

CASCON 2024

Blitz Talks

Shaun James (Jamess8@sacredheart.edu)

Psychology

Preventing Cortical Dysfunction in Mice Prenatally Exposed to Alcohol

Behavioral Neuroscience, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Prenatal alcohol exposure produces a range of complex disorders, known as fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), impacting an estimated 1 in 20 school-aged children with a wide spectrum of clinical manifestations, including cognitive and behavioral deficits, craniofacial abnormalities and growth impairments. The Cognitive lab aims to provide an avenue for early therapeutic intervention to subdue the currently irreversible development of FASDs by regulating the fetal alcohol-induced neuroinflammatory response. Taking a multipronged approach, we combine three techniques (optical imaging, EEG and behavioral tests) to gain an in-depth view into the neural functions that underlie FASD symptoms. Results from our projects may also inform the development of novel treatment strategies for other severe fetal development disorders, such as preeclampsia, hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy and fetal nicotine exposure.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship

Emily Mane (manee@sacredheart.edu)

Chemistry

New Organometallic Catalysts and Ligands for the Synthesis of Pharmaceutical Drugs

Chemistry, synthesis

The development of efficient, inexpensive and sustainable methods for synthesizing pharmaceutical drugs is a critical focus in modern organic and organometallic chemistry. Palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions are among the most frequently used reactions for the synthesis of many common "blockbuster" drugs on the market. These reactions are efficient and highly reliable, yet the necessity of palladium for these processes can drive up the cost of drugs since it is a rare element and is toxic to humans in even small quantities. Cross-coupling catalysts made from first-row transition metals, such as iron, copper and nickel, are alternatives to traditional palladium catalysts. They are much cheaper and safer for the consumer, yet their reactivity is comparatively poorly understood.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship

Kristen Savell (savellk@sacredheart.edu)

Biology

Making Molehills out of Mountains: Gait Transition & Cost of Transport during Hill-Climbing

Biomechanics, metabolism

This study aims to determine if and when a subject chooses to change gait while climbing a slope and if the change in gait is associated with a relative reduction in the cost of movement. We are interested in how the foot hits the ground at different inclines, how that is affected by the

walker's choice of gait and the resulting influence on metabolic energy consumption.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship

David Shaenfield (shaenfieldd@sacredheart.edu)

Psychology

Insights from the Evaluation of the Department of Biology's In-CoMMoN Scholarship Program

Student scholarship evaluation

The Department of Biology at Sacred Heart University concluded the National Science Foundation-funded In-CoMMoN (Involvement in Coastal and Marine, Molecular and Neuroscience) scholarship program, which provided scholarships to 14 low-income and academically talented students majoring in general biology, coastal and marine science, molecular and cellular biology, and neuroscience. As part of the project, we conducted a research study to investigate the effect of student-faculty and student-peer supports on achievement, retention and graduation.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship

Marlina Slamet (slametm@sacredheart.edu)

Physics

A Proposal for an Experimental Search for the Ground Triplet State of a Two-Electron 'Artificial Atom' in a Magnetic Field

Quantum dot, Schrodinger equation, triplet state

It is experimentally known that a ground triplet state of the natural helium atom does not exist (triplet state means the two electrons in the atom have the same spin). Single-orbital theories obeying the Pauli exclusion principle confirm the absence of this spectral line. There is no exact solution of the Schrodinger equation corresponding to this state. We propose an experimental search of the spectrum of a two-electron 'artificial atom' or semiconductor quantum dot in the presence of a magnetic field, for the ground triplet state. The reasons for the proposal are: (a) technological advances allow the creation of such an 'atom' for other states; (b) the state exists in theory: we have derived the exact analytical wave function solutions of the corresponding Schrodinger equation corresponding to the system. These wave functions have all the properties that true (correct) wave functions do, such as they obey the Pauli principle of anti-symmetry requirement, their structures are 'well behaved' (not singular, single-valued, smooth, bounded and square-integrable), they have the correct parity and number of nodes, produce good electron density, etc.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship

LaTina Steele (steelel@sacredheart.edu)

Biology

Marsh Matters: Plotting a Path Toward Coastal Resilience in a Warming World

Marine biology, ecology, climate change

Salt marshes are crucial coastal ecosystems that protect coastlines against erosion and provide nursery grounds and habitat for numerous species. Understanding restored and natural marsh dynamics in a warming world is essential for maintaining healthy and sustainable coastal communities.

Sustainability

Ashley Stoehr (stoehra@sacredheart.edu)

Biology

Thriving on the Edge: How Anatomy and Physiology Conquer Extreme Environments

Physiological adaptations, environmental flexibility, survival strategies

In my research, I explore how the anatomy and physiology of various organisms shape their ability to survive and thrive in changing environments. I focus on how temperature affects the physiology, behavior and distribution of highly active organisms that inhabit extreme environments. This includes studying large, open-ocean fishes diving into cold waters below the thermocline, intertidal organisms enduring dramatic shifts in conditions with the tides and even humans tackling the challenges of mountain climbing. To address these questions, I use a combination of fieldwork, biochemical analyses, and biomechanical techniques that allow me to study processes at cellular and organismal levels. By investigating how organisms adapt to diverse and demanding ecosystems, my work contributes to our understanding of how species' behaviors and distributions are shaped. This knowledge is crucial for predicting how species might respond to environmental changes in the future.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship, Sustainability

Rodney Versace (versacer@sacredheart.edu)

Chemistry

Effect of Chain Length and Unsaturation of Monoglycerides in the Bilayer Permeability

Computational biochemistry, cell membrane

Computer simulations of lipid membranes have been successfully used to provide atomic details describing water transport process. A deeper understanding of passive transport processes will provide knowledge of the lipid dynamics in biological membranes and will be useful to understand transport and permeation processes at the molecular level. We have investigated the effect of acyl chain structure of monoglycerides on the permeability of water across membranes composed of these monoglycerides, where the acyl chain length (C14–C20) and number of double bonds (1–4) are varied systematically along the acyl chains. The free energies of water permeation process were determined using the adaptive biasing force (ABF) method, a technique used to determine the free energy of a particular molecule along a z-axis reaction coordinate. The results allow us to make comparisons between the different lipids and potentially better elucidate the contributions that molecular motifs make to the permeation process.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship

Sandra Young (youngs@sacredheart.edu)

Languages and Literature

Earning a Graduate Degree in Writing, Editing and Publishing at SHU

Writing jobs in the actual world

The Master of Arts in Writing, Editing and Publishing program is designed to provide content-creating opportunities for students to study and enhance their skills in the theory and practice of professional writing, editing and publishing in print (legacy media), digital, hybrid and social media. Students will ascertain ways to understand, adapt and contend with the challenges of artificial intelligence (AI) and tools, such as ChatGPT, QuillBot and Bard. Though our media world employs a wide range of platforms, this program reminds us that our world still needs explaining, and that there are stories to be told, revised edited, and published.

Catholic intellectual and liberal arts tradition, engaging with or making contributions to the community

Paws, Purpose and Partnerships

Annie Johnson (johnsona21@sacredheart.edu) and Mark Congdon (congdonm2@sacredheart.edu)

Office of Community Engagement, Communications and Media

Fostering Community Engagement and Service-Learning: A Collaborative Approach

Community engagement, service-learning

This presentation will explore the multifaceted benefits of community engagement and service-learning as educational strategies, both of which are essential elements in the framework of the Catholic intellectual tradition. We will share the theories of these approaches, highlighting their potential to enhance student learning, promote civic responsibility, strengthen community partnerships and live out the mission of the university.

Key areas of discussion will include:

- Defining community engagement and service-learning: A clear understanding of these terms and their distinctions
- Benefits for students: Examining the positive impacts on academic achievement, personal development and career readiness
- Benefits for communities: Exploring how these initiatives can address pressing social issues and build stronger communities
- Collaborative partnerships: Discussing strategies for effective collaboration between educational institutions, community organizations and stakeholders
- Best practices and challenges: Sharing successful case studies and addressing potential obstacles in implementing community engagement and service-learning programs.

By the end of this presentation, participants will have a comprehensive understanding of the value of community engagement and service-learning and be equipped with practical insights to implement or enhance their own course.

Catholic intellectual and liberal arts tradition, engaging with or making contributions to the community

Deirdre Yeater (yeaterd@sacredheart.edu), Dawn Melzer (melzerd365@sacredheart.edu), and Barbara Pierce (pierceb@sacredheart.edu)

Psychology and Biology

Therapy Dogs as a Wellness Intervention

Animal assisted therapy

There is very little research-based evidence on the effectiveness of animal assisted therapy (AAT), although the practice is popular. This study examined the benefits that high school and college-level students may receive in decreasing stress levels and increasing self-efficacy after a 10-minute interaction with therapy dogs. Student stress levels were assessed, before and after the therapy dog interaction, using psychological and physiological measures. Even after brief encounters, students at the high school and college levels benefited from interacting with a service dog in a school environment. Future studies will investigate the effect of a long-term AAT interaction (several exposures over the course of a semester) with a therapy dog for a cohort of Sacred Heart nursing students.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship, engaging with or making contributions to the community

Time, Memory and Irish Poetry

June-Ann Greeley (greeleyj@sacredheart.edu), Abby Bender (bendera5@sacredheart.edu), and Marie Hulme (hulmem@sacredheart.edu)

Languages and Literature

Time, Memory and Irish Poetry

Irish poetry, environment, memory

Eilean ní Chuilleanáin was born in Cork in 1942, to a family of writers and musicians who were also ardent Republicans. Ní Chuilleanain was educated at Cork and then at Oxford but has spent the majority of her academic career at Trinity College Dublin. She has won numerous awards for her poetry and is considered one of the most important Irish poets of her generation.

While her poems address themes as wide-ranging as Irish convent life, patriarchy in Irish Catholicism and Irish secular culture, and the deleterious effects of the ‘Celtic tiger’ in the late 20th- and early 21st-centuries, the majority of her poetry is a meditation on the land, its stories, and the people who have lived on the land. Her poems consider points of place and areas of space in Ireland to be apparent in present time but evocative of past time. In her poetry, she meditates on the relentless pull of memory that the land inspires. As this presentation will demonstrate, her poetry invokes a physical world that is immediate and present, but its effects are conjured from the dim past, laden with depths of meaning. For ní Chuilleanain, the world of nature is a kind of palimpsest that, in its basic form, anchors her narrators and her poems to a quotidian reality, yet propels them into realms of history and myth and spirit: her poems express revelations of depth and gradations of concealed realities in the surrounding environment that, usually unbidden, unveil themselves to the consciousness and to the memory.

Catholic intellectual and liberal arts tradition

Marie Hulme (hulmem@sacredheart.edu)

Languages and Literature

Seamus Heaney and Michael Longley: Fidelity to Poetic Integrity in a Time of Political Conflict

This presentation examines the poetry of Seamus Heaney and Michael Longley in consideration of the concepts of identity, place, and memory. Both poets emerged as voices closely associated with the time of “The Troubles” in Northern Ireland and both struggled with being poets of their time and place, while maintaining fidelity to their individual poetic identity. Neither poet wanted their poetry co-opted by the sectarian politics of the time, yet they were each assigned “a side” in that conflict that ravaged Catholic (Heaney) and Protestant (Longley) communities throughout the 30 years of “The Troubles,” by virtue of their religious backgrounds and cultural identities. Specific poems will be discussed that demonstrate each poet’s search for a poetic truth that rises above simplistic notions of identity.

Catholic intellectual and liberal arts tradition

Abby Bender (bendera5@sacredheart.edu)

Languages and Literature

History and Memory in Eavan Boland's Last Poems

Eavan Boland was one of Ireland's great poets, and a central figure in shaping 20th- and 21st-century literary history; it is fitting that, in 2024, Trinity College Dublin renamed its main humanities library after her. Boland's final volume of poems, *The Historians*, was published posthumously in the year of her death, 2020. This talk will look closely at a couple of poems from this final book—a book that deepens Boland's sustained interest in history, memory and the possibilities of language.

Catholic intellectual and liberal arts tradition

Birds, Babies and Beyond

Emily Levy (levye2@sacredheart.edu)

Biology

Behavior, Ecology & Physiology of Backyard Birds

Birds, fieldwork

Backyard birds like bluebirds, house sparrows and tree swallows aren't just fun to watch—they also allow us to ask questions at the intersection of animal behavior, ecology, physiology and evolution. For example, how does aggressive behavior affect gene expression in the brains of female tree swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*)? We exposed 10 females to a simulated territorial intrusion, which caused an aggressive response. After this social challenge, we measured neural gene expression via RNA-seq in these females, as well as 10 unchallenged controls. We found that gene expression was not significantly different between experimental and control females. However, within the experimental group, more aggressive females had upregulation of genes associated with immune activation and downregulation of genes associated with synaptic plasticity relative to less aggressive females.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship, engaging with or making contributions to the community

Lauren Bryant (bryantl3@sacredheart.edu)

Psychology

Baby See, Baby Do: Associations Among Infants' Imitation and EEG Activity

Babies and brains

The EEG (electroencephalogram) mu rhythm is an index of activity within the human neural mirroring system, which activates during action observation and execution. This overlap in activation during action perception and performance has been theorized to support various social cognitive functions (e.g., imitation, action understanding)—however, these associations remain relatively understudied, especially in infant populations. We examined whether 6-month-old infants' mu rhythm desynchronization (MRD) is associated with their imitation. Consistent with our hypotheses, preliminary analyses found that infants with stronger MRD during action observation performed more actions on an imitation task than infants with weaker MRD.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship

Victoria Osborne (osbornev4@sacredheart.edu) and **Maura Rhodes**

(rhodesm@sacredheart.edu)

Social Work

Virtually real? An Examination of an Immersive Virtual Reality Standardized Patient Experience for Social Work Students

Virtual reality, experiential learning

Virtual reality (VR) in an immersive platform, requiring a headset to enter a 3D world, has been used in health care education to teach medical procedures and in clinical care as a part of psychotherapy. Its use has not been studied much for the “softer” skills of health care education. While in-person interactions with standardized patients (SPs) are very effective, they are limited in use due to the cost of hiring actors and the need for space. This study assessed the experiences of 21 Master of Social Work students who participated in a role-play simulation utilizing VR.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship

Caroline Comerford (comerfordc@sacredheart.edu)

Sociology, Criminology and Criminal Justice

Home Invasion Serial Killers vs. Non-Home Invasion Serial Killers: Common Characteristics and Geospatial Patterns

Serial killers

This study sought to address the research gap in serial homicide regarding home invasion serial killers (HISKs) and add to existing policy by providing insight to assist in serial murder investigations. Data were obtained from the 2019 Radford University/Florida Gulf Coast University Serial Killer Database and additional public information searches. Findings revealed that HISKs warrant a distinct classification from non-HISKs in terms of modus operandi and crime scene actions.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship

Voting Voices and Racial Realities

Marylena Mantas-Kourounis (mantas-kourounise@sacredheart.edu) and Todd Matthews (matthewst3@sacredheart.edu)

Political Science & Global Affairs; Sociology, Criminology & Criminal Justice

The Effects of Civic Education, Political Information & Political Memories on Political Participation and Self-Censorship

Youth political participation

By November 2024, Gen Z youth included approximately 40 million eligible voters, amounting to one-fifth of the American electorate. In 2020, voter turnout among people aged 18 to 24 stood at 48%. While this was one of the highest rates in the past four decades, it was approximately 25 percentage points lower than that of those aged 65 to 74, a gap that is largest among advanced democracies across the globe. This study assesses the factors aiding and inhibiting youth political participation in the United States.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship, engaging with or making contributions to the community

Bill Yousman (yousmanw@sacredheart.edu)

Communication & Media

Will the Real Critical Race Theory Please Stand Up? Debunking Myths and Challenging Disinformation

Critical race theory and disinformation

Emerging from U.S. legal studies in the 1970s, the term critical race theory encompasses a wide range of research and pedagogical practices focused on the central roles that racism and

white supremacy play in political, economic, legal, social and cultural arrangements in the United States and beyond. Since the 1990s, and especially since the 2020 U.S. political season, conservative activists and politicians have used the term as a political weapon. This presentation provides an overview of critical race theory's history and major tenets, explains how its ideas have been distorted and examines how this disinformation has been weaponized for political ends.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship

Conversations with Laudato Si'

Chelsea King (kingc2@sacredheart.edu)

Catholic Studies

The Cost of Care: Sacrifice and Ecological Conversion in Laudato Si'

Laudato Si', environmentalism, sacrifice, ecology

The concept of ecological conversion, as articulated in Laudato Si', calls for a profound transformation of individual hearts and societal systems to address the pressing environmental crises. This presentation explores the critical role that sacrifice plays in facilitating such a conversion, drawing on Pope Francis' encyclical to highlight how ecological consciousness must be grounded in a spirit of self-denial and shared responsibility. While modern ecological discourse often emphasizes technological solutions and policy reforms, Laudato Si' insists on the necessity of a deeper moral and spiritual change that challenges the prevailing culture of consumerism and convenience.

Catholic intellectual and liberal arts tradition, sustainability

Daniel Rober (roberd@sacredheart.edu)

Catholic Studies

Bruno Latour's Embrace of Laudato Si': Interdisciplinary Catholic Ecology

Ecology, anthropology

The French philosopher and social scientist Bruno Latour dedicated some of his final books to ecological issues. In his last work, he engages directly with Pope Francis' Laudato Si'. This presentation analyzes the interdisciplinary conversation that Latour's work opens with Francis around these concerns. Latour's interest demonstrates the interdisciplinary engagement that Francis has fostered with his encyclical and opens new paths for its interpretation and implementation.

Catholic intellectual and liberal arts tradition, pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship, sustainability

June-Ann Greeley (greeleyj@sacredheart.edu)

Languages and Literature

The Cosmographia of Bernardus Silvestris and its Radical Challenge to Laudato Si'

Nature, the divine feminine

In the 12th century, Bernardus Silvestris, a philosopher at the school of Chartres, composed the *Cosmographia*, exploring the creation of the universe as "megacosmos" and "microcosmos." This work reflects medieval concepts of nature and the Divine Feminine as active agents in the universe's formation. While *Cosmographia* resonates with the teaching of Laudato Si' regarding the inherent goodness of the material world, it presents a radical departure by ascribing autonomous agency to the natural world, distinct from God's direction.

Catholic intellectual and liberal arts tradition

Liberalism: From Global to Local

Ximeng Chen (chenx2@sacredheart.edu)

Political Science and Global Affairs

Diaspora Philanthropy: Exploring the Roles of Intermediary Organizations

Philanthropy, organizations

Diaspora philanthropy refers to charitable giving and support from migrants residing in host countries to causes associated with their countries of origin. Intermediary organizations often play a critical role in facilitating these contributions by identifying the needs and priorities of local communities and effectively communicating them to donors. This presentation introduces recent work on diaspora philanthropy, addressing the types of intermediary organizations and evaluating their effectiveness.

Engaging with or making contributions to the community

Marylena Mantas-Kourounis (mantas-kourounise@sacredheart.edu)

Political Science and Global Affairs

Civic Education and Youth Political Engagement in Rural America

Youth political participation, rural politics

Approximately 20 percent of American students attend schools in rural communities, but research often overlooks these areas, especially in civic education. This study explores civic education policies in states with rural districts, examining civic knowledge and skills among students in these communities compared to their urban and suburban counterparts. Using data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and Harvard Youth Poll, the study sheds light on youth political participation in rural America, where students often face “civic deserts” with limited opportunities for civic engagement.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship, engaging with or making contributions to the community

Zhen Han (hanz@sacredheart.edu)

Political Science and Global Affairs

Global Challenges to Liberalism and Their Impact on Local Life

Globalization, politics

Since the late 2010s, economic and political liberalism has faced significant global challenges, with radical ideologies, violence and illiberal practices leading to social fragmentation and the erosion of democratic institutions. This research examines the forces that are challenging liberalism on a global scale and investigates how these challenges impact local communities. The study emphasizes understanding global dynamics and reinforcing liberal values to prepare for future challenges.

Sustainability, engaging with or making contributions to the community

Navigating Threat: Understanding, Resilience and Empowerment

Adrienne Crowell (crowella2@sacredheart.edu)

Psychology

“It’s Not You, It’s Me:” How Self-Affirmation Can Reduce Defensiveness to Self-Threats

Self-threat, narcissism

Adrienne Crowell's, Ph.D., Self and Emotions Lab studies how people respond to self-threats.

This talk provides an overview of previous and ongoing studies incorporating emotional, physiological and personality measurements to understand responses to threats. It focuses on self-affirmation, a theory that provides a framework for reducing defensiveness in response to threats, and its relationship to narcissism.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship

Katie Kroeper (kroeperk@sacredheart.edu)

Psychology

How Do You Measure a Threat in the Air? Developing and Validating the Social Identity Threat Concerns (SITC) Inventory

Identity, threat

Social identity threat arises in contexts where individuals' social identities face negative judgment or mistreatment. Katie Kroeper's, Ph.D., UNITE Lab has developed and validated a psychological instrument, called the Social Identity Threat Concerns Inventory, to capture these social identity threat concerns, including worries about belonging, authenticity, respect, safety and stereotyping. Across nine studies with 5,763 participants, the inventory demonstrates high reliability and validity. This presentation will introduce the SITC Inventory and highlight its potential as a tool for understanding how social contexts shape experiences of social identities and can help organizations address norms that perpetuate social disadvantage.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship

Michael Vale (valem@sacredheart.edu)

Psychology

The Prevalence and Consequences of Benevolent Ageism

Psychology, social justice

Ageism involves stigma and discrimination based on age, with negative stereotypes often targeting older adults. Benevolent ageism is a mixed attitude that sees older people as cute and less competent. This presentation highlights research from the SMILES Lab on the roots, prevalence and consequences of benevolent ageism, which aims to deepen understanding of this form of discrimination.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship

Narratives of Human Trafficking

Emily Bryan (bryane@sacredheart.edu)

Languages and Literature

"Take Their Children and Train Them Up": English Boy Actors, Indigenous Children and the Virginia Company

Human trafficking

This presentation examines evidence around the incorporation of boys into early modern all-boy choirs and theater companies, revealing how the abduction of children was framed as beneficial but lacked consent. The legal documents enabling choir masters and theater managers to take boys served as a model for the Virginia Company to take Indigenous children, illustrating that the erasure of Indigenous identity as a colonial strategy began much earlier than commonly discussed.

Catholic intellectual and liberal arts tradition, pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship, engaging with or making contributions to the community

Nidhi Shrivastava (shrivastavan@sacredheart.edu)

Languages and Literature

“Permanent Refugees:” #MeToo, Central Recovery Operation of the Government of India (1948-1957), The Recovery and Restoration of Abducted Women

Narratives of human trafficking

Since 2017, the #MeToo movement has gained traction worldwide, yet India continues to grapple with gender-based violence, with cases dating back to the Partition absent from mainstream discourse. This presentation explores the Central Recovery Operation, a joint effort by India and Pakistan to recover women abducted during the Partition riots. Using archival data and testimonies, it argues that rape survivors embody national anxieties around honor and shame, prompting a re-evaluation of the #MeToo movement as a means of solidarity and community healing.

Catholic intellectual and liberal arts tradition, pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship

Julia Bates (batesj5@sacredheart.edu)

Sociology, Criminology and Criminal Justice

The Role of Race in Legitimizing Institutionalization: A Comparative Analysis of Early Child Removal Initiatives in the United States

Human trafficking and race

In the current foster care system, white children receive more favorable treatment compared to black children. Historically, child welfare advocates promoted the deinstitutionalization of white children while supporting the large-scale institutionalization of American Indian children in boarding schools. This presentation examines the racial disparities within American child welfare initiatives and the legacy of these practices.

Engaging with or making contributions to the community

Analisa Gagnon (gagnona2@sacredheart.edu)

Sociology, Criminology and Criminal Justice

Victims of Human Trafficking and Victim Impact Statements: A Case for Artificial Intelligence

AI, victims

This study explores the potential of artificial intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, to enhance victim impact statements during court proceedings, particularly for individuals with limited writing skills. It examines whether AI can support victims in detailing the harm experienced, potentially influencing policy and improving support from victim service providers.

Pursuit of knowledge and truth through teaching and scholarship, engaging with or making contributions to the community