Our Third Annual Conference was another wonderful display of the work our students do. Dr. Ben Looker, American Studies, one of our Board members, gave a very thoughtful welcome at the Conference that I believe captures what we hope to do in GALSJ very well. He elucidated three themes, first, that of Place – the Global and Local aspect — which encompasses both the range of what our actions influence and that which influences us, and also our specific focus on the St. Louis region. Second, he pointed out how Social Justice implicates social injustice, and inevitably, issues of Power. We encourage studies that “de-naturalize” unjust social organizations and hierarchies so we can envision better ways of social life. Third, as an academic program we promote Engaged Scholarship, believing that through research or internships, academic study can lead to praxis, to change.

I have been thinking about a motto for our program. Here is one from Marilyn Sanders Mobley, VP for inclusion, diversity, and opportunity at Case Western Reserve University.

Social justice is not about working in the soup kitchen, but about why you need a soup kitchen. Who is in line? Where is it located? What do these things tell you about oppression and history?

Send me any suggestions for a motto of our own. Thanks to Katy and Erika for organizing. And keep up the good work!

-Dr. Robert Strikwerda, GALSJ Coordinator
Social Justice Poster Session

Right, Leila Housmand (GALSJ minor) presented her poster, “Who’s your daddy: Changing the way we think, act, and engage with developing countries and poverty”

Below, Josh Buechler explained his presentation on gender ideals in contemporary American film.

Below, Katy Rasmussen presented, “Developing a Better Strategy for Preventing Crime” and Erika Brown spoke to Michelle Lorenzini on her research regarding, “Poverty and Food Deserts in St. Louis City”. Both are GALSJ minors.
Race and Diversity Paper Session

Stacey Williams presents her paper, “Aging and Race: Does Race Affect the Way We Age?” at the first paper presentation session of the day.

Amy Knutsen, not pictured, also spoke on her research entitled, “African American Congresswomen: An Intersectional Analysis of Issue Priorities”

Justice in America Paper Session

From Left to Right, Dr. Ben Looker, keynote speaker and session chair, Michael Meyer, Rachel Santon, and Alex Deguire.

Meyer discussed environmental justice in the case of both the Lake Tahoe and Baikal Watersheds, Santon focused on Jane Addams’ Approach to Structural Adjustment Programs, while Deguire spoke on presidential and congressional economic influence.

Justice Internationally Paper Session

On a more global scale, this session featured justice involving:

“Religion, Women, and Social Justice in Revolutions: Iran and Poland” - Beatrice Abraham
“Maternal Health in a Global Community: Tactics to Decrease Maternal Mortality Rates” - Meaghan Gass
“Bound in Black and White: How Russia and Belarus Avoided the Color Revolutions” - Amanda McCubbins
The Undergraduate Minor in Global and Local Social Justice

The minor consists of 21 credit hours of classes. Students must select a class in each of the four required issue areas, with a fifth course from areas 2 or 3. For the remaining hours, students may select additional classes in the four required issue areas or from the list of electives. As part of their certificate study, students must take classes in at least three different disciplines.

**Issue Areas include:**

**Theories of Justice**, for example: PUBH 365 Public Health and Social Justice, POLS 371 Ancient and Medieval Political Thought, SOC 210 Classical Social Theory

**Social Science Studies**, for example: ASTD 315 American Social Movements, SOC 323 Gender and Society, SWRK 302 American Social Welfare System

**Global Issues**, or example: POLS 257 Introduction to Latin American Politics, POLS 360 Problems of Globalization, SOC 222 Peace and Conflict Studies

**Service-Learning Class** or **Internship** with a social and political focus, for example: POLS 393 The Structure of Poverty, PPS 397 Metropolitan Environment (Service-Learning section), WSTD 385 Feminism in Action

The **Global and Local Justice Initiative** is supported by the departments of American Studies, Political Science, Public Policy Studies, Sociology, the School of Social Work, the School of Public Health, and the Women’s Studies Program.

For further information, contact **Dr. Robert Strikwerda** at rstrikwe@slu.edu or check out our webpage at http://www.slu.edu/x32232.xml

---

**Dr. Andrea Borella, “Anthropological Reflections on the Construction of Amish Cultural Boundaries: Notes from the Field”**

Dr. Borella (University of Turin) spoke on November 16, 2012, about the relationship between Amish eschatology and rules found in the Amish tradition, known as the *Ordnung*. His research, conducted in the Old Order Amish congregation of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, revealed that because their laws are not directly revealed by God, the Ordnung is in fact a tool used by the Amish community to keep the followers aloof from the “outside world.”