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Anthropology in the Real World: Communities & Transformations

Paul Bryant
Meagan Quinn
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Anthropology in the Real World: Communities & Transformations

Humility, Character and Rewards: Sacramental Confessions of College Students
Paul Bryant
Student Presenter

Exploring America's Kin and Marriage Relations
Meagan Quinn
Student Presenter

Notes and commentary
Dr. Alyshia Galvez
Faculty Discussant

Faculty sponsors: Drs. Cherubim Quizon & Peter Savastano

April 5 Tuesday 1-2:15 pm
Corrigan Hall 79

For panel & paper abstracts, see overleaf.
Anthropology in the Real World: Communities & Transformations

the 2nd annual student & faculty panel on Anthropology in the Real World at the Petersheim Academic Exposition Seton Hall University

Panel abstract: What ideas and behaviors bring communities together? What social formations transform relations within communities? Using an anthropological perspective, two student papers will examine, on one hand, ritual behavior among peers within the Seton Hall community (Bryant) and on the other, the gay marriage debate from the perspective of American kinship studies in the last hundred years (Quinn). Based on prior research in Field Methods and Independent Study, these papers seek to explore the question of cultural continuity and change through an engagement with local and multi-site ethnographies. Rounding out the panel, a faculty discussant (Galvez) will provide a scholarly commentary on the papers, their connections with broader issues and future directions.

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Paper 1: Project Abstract
Paul Bryant
My research project, Humility, Character and Rewards: Sacramental Confessions of College Students concerns itself with the process of sacramental confessions within the Catholic Church from a Seton Hall University student's perspective. Data was gathered through periodic formal interviews from four informants over a two and a half month period. Three of the informants were fellow Seton Hall University students chosen through snowball sampling and one informant was a priest-in-residence on the South Orange campus. The research focuses on a three stage experience to sacramental confessions with a before, during and after and the role the priest plays in this experience. Special consideration is also given to the trait of humility as a theme that underlined the whole process and became a driving force in the student’s actions.

Paper 2: Project Abstract
Meagan Quinn
Exploring America's Kin and Marriage Relations

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the shifts, which occurred in the American family through the current century. I explain the history of kinship studies in anthropology, the creation of the "homosexual," gay perspectives on kinship and marriage, the political problems concerning gay marriage, and the perspective of anthropologists on these topics. I will also comment on the increasing number of gay families in America and the political agenda of the legitimization of such relations.