

Marija Kundakovic & Aida A. Nevarez-La Torre: *Enhancing the Integration of Research and Education in the Area of Neuroscience*

Abstract:

The main goal of this proposal is to integrate neuroscience research and education and to provide a strong platform from which important discoveries in the neuroscience field will be coupled with enhanced undergraduate research experience. One of the current challenges in neuroscience is to reveal the mechanisms underlying the sex bias in neuropsychiatric disorders. Here, we propose to include undergraduate students in a research project that explores the biological mechanisms that make women more vulnerable to depression and anxiety, facilitating the development of radically novel, sex-specific treatments for some of the most disabling human disorders. To further integrate neuroscience research and education, we propose to develop an educational model that facilitates the connection between neuroscience lectured in the classroom and neuroscience research, as part of the undergraduate education at Fordham. We will start by enhancing students' research literacy through incorporating research-focused material and activities within an undergraduate Neuroscience course. This course will also provide a "bridge" that prepares students for research experience in the laboratory. We expect that the increased research literacy and experience will not only benefit pre-med and other science students for their future careers but that this educational program will provide a model for other universities to facilitate the recruitment of students to graduate programs in neuroscience. We anticipate that synergy between Dr. Kundakovic's expertise in neuroscience and Dr. Nevarez-La Torre's expertise in education will generate the results that will significantly contribute to Fordham's mission to become one of the leading institutions that integrates research and education.

Jacqueline Reich, Kathleen LaPenta, & Mark Naison: *The Bronx Italian American History Initiative*

Abstract:

Founded in 2016, the Bronx Italian American History Initiative (BIAHI) is an interdisciplinary, collaborative oral history research project that traces the history of Italians and Italian Americans in the Bronx in the 20th century. The co-directors of the project are Dr. Kathleen LaPenta (Modern Languages and Literatures) and Dr. Jacqueline Reich (Communication and Media Studies), with the support and collaboration of Dr. Mark Naison (African and African American Studies).

The BIAHI aims to recover the personal narratives of Italian and Italian American residents of the Bronx through the creation of an online archive of catalogued and coded video interviews. Our goal is to document and map the cultural centers in which they settled, lived and worked, and how they interacted with other ethnic and racial groups as their own racial privilege shifted. By partnering with the Bronx Italian American History Initiative (BIAHI), under the direction of Dr. Naison, we aim to situate our work in a multi-ethnic perspective in order to develop a more

in-depth knowledge of the relations between neighborhoods in the Bronx that were home to Jews, Irish, Italians, Latinos, and African Americans.

We seek initial start-up funding to help us complete Phase I and Phase II of the project during 2017-18: data collection, in this case the oral interviews, and the design of the on-line archive, including the design of a public, digital humanities platform to best showcase the project. In Phase II (2018-19) we focus on the interpretation of the data collected, fill in holes of our knowledge with quantitative data collection and additional interviews, and publicize and present our findings in peer-reviewed journal articles. We will also be seeking outside funding in 2018-19 for the continued expansion of the archive and the writing of a book on the project. Lastly, we are encouraged by the recent establishment of the Strategic Research Consortium on Digital Scholarship and believe that this project would fit well into that initiative.

Our work does not exist in the ivory tower: it is about community engagement. We are committed to engaging past, present, and future Bronx communities – Italian American and of other ethnicities -- in support and expansion of the project.