

Wheelock College's Third Annual

Student Research Conference

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Wheelock College Third Annual Student Research Conference

8:45 AM

Welcome

David Chard, President

Opening Remarks

Detris Adelabu, Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences and
Chair, Conference Planning Committee

Overview of Presentations

9:00-10:00 AM

Singapore Student Presentations

- Deepening Story Comprehension through Participatory Story Drama
Jill See, Bethany Chang, Cheng Su Yi, Nural Amalina
- Refining Children's Reading Comprehension Skills through an Exposure to Wordless Books
Tan Xin Yi, Eileen Chia, Anne Chua, Zoey Tan

10:00-11:30 AM

Main Campus Student Presentations

- A Caregiver's Journey through an Autism Diagnosis
Alexandra Abrecht
- Friendship in College: The Relationship between Values and Activism
Carly Johnson, Jenne Powers
- Flashback to Fairytales & Folktales
Christina Bebe
- Environmental Factors and Autism Rates
Jamie Gentile

11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Research Project Poster Presentations

12:30-1:00 PM

Presentation of Awards and Wrap-up

Agenda

<p>9:00 - 9:30 am</p>	<p><u>Action Research (Singapore):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deepening Story Comprehension through Participatory Story Drama—<i>Jill See, Bethany Chang, Cheng Su Yi, Nural Amalina</i> 	<p>Wolf Room via Skype</p>
<p>9:30 – 10:00 am</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Refining Children’s Reading Comprehension Skills through an Exposure to Wordless Books—<i>Tan Xin Yi, Eileen Chia, Anne Chua, Zoey Tan</i> 	
<p>10:00 – 11:30 am</p>	<p><u>Research Presentations (Main Campus):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Friendship in College: The Relationship between Shared Values and Commitment to Activism—<i>Carly Johnson, Jenne Powers</i> ➤ A Caregiver’s Journey through an Autism Diagnosis—<i>Alexandra Abrecht</i> ➤ Flashback to Fairytales and Folktales—<i>Christina Bebe</i> ➤ Environmental Factors and Autism Rates—<i>Jamie Gentile</i> 	<p>Wolf Room</p>
<p>11:30 am – 12:30 pm</p>	<p><u>Research Methods:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Postpartum Mother—<i>Hana Abualragheb</i> ➤ Relationship between Nutrition and Mental Health—<i>Sara Cacho</i> ➤ Need for Coffee—<i>Carmella Campbell</i> ➤ Tattoos—<i>Amanda Melillo</i> ➤ Domestic Labor and Work Ethics—<i>Justyn Reed</i> ➤ The Effects of Color on Mood—<i>Antonia Robustelli</i> ➤ Breakfast Consumption and Energy Levels—<i>Madison Smith</i> <p><u>Human Growth and Development:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Does Social Media Cause Body Dissatisfaction?—<i>Lore Huynh</i> 	<p>CCSR Ground Level Hallway—Posters</p>

Individual Research Projects:

- **Potential Positive Impact of Anti-Bias Curricula**—*Erica Chepulis*
- **21st Century Bilingual Education Models**—*Meilin Chong*
- **Impact of Female High School Dress Codes**—*Haley Gaughan*
- **Too Hot for School: Urban Campuses Impact Urban Heat Island Effect**—*Haley Gaughan, Victoria Rosa, Lisa Lobel*
- **Movement Breaks in an Elementary Classroom**—*Caitlin Kelleher*

Conference Committee Members:

- Detris Adelabu, Chair
- Janine Bempechat
- Beth Fredericks
- Marie Gendron
- Tracy Joyce
- Karen Storz
- Lauren Thorman
- Eleonora Villegas-Reimers
- Administrative Support: Nancy Hutchins

Abstracts

9:00 – 10:00 AM

RES 651, Action Research (Singapore)

Wolf Room via Skype

Presenters: Jill See, Bethany Chang, Cheng Su Yi, Nural Amalina

Tan Xin Yi, Eileen Chia, Anne Chua, Zoey Tan

Discussant: Lauren Thorman

Deepening Story Comprehension through Participatory Story Drama

The presentation will summarize the group's findings of how story drama develops story comprehension in bilingual 6-year-old children. This is inclusive of research literature and the research process.

Refining Children's Reading Comprehension Skills through an Exposure to Wordless Books

Our study aims to investigate the implications of an exposure to wordless books on children's reading comprehension abilities. Hypothesizing that an increased exposure to narrative wordless picture books would help children draw greater inferential and interpretative meanings from the story, and refine their abilities to comprehend stories, the key question that guided our study was to understand if the removal of pre-assigned accompanying text in books would encourage children to engage in a variety of reading process skills, and through it develop improved comprehension abilities.

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Research Presentations

Wolf Room

Presenters: Carly Johnson, Jenne Powers, Alexandra Abrecht, Christina Bebe, Jamie Gentile

Discussant: Eleonora Villegas-Reimers

Friendship in College: The Relationship between Shared Values and Commitment to Activism—Carly Johnson, Jenne Powers

The proposed study seeks to explore the relationship between campus activism and friendship. Many college students find that they transition from one friend group to another as they become more integrated into the social and academic aspects of college life and as their commitment to social justice values and activism deepens.

Current research supports the importance of friendship to college success as well as the likelihood that intergroup friendships promote social justice outcomes. Our study seeks to build on that research through an autoethnographic study of friends involved in campus activism at Wheelock College. The student researcher's perspective and experiences are crucial to the success of the project. Through conversations and observations, we seek to honor our participants' stories as we discover the role that friendship plays in their commitment to campus justice and equity.

A Caregiver's Journey through an Autism Diagnosis—*Alexandra Abrecht*

The goal of this research was to examine the psychosocial implications a caregiver faces during the Autism diagnostic process. After the research was compiled and analyzed, a set of examples of what we can do as professionals, paraprofessionals, and a friend can do in an effort to help better support their needs during this difficult process. This presentation is comprised of a summary of the emotions a care giver may experience during major points in the diagnostic process and suggestions for how we can support them best through these times.

Flashback to Fairytales and Folktales—*Christina Bebe*

Fairytales are one of the first genres we are introduced to as children. Without even realizing it, these stories filled with magic and mischief begin to shape our views of society and how we fit in the world. This presentation will explore and analyze the framework of fairytales, with stories we've known since childhood and a tale you've never heard before!

Environmental Factors and Autism Rates—*Jamie Gentile*

In the past decade or so, the rate of autism has been increasing tremendously. Professionals are touting this to better diagnostic abilities, but some are starting to question the role of the environment. I am looking at the validity of the research on the possible link between environmental factors and the risk of autism. A trend showing increased exposure to pollution correlating to an increased risk of autism implies that states with high pollution rates should have some of the highest rates of autism.

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

HDP 264, Research Methods

Campus Center Hallway

Presenters: Hana Abualragheb, Sara Cacho, Carmella Campbell, Amanda Melillo, Justyn Reed, Antonia Robustelli, Madison Smith

Individual Research Projects

CCSR Ground Level Hallway

Presenters: Erica Chepulis, Meilin Chong, Haley Gaughan, Lore Huynh, Caitlin Kelleher

Research Methods:

Postpartum Mother—*Hana Abualragheb*

Relationship between Nutrition and Mental Health—*Sara Cacho*

Need for Coffee—*Carmella Campbell*

Tattoos—*Amanda Melillo*

Domestic Labor and Work Ethics—*Justyn Reed*

The Effects of Color on Mood—*Antonia Robustelli*

Breakfast Consumption and Energy Levels—*Madison Smith*

Individual Research Projects:

Potential Positive Impact of Anti-Bias Curricula—*Erica Chepulis*

21st Century Bilingual Education Models—*Meilin Chong*

Impact of Female High School Dress Codes—*Haley Gaughan*

HDP 131, Human Growth and Development II

CCSR Ground Level Hallway

Presenter: Lore Huynh

Too Hot for School: Urban Campuses Impact Urban Heat Island Effect—

Haley Gaughan, Victoria Rosa, Lisa Lobel

Movement Breaks in an Elementary Classroom—*Caitlin Kelleher*

Human Growth and Development:

Does Social Media Cause Body Dissatisfaction?—*Lore Huynh*