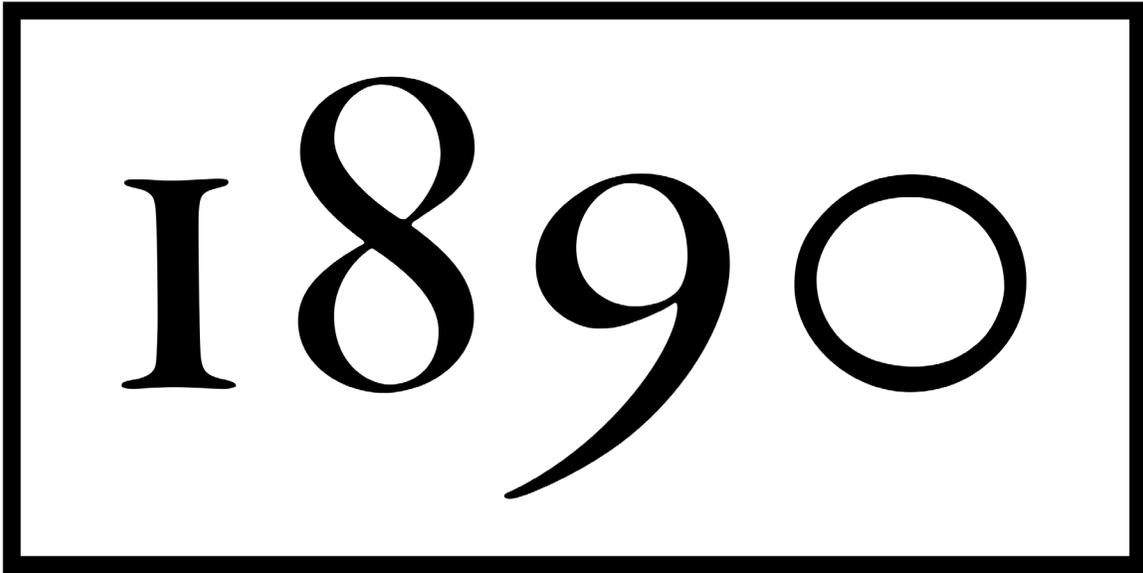


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*Natural Diet Versus. Drugs and Supplements for Sports Performance and Recovery*

Taylor Keiser

ABSTRACT

During the past few decades there has been a significant increase in the use of supplements among athletes, as well as in the general population. New products are being made every year that are being sold in stores around the world. But are these products really worth purchasing? Does the risk of use outweigh the benefits? Would a natural diet be enough to sustain a healthy life, even for athletes and frequent gym visitors? These are some of the many questions that will be answered within this article. This report will focus on the comparison between natural foods, drugs, and supplements pertaining to sports performance and recovery.

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*The Whitney Plantation: Examining America's First Slavery Museum as a Trauma Site*

Mattie Barlow

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Teresa Pac

ABSTRACT

The first trauma-site museum dedicated to the history of slavery in the United States opened over 150 years after the emancipation of slaves. By considering that historical sites connect the present with cultural and national heritage, and thereby contribute to the construction of collective identity and memory, two major questions arise: (1) Why has slavery been absent in the public space? (2) How can the trauma-site museum respectively educate audiences about a dark part of U.S. history that can be difficult to address? I will argue that neglecting to include the history of slavery in the public space reflects a national identity that minimizes slavery's role in the foundation of U.S. economics, affecting the current political and cultural makeup of the nation. First, this study will begin with a general analysis of trauma-site memorial museums and the significance of memorializing what could be interpreted as sacred ground. Next, this paper will examine the Whitney Plantation in Wallace, Louisiana, as a trauma-site and its role as one of the only former plantations to focus on the slave experiences. Finally, the Whitney Plantation will be compared to a similar trauma-site memorial museum, Les Maison des Esclaves on Goreé Island off the coast of Dakar, Senegal. By visiting trauma-sites of slavery, perhaps audiences will leave better prepared for the dialogue of the current racial issues in the 21st century.

KEYWORDS: Plantation, Slavery, Trauma-site, Memorial Museum, Whitney Plantation

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*A Comparative Study of the Dragon as a Symbol of Authority in Qing Dynasty, China and Early 15th Century Italy*

Jennifer Elton

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Teresa Pac

ABSTRACT

The image of the dragon has existed for thousands of years in many cultures. Both Western and Eastern societies often invested the dragon with religious, political, and societal significance. Scholars have analyzed these significances, but rarely are the cultural and symbolic implications of the images compared. This comparative research is a semiotic analysis of the images of the dragon in Qing dynasty China (1644-1911) as it appears in a Festival Robe (late 18th century), and in medieval Italy as it appears in the painting Saint Michael and the Dragon (ca. 1405). First, this research will discuss the dragon as a symbol utilized in cultural communication. Second, a formal analysis of each artwork will be provided as a foundation to inform the rest of the study. Third, a discussion of the iconography and symbolism of each artwork will be presented to demonstrate the significance of the dragon

for each culture in which it was produced. The study will utilize myths, legends, and traditions of the respective societies within the social, cultural, and political frameworks. The resulting information indicates that while the dragons in each society conveyed different meanings, in both cultures the dragon was used to invest nobility within the authority power.

KEYWORDS: Italy, Saint Michael and the Dragon, Qing Dynasty

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*The Politics of Rap Music in Brazil*

Eduardo Batista

ABSTRACT

While there has been no lack of artistic representation pertaining to the recent political instability fueled by the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff, little has been said about the effects of our current social and governmental clashes in rap music. This paper explores the role of rap music in exposing social insecurities brought about by our nation's political system. Whether with rap art produced by "Gabriel o Pensador" or "MC Rafinha Dragao", themes of distrust towards Government connect over 20 years of Brazilian suspicion and revolt towards politicians. In addition, this paper analyzes the role of rap music in empowering Brazilians who feel disenfranchised from our country. The not-for-profit organization "MH2O", for instance, attempts to better the Brazilian society by promoting economic welfare through rap art. At last, this paper attempts to predict how rap music will influence Brazilian politics and society (and vice-versa) in the upcoming years. The potential rise of populism in Brazil, aligned with a historical social inequality and anger of marginalized sectors of our society will most likely give rap art plenty of topic for critique in the future. This paper concludes that if there's indeed a correlation between social exclusion and the rise of rap, Brazil is likely to never fall short of good rappers.

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*Theobromine Inhibits Myofibroblast Differentiation, Proliferation and Migration*

Alex McAlpin, Haris Zafar, Ashely Hughes, Malorie Kalens

ABSTRACT

Myofibroblasts are fibroblast connective tissue cells that play a crucial role in the healing of tissue wounds. They are mainly found in soft tissue and are activated when extracellular matrix is lost or damaged<sup>4</sup>. Myofibroblasts secrete collagen to aid in the repair of wounds, but also tend to produce a large amount of scar tissues if continually activated. Previous studies have shown that the treatment of caffeine in a sample of myofibroblast cells inhibits the structure and the function of them<sup>3</sup>. Our goal, in this experiment, it to see whether the effects from the use of theobromine are similar to those of caffeine on myofibroblast cells derived from the dermis of the skin. Our hypothesis is that theobromine will inhibit the structure and function of the cells due to its similarities, both chemically and structurally, to caffeine. We stained our cells with an EdU click stain as well as a DAPI stain to monitor the proliferation and differentiation phases respectively. We also performed a scratch wound assay that was used to measure the migration distances of the cells during incubation. What we found was that myofibroblast migration, proliferation and differentiation was significantly lower when treated with theobromine in comparison to the control group.

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*Analyzing the Instrumentalization of Affect of American Think Tank Websites*

Michaela Mujica-Steiner

Northern Arizona University

## ABSTRACT

This original research looks at how rhetorical framing around climate change on top U.S. think tank websites influences the instrumentalization of affect in promoting neoliberal ideology. Using Robert Benford and David Snow's (2000) concept of framing and Sarah Ahmed's (2004) affective economies, this work highlights how rhetorical framing around climate change produces affects in the reader that are utilized to promote neoliberal ideology in different ways. In framing climate change, libertarian think tanks websites most commonly produce affects of shame and humiliation, conservative think tank websites most commonly produce affects of excitement and interest, and progressive think tank websites most commonly produce affects of rage and anger. While these affects are all different, they all promote neoliberal solutions to climate change and an energy economy. This research demonstrates that proposed solutions to the climate crisis must be interrogated to address the neoliberal ideologies that underpin framings of climate change across the political spectrum.

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### *Artistic-Cultural Integration and Exchange: A Comparison of Baule and Guro Artworks*

Olivia Musgrove

Faculty Advisor: Shikoh Shiraiwa, M.A.

Funded by the Student Transformative Learning Record

## ABSTRACT

This is comparative research concerning five pieces from the West African Art Collection at the University of Central Oklahoma's Chambers Library. These pieces are from the Guro and Baule societies, located in modern-day Cote d'Ivoire. While it is often the assumption that African artworks are static and purely emblematic of the ethnic group from which they were created, this research aims to dispel this notion by considering the cross-cultural artistic exchange between the neighboring Baule and Guro. First, an introduction is given to each society, as well as a comparison of each to show distinct cultural differences and similarities between each group. Then, a Gu mask of Guro origin and a mblo mask of Baule origin are examined and compared, highlighting the similarity in mask making traditions. Next, heddle pulleys from each group are examined and compared, revealing the similarities in each society's sense of aesthetic appreciation. Finally, a mouse oracle pot of disputable origin is examined, highlighting just how embedded these shared cultural practices, and by extension the artworks associated with them, are among the Guro and the Baule.

KEYWORDS: Guro, Baule, integration

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### *Drugs of Abuse: Comparative Analysis of Drug Test Kits for Commonly Encountered Cannabinoids and Synthetic Counterparts*

Viena U. Thomas, Heather J. Schafstall, Thomas Jourdan\*

## ABSTRACT

Reliable and user-friendly commercially produced drug test kits have become integral to the on-scene assessment of substances in drug cases. In this study, three commercial marijuana test kits were compared for their thermal stability via intermittent reliability testing during storage for a period of six weeks at temperatures of 20o F and 120o F. Kits utilizing the Duquenois-Levine reagent were observed to be stable under these temperature regimes; however, a decline in the color intensity was recorded in the Fast Blue B salt based kits. Synthetic cannabinoids with a pyrrole, indole or indazole ring and an adjacent carbonyl group were observed to react positively with the synthetic cannabinoid kits' acidic reagent. Results suggest a correlation between acid concentration and the drug detection limit of the synthetic cannabinoids kits.

KEYWORDS: color test, field test kits, preliminary testing, marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids, spice, forensic chemistry