Oppong, Jackson State University; Colmore Christian, Alabama A&M University.

The magnitude of climate-induced impacts on the lives and livelihood of people and communities is projected to intensify further, as evidenced by the increasing occurrence and intensity of disasters, such as tornadoes, fires, floods, and droughts. Most of the current research addresses resilience and adaptation at the national level, but little is known about community-scale interventions. An analysis of the literature on community-based disaster preparedness indicates that communities' roles in responding to climate-induced risks are critical; however, most of these efforts may only focus on the short-term response and not on the systemic changes that may be required for long-term reliance and sustainability. This research focuses on climate-induced flooding risks in select communities in Mississippi and Alabama and the possible impacts on food security and community resilience. The aim is to build a database of community-scale climate adaptation measures that were being used or had been used in these communities. This work is an adaptation of research undertaken by Choko et al. (2019), who assessed the sources of climate

risk and community-based actions for climate change adaptation in six communities in southeastern Nigeria. This research assesses the opinions of community organizations regarding the effectiveness, constraints, and benefits of community-level adaptation measures and possible impacts on food security and sustainability.

10. 10:40 ****u** THE HISTORY OF UNIONIZATION. *Angela Miller*, Bryan Kennedy, Athens State University.

Unions developed because of a need to protect workers. Before unionization, working conditions were often hazardous and very poor. Many employers had no regard for the safety or lives of their workers, as evidenced by the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York. This poster illustrates the need to improve working conditions for workers and hold employers accountable. It also shows the history of unions from the small guilds created by craftspeople to the major labor organizations of today, including AFL-CIO and UAW. Despite many trials and setbacks in the early days of unionization, unions still produced better working conditions for employees through government regulations, a standard workweek, and minimum wage pay.

****u or **g** Denotes presentation entered in student competition as an undergraduate or graduate student, respectively.

SECTION V – SOCIAL SCIENCES

Paper Session II

Thursday Afternoon 1:00 pm –3:30 pm

Arthur J. Bond Engineering Building, Room 102

Susan D. Herring, Presiding

7. 1:00 THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPETITIVE-ADVANTAGE MODEL FOR ONLINE EDUCATION IN A SMALL STATE UNIVERSITY. *Michael Essary*, Athens State University.

In the 2000s, changes in the external environment, including changing student demographics, increased competition, and declining government support, are affecting public higher education administrators. The growth in online enrollment is increasing at a rate higher than the total higher education enrollment, and most university leadership indicates online education is essential to their institutions' future strategies. A review of the literature shows a lack of planning tools for public higher education administrative decision-making regarding an efficient balance of traditional and online courses. One type of planning tool that could be effectively used for higher education administrative decision-making is a competitive-advantage model. The purpose of the current qualitative, exploratory, multiple-case study was to create a competitive-advantage model for online and traditional education that would assist university leadership in strategic decision-making. The emergent study themes were management, distance learning cost, funding, competitive issues, faculty concerns, community interactions, and students. The study results included four key factors that establish the limits of what a public institution can successfully achieve: institutional strengths and weaknesses,

institutional opportunities and threats, broader societal and taxpayer expectations, and the personal values of the institution. The competitive-advantage model for online and traditional education decision-making developed in this study, if implemented and applied effectively, could become an important tool for ensuring the continued existence and profitability of small colleges.

8. 1:20 EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR MASTERY LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION. *Dana Wilchcombe*, Alabama A&M University.

The term mastery learning was coined by John B. Carroll when he measured the amount of time on task for a person to learn. He suggests that enough time on task impacts achievement. Students in higher education can learn everything they are taught at a mastery level with little expenditure of instructional effort (Guskey 2007). The notion is that teachers should manage learning more than learners by setting goals. This study seeks to discover which teaching method—KWL or KWHL—is more likely to produce better mastery learning outcomes. This study utilized a quantitative approach in which data were collected from participants in two general education courses. The findings suggest that KWL is more effective than KWHL. The group that employed the KWL graphic organizer had a mean score 10.5 SD 1.4. The group that used the KWHL graphic organizer had a mean score 8.96 SD 1.7. There was a mean difference of 1.5825; $F = 46.15$, $p < .000$. The partial $\eta^2 = .518$, indicating a strong size effect.

9. 1:40 ALBERT EINSTEIN AND THE FRINGE SCHOLARS: IMMANUEL VELIKOVSKY AND CHARLES H. HAPGOOD. *Ronald Fritze*, Athens State University.

Albert Einstein has a well-deserved reputation as the greatest scientist of the twentieth century. He was also a true humanitarian and a scholar who kept his mind open to new ideas. Many people approached Einstein for advice and support. Some of these people were engaged in what seemed to be dubious scholarship at the time and now is almost universally considered pseudoscience or pseudo-history. Velikovsky and Hapgood both fall into this category, and both approached Einstein for support. Velikovsky is best known as the author of *Worlds in Collision*, while Hapgood is best known as the author of *Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings*, a classic of the pseudo-history of cartography. This paper examines Einstein's relationship with these two men based on their correspondence, which can be found in the Velikovsky archives and in the Einstein papers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

10. 2:00 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MINDFULNESS AND SLEEP QUALITY IS MEDIATED BY EMOTION REGULATION. *John Shelley-Tremblay*, Garret Talley, University of South Alabama.

Psychological research has long investigated mindfulness-based approaches, such as mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR), for improving behavioral and physical health outcomes, including recovery from cardiovascular disease, weight reduction, and the management of Generalized Anxiety Disorder. Relatively little is known about the relationship between mindfulness and a critical health determinant, sleep quality. This talk reports on the results of a novel empirical

study of 403 college undergraduates from a mid-sized southeastern university. The students completed an extensive self-report assessing mindfulness, emotion regulation, stress coping, and sleep quality, using the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI). The results of the study indicate that only certain aspects of mindfulness, those that are more affective as opposed to cognitive, are related to scores on the PSQI. This relationship is mediated to a large extent by the level of emotional control and reactivity participants exhibit after a stressful event as measured by the Impact of Events Scale. Results are discussed in terms of a biopsychosocial model of wellness.

11. 2:20 PERCEPTIONS OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AMONG STUDENTS AND FACULTY. *Susan D. Herring*, Athens State University.

The use of Open Educational Resources (OER) in higher education has proliferated over the past ten years. These resources include textbooks, teaching materials, and supplementary materials, the majority of which meet the same quality standards as traditional materials. OER have many advantages over traditional, print resources: they come at no or low cost, they can be modified to meet the specific needs of faculty and students, and students have immediate access to materials from the beginning of the class. Research studies indicate that students using OER achieve similar levels of success as those using print sources. However, research also shows that, although students appreciate OER, they tend to prefer print resources. The study described here focuses on reasons for this student preference. It was done in preparation for a larger study examining faculty perceptions of their students' attitudes toward and use of OER.

12. 2:40 **u (POP) CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY: *FROZEN AND HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON*. *Kaitlin Rayburn*, Jacksonville State University.

Pop culture (movies, books, video games, and more) uses human geography to express and represent different cultures. Each of these stories gives us more than entertainment; they inform us about these regions and provide good examples of how geography is influenced by place and people. This paper examines and compares how pop culture represents the Norse region. Pop culture does not just represent these cultures: it also transforms them to highlight or omit certain aspects of a people, place, or region. The *Frozen* franchise and the *How to Train Your Dragon* franchise take place in the same region but tell different stories and represent two different cultures through their geography. *Frozen* represents economic geography and later explores Norse paganism's culture but also anthropomorphizes geography to a mythical level. *How to Train Your Dragon* tells its geographic tale through voyaging, conquest, and tradition. Later it builds off Viking culture and touches on the issues of war. Both these stories are told through a positive lens, but looking closely they are more than just fun stories for kids—they offer a geography worth exploring.

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SECTION V – SOCIAL SCIENCES
Poster Session
Thursday Morning/Afternoon
Arthur J. Bond Engineering Building, Auditorium
Authors Set-up: Begins at 7:30 am
Authors Present: 11:00 am-1:00 pm; Viewing and Judging
Susan D. Herring, Presiding

13. **u PERSONALITY TRAITS FOR SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION. *Jonnie McCarley*, Bryan Kennedy, Athens State University.

When a union gains exclusive recognition in an organization, or when a collective bargaining agreement comes up for renegotiation, the management and the union parties must choose a bargaining team. During the process of compiling a team of individuals for the bargaining table, both parties should look for personalities that can collaborate on the topics up for discussion. While no one individual has all the desired characteristics, a few key traits to look for are high self-efficacy, extroversion and agreeableness, high self-monitoring, cognitive ability, and perceptive talking ability. A variety of these characteristics makes a smooth negotiation process for both sides.

14. **g SUICIDE BY FIREARM IN ALABAMA. *Raven McClellan*, Mattea Parker, Austin Spencer, Imani Irby, John Heath, Tuskegee University.

Death by gunfire in the United States has been ruled a public health crisis. In 2017 alone, 39,773 people died from gun-related injuries in the U.S., a rate of 12.0% per 100,000 population. Of those, 60% (23,854) were suicide by gun, a rate of 6.9 per 100,000. The percentage of suicides using a firearm compared to other methods was 51%. For the same period of time, the firearm death rate for Alabama was 22.9 per 100,000 (1,124), almost double the national rate. This ranks Alabama second in the nation only to Alaska, which has a rate of 24.5 per 100,000-- but a much smaller population, resulting in only 180 deaths. Of the 1,124 firearm-related deaths in Alabama, 834 were suicide (74%). The most recent data (2017) showed 51% of U.S. suicides used firearms, while approximately 69% of suicides in Alabama used guns. The most common and most lethal method of suicide is by firearms. The Dickey Amendment, a provision first inserted as a rider into the 1996 US omnibus spending bill mandated that "none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control." This has produced a scarcity of funds for research on firearm-related suicides over the last 23 years. . In order to address the public health crisis stemming from gun-related suicides, research is urgently needed, preferably with a solution that [respects the Second Amendment rights of the Alabama populous](#). WORKPLACE BULLYING: LOSE-LOSE SITUATION. *Kaliah Robinson*, Sadguna Anasuri, Alabama A&M University.

Workplace bullying is problematic for businesses and employees, and yet many employers and employees often ignore it. This is potentially related to work environments that offer people in power a sense of privilege to treat their subordinates poorly. Because of this hierarchy, subordinate employees often hesitate to challenge maltreatment. Although it is more commonly recognized between subordinates and supervisors, the act can also transpire between colleagues. Employees may accept the circumstances in an attempt to avoid conflict or termination. During 2017, over 60 million Americans experienced workplace bullying.

These behaviors include harassment, intimidation, and use of excessive power. Policies to control such immoral behaviors are frequently non-existent or ineffective. The current policies and procedures on workplace bullying are failing because Human Resources professionals find it hard to respond to employee complaints of harassment because of blurred definitions and unclear policies. Being subjected to a toxic work environment can have a detrimental impact on the physical and mental health of employees, which directly impacts their organizations. As a result, employees may suffer from stress-related diseases, causing them to take time off work, or they may lack focus and perform poorly during work. Such employees may feel a sense of hopelessness, anger, depression, and in extreme cases, suicidal thoughts. Furthermore, workplace bullying may impact family life, parental relationships, and spousal dynamics. The purpose of this poster is to highlight the impact of toxic work-spaces on individuals and explore and enforce necessary training for prevention and intervention.

15. **g DAMSELS IN DISTRESS: HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES AGAINST AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN. *Melissa Robinson*, Sadguna Anasuri, Alabama A&M University.

Social injustices in the United States cover a broad spectrum of overt bigotry and biases. Racism, prejudices, and discrimination are deeply rooted in the US legal and social structures. This often leads to systematic oppression of minority groups in all aspects of life. An alarming rate of minorities are becoming victims of racial profiling and police brutality, which has been publicized recently via media. However, the healthcare disparities often do not see the limelight, specifically those affecting African American women. Women of color often receive lower-quality healthcare and are subjected to callous treatment by medical professionals. With factors like sexism, racism, and other systemic and social blockades, there is higher gross mortality in pregnancy and childbearing for African-American women. Women of African descent are three to four times more likely to die from childbirth complications and are three times more likely to have fibrosis than white women and develop them at a younger age. A plethora of chronic illnesses related to stress are more prevalent in African American women as a result of socioeconomic disadvantages and earlier onset of life stressors. Misdiagnosis of African-American women often leads to severe complications and increases the rates of preventable deaths. The substratum of this distressing disparity is the stereotypical ideology that leads some medical professionals to provide subpar services to women of color. This poster presentation will explore the roots of such disparities, the impact that they have on the African American community, and preventable measures to decrease the mortality rate associated with social injustices in healthcare.

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