Center for Interdisciplinarity
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MSU C4I Weekly Newsletter

November 9, 2020

C4I News & Events

We're continuing to program virtual events and opportunities here at MSU C4I through Fall 2020 & Spring 2021. If you are interested in giving a virtual webinar or presentation, please email Dr. Stephanie E. Vasko (C4I Managing Director) at vaskoste@msu.edu.

2020 University Interdisciplinary Colloquium

"Art as Research // Research for Art"

Dylan Miner
American Indian and Indigenous Studies,
Residential College in the Arts and Humanities

11/13/20, 12-1PM
Zoom Link: https://msu.zoom.us/j/98504663406
Password: msuc4i

In his talk, geared specifically for the Interdisciplinary Colloquium, artist and scholar Dylan Miner will discuss his own artistic practice and the research methodologies that he employs within his artmaking practice, as well as the genre-crossing nature of his work. He will use his talk to think through contemporary art as an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary practice that explodes the logics of university-based disciplinarity.

2020 University Interdisciplinary Colloquium

Every other Friday starting 9-18-2020
12PM-1PM via Zoom

The University Interdisciplinary Colloquium celebrates excellence in interdisciplinary research that involves humanists or artists as partners. Presentations will be delivered by accomplished interdisciplinary scholars who are engaged in work that integrates a wide variety of perspectives, including the full range of perspectives within the university as well as those from outside the university.

Below you'll find our draft Fall 2020 schedule, stay tuned for more info!

University Interdisciplinary Colloquium
Fall 2020

12/4/20 — **April Baker-Bell** (English, African American and African Studies), ""We Need a Teacher-Researcher-Activist": An Interdisciplinary Approach to Antiracist Medical Education"

Announcing 2021 C4I Transdisciplinary Graduate Fellows Program: Applications Now Open!

Request for Applications
The TGFP provides teams of graduate students from different disciplines the opportunity to work with a community partner on a consequential problem while receiving training in transdisciplinary team research practice from the MSU Center for Interdisciplinarity. By creating a community of practice involving university and community partners, the TGFP aims to train future transdisciplinary research leaders.

We are seeking MSU graduate students with a strong interest in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research and a desire to collaborate with community partners to make a positive difference for the mid-Michigan area. Successful applicants will have experience working across disciplines and will be able to demonstrate an aptitude for teamwork.

Description of TGFP
The TGFP is a key part of the mission of the MSU Center for Interdisciplinarity (C4I). C4I is a research center that works to advance interdisciplinary research and education at MSU while preparing the next generation of citizen leaders to address the most challenging questions of our time. The TGFP supports the educational mission of C4I by providing graduate students at MSU with cross-disciplinary training opportunities.

The TGFP will provide teams of graduate students the opportunity to work with a community partner on a consequential problem while receiving training in transdisciplinary team research practice. By creating a community of practice involving university and community partners, the TGFP aims to train future transdisciplinary research leaders. The 2021 TGFP program will run virtually.

As participants in the TGFP, fellows will receive the following:
* A $5,000 fellowship paid out in two installments – one at the beginning of the spring and one at the end of the summer of the fellowship period, January to August 2021
* Professional development in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, community engagement, and team science
* Networking with peers, leaders in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary practice, and community partners
* Support in producing outcomes that will have value for academic researchers and for the community partner

Fellows in the TGFP are expected to:
* Participate in the virtual TGFP intensive short course during Jan 6-9, 2021
* Attend and participate in twice monthly, seminar-style virtual meetings that provide an opportunity for troubleshooting and for professional development
* Collaboratively develop final projects with one's teammates and community partner
* Participate in a final virtual TGFP Symposium in mid- to late-August 2021 at which the final projects will be presented to the MSU & partner communities

Deadline for all applications is November 30, 2020. Applicants will be notified by December 7, 2020 if they have moved on to the interview round, with interviews taking place between December 9 and December 14, 2020. Final notifications will be made on December 16, 2020, with acceptances due by December 21, 2020.

The detailed application description can be found here: https://c4i.msu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2020/11/TGFP-2021-Call-for-Applications.pdf

If you have any questions about TGFP or C4I, please contact Michael O'Rourke at orourk51@msu.edu or 517-432-0751.

2020 Fall Interdisciplinary Write-In

11/13/2020
9AM-11:45AM via Zoom

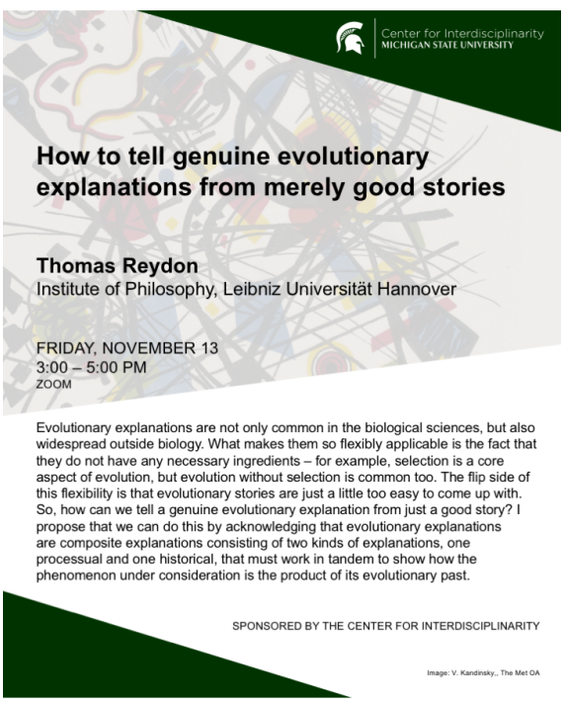
Are you working on an interdisciplinary journal article, grant proposal, book chapter, thesis, dissertation, curriculum, portfolio, online work, or piece of publicly-engaged scholarship? Join us for three hours of dedicated writing time to advance your interdisciplinary scholarship! Email vaskoste@msu.edu for the Zoom link and password.

C4I Visiting Fellow Lecture: Dr. Thomas Reydon presents "How to tell genuine evolutionary explanations from merely good stories"

11/13/20, 3-5PM
Zoom Link: https://msu.zoom.us/j/93473995920
Password: msuc4i

Join us for a lecture from C4I Visiting Fellow Dr. Thomas Reydon (Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover) titled "How to tell genuine evolutionary explanations from merely good stories."

Abstract
Evolutionary explanations are not only common in the biological sciences, but also widespread outside biology. What makes them so flexibly applicable is the fact that they do not have any necessary ingredients – for example, selection is a core aspect of evolution, but evolution without selection is common too. The flip side of this flexibility is that evolutionary stories are just a little too easy to come up with. So, how can we tell a genuine evolutionary explanation from just a good story? I propose that we can do this by acknowledging that evolutionary explanations are composite explanations consisting of two kinds of explanations, one processual and one historical, that must work in tandem to show how the phenomenon under consideration is the product of its evolutionary past.



Upcoming swissnex Event: Rivers, Time, and Collaborative Research

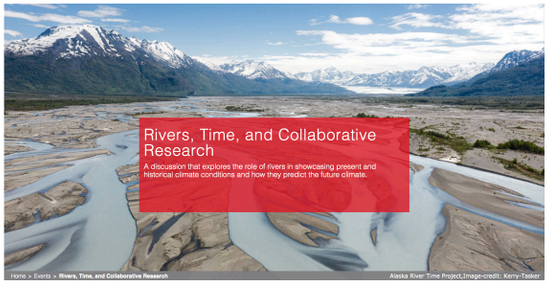
Dr. Stephanie E. Vasko (C4I Managing Director) will be serving as a panelist for swissnex San Francisco's upcoming "Rivers, Time, and Collaborative Research" event. This event is presented as part of swissnex San Francisco's Human and Planetary Health series examining the future of ourselves and our planet, bridging research, innovation, and art.

More information on the event here:
https://www.swissnexsanfrancisco.org/event/rivers-time-and-collaborative-research/

Register here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_olLEcByGRuC063ot2DZcEQ

Program (EST)
12:00pm — Introduction by Mary Ellyn Johnson, Head of Exhibitions swissnex SF

12:05pm — A New Atlas of Time –From Alaska to Switzerland and Beyond A dialogue with Jonathon Keats, artist and philosopher and Julie Decker, Director of The Anchorage Museum
12:20pm — Presentation of research: Bianca Vienni Baptista, Ph.D., Transdisciplinarity Lab, ETH Zurich
12:30pm — How to Foster Collaborative Research in the Arts and Humanities Discussion with Jonathon Keats, artist and philosophe; Bianca Vienni Baptista, Ph.D., Transdisciplinarity Lab, ETH Zurich
12:45pm — Q&A
1:00pm — Conclusion



Virtual Workshop: Co-Creation of Knowledge and Integration of Values for Equitable Research: Lessons from Indigenous Early Childhood Community Research Partnerships

11/18/2020, 10AM-12PM
Register here: https://events.engage.msu.edu/knowledge

Research initiatives which aim to identify inclusive and just responses to community problems require:
* integration of the different ways in which these problems are understood (e.g., by community members, by university partners), and
* generation of solutions, grounded in local and scientific knowledge, that align with the core beliefs and values of the partners.

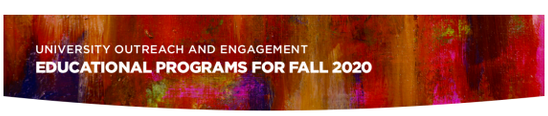
University faculty and staff involved in community-university partnerships frequently find themselves in the challenging position of attempting to foster dialogue and coordinated action across partners' different ways of understanding community problems, with little guidance on the techniques and tools for bridging these differences.

This panel will address this challenge of knowledge integration by sharing the techniques and approaches used by academics and community partners to co-create solutions. Partners from Michigan State University, Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health, University of Colorado Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, and the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan will describe their processes for co-creating knowledge and integrating values to move toward equitable research in the field of early childhood education and development.

In a panel discussion, these partners will identify the crosscutting lessons learned and unique strategies for co-creating knowledge and integrating values. Following the panel discussion, session participants will have the opportunity to engage with the panel through a Q&A session.

Panelists
* Jessica Barnes-Najor, Director for Community Partnerships, Office for Public Engagement and Scholarship, Michigan State University
* Allison Barlow, Director, Center for American Indian Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
* Michelle Sarche, Associate Professor, Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, University of Colorado
* Ann Cameron, Head Start Director, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
* Lisa Martin, Project Director, Tribal Home Visiting Project, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
* Elizabeth Kushman, Department Manager, Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Services, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan

Sponsored by: University Outreach and Engagement; Center for Interdisciplinarity (C4I)



Attention: Faculty, Academic Staff, and Graduate Students

Co-Creation of Knowledge and Integration of Values for Equitable Research

Lessons from Indigenous Early Childhood Community Research Partnerships

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time)
Register at: events.engage.msu.edu/knowledge

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Sponsored by: University Outreach and Engagement; Center for Interdisciplinarity (C4I)

To register, visit:
events.engage.msu.edu/knowledge

University Outreach and Engagement
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

New Book: Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Failures: Lessons Learned from Cautionary Tales

Check out *Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Failures: Lessons Learned from Cautionary Tales,* featuring Michael O'Rourke (C4I Director) as co-editor and a chapter co-author and Stephanie E. Vasko (C4I Managing Director) as a chapter co-author. Unlike other volumes in the current literature, this book provides insight for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary researchers and practitioners on what doesn't work. Documenting detailed case studies of project failure matters, not only as an illustration of experienced challenges but also as projects do not always follow step-by-step protocols of preconceived and theorised processes. Bookended by a framing introduction by the editors and a conclusion written by Julie Thompson Klein, each chapter ends with a reflexive section that synthesizes lessons learned and key take-away points for the reader.

Drawing on a wide range of international case studies and with a strong environmental thread throughout, the book reveals a range of failure scenarios for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary projects, including:
• Projects that did not get off the ground;
• Projects that did not have the correct personnel for specified objectives;
• Projects that did not reach their original objectives but met other objectives;
• Projects that failed to anticipate important differences among collaborators.

Illustrating causal links in real life projects, this volume will be of significant relevance to scholars and practitioners looking to overcome the challenges of conducting interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research.

Book available starting Nov. 1 at:
https://www.routledge.com/Interdisciplinary-and-Transdisciplinary-Failures-Lessons-Learned-from-Cautionary/Fam-ORourke/p/book/9780367207038

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c4i@msu.edu

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