

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Listed below are abstracts of student-faculty collaborative work presented at regional, national, and international conferences.

Stephanie Berzinski, Rachel Bloch and Lauren Wanko

(John Pollock, Faculty Sponsor)

Nationwide Newspaper Coverage of Plan B: A Community Structure Approach

Presented at the New Jersey Communication Association Annual Conference, Union, NJ, March 24, 2007;

National Communication Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, November 17, 2007

A study of Plan B or emergency contraception compared hypotheses linking different city characteristics and nationwide newspaper coverage, using the community structure approach to research, as developed in nationwide studies by Pollock and others (1977-78, 1994-2002).

A national cross-section sample of 18 newspapers was selected from Newsbank. Two hundred seventy-four articles with 250 words or more published between December 1, 2003, and August 31, 2006, were analyzed statistically for content. A prominence score accounting for articles' placement, length, headline size, presence of photographs or graphics, and direction (favorable, unfavorable, or neutral) were combined to yield a Media Vector. Pearson correlations and regressions explored links between city characteristics and coverage.

The cities' media vectors ranged from .407 to -.0051 and 17 of 18 cities revealed favorable coverage of Plan B. Pearson correlations showed that five clusters of characteristics had significant relationships to newspaper coverage in this case: Stakeholders (percent adults aged 20 to 24: $r = -0.465$, $p = 0.03$; percent African American: $r = 0.421$, $p = 0.046$); Vulnerability (percent below poverty level: $r = 0.44$, $p = 0.039$); Buffer (percent of women in the workforce: $r = .490$, $p = .055$; percent professional: $r = -0.442$, $p = 0.038$). Percent aged 20 to 24 yielded the most significant results; regression analysis found Percent aged 20 to 24 and Percent African American accounted for 33.8% of variance. Unexpectedly, percent aged 20 to 24 was linked to less favorable coverage of Plan B.

Jessica Kubek, Dawn Besser, and Jessica Chesney

(Blythe Hinitz, Faculty Sponsor)

Climate Change: How It Affects Us All

Attended Annual Department of Public Information/Nongovernmental Organizations Conference, United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY, September 5-6, 2007

Mackenzie Esch

(Howard Reinert, Faculty Sponsor)

*Geographic Variation in the Diet of Timber Rattlesnakes, *Crotalus horridus**

Presented at the Lehigh Valley Ecology and Evolution Symposium, Center Valley, PA, April 14, 2007

The Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) has a large geographic range encompassing most of the eastern half of the United States, which brings it in contact with a wide variety of prey. The overall diet composition of *C. horridus* has been well documented as very broad. In this study we examined the diet of *C. horridus* from four well-defined populations in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. A total of 251 prey items from scat and stomach samples were identified by species or family level. We found that although small mammals comprised the bulk of the diet in all four populations, the diets of snakes in each of the populations differed in prey species composition. Furthermore, the diet composition of each population differed significantly from the diet composition reported in previous studies. These data indicate that the diet of *C. horridus* varies widely even within relatively small geographic distances. Comparisons with live trapping data

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also revealed that the diet composition of snakes may not always reflect the frequency of available prey species. Combined, these findings suggest that the foraging behavior of *C. horridus* exhibits extensive geographic variation. Consequently, the role of *C. horridus* in the trophic dynamics of a community can best be determined by studies on a local scale.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC LISTINGS

Listed below are citations of published student-faculty collaborative scholarship. The authors whose names are underlined are students.

Fradella, Henry F., and Brown, Kegan. "The Effects of Using Social Scientific Rape Typologies on Juror Decisions to Convict." *Law and Psychology Review*, 31: 1-19