2021 Fellows Forum

Surviving & Thriving through Chaos: Resilience, Community, & Creativity in the Face of Crisis

March 11, 2021. 10:45-3PM
March 12, 2021. 10:00-3PM

The Graduate School | Florida State University
Thursday March 11, 2021

10:45  WELCOME
Dr. Lisa Liseno, Assistant Dean, Graduate School and Dr. Mark Riley, Dean, the Graduate School

11:00 - 12:00  STUDENT POSTER
Moderator: Caity Kelly, Assistant Director, Fellows Society
Speakers: Giltrecia Head- Dance; WANG Min-Educational Leadership & Policy Studies; Briana Cohen-Modern Languages & Linguistics

BREAK
1:00 – 2:00  PANEL
Moderator: Liam White, Fellows Society Member
Speakers: Dr. Vincent Joos- Modern Language & Linguistics; Dr. Junayed Pasha- Civil & Environmental Engineering; Dr. Karen Oehme- Social Work

2:00 – 3:00  KEYNOTE
Moderator: Joshua Scriven, Forum Co-Coordinator
Speaker: Dr. Ebrahim Ahmadisharaf - Civil & Environmental Engineering

Friday March 12, 2021

10:00 - 11:00  PANEL
Moderator: Nate Spindel, Fellows Society Member
Speakers: Dr. Jill Pable- Interior Architecture & Design; Dr. Junayed Pasha- Civil & Environmental Engineering; Dr. Karen Oehme - Anthropology

11:00 - 12:00  NETWORKING

BREAK
1:00 – 2:00  STUDENT POSTER
Moderator: Rebecca Curran, Fellows Society Member
Speakers: Eleanor Boudreau- English; Alexandria Rawls- Public Interest Media & Communication; Tracy Ippolito- Communication; Darrell Jordan- Philosophy

2:00 – 3:00  KEYNOTE
Moderator: Cassandra White, Fellows Society Co-Historian
Speaker: Dr. Antonio C. Cuyler & Gabi Shutt - Arts Administration
This year’s Fellows Forum committee unanimously agreed on the theme Surviving & Thriving through Chaos: Resilience, Community, & Creativity in the Face of Crisis. We recognized that living through multiple global pandemics affects everyone and to survive them, it will take interdisciplinary work. The 2021 Fellows Forum features researchers from Civil Engineering to Arts Administration, and many in between. We will look at how these varied disciplines investigate how humanity reacts to, survives through, and possibly even thrives in, times of crisis. We invite you to attend our multiple sessions, engage with the speakers and other participants, and critically think about how interdisciplinary work can help in times of chaos.

The main theme being CHAOS, I wanted the program to reflect this idea. First, red is the color of chaos. Second, I used a font that was, in my opinion, the most chaotic and then I played with the typo in the titles. You will notice that capitalization is chaotic. Third, the blocks’ lines are not straight on purpose. Lastly, I didn’t use any pictures but rather a chaotic logo throughout the program: his brain is scribbled because he is thinking of a solution for this chaotic situation. In the end, this forum will demonstrate that human beings thrive and show resilience in chaotic situations.

Honorine Rouiller, Fellows Society Co-Historian
Giltrecia Head is a second year graduate student with Florida State University’s American Dance Studies program in Tallahassee, Florida. Her research interests include African Studies, African American and Caribbean Studies. Giltrecia’s initial focus is surviving Africanisms in African American and Caribbean identities, particularly in social and cultural traditions as modes of social survival in the twenty-first century.

**Unmasking The Blues: Gèlèdè And The Creation Of Blues Alchemy**

Focusing on two blues dance performers and the choreographic processes of three African American modern-based artists, I examine the surviving attributes of Nigerian Gèlèdè in blues dancing. In particular, understanding the presence of Gèlèdè masking, ancestral embodiment, and gender fluidity as primary to blues making deepens our understanding of African Diaspora dances, including locating African retentions within American forms. The driving agenda for this thesis, then, is to first to illuminate and contribute to identifiable sources of surviving Africanisms in blues aesthetics and secondly, bring attention to blues dance and its aesthetic as a foundational element of African American dance. The first evolving sounds of the drum and the signature movements of labor and toil born in the southern fields of the United States. What appeared as a death upon the transatlantic ships was rebirth of life equipped with the weapons of resilience and strength needed for surviving. The tools of the alchemist from the Continent embedded with àṣẹ to produce the elements for the birth of blues.
Min Wang is a PhD candidate in International and Multicultural Education at the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. Her research mainly focuses on rural education in China, in areas such as rural-urban divide, education and intergenerational mobility, teacher job satisfaction and teacher training, vision health and mental health issues among rural students, and rural education development.

Teaching Training among Rural and Urban In-Service Teachers in Central China

In areas where there is a significant gap in teacher quality between privileged groups and underprivileged groups, providing effective teacher training and improve the quality of the teaching force of disadvantaged groups is crucial to bridge the disparity in educational resources and student achievement. This study explores teacher training status among rural teachers and urban teachers in central China. The main objectives of this project are to explore the available teacher training opportunities to rural and urban teachers and whether there are any rural and urban differences in access to these opportunities; Understand the teachers’ perceptions and opinions on whether the trainings are useful in improving their instructional practices. As China is currently paying close attention to the development of rural education, giving voices to the teachers and understanding the issues in the current practices of teacher training and teachers’ needs can provide valuable insights to inform future educational reforms.
Briana Cohen is a Graduate Assistant at Florida State University in the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics. Currently, she is studying Spanish Literature and Culture. In May 2020, Briana graduated from Ohio State University with Bachelor’s degrees in both Psychology and Spanish with a focus on the Iberian Peninsula. She is a member of both Psi Chi Psychology International Honor Society, and Sigma Delta Pi Spanish National Honor Society. Briana has previously completed research on how to mitigate math anxiety, the effects of acetaminophen on behavior, as well as cultural and political relations between Catalonia and Spain, and Judaism in Spanish society. It is Briana’s belief that understanding thought processes can help society adapt and move forward in the current social climate.

Reclaiming Jewish Culture and Identity to Rebuild and Reestablish Community

In the past decade, hate crimes have been on an alarming rise against the Jewish community, with the largest and most striking numbers being reported in 2019 by the FBI’s hate crime analysis report. Conspiracy theories, blood libel, and media representation and coverage all perpetuate blatant notions of antisemitism. The lack of coverage of these hate crimes alongside the maintaining of certain stereotypes has motivated many Jewish teens and adults to reclaim their Jewish identities, as well as share their stories of experienced hate and what makes them proud of their culture in spite of it. This research centers around the Sephardic/ Hispanic Jewish identity- from the impact of the Spanish inquisition to the current/ modern communities that have formed as a result. Literature such as Retablo de Maravillas and El Árbol de Ciencia (alongside many others) are active components in understanding specific Spanish Judeophobic tropes. By understanding how a Jewish person, or the accusation of being a Jewish person, is represented in these works, it becomes easier to understand how films by screenplay writers such as Daniel Burman and music by artists such as Yasmin Levy turn the “Jewish question” on its head.
Jill Pable is a professor and chair of the Interior Architecture & Design Department at Florida State University and a fellow and past national president of the Interior Design Educators Council. She holds B.S. and M.F.A. degrees in Interior Design and a Ph.D. degree in Instructional Technology with specialization in architecture. She is a CIDQ-certified and WELL accredited interior designer. Her research focuses on the design of environments for people in crisis and she facilitates Design Resources for Homelessness, a non-profit resource offering research-informed practical design strategies. These ideas have been featured in NBC News Online, FastCompany, the Conversation, the Independent, KCRW Public Radio, Los Angeles and KQED Public Radio, San Francisco. She is a TEDxFSU speaker and was noted by DesignIntelligence as one of the 30 Most Admired Design Educators in the United States. She believes that design can make life more interesting, fulfilling and humane.

Crisis and Chaos: The Human, Fundamental Ingredients of Finding our Feet in Uncertain Times

Unsettled times bring with them a sense of rootlessness and anxiety. Arising from survey and interview research with unhoused persons and others, this presentation will discuss an emergent set of human fundamental needs that may support a sense of ‘ontological security’—that the world is alright, and we will be fine. These needs are security and safety, self-esteem, empowerment, sense of community, stress management and beauty/meaning. While this examines these needs through the lens of architectural environment for people in crisis, the presentation will share tactics that support these needs in buildings and similar physical place design, which offer potential application to people broadly.
Junayed Pasha, Ph.D. is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Florida A&M University-Florida State University College of Engineering. He holds a B.Sc. degree in Civil Engineering from Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (Khulna, Bangladesh), and M.Eng. and Ph.D. degrees from Florida State University (Tallahassee, FL, USA) in Civil Engineering with concentration in Transportation. His research interests include, but are not limited to, operations research, optimization, simulation modeling, supply chain management, transportation safety, transportation economics, transportation systems, industrial engineering, and emergency management. Dr. Pasha is actively involved with several committees of the Transportation Research Board and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Resilience in Emergency Evacuation: Assisting Vulnerable Communities

A creative emergency evacuation plan can save lives in the face of crisis, such as natural hazards, and avoid traffic congestion. In order to develop an effective emergency evacuation plan, a mixed-integer programming model is presented, which assigns individuals to emergency shelters through evacuation routes during the available time periods. The objective of the model is to minimize the total travel time of individuals leaving an evacuation zone. Unlike many emergency evacuation models presented in the literature, the proposed model directly accounts for the effects of socio-demographic characteristics of evacuees, evacuation route characteristics, driving conditions, and traffic characteristics on the travel time of evacuees. Moreover, the needs of vulnerable population groups are addressed. Four heuristic approaches and an exact optimization approach are applied to yield solutions for the developed model. Numerical experiments conducted for the case of Broward County, Florida demonstrate the efficiency of the proposed methodology.
Karen Oehme is the director of the Student Resilience Project at FSU. She is also the Chair of the Academic Resilience Consortium. Her research team has spent the last three years testing, designing, developing and evaluating the SRP. Oehme’s research interests involve trauma and resilience across the lifespan. She works with universities, judges, lawyers, law enforcement officials and many other professionals to spread the value of trauma-informed systems and teach coping skills to manage stress. Oehme has been at FSU since 1998, is the director of the Institute for Family Violence Studies in the College of Social Work and an FSU Distinguished University Scholar. She received her law degree from FSU in 1987, and is a member of the Florida Bar and the Supreme Court Bar.

The FSU Student Resilience Project

The FSU Student Resilience Project can help reduce barriers for students seeking help for mental health and wellness. It is designed as a targeted approach to better serve the students who are in the greatest need. Women, people of color, and those in the LGBTQ+ community at FSU tend to report more adverse childhood experiences and less resilience than their male, white and heterosexual peers. It is important for these students to have specific information regarding the impact of trauma and ways to build resilience. The SRP teaches all students self-help activities they can practice: Students who viewed the site, compared to those who didn’t, were more likely to practice self-help activities. Students like the authentic and honest content included on the SRP site. Those who viewed the website felt that if they shared it with other students it would help them.
Enhancing Community Resilience To Floods Through Advanced Computational Models

Computational models are used to predict flood impacts and support decisions related to risk mitigation. The reliability of these models is, therefore, tightly linked with the reliability of decisions, cost-effectiveness of mitigation strategies and the resiliency of flood-prone communities. These models have been developed and applied for decades; yet, several improvements are needed to advance the practice of flood prediction. This presentation will discuss recent advances and directions for future research related to the practice of inland flood modeling, including uncertainty analysis, computationally-efficient methods, the role of nonstationarity (e.g., land cover change), data-driven models and risk-based decision making. The presentation will also provide insights on how these advances and future research could help enhance the community resilience.
Vincent Joos (PhD, UNC Chapel Hill) is a cultural anthropologist who researches post-disaster reconstruction and the relations between states, citizens, and international institutions and NGOs in the Caribbean. He is now completing a manuscript on infrastructure building in post-earthquake Haiti and the vernacular transformation of urban space by people excluded from the aid economy. Joos also does fieldwork in Calais, France where he explores the links between immigration, infrastructure, and media representation.

Beyond the Crisis Narrative: Haitian Practices of Freedom

In January 12, 2010, an earthquake took the lives of more than 300,000 people in Haiti. This paper describes how the earthquake triggered other crises: a housing crisis, a cholera epidemic, and a wave of destructive "reconstruction projects". Instead of considering Haitians as the passive victims of disasters, this paper argues that people use social and economic systems forged on the long term to create spaces of exchange and belonging.
Dr. Neil Charness
Professor, Psychology
Florida State University

Neil Charness is William G. Chase Professor of Psychology and Director of the Institute for Successful Longevity at Florida State University. He received his BA from McGill University (1969) and MSc and PhD from Carnegie Mellon University (1971, 1974) in Psychology. He was an Assistant Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University (1974–77), Professor at University of Waterloo (1977–94), before moving to Florida State University. Neil’s research focuses on human factors approaches to age and technology use. He has published over 200 journal articles, book chapters, proceedings papers, and technical reports, and also co-authored books on Designing Telehealth for an Aging Population: A Human Factors Perspective, Designing for older adults: Principles and creative human factors approaches (3rd Edition, and Designing for older adults: Case studies, methods, and tools. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, and the Gerontological Society of America. He received the Jack A. Kraft Innovator award, the Franklin V. Taylor Award, the M. Powell Lawton award, the APA Prize for Interdisciplinary Team Research, Grandmaster of the International Society for Gerontechnology, and APA’s Committee on Aging award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging.

The Promise and Limits of Technology to Promote Successful Longevity

We are in the midst of two revolutions: rapid aging of the population and rapid diffusion of technology. The latter holds promise for promoting successful longevity. I’ll start by outlining those two revolutions, describe successful longevity, and then introduce a framework for technology interventions to promote successful longevity. I give examples of using technology interventions to rehabilitate, augment, and substitute for functions that normatively decline with age. I mention an intervention by the Institute for Successful Longevity to promote Zoom use by aging adults during the pandemic and discuss the limitations of technology interventions.
Jayur Madhusudan Mehta is an Assistant Professor in Anthropology at Florida State University, specializing in the study of North American Native Americans, human-environment relationships, and the consequences of French and Spanish colonization in the Gulf South. Dr. Mehta earned his PhD in Anthropology from Tulane University (2015) and his MA (2007) from the University of Alabama. He received his BA from the University of North Carolina (2004) and is an avid Tarheel! Dr. Mehta is also a Registered Professional Archaeologist and he has lead excavations in both the United States and Mexico. He is currently lead investigator for the Carson Mounds Archaeological Project (CMAP), a long-term study on the development of hierarchical and agricultural monument-building societies in the Lower Mississippi Valley, and Resilience in the Ancient Gulf South (RAGS), an interdisciplinary investigation into delta formation, hunter-gather settlement dynamics, and monumentality in the Mississippi River Delta region south of New Orleans. Dr. Mehta is a National Geographic research fellow and he has published research in the fields of environmental archaeology, ethnohistory, and indigenous religious and ritual practices.

Pre-columbian societies of the Mississippi River Delta

Dr. Jayur will present on Pre-columbian societies of the Mississippi River Delta and how they persisted through constant environmental and climatic changes. This talk relates to chaos and resilience in that it describes how societies adapted to life in a dynamic, riparian ecosystem influenced by flooding, erosion, and hurricanes. His research aims to describe ways in which these communities remained resilient, and then make comparisons to modern communities living in deltiac environments. Given the consequences of sea-level rise on low-lying regions, like the Mississippi River Delta, lessons from the past can be used to make sense of current climatic crises we experience today.
Eleanor Boudreau is a poet who has worked as a dry-cleaner and as a radio reporter. Her first book, Earnest, Earnest? (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2020), won the Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize. Her work has appeared in American Poetry Review, Tin House, Barrow Street, Waxwing, Willow Springs, FIELD, Copper Nickel, and other journals. Currently, she is a Kingsbury Graduate Fellow at Florida State University, where she is finishing her Ph.D.

Creating In Times Of Crisis

In her third year as a Ph.D. student at Florida State University, Eleanor Boudreau came close to dying and she finished her first book. And these two events are related. In this presentation, she will explain how connections she made at FSU helped her complete her book and helped save her life, and she will share what she has learned about creating in times of crisis.
Alexandria Rawls is a current master’s student in the Public Interest Media and Communication program with a focus in Social Psychology at the Florida State University. Alexandria holds a bachelor of arts in Communication with a concentration in Public Advocacy from the University of South Florida - Tampa. Following her undergraduate career, Alexandria held communication roles at the Citrus County Clerk of Court and Comptroller, Cater2.me (start-up) and her current position as an Analyst in Real Estate and Workplace Solutions at CBRE. She has a particular research interest in online dating applications and their emotional impact on today’s users. She looks forward to completing her degree in Summer 2021.

Courting Covid Restrictions

COVID-19 has altered the trajectory of dating. We must implement novel techniques in order to adapt with these new conditions. We can do our part while limiting the spread by taking precautionary measures when initiating contact with one another. The innovations that will be presented revolve around the integration of COVID-19 tests into dating applications and creating pop-up dating locations. This would be ideal for couples wanting to experience an authentic date night while reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19.
Tracy Ippolito is a doctoral student in the FSU School of Communication. Her research explores the intuitive, emotional, and cognitive processes that occur when people encounter and share information, specifically how those processes influence decision-making. Tracy’s primary area of interest is health and science communication as evidenced by her work on a variety of university- and grant-funded initiatives (e.g., a UN-supported World Ocean marine litter project, the Florida Climate Institute, and a CDC program focused on helping communities prepare for the health effects of climate change). She recently concluded a long-term collaboration with researchers studying effects of the 2011 Gulf of Mexico oil spill where her role was to ensure the emerging science was communicated in ways that stakeholders found relevant, understandable, and accessible. Tracy has a B.S. in Public Relations, a master’s in Media and Communication Studies, and extensive experience in corporate, governmental, and non-profit communication and information design.

**Mask Wearing During the COVID-19 Pandemic as an Act of Civic Engagement**

The impact of messaging that encourages civic engagement among university students and how that communication occurs during times of crisis is the focus of a study currently underway in the FSU School of Communication. In the study, civic engagement is linked to adherence to the public health recommendation to wear a protective mask as this affects the well-being of community members and increases the likelihood of surviving and thriving during/after the COVID-19 crisis. The study looks at likelihood of acceptance or rejection of a message or call to action based on message characteristics and perceptions of community. Study results will inform more efficacious health crisis messages that mitigate harm and increase prosocial attitudes and behaviors in the student community, specifically those that bridge individual actions to collective and civic well-being. The study, led by Drs. Patrick Merle and Jessica Wendorf Muhamad, was funded by the FSU Institute of Politics.
Darrell Jordan is a Ph.D. candidate and graduate instructor in the department of philosophy at Florida State University. He also currently teaches philosophy as an adjunct instructor at Tallahassee Community College and Pensacola State College. He is the former managing editor of Social Theory and Practice, an international and interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal of social philosophy. His academic research focuses primarily on ethics and the philosophy of emotions, especially anger and other emotions related to it.

**Managing Emotion in Crises**

My research looks at common responses to chaotic situations. These primarily tend to manifest as anger and blame. We tend to scapegoat an individual person or groups of people as a way to cope with turmoil. We do this, I think, primarily because it makes us feel better, as it gives us some semblance of control. However, such reactions, I argue, are not only normatively problematic, they often lead us to shift our focus away from real solutions. By recognizing that these emotional reactions are inapt, and by taking practical measures to avoid them, we can become more resilient in the face of chaos and look towards the future in unity as a community.
Dr. Antonio C. Cuyler is the author of Access, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Cultural Organizations: Insights from the Careers of Executive Opera Managers of Color in the U.S. He serves as Director of the MA Program & Associate Professor of Arts Administration at Florida State University and Visiting Associate Professor of Theatre & Drama at the University of Michigan. He also serves as the Founder of Cuyler Consulting, LLC, an arts consultancy that helps cultural organizations maximize their performance and community relevance through access, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Gabi Shutt is a second year student in the MA in Arts Administration program at Florida State University. She most recently interned with the “Negro Spiritual” Scholarship Foundation and the I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium. Her current research interests include access, diversity, equity and inclusion in the arts.

The Impact of COVID-19 BIPOC Artists and Institutions
Centering their lived experiences with the pandemic, this study investigated the impacts of COVID-19 on BIPOC artists, arts administrators, and cultural organizations. We sought to address the primary research question, in what ways has COVID-19 impacted BIPOC artists, arts administrators, and cultural organizations? This study makes a significant contribution to the emerging scholarship on COVID-19 impacts on the cultural sector because unlike nearly all previous literature, we focused exclusively on the experiences of the most vulnerable creatives in U.S. society, those who identify as historically discriminated against, marginalized, oppressed, and subjugated due to their race. However, this study also raised a critical epistemological question as it relates to the arts and social justice. Namely, what could or should social justice in the U.S. cultural sector look like based on what we have learned as a result of conducting this study?
ABOUT US

The 2021 Fellows Forum was Organized by the Following Fellows Society Members:

Rebecca Curran
Theatre Studies

Cassandra Kepple
Higher-Education; Forum Co-coordinator

Emma Driggers
Museum and Cultural Heritage Studies

Honorine Rouiller
Modern Languages and Linguistics

Joshua Scriven
Political Science; Forum Co-coordinator

WenChi Shie
Public Administration and Policy

Nate Spindel
Biological Science

Cassandra White
Theatre Studies

Liam White
Scientific Computing

ADDITIONAL THANKS TO OUR STAFF:

Dr Lisa Liseno
Director, The Fellows Society & Assistant Dean, The Graduate School

Caity Kelly
Assistant Director, The Fellows Society
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Each year, under the direction of The Graduate School, members of the Fellows Society organize and participate in an interdisciplinary symposium designed to engage students from a broad range of academic disciplines. If you are interested in being involved in the planning committee or any other opportunities, make sure to watch out for emails from the Fellows Society.