College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Faculty Research Colloquium

19 November 2021

Via Zoom

Presentations begin at 3:00pm.

**Alisha Karabinus** (Writing & Digital Studies) “Working at Play: Survey Results from Game Industry Professionals on Hobbyist Experience.”

In this talk, I present exploratory data from a survey of games industry professionals asking participants to weigh the potential value of hobbyist and volunteer experience as "work" experience. These types of volunteer experiences are offered as possible alternatives to internships, an important tool for professionalization that may be inaccessible to some students, particularly some of those historically sidelined in the games industry. Demonstrating expanded opportunities for job seekers in the games industry could be an important step forward in helping to diversify a field that has long struggled with exclusivity but could also have implications for how we as educators teach students to self-evaluate when creating professionalization documents. This data, which serves as a springboard for a larger project, demonstrates divides between professionalization resources and a fast-moving professional reality.

**Will Bowers** (Biology) “New considerations for investigating tree water use.”

Most plants lose about 99% of the water their roots absorb through transpiration, whereby water exits tiny pores on the surfaces of leaves. As large plants, trees remove considerable quantities of water from their environment via transpiration and thereby reduce the amount of available water for other users, such as humans. As temperatures rise with global warming, the water transpired by plants could increase and result in even less available freshwater for other users. The woody tissue of trees is responsible for transporting water taken up by roots to the leaves and a common assumption in past studies has been that water is well mixed and homogenous within this woody tissue. Thus, sampling woody tissue and extracting all the water from the sample was assumed to be representative of both the water absorbed by roots and the water transpired by the leaves. However, results from several recent studies have suggested that the water within the woody tissue is heterogenous. More work is needed to investigate the possible mechanism(s) contributing to the heterogeneity, such as variable flow paths and rates within the woody tissue and/or water stored within the woody tissue that is not participating in flow. Determining the extent of the mechanism(s) at play will help studies and models estimate current and future tree transpiration quantities that contribute substantially to water losses from environments.

**Mario Fifić** (Psychology) “Two faces of facial holistic perception”

The other-race effect refers to the difficulty of discriminating between faces from ethnic and racial groups other than one’s own. In the last decades, we have been witnessing an intensification of cross-race social interactions. In a multicultural society the other-race faces are everywhere: on TV, at doctors, at business meetings, in schools, shops etc. Even more than before, identification of other races, by relying on face recognition, is considered to be very important. With the world-wide increase in demand for social interactions, the difficultness of identification of other-race faces emerged too. In this presentation I will describe a novel methodology to explore properties of facial perception using computational modelling. I will also show some data collected In a cross-cultural study, conducted together with collaborators from Taiwan, in which we compared both Asian (Taiwanese) and Caucasian (US) participants’ face discrimination of both own-race and other-race faces (Taiwanese and Caucasian woman).

Future colloquia are scheduled for:

Thursday, Jan 20

Thursday, Feb 17

Thursday, March 17

If you would like to give a presentation at one of the colloquia in the winter semester, please send an email to stavesm@gvsu.edu with preferred dates and a tentative title for your presentation.