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2007 Petersheim Academic Exposition

Seton Hall University

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SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

The 2007 Petersheim Academic Exposition

“BRINGING KNOWLEDGE TO LIFE”



Monday—Tuesday, April 16—17

Program and Abstracts

Strategies for Controlling Social Spaces in Tourist Countries

Stephen J. Daly and Cherubim Quizon (Faculty Sponsor)

While there is certainly a lot for a small country to gain from tourism, there are also many potential problems. Despite the money and the jobs that tourism can generate, it invites massive numbers of foreigners into the host country, and the resulting crowding, sudden increase in the population, and influences of a foreign culture all take their toll on the locals. However, the benefits of tourism far outweigh any of the negative consequences, and it is clear that the industry will not disappear any time soon. It is up to the locals therefore, to create ways to deal with the negative effects that tourism brings on a country.

Therefore, this paper will show that; things that seem, at first glance, to be the standard rules, regulations, and practices that are always used in public spaces, are in fact ways of dealing with the negative effects of tourism. The research for this paper is based on my stay on the islands of Gozo and Malta, from July 27th to August 17th of the year 2006. During my time there, I gathered data primarily from observation and taking a comparative and analytical look at different setups for restaurants and churches.

Sociology and Anthropology

Oral Presentation

Undergraduate

Location: Arts & Sciences Room 106, 10:00 - 11:15 AM, Tuesday

The Netherlands: The Meaning of 'Gedogen' and what it means to Drugs and Death

Sandra Spino and Cherubim Quizon (Faculty Sponsor)

The purpose of this presentation is to encourage the audience to understand Dutch political policies from an alternative social perspective, one that is founded upon tolerance. The presentation will begin by confronting stereotypes that Americans have of Amsterdam and the Netherlands. It will then examine the elements of permissiveness behind policies of this seemingly liberal society, focusing primarily on national policies towards euthanasia and drug use. The purpose of the presentation is to move beyond the image of the Netherlands as a liberal society in order to understand the nation in terms of its traditions of practicality and acceptance.

Sociology and Anthropology

Oral Presentation

Undergraduate

Location: Arts & Sciences Room 106, 10:00 - 11:15 AM, Tuesday

Mission Incomplete: Balancing Family Life and Foster Care

Jeff DeCruz and Cherubim Quizon (Faculty Sponsor)

I am exploring the expected vs. the actual functions/results of the foster home, Kids and Caring located in the downtown South Orange area. I will be focusing particularly on how the relationships between the nuclear family that runs this home affect K&C's mission of providing emotional asylum for the children they take in. Through participant observation, group interactions and formal and informal interviews I can compare and contrast the lives of the residents not in foster care with the foster children who are adapting to their new environment. My research will gain insight to the distinct emotional hardships that adolescent foster children struggle with, and how foster caregivers can be more sensitive towards their needs.

Sociology and Anthropology

Oral Presentation

Undergraduate

Location: Arts & Sciences Room 105, 1:00 - 2:15 PM, Tuesday

"Deep Play" at the Local Horse Track

Deborah Durant and Cherubim Quizon (Faculty Sponsor)

At a large horse track in northern New Jersey, which sees thousands of bets per day, there are enough winners to make horse betting a fruitful enterprise. Is it that so many of these bettors are such skillful gamblers they can repeatedly pick winning horses, even when the odds say otherwise? Do they possess some degree of insider knowledge? Where does luck come into play, and are there actually supernatural forces at work here? These questions, as well as issues of space and proxemics are addressed in this semester-long ethnographic study of horse track "regulars." It was hypothesized that there would be a definitive line between "skill" bettors and "luck" bettors. Experienced gamblers would employ their own predicting abilities and novices would rely on chance. As research progressed, it became clear that this was not the case. Many bettors of all degrees of proficiency tend to make informed wagers, while still incorporating some elements of superstition. Finally, the notion of "deep play" comes from Clifford Geertz's "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight," and refers to the notion of thick description and the defining moment of this study: making the transition from "the other" to a member of an "in-group."

Sociology and Anthropology

Oral Presentation

Undergraduate

Location: Arts & Sciences Room 105, 1:00 - 2:15 PM, Tuesday