

ORCA RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SPRING 2025

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

3:00 PM WELCOME

3:15 pm Dr. Katrina Rufino, “Balancing a Strong Research Program with Service and Teaching”

Description: This presentation will discuss one researcher’s perspective on balancing UHD’s teaching and service while still maintaining a strong research program, and how to utilize the resources available through the university to maximize research productivity.

3:45 pm Round Table and Poster Sessions (15-minute rotations)

ROUND TABLES:

Sarah Albrecht, Urban Education, “Pedagogical Translation for the Language Classroom: Literacy-Based Strategies for Emergent Bilingual, Bilingual, and World Language Learners”

Description: This presentation will explain the theoretical grounding and organization of my book, *Pedagogical Translation for the Language Classroom: Literacy-Based Strategies for Emergent Bilingual, Bilingual, and World Language Learners*. Both translation and second language acquisition have received increasing attention in language-learning since the turn of the century. This book combines these theoretical approaches with literacy as a social practice (Street, 1984). While the primary focus of this book is on translation as a strategy in language teaching, and the CEFR approaches translation in terms of mediation for language and cultural learning, the two are not mutually exclusive, as students who have worked with pedagogical translation may have a better understanding of its use for mediation in translation and interpretation (Colina & Lafford, 2017).

Ayden Adler, Arts and Communication, “Separate Repertoires, Dueling Aesthetics: Using Archival Research to Share the Cultural Impact of the Boston Symphony Orchestra”

Description: In 1930, after a succession of conductors who presided over the Boston Pops for no more than a few years each, the Boston Symphony Orchestra awarded the post to Arthur Fiedler, with whom the Pops became identified over the course of his nearly fifty-year tenure. When Fiedler received the Pops appointment,

he became the eighteenth conductor of the ensemble and the first American to hold the post. Fiedler began conducting the Pops during the era of Serge Koussevitzky, whom the BSO hired to conduct the winter concerts from 1924 until his retirement in 1949. For nearly twenty years, the two conductors simultaneously negotiated from the same podium the artistic, social, and cultural expectations of the BSO's Board of Trustees, Boston audiences, and various critics and scholars. They built their repertoires and charted their divergent aesthetic courses in cultural waters fraught with conflicting assumptions about how to define "good" music.

Danya Serrano, Social Sciences, "The Role of Sleep Disturbance, Stress, and Resilience on Anxiety and Depressive Symptoms among Non-Traditional Latinx College Students"

Description: Despite accounting for nearly 20% of the U.S. population, U.S. Latinos remain an understudied population in mental health research even though there are recent indications that Latinx individuals struggle with mental health challenges to a greater degree than their non-Hispanic, white counterparts. Non-traditional Latinx college students may be especially vulnerable to experiencing mental health challenges given findings indicating that non-traditional college students experience significantly higher levels of stress, anxiety, and depression compared to their traditional counterparts. In the current study, we examined the degree to which sleep disturbance is associated with anxiety and depression among 386 non-traditional, Latinx college students controlling for their number of non-traditional characteristics. We also examined the degree to which stress and resilience moderated these associations. Our findings indicated that Latinx college students with more nontraditional characteristics also tended to report more frequent sleep disturbance. We also found that sleep disturbance is a significant predictor of both anxiety and depression after controlling for the level of non-traditionalness. Finally, stress and resilience moderated these associations. Results from this study may inform college campuses about the importance of facilitating culturally sensitive interventions that promote better sleep hygiene and enhance resilience for non-traditional Latinx college students.

Chuck Jackson, English "Research Completion: The Jessie Maple Collection at the Black Film Center & Archive"

Description: UHD's ORCA allowed me to complete NEH-funded research and submit a final manuscript on the Jessie Maple Collection at the Black Film Center & Archive for publication to BLACK CAMERA, a scholarly journal devoted to international Black film studies. I will talk about this process and what I learned along the way.

Fei Yang, Criminal Justice and Social Work, "Officer Perceptions and Experiences of State-Mandated De-Escalation Training Programs in Texas"

Description: In response to the tragic death of Sandra Bland, all law enforcement agencies in Texas require their officers to complete general de-escalation training and mental health de-escalation tactics training. The study examines how officers perceived these state-mandated training courses and how the training programs impact officers' later encounters with the public. Drawing from surveys with open-ended questions, the study revealed officers' general attitudes towards such trainings as well as their interpretation and integration of deescalation tactics in their practices.

Sucheta Choudhuri, English, "Writing the Self: Memory, History, and the Diasporic Bildungsroman in V.V. Ganeshanathan's Love Marriage"

Description: I was awarded the ORCA grant in the years 2016, 2022 and 2023. I used the reassigned time to do research for and write peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. In 2016, I began on research to expand a conference paper on a novel titled Love Marriage by the Sri Lanka- American writer V.V. Ganeshanathan. The novel captures the ethnic conflicts in Sri Lanka, which the immigrant narrator relives through the memories handed down by earlier generations of family members. My article examines how this “postmemory” (Hirsch 2012) helps the narrator grow as an individual, and how Ganeshanathan reconfigures the genre of the bildungsroman.

At the ORCA symposium, I would like to present my research on Ganeshanathan’s novel and the Sri Lankan civil war, focusing on the journey towards the publication of my article. I would also highlight how well the novel was received by the students in my World Literature and Postcolonial Studies courses at UHD, who were able to make the connection between the global, the local and the personal in the context of the novel’s narrative. Finally, I would like to stress how ORCA grants enable UHD faculty not only to advance their research, but also improve and expand their pedagogical practices.

Jorge Tito-Izquierdo, Computer Science and Engineering Technology, “Lab Test of Mechanical Anchor Bolts for Concrete”

Description: Several pullout tests are being conducted to evaluate the accuracy of theoretical equations used to determine the design capacity of mechanical anchor bolts embedded in concrete. The testing setup includes a pullout device capable of applying up to 32,000 lbs of tension, high strength concrete slabs ($f'_c > 8$ ksi) measuring 20"x20"x8" provided by Locke Solutions, a laser deflectometer for precise displacement measurements, and specialized tools to ensure optimal drilling conditions. The mechanical anchors being tested are Hilti model Kwik Bolt KB1 and TZ2 of 1/2" diameter and 3.25" effective embedment. Preliminary results indicate that the observed anchor failure modes differ from theoretical predictions. However, additional testing is necessary to draw more definitive conclusions.

Poonam Gulati, Impact Learning Office, “Community-based Research Projects”

Description: We will present an overview of Community-based Research (CBR), including developing community connections, types of research projects, involvement of students, and funding. Then we will discuss the initiative at UHD and the types of projects that have been undertaken by our faculty. Finally, two UHD faculty recipients of the CBR grants will discuss their projects. They will be Dr. Hanjin Mao and Drs. Shahnaz Savani along with Dr. Leslie Sirriani.

Lanyi Zhang and John Rountree, 2024-2025 University ORCA Committee

Description: Members of the 2024-2025 ORCA Committee will discuss the ORCA review process and provide some insights based on their experience with reviewing ORCA proposals.

Denise Burgan, ORSP and Jonathan Schwartz, University Advancement, “Funding Sources for Faculty”

Description: In this session, join Denise and Jonathan who will talk to faculty about various funding opportunities from the perspective of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and University Relations.

POSTER SESSIONS:

Yajaira Ceciliano, Social Sciences, “The Risk of Isolation and Radicalization in Men: Exploring the Connections to Social Institutions”

Description: Understanding how men can become isolated and subsequently radicalized requires an exploration of the role social institutions play in shaping identity, behavior, and life outcomes. This study examines the connections between isolation, radicalization, and men's relationships with social institutions such as family, education, health, and employment. Preliminary findings suggest that men may be at risk of isolation, engaging in risky behaviors, or even radicalization due to a lack of connection to these institutions.

Kenneth Johnson, Natural Sciences, “Late Triassic polarity of subduction in the Blue Mountains Province, NE Oregon: Clues from the high-pressure metamorphism of garnet hornblendite”

Description: The Blue Mountains Province of northeastern Oregon and western Idaho comprises two island arc terranes, each volcanically active during the Triassic Period, and the intervening oceanic lithosphere. These terranes are, from west to east (in a pre-rotation configuration), the Wallowa island arc terrane, the Baker oceanic terrane, and the Olds Ferry island arc terrane. Two models currently exist for the dual subduction system that resulted in the collision of the island arcs and the resultant assembly of the Blue Mountains superterrane (NE Oregon/W Idaho): 1) subduction dipping in opposite directions (east and west, in pre-rotation directions) and 2) subduction dipping in the same direction (both west). Subduction zones are situated on the oceanward side of an island arc and are characterized by high-pressure/low to medium temperature metamorphism. Identifying subduction zones in ancient settings can provide information about the polarity (i.e., dip direction) of subduction.