

CMM THESES AND DISSERTATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

Archiopoli, Ashley (2014). Don't put me in "quotes": Examining communication episodes of health-related stigma. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of New Mexico.

This study examined communication episodes of health-related stigma, which includes instances where individuals were made to feel bullied, excluded, rejected, blamed, or embarrassed due to a health condition they or someone they know possesses. This study used the coordinated management of meaning (CMM) to approach this study; in particular the DICA model advanced by Pearce (2007), which moves through a process of description, interpretation, critique, and action was used in study design. Six research questions were developed that roughly correspond to the DICA model. This study used a grounded approach to data collection and analysis: data were collected in two stages that built upon each other. The first stage was a recruitment stage; used to inform individuals about the study and invite them to participate in the second stage: in-depth interviews. Two hundred thirty individuals took part in the recruitment phase of research, 24 individuals took part in in-depth interviews. Methods of grounded theory were used to analyze interview data, this included a circular three-step process of analysis: open coding, integration, and dimensionalization. Twenty-one themes and 25 related subthemes emerged to reveal the patterned nature of health-related stigma. Findings are presented in five context areas--description, meaning, interpretation, action, and stigma. These context areas correspond to the DICA model and the six research questions. The major findings of this study were the patterned nature of health-related stigma, and further that these patterns can be interrupted and reconstructed in a way that reframes negative experiences and promotes a more positive perspective for approaching issues of health-related stigma.

Barnett, Natasha A. (2014). The process of diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. University of New Mexico.

The process of diagnosis delivery of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) is a topic area that has not been given ample attention by academic researchers. This study expands this area of focus in academic research using a communication perspective that provides an understanding of the process of diagnosis delivery of ASD at the Center for Developmental Disabilities'(CDD) Early Childhood Evaluation Program (ECEP)--New Mexico's number one center for providing a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). There are two goals that guide the study. The general goal is to investigate how professionals that are a part of the ECEP at the CDD at New Mexico's UCEDD at the UNM can co-construct an effective and efficient process of delivering diagnosis of ASD to parent(s), caregiver(s), and/or family member(s). Another goal is to modify and utilize the existing theory of the CMM for an academic research setting and provide another possible methodological approach for other research studies. To attain the goals, this research utilizes the Coordinated Management of Meaning (CMM) as a theory and a method. The theoretical framework provides the communication

perspective and understanding that the researcher is a part of the process that facilitates the process of understanding. Through a reflexive process, the study explains how the diagnostic team creates meaning by identifying their communication patterns, rules of symbol use, rules of meaning and action, strengths and weakness of the process, and individual and team goals.

Burton, Laura L. (forthcoming in 2016). The emergency of hope: The communication processes of facilitating hope at a community based support program. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. University of New Mexico.

This research takes an appreciative approach toward the study of the communicative processes that facilitate the emergence of hope. Selecting a site of study, a community based support program (CBSP), which has experience significant growth and success over the past few years provides a rich source of data for analysis. This study explores the communication processes at the CBSP that facilitate the construction of hope. In addition, the participants' narratives are analyzed regarding hope and wellness, shifts in narratives as participants move toward more hopeful perspectives, and the ways in which the communication processes at CBSP create shifts in narratives toward hope. Following the path created by this turn toward the positive, I explore the emergence and existence of hope in the narratives and the communication processes in a growing community-based support program utilizing self-help/mutual aid groups. The site of study is a growing weekly 2-hour religious community-based support program (CBSP) in the Western United States with the stated goal of helping people "find support, hope, and healing in the challenges and struggles that life can bring." The complex program incorporates multiple levels of communication processes – from a large community gathering to small group interactions to interpersonal interactions at multiple stages. This study explores the communication processes at the CBSP that facilitate the construction of hope. In addition, the participants' narratives are analyzed regarding hope and wellness, shifts in narratives as participants move toward more hopeful perspectives, and the ways in which the communication processes at CBSP create shifts in narratives toward hope.

Hoffman, Jeff (2014). "Organic is more of an American term . . . We are traditional farmers: Discourses of place-based organic farming, heritage, and sustainability. Unpublished master's thesis. University of New Mexico.

In New Mexico, an organization called the Cooperative Development Center of New Mexico (CoDeCe) is organizing to approach agriculture using ancient knowledge and practices that serve to challenge unsustainable, wealth driven agribusiness. CoDeCe organizes small plot organic cooperatives around the state of New Mexico for the purpose of community development, fighting poverty, and creating sustainable food sources and lifestyles. This study examines the stories of members of one CoDeCe cooperative, the South Valley Organic Acres farm (SVOA). I look at members' stories about working and living in organic farming cooperatives, the meanings they make for "sustainability," and the practices they deem "sustainable." I aim to better understand how cooperative members find themselves at once enmeshed in the process of "making" the images, texts, and

realities of “sustainability” and how these realities affect their livelihoods. By understanding how their stories shape their vision and uncertainty for the future of the cooperative’s work, I suggest communicative processes that may help members solidify uncertainties and offer deeper reflection on their long-term goals. On a more general level, this study offers the deeper understanding of highly creative and collaborative ways of affecting change through justice driven sustainable practice by examining how members talk, understand, vision, and act with regard to “sustainability” through their own conceptions of cooperative organic farming and “sustainable lifestyles.” I use the theory of the Coordinated Management of Meaning and Actor Network Theory as a framework for this study.

Noblet, Nicholas P. (2015). *Email and Enron: Using CMM to make better social worlds in organizations*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. University of New Mexico.

Email as a communication phenomenon has been in existence since the 1970s, and yet researchers are still discovering new information regarding the usage and implications of usage for this medium. This dissertation seeks to better understand organizational communication through the examination of email. Enron, a very large organization that peaked in the 1990s, utilized email for a variety of different purposes. Enron’s email was placed online by the federal government, and includes communication from top executives. These messages represent the largest publicly accessible database of corporate email, and will be examined to make arguments about social worlds that Enron created. There are three main outcomes that guide the study. First, this work creates an exemplar study that utilizes a general framework for analysis. Second, this study provides organizations a template for the study of email. Thirdly, this dissertation provides a process-based understanding of digital social world creation. To achieve these outcomes, this research uses The Coordinated Management of Meaning (CMM) as a theory and a method. The analysis here follows a pattern of description, interpretation, critique, and action to coordinate the research efforts. This study helps explain how Enron as an organization created its social worlds, and turns a critical eye towards making better social worlds through the communication process in email.