

Graduate Research Conference – Preliminary Schedule

May 6, 2011

Presentation Abstracts

Brittany Allyn

The purpose of this research is to discover what function the discretionary authority in apparel design decision making has in the corporate responsibility of fair-labor clothing production. What are the gaps in the production chain of the apparel industry that allow companies to falter in fair-trade practices through the process of designing to manufacturing? Since the majority of clothing companies are for profit, many do not take into account fair trade practices while designing. In order for designers to make fair labor choices when deciding which material is chosen and how it is made, a transparency of the chain of decisions must be explored. While some designers may outsource their products to be made under fair conditions, other factors may be overlooked. An example of this would be to look at the types of fabrics that are used in the first place and if they have been made under fair conditions. While sewing and processing the clothing items are an important aspect to look at when examining fairness, one must also examine if the material was made under the same conditions. This is an example of a fair-trade gap in the production chain. Often, designers will gather material from a completely different company and country than where it is processed. This research examines designer's decisions from collecting the textiles for designing a product, to getting it production-ready and distributed in retail stores. The goal is to find the discretionary points in this chain of command that allow gaps in corporate social responsibility.

Maia Anderson

Washington Community for Self-Help Alliance (C.A.S.H.) runs an Individual Development Account (IDA) program designed to help low-income clients start or expand a small business as an asset for the individual. This program started in 2002 when Asset-building as an alternative policy instrument to dealing with asset- poverty which in turn could impact income poverty was gaining significant traction in academia as well as in non-profit circles. Because the problems caused by poverty are numerous and complex and persistent in the face of federal welfare policy, new innovative approaches that may work to complement existing interventions have been sought out by policy makers and those concerned with societal welfare and social justice. Asset-poverty in particular is especially egregious when it becomes apparent that "the command of resources that wealth entails is more encompassing than is income or education, and closer in meaning and theoretical significance to our traditional notions of economic well-being and access to life chances." In addition asset accumulation is highly subsidized in the United States for the non-poor. Assets such as home ownership, retirement savings and small business ownership have been heavily subsidized for the middle and upper classes creating a widening inequality gap of assets between the non-poor and poor. Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) were created as an innovative policy tool to address this problem but the impacts of these interventions are still being assessed.

The evaluation of Washington C.A.S.H.'s IDA program measured the program's effectiveness at small business asset-building using indicators associated with economic and psychological outcomes. The

evaluation data was experimental and longitudinal. Data came from Washington C.A.S.H.'s client files, Outcome tracker Database and from telephone interviews with randomly selected clients.

Stephen Barbouletos

Defining job roles and responsibilities is a key part of a company's ability to successfully manage their employees and define accountability. Over time discrepancies can develop between a formal job description and a person's actual responsibilities on the job. Job discrepancy is defined as all differences existing between a formal job description and true expectations of an employee.

A survey was conducted to confirm the existence of job discrepancy and attempt to explain the impact it has on job stress and performance. This is achieved by testing for key variables and the relationship they may have with job discrepancy. These variables include: job satisfaction, tolerance for ambiguity, risk aversion, stress, coping with change, job commitment, and core-self attributes.

Broader implications of the study include determining themes and patterns directly related to the impact of job discrepancy and suggest future research for improving overall performance and well-being of employees by using the research findings.

Jared Bigelow

Since 2001, terrorism has dominated the political discourse of the United States and has emerged as a potent policy agenda driver within the federal government. With the US engaged in the "War on Terror," prudence demands that the language and symbology used by policy makers be scrutinized to divine the implications of what a war on an abstract concept means for the American people and for the international community. The question of what "terrorism" is and the process through which it is defined within the policy sphere is of quintessential importance. What exactly is "terrorism?" Myriad symbols have been deployed to describe the act of terrorism and those that pursue it, yet these definitions have proven to be disappointingly vague, easily misapplied, and often inconsistent, falling out of concert with the global community's working definitions.

How should policy makers define terrorism so that the policies they generate can more effectively diminish its prevalence? How can existing definitions and symbology be refined or improved? I have sought to address these topics in my research.

Without a viable definition that satisfies the balance that exists between security and liberty, policies that are truly effective in deterring future terrorist attacks will remain elusive. Having drawn on a range of academic sources in addition to a selection of documents from the corpus of US and international policy, I have presented gloss of the historical context that has shaped modern definitions of terrorism within the policy discourse. Then, as a matter of course, I have evaluated the shortcomings of current functional definitions of terrorism in terms of two of the fundamental measures of effective policy, namely security and liberty. Finally, I have presented an argument for a simple, actions-based definition of terrorism that draws on existing symbols rather than on a moral appraisal of violent acts, and one that is strictly informed by social contract theory.

Michael Brockman

In order to maintain and improve the quality of life in the Puget Sound region, promoting the agricultural economy is essential. Identifying and understanding the attitudes and experiences of rural landowners, and farmers in particular, is integral to maintaining viable farming communities. As population increases, urban development increases and rural communities also expand changing the face of those communities. Growth patterns and development require updated methods for cooperation between stakeholders. Stakeholders include farmers, rural inhabitants, rural/urban fringe

inhabitants, developers, as well as local, state, and federal agencies. In order to ensure intelligent, considered, deliberate, and sustainable development for a productive future for our region, we must make progress on addressing the challenges local farmers face in order to maintain the viability of farming here in Western Washington. With this goal in mind, this research is seeking to understand what farmers believe will make their work sustainable in the next five years. The important variables measured here are farmers' experiences with land use regulations as well as their beliefs about markets and current and future profitability. These variables were measured using a survey questionnaire formatted in a Likert scale. The survey was delivered to forty participant farmers identified at farmers markets in the Seattle area representing farmers from around the region and all types of farms.

Anne Cameron

Since 1987 Washington State has mandated a set number of hours of continuing education from approved providers for teachers to maintain certification. In 2005, in an effort to link teacher professional development more closely to personalized student learning and stronger student achievement, OSPI began allowing districts to offer teachers the option of earning continuing education clock hours through individualized Professional Growth Plans (PGPs). PGPs were developed to support state goals for teachers to transition from continuing education that is measured in "seat time" to a performance-based system driven by teacher and student needs. A PGP embodies characteristics considered indicative of high quality professional development: it is job-embedded, developed from teacher practice and student outcome data, and aligned with teacher content areas and school, district, or state goals.

State professional development policy changes that reflect best practices, such as the introduction of PGPs, would be expected to positively impact student improvement as reflected in commonly measured indicators such as graduation rates and standardized test scores. Unfortunately, this policy is not well known, nor widely used across the state. Kennewick District teachers are the only ones to use PGPs with any regularity. Using school level student achievement data and PGP teacher participation rates in the Kennewick District, this study looks for quantitative evidence of positive outcomes at the school level from the policy change in 2005 allowing Professional Growth Plans for accruing clock hours

Scott Ferguson

The United States is in need of a new energy policy that creates a long and short-term energy production system that not only is efficient but does not increase environmental risks from threats such as climate change. The current substitute proposed is either coal or natural gas based energy production that emits carbon as well as having other harmful effects. The demand for electricity is growing, as are concerns about the country's dependence on oil and gas imports and the effects of price volatility and supply disruptions on the economy and national security.

The purpose of this study is to determine whether the United States government should support the research, development, and implementation of thorium-based nuclear reactors as a primary supplier of electricity for the nation. The conclusions are based on an analysis of the social, economic, and political environment surrounding nuclear energy in the US in comparison with other countries pursuing thorium reactor development programs. The conclusions allow for a set of policy actions based on the results of the qualitative analysis.

This project adopts a qualitative methodology that combines historical and comparative analysis. It includes a historical overview of nuclear power technology in the US, a cost-benefit analysis of thorium reactor technology in comparison with conventional and other proposed next-generation reactors. The social, political, and economic context in the US will have been analyzed with that of four countries—France, Japan, India, and Brazil—that are pursuing thorium reactor development to determine whether

conditions in the US favor a strategy for continuing to develop and deploy thorium reactor technology. Historical, political, and technical documents were reviewed to reach a determination.

Susan Funk

The Taproot Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in San Francisco, operated a local Seattle office from 2007 to 2010. They closed the Seattle office in July of 2010. During their three years of operation, they completed about 100 capacity building projects, matching teams of 4-6 individuals, who volunteered their skills, with local King County nonprofits. Unlike other local capacity builders, Taproot did not charge the nonprofits any fees for the services of the Taproot volunteers. The projects ranged from designing websites and databases to developing branding, communication and strategic plans. At the time of their departure, 500 local volunteers resided in their database, of which over 200 have indicated a desire to donate their skills to future capacity building assignments.

Since September of 2010, a group of energized volunteers has been evaluating the feasibility of creating a new organization to fill the void left by Taproot's departure. I serve as the Project Manager for the Strategic Assessment team, whose initial goal is to assess the competitive landscape of local capacity builders, identify high priority capacity building needs of local (King County) nonprofits, and confirm the skills and preferences of former Taproot volunteers, in order to develop a mission statement that attracts clients, volunteers and funders.

This Capstone takes an applied theoretical approach. First, it analyzes the potential rationales for using public funding to promote volunteerism. Then, it applies this examination to a specific case, namely, a new nonprofit organization that would offer capacity building services, using volunteer teams of skilled professionals, to local nonprofits in King County, WA.

Natasha Hundley

The US government is not providing sufficient mental health care to today's youth. Although \$12 billion is being spent on behaviorally troubled adolescents, nearly seventy-five percent of adolescents who need mental health care do not have access. In the National Action Agenda for Children's Mental Health, the Surgeon General states that the US is on the verge of a public crisis regarding the needs of youth with behavioral, emotional and psychological problems. This report states that 1 in 10 American youth suffer from an emotional disorder, but less than 25 percent of these youth are receiving the psychological attention they need. Of the youth being treated for behavioral disorders, less than 50 percent are covered by Medicaid. The rest are covered by private insurance or an out-of-pocket expense. Currently, the expense of treating the 25 percent is estimated at \$12 billion. If this policy problem is not addressed and more adolescents do not gain access to much needed care, the crisis will continue and American youth will continue to go untreated. For at least 75 percent of troubled youth, the development into a working adult will be unfeasible.

Adolescent mental health care is not a widely researched topic, but the implications for the future society are essential. The goals of the policy alternatives are to provide policymakers with more research on the technical feasibility of providing mental health care to adolescents and to provide better access to care for the largest number of youth clientele at the lowest cost per capita. The objective of the policy alternative is to create a mentally sound, self-sustaining future society that includes the individuals that had mental health disorders during their youth. The objective is to provide mentally disturbed youth with the possibility of becoming stable, working adults through regular access to mental health evaluations and treatments.

Kristen Maines

In December of 2008, Washington Governor Gregoire proposed legislation to meet statewide and regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets by establishing a cap-and-trade system beginning in 2012. Starting in 2012, the bill would cap emissions from electric utilities and major industrial facilities that produce more than 25,000 metric tons of GHGs annually, such as cement, pulp and paper, and aluminum plants. The program's second phase in 2015 would expand to smaller industrial emitters. Motor vehicles and residential and commercial buildings would be covered under the system indirectly, beginning in 2015, through regulation of the potential emissions from fuels.

The economic and environmental effects of a cap-and-trade system depend on its features within a particular country (or region), and also on activities in other countries (or regions) through the influence of trade in energy, non-energy goods, and emissions allowances. Carbon leakage can be defined as the ratio of emissions increase outside the country (or region) over the emission reductions as a result of policy. The issue is how to ensure that the transition towards a low-carbon regional economy occurs with limited carbon leakage—namely the movement of emitters away from regions where carbon constraints (i.e., cap-and-trade) exist to regions where they do not.

My capstone research focuses on the implementation of a regional cap-and-trade program to reduce GHGs considering that GHG emissions/climate change is a global issue. I am attempting to examine the challenges associated with the regional regulation of a global problem with a focus on the possibility that significant levels of GHGs may simply be relocated outside the regulated region due to carbon leakage.

Aimee Munzi

With the advancement of technology, it difficult to determine whether it is best to power-off computers during times of inactivity, or leave them on continuously in a low, power save mode. Questions that must be addressed include how the hardware inside of the computer reacts to dramatic temperature changes – this is particularly an issue when turning them off and on often. Another issue to consider is how the fans keep the system cool, which becomes an issue when the computers are left on constantly. There is also the financial and carbon footprint issues that arise whenever energy is involved, and parts need to be manufactured. To address these issues, a cost benefit analysis will be used to compare three projects: the first would be to turn off the computers when not in use, the second is to leave the computers on continuously in power save mode, and the third is status quo – which is ultimately a combination of both aforementioned projects. The Environmental Protection Agency's regional office in Seattle will be the sample used in this analysis.

Grover Nogawa

The Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepare (SNAP) program of the Seattle Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is an emergency preparedness program predicated on the value of connections between neighbors in developing an effective response to an emergency event. It is likely that traditional emergency responders will be overwhelmed in a severe disaster scenario. Consequently citizens will need to depend on the cooperation and assistance of those around them in the absence of conventional first responders.

The SNAP program seeks to develop an awareness of practical activities citizens can do to protect their immediate households and then reach out to their neighbors to organize and prepare together for a disaster. To this end, the program utilizes social capital resources within neighborhoods as well as develops social capital as a consequence of participating in the SNAP program.

This study identifies the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of the SNAP program as it educates citizens on how to effectively prepare for an emergency.

Beyond the utility of educating participants with the skills and knowledge to prepare for an emergency, the social capital benefits derived from this approach has implications on the ability of a neighborhood to respond more effectively to a disaster event.

However, even if the program is never tested in an actual event, it provides a value to participants and neighborhoods as a vehicle promoting greater engagement and involvement between neighbors.

Kaylene Strock

There are plans for legislation to go before the Washington State House and Senate that will establish a new set of rules on water reclamation (WAC 173-219) once the one year moratorium on non-essential rule-making passes. As directed by the House of Representatives, the reclamation rule is meant to be enabling. It requires that the Department of Health and the Department of Ecology promote the development and use of reclaimed water in Washington State. Currently, Water Reclamation is overseen with a series of guidelines from the Department of Health and the Department of Ecology.

Within this proposed state law is water rights impairment analysis that will require new and existing water reclamation facilities to evaluate the potential impairment of water rights holders when a water reclamation facility begins to reclaim water over returning the water effluent back to the original body of water. This analytical review will begin to unpack what the implications are for water reclamation facilities if this proposed rule is made into law. Specifically, I will look at whether the transaction and administrative costs of the proposed state law requirements for water rights impairment in water reclamation outweigh the transaction and administrative costs of the current system.

This work is intended to help identify what are some of the implications of that this state law would have on water reclamation facilities. This research will also provide high level policy recommendations that would help to bring the transaction costs down for the permitting of a new or existing water reclamation facility.

Joshua Thompson

This research examines potential reform to current municipal solid waste policy in the city of Edmonds, WA. This research will include political and cost-benefit analysis of establishing mandatory 3-sort recycling service for all residents, and how this policy reform supports goals established by WA State's Beyond Waste Plan

Ericka Wiggins

Washington State is amongst a handful of states without charter school legislation. Even in the absence of such legislation, the idea of charter schools is no new phenomenon in Washington. State residents voted against the authorization of charter schools in 1996, 2000, and 2004. After reviewing official voters' ballots for the specified election periods as well as a number of archived newspaper articles published in the Seattle Times, three of the most common reasons cited in opposition to charter school legislation in all three election years have been identified. It is believed that:

1. If charter school legislation was implemented, low-income and other disadvantaged students would be left behind in increasingly impoverished non-charter schools.
2. Charter schools increase taxes and take money away from non-charter schools.
3. Charter schools are experimental and have not been proven to work.

This research seeks to test the validity of these three arguments in states with charter school legislation by answering the following research questions:

1. What was the demographic composition of non-charter schools vs. charter schools after charter school legislation was implemented?
2. What was the amount of per-pupil revenue for non-charter schools vs. charter schools after charter school legislation was implemented?

What percent of non-charter vs. charter school students performed at or above proficiency on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) after charter school legislation was implemented?



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