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Educational Anthropology
Community-Based Experiential Learning

Gregory Thompson
Anthropology
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Areas of Interest:
Cultural context influence on education and learning;
Language and micro-cultural contexts; Culturally mediated subjectivity based on the Hegelian notion of recognition;
American cultural contexts, with a particular interest in African-American settings
Greg Thompson
Anthropology Department
Assistant Professor

Interests:
Educational Anthropology
Community-Based Experiential Learning

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Two things I’m looking for in a relationship

• A mid- to long-term relationship based on Community-Based Experiential Learning.
What is Community Based Experiential Learning (CBEL)?

• Rather than learning just happening in the classroom, CBEL is learning by doing
• CBEL applies principles of an academic discipline to build something that will address real world problems in a way that will matter to a community.
• CBEL builds outcomes that are integrated with the needs of a community.
• CBEL Engages with the world in all its complexity (especially social complexity – this is where anthropologists come in!).
• The end result: anthropologists and students/faculty of other disciplines working together to solve real world problems, each side realizing that they have something valuable to offer the other side.
Two things I’m looking for in a relationship

• A mid- to long-term relationship centered on Community-Based Experiential Learning.
• A funded relationship.
  – E.g. NSF STEM teaching/learning grants
What I bring to the relationship

• Well established connections at my field site - an ethnically diverse low-income neighborhood less than 10 minutes drive from campus.
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• Well established connections at my field site - an ethnically diverse low-income neighborhood less than 10 minutes drive from campus.

• Knowledge of lit and research in education (I am an anthropologist of education).
What I bring to the relationship

• Well established connections at my field site - an ethnically diverse low-income neighborhood less than 10 minutes drive from campus.
• Knowledge of lit and research in education (I am an anthropologist of education).
• Anthropology students who have been trained in ethnography and who are very good at making sense of things that scientists (esp. engineers) often neglect (e.g., “that social stuff”).
Some examples of ideal relationships

• Aquaponics in a high school or community setting (UCSD’s Green STE(A+)M).
• Sustainable community gardens – designing building and sustaining (incl. water issues, soil nutrients, composting, etc.).
• Spanish-English translations of poetry with ESL elementary school students.
• Community based engineering projects of all sorts (computer, electrical, mechanical...).
• Community based humanities projects of all sorts (art, murals, theater, music, etc.)
Greg Thompson
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Assistant Professor

Interests:
Educational Anthropology
Community-Based Experiential Learning

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Habit Formation in Children: Evidence from Incentives for Healthy Eating

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Other research:
Parental time investments; Math competitions; Affirmative action; Marital status and health; Economic returns to water purification
• Large set of field experiments designed to increase fruit/veggie consumption at school.

• 65 schools; over half a million student-day observations of plate waste.

• Main project is about the impact of incentives on healthy eating.
  • Schools were randomized into 3 or 5 week reward period.
  • Does behavioral change persist after the end of the rewards?
• Opportunities for collaboration:
  • Florida project with Nutrislice.
  • Picture project with Microsoft Research.
  • Nielsen Home Scan data
  • School menu data
  • Salad bar project
Gendered Responses to Negative Feedback

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Areas of Interest:
Experimental methodology to study issues of coordination and cooperation in demographically-diverse groups; Gender differences in competitiveness and political ambition
Olga Stoddard

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Gendered responses to negative feedback
fMRI: Methods and Applications

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MRI Research Facility Uses:
- Brain Structure
- Brain Function
- Arterial Spin Labeling
- Diffusion Tensor Imaging
- Spinal Degeneration
- Knee/Ankle Integrity
- Liver
- Animal Models (Rodent, etc.)
fMRI: Methods

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MRI Research Facility
MRI Research Facility

- McDonald Building
- Came online July, 2013
- Siemens 3T Tim Trio MRI scanner
- 2 Exam rooms, conference, classroom
- Support staff (students, faculty)
MRI Uses

- Brain Structure
- Brain Function
- Arterial Spin Labeling
- Diffusion Tensor Imaging
- Spinal Degeneration
- Knee/Ankle Integrity
- Liver
- Animal Models (Rodent, etc.)
fMRI: Applications

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MRI Research Facility
Declarative Memory

• Facts & events
• Medial temporal lobe (MTL) dependent

Q: How does the MTL form and retrieve distinct representations of similar or overlapping information?
Overlapping Information
Task: Continuous Recognition

“new”

“new”

“new”

“new”

“similar”

“old”
Hippocampus Volume

Duvernoy (2005); Doxey & Kirwan (submitted)
Aging

Toner et al., 2009

Difference

Young FA

Young FA

Chris Doxey