DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SCIENCES

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FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SCIENCES
creating positive changes in our changing world


This article explores the effect of social media usage of study abroad participants on learning outcomes. The authors surveyed cohorts of three different study abroad programs offered by faculty in the Department of Family Youth & Community Sciences, and analyzed how their engagement with social media before, during and after their study abroad programs affected their overall academic, multicultural, and other learning experiences. The study found that social media can contribute to logistical arrangements and group cohesion before study abroad programs, and for students to connect with family & friends during the program. However, excessive use of social media during the program takes away certain elements of immersive academic, experiential, multicultural, and contextual learning experiences.

In this study, we examined the relationship between policy, systems, and environmental factors and fruit and vegetable consumption. We found that among southern, low-income, African Americans at high risk for obesity, social, physical, and macro-level factors were related to whether participants met dietary recommendations. This highlights the need for multi-level interventions to improve nutrition and reduce associated health disparities in communities with limited access to healthy foods.
This study examined the relationship between having financial constraints and experiencing depression. For example, having unsecured debt such as credit card debt is associated with increased depression among middle age and older adults. Alternatively, having control over one’s financial circumstances lessened the relationship between financial constraints and depression.

I collaborated with Dr. Elizabeth Castillo of Arizona State University to conduct a grounded theory analysis of fundraisers’ careers, professional growth aspirations, and personal philanthropy. In our small, exploratory study we found that fundraisers’ careers were more influenced by aptitudes, skills, and abilities than a personal commitment to an organizational mission. We also found that fundraisers can and were exercising leadership within their organizations and through their external networks. We found that fundraisers personally donated to philanthropic causes and that they engaged with organizations that supported them or their families (e.g., a child’s private school or civic societies which allowed them to professional networks). So what does all this mean? There is tremendous potential for fundraisers to influence how donors think about nonprofit sector missions and, in doing so, advance the nonprofit sector. Fundraisers play a sacred role in connecting a donor’s values to a worthy mission—a role worthy of our attention.


