



SLC COLLOQUIUM
NOV. 12TH - 3PM
STANLEY COULTER 239

MODERATOR: JEN WILLIAM
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

*Measuring the Impact of
 Narrative, Humanities, and the Arts:
 A Showcase of Current Research at Purdue*

- *Cognition, Narrative, and the Human Reader*
 Paula Leverage, School of Languages and Cultures
- *Measuring Fear in the Reader's Mind & the Effects of Language Translation*
 Dan Foti, Psychological Sciences, & Clotilde Landais, School of Languages and Cultures
- *Students' Empathy and Flash Fiction in Spanish*
 Tyler Gabbard-Rocha, School of Languages and Cultures
- *Measuring the Magic of Theatre*
 Amanda Mayes, Office of the Vice Provost for Student Life and CLA Cornerstone
- *Humanities & Human Flourishing: Conceptual Development & Assessment*
 Louis Tay, Psychological Sciences

PURDUE
 UNIVERSITY

School of Languages and Cultures
 COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Measuring the Impact of Narrative, Humanities, and the Arts:
 A Showcase of Current Research at Purdue**
 Tuesday, November 12, 2019
 3:00-4:30pm, SC 239

Cognition, Narrative, and the Human Reader
Paula Leverage, School of Languages and Cultures

Reading narrative text recruits the multiple cognitive processes of everyday human interaction with the environment, but with variation in the weighting assigned to each. By isolating and analyzing individual processes, we advance understanding of how, and why, narrative engages human cognition, and the implications for its functionality in society.

Measuring Fear in the Reader's Mind and the Effects of Language Translation
Dan Foti, Psychological Sciences, and Clotilde Landais, School of Languages and Cultures

Drawing upon methods from affective neuroscience, we examine how the brain processes horror fiction in real time in order to measure the level of fear the subjects experience when reading horror fiction. We wish to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies implemented by the authors of such fiction and to find out if the nature or the level of fear vary according to the language of reading (native or second language, original or translation).

Students' Empathy and Flash Fiction in Spanish
Tyler Gabbard-Rocha, School of Languages and Cultures

An increasing amount of research in the neurohumanities indicates that there is a correlation between having read literary fiction and holding more pro-social, egalitarian, and empathetic world views – some argue that this is because fiction provides a sort of mental training ground for our mind where we can practice and develop our empathetic abilities. However, this research is often limited to a correlational conclusion, but does not explain *how* or *why*: are empathetic people more likely to read, or does reading actually cause an increase in empathetic abilities? My research looks at the development of empathy in undergraduate students in an Introduction to Hispanic Literature course.

Measuring the Magic of Theatre
Amanda Mayes, Office of the Vice Provost for Student Life, and CLA Cornerstone

Theatre is magical. For a few hours, we sit down and are completely immersed into a different world. The performances we see promote connections with the actors on stage and fellow audience members. Theatre transports us to different places and times and introduces us to unique perspectives. Those of us who love live performance believe in the magic of theatre. But how do we convince others? This presentation will highlight research demonstrating the measurable benefits of live performances.

Humanities and Human Flourishing: Conceptual Development and Assessment
Louis Tay, Psychological Sciences

I will be presenting empirical work from the Humanities and Human Flourishing project led by Dr. James Pawelski at Penn. We developed a conceptual framework describing the possible psychological mechanisms (RAISE: reflection, acquisition, immersion, socialization, and expressiveness) by which the arts and humanities may lead to human flourishing. New measures for these psychological mechanisms are being developed and will be rolled out as a toolkit.