

# NKU Faculty Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Highlights

VOLUME 4 // NUMBER 1

## Are you looking for a writing or grant accountability group for the new year?

Some faculty and staff colleagues have expressed interest in creating a group that can meet in person or online to help set goals, provide feedback or even commiserate on progress! If you are interested in joining this group, please fill out this [survey](#) with your general availability and we'll help facilitate your first meeting(s).

Please email Shauna Reilly with any questions: [reillys3@nku.edu](mailto:reillys3@nku.edu).

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## Faculty Fridays Return

We are pleased to announce the return of Faculty Fridays from 3 -5 p.m. in the third floor lobby of University Center. This is a monthly opportunity for faculty to gather informally and interact with colleagues from across the university and a chance to share ideas about teaching, scholarship and to gather to build community! There will be a bar available as well as light snacks. This event is sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Research & Outreach along with the Provost. Please join us for the kick-off of this year's gatherings on September 29th! We hope you can join us! Please let Kimberly Wiley ([wileyk2@nku.edu](mailto:wileyk2@nku.edu)) know if you have any questions.

Future Dates:  
October 27th  
December 1st

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## TERESA HUBER, LYNNE ZAJAC, KAREN O'CONNELL, DENISE ROBINSON and ADRIANNE LANE

School of Nursing

5/15/2023

[School of Nursing online faculty publish article about caring actions and faculty immediacy in accelerated courses.](#)

This mixed-method study utilized the Online Faculty Caring, Presence, and Immediacy Behaviors Survey and explored 142 graduate nursing students' perceptions of faculty immediacy in accelerated online courses. Students ranked online faculty immediacy characteristics and determined level of agreement with faculty actions. The quantitative findings were compared to determine differences between students who perceived that online faculty utilized immediacy behaviors versus students who perceived that faculty did not use immediacy behaviors. Five themes emerged from the qualitative results that reflect faculty presence, communication, support, and feedback, which emerged from the open-ended survey questions and support the quantitative results. The study findings informed the creation of specific strategies for online faculty who teach accelerated courses.

\* Huber, T., Zajac, L., O'Connell, K., Robinson, D., & Lane, A. (2023). Graduate student perceptions of nursing faculty immediacy: Caring actions for accelerated online courses. *Journal of Educators Online*, 20(3), 1-13. doi: 10.9743/jeo.2023.20.3.1.

## DOUG KRULL

Psychological Science

5/16/23

[Dr. Krull and former NKU students publish article on views of active and passive euthanasia](#)

Previous research suggests that people, especially religious people, are more opposed to active euthanasia, such as a lethal injection, than to passive euthanasia, such as withdrawing life support. The current research proposes a possible explanation for this finding—that active euthanasia is viewed as interfering with the natural course of life and death, but passive euthanasia is viewed as allowing it to take place. Two studies yielded results consistent with this hypothesis and found that how people think about the natural course of life and death substantially explained the greater opposition to active euthanasia among more religious people.

\* Krull, D. S., Varga, S. L., Sgro, J. G., & Krull, S. R. A. (2023). Self-Destruction or Surrender? Religiosity and Active Versus Passive Euthanasia. *Death Studies*, 47, 762-768.

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## GISELE LORIOT-RAYMER

World Languages and Literatures

10/30/22

### [Dr. Lorient-Raymer publishes book chapter on Caribbean theorist and activist Suzanne Césaire](#)

Martinican author Suzanne Césaire has long been overshadowed by the immense fame of her husband Aimé Césaire. A number of studies in the past decade have reevaluated her significance in the field of Caribbean literary history. This study contributes a close analysis of Suzanne Césaire's essays published in the cultural review *Tropiques* (1941-1945) during the fascist Vichy regime. It highlights the rhetorical tools wielded by the combative writer to denounce the colonial enterprise, Petainist fascism, and cultural assimilationism, and positions the author as a foundational thinker in Caribbean identity politics and poetics.

\* Lorient-Raymer, G. (2022). Entre ombre et lumière: Le jeu de cache-cache de Suzanne Césaire. In E. M. Bornier (Ed.), *Autour de Suzanne Césaire: Manifestes cannibales ou comment repenser les Antilles avec sa plume* (pp. 155-177). Passages(s).

## SHARIF MAZUMDER

Accounting, Economics, and Finance

1/10/2023

### [Dr. Mazumder publishes article on oil price uncertainty and its effect on workplace misconduct and cash holdings of a firm](#)

Using a novel and comprehensive dataset on penalties imposed by several US federal agencies for workplace law violations, we find that US firms are less likely to violate employee-related laws and receive associated penalties when oil price uncertainty (OPU) increases. This evidence results from two potential channels: precautionary motive and improved board monitoring. First, firms increase discretionary safety expenditure, and second, they increase the board of directors' involvement in the safety and compliance committee. Further, the evidence is not stemmed from other alternatives, such as reduced production or employment. A firm reduces workplace misconduct more when it is financially constrained, incurs a higher cost of goods sold, and belongs to the energy industry. Our results are robust to endogeneity concerns and alternative OPU measurements. Moreover, we document that the positive effect of oil price uncertainty on cash holdings is attenuated if firms reduce workplace violations and associated penalties.

\* Sarker, M. S. R., Mazumder, S., & Amin, M. R. (2023). Oil price uncertainty, workplace misconduct, and cash holding. *International Review of Financial Analysis*, 89, 102757.

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## **GANG SUN, MORTEZA SADAT-HOSSIENY, and colleague**

Physics, Geology, and Engineering Technology

8/10/23

[Dr. Sun, along with his colleagues Dr. Sadat and Dr. Torres, and an undergraduate research student publish a paper on designing and developing a GSM-based intelligent monitoring system for improving robotics laboratory safety](#)

Recently, Toyota North America donated a Kawasaki ZB150S industrial robot to NKU. The entire Kawasaki industrial robot system was installed in a safeguard cage; however, the safeguard cage was not always able to prevent unauthorized students from coming into the working area of the robot. The lab manager/staff expressed an urgent need for a smart tool that could monitor occurrences of unauthorized operating conditions to help them improve laboratory safety. Thus, a Global System for Mobile (GSM)-based intelligent monitoring system has been designed and developed to provide a safe robotics lab operating environment for students. This intelligent monitoring system was divided into two subsystems: one was the Embedded Laboratory Environmental Monitoring and Robot Power Control (ELEMRPC) subsystem; the other was the GSM communication subsystem. The ELEMRPC subsystem received the presence-sensing signals from the light curtains at the cage entrance and disarmed the power supply of the robot when unauthorized students were detected. Additionally, the lab environmental parameters were monitored. The GSM subsystem wirelessly transmitted text messages to designated cellular phones. These text notifications can alert lab manager/staff immediately to prevent potential accidents within the footprint of the robot safety cage. This paper discusses in greater detail the design, development, and hardware implementation of the robotics laboratory safety monitoring system.

\* Sun, G., Decker, B., Sadat-Hossieny, M., & Torres, M. (2023) A GSM-Based Intelligent Monitoring System for Improving Robotics Laboratory Safety, *The Journal of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering* 39(3). doi: <https://doi.org/10.31274/jtmae.14482>

## **DAVID B. TATAW**

Allied Health

7/1/23

[Dr David Tataw published in the International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education](#)

Four cycles of a value creation conceptual framework including: immediate value; potential value; applied value; and realized value, were used to analyze the role of social capital in the creation of experienced and aspired value in collaborative learning. Students' narratives on team development dynamics in a Team Lecture Hybrid (TLH) instructional design implemented from August 2011 to May 2016 were analyzed. The study covered 201 public affairs and healthcare administration students in 40 in-class permanent teams, 15 courses, and straddling two US institutions of higher learning. The findings suggested an alignment between social capital and performance in in-class permanent teams. The social interactions created immediate, potential, applied, and realized value, and the results appear to validate the explanatory strength of the value creation framework in relation to social capital as a value creator and as value created in learning communities. The value created from social capital dynamics in the learning community aligns with the anticipated outcomes of TLH and appeared to support the TLH design theory hypothesizing improved performance when we combine active learners and an active instructor in the same learning community.

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In a mezzo learning environment, both students and their instructor created and benefited from social capital. The recommendation is for value creation drivers uncovered in this study to be given significant consideration in Team Based Learning.

\* Tataw, D.B. (2023). Social Capital and Value Creation in Learning Communities: Evidence from a Team-Lecture Hybrid (TLH) Instructional Strategy, *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (IJTLHE)*, 35(1) 1-9

## LYNN ZAJAC and JITANA BENTON-LEE

School of Nursing

4/27/23

### [Zajac and Benton-Lee publish article on microaggressions experienced by online graduate students](#)

**Introduction:** Racial microaggressions are offensive and intimidating actions towards people of color and occur everywhere, including academia. Select studies report 40% to 98% of students of color report experiences with microaggressions on campuses. The purpose of this study was to describe the experience of microaggressions for diverse graduate nursing students in the online educational environment and to identify faculty strategies to create an inclusive learning milieu.

**Method:** This descriptive qualitative study employed twelve diverse graduate nursing students who participated in individual interviews about racial microaggressions. Two researchers used thematic analysis to evaluate the qualitative data.

**Results:** Five relevant themes were: (a) online classroom is a barrier for microaggressions, (b) requirement of profile pictures is a risk factor for microaggressions, (c) experiences of past microaggressions carries over to the present, (d) diverse online students are resourceful, and (e) the reality of microaggressions online.

**Discussion:** Participants' suggestions, literature evidence, and research findings informed decision/action modes to assist the nurse educator with culturally competent methods to improve online learning spaces and decrease microaggressions for diverse students.

\* Zajac, L. K. & Benton-Lee, J. (2023). Microaggressions: Experiences of diverse graduate nursing students in online education. *The Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 34(4), 310-309. doi:10.1177/10436596231166043

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## Other Research News

### SUK-HEE KIM

#### Social Work

#### Dr. Suk-hee Kim receives a National Project Grant Award

The project aims to examine the assessment methods developed and adopted by social work programs to teach and assess the research competencies in accredited undergraduate and graduate programs. Specifically, the study will identify teaching and assessment strategies, rubrics, research indicators, and standards used by social work programs to relate to research competency. The project also will identify best practices and curriculum guides related to research competencies, including field education accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

### JUSTIN YATES

#### Psychological Science

#### Dr. Yates receives NIH grant

Dr. Justin Yates was recently awarded a second National Institutes of Health (NIH) R15 grant (\$420,000). The purpose of this grant is to determine the contribution of the basolateral amygdala-medial prefrontal cortex pathway to risky decision making and compulsive drug-seeking behavior.

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**Do you have research, scholarship or creative activity to share?**

Use this [link](#) to submit for the next edition.

*Prepared by:*

*University Research Council and*

*Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Research and Outreach*