

**AREAS OF RESEARCH STRENGTH
BY CENTER/INSTITUTE**

CENTER FOR MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY & CONSERVATION (CMAC)

- **Excavation, Analysis, and Publication in Nautical Archaeology**
Research on the history of ship building technology and seafaring practices through its excavation of shipwrecks and ports from all centuries and from all oceans and waterways. CMAC maintains four research facilities for this purpose: the Steffy Ship Reconstruction Laboratory, the Ship Model Laboratory, the New World Laboratory, and the Old World Laboratory. Excavated ships are reconstructed on paper or computers, and as scale models. Comprehensive analyses of artifacts, faunal and botanical remains, and other archaeological finds are also carried out in these laboratories. The results are prepared for publication or for display in museums around the world. The center's principal research strengths are in the Mediterranean, Western Europe, and the Americas, although past and present studies involve shipwrecks from many other locales. Research projects are carried out jointly with the renowned Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M University.
- **Conservation of Archaeological Materials**
Research on the conservation of archaeological material from all types of sites, with a focus on artifacts from marine environments. CMAC has two laboratories devoted to this work, the Conservation Research Laboratory and the Archaeological Preservation Research Laboratory. In addition, CMAC maintains an active contract program for the conservation of finds from terrestrial and underwater sites, a program that provides research and employment opportunities to graduate students and allows the students to receive a certificate in conservation.
- **Interdisciplinary Studies of Global Seafaring**
Throughout much of human history, boats and ships have carried people, ideas, technology, and trade around the world. Through its study of shipwrecks CMAC is uniquely qualified to interpret important social, technological, and economic transitions that have occurred within or between cultures, and over a vast expanse of time. The research mission of CMAC is inherently interdisciplinary, involving anthropology, oceanography, geography, engineering, all the natural sciences, history, languages, and architecture. And, because oceans connect the world's land masses and cultures, the work of CMAC is necessarily international in scope, involving scholars and research institutions from North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE FIRST AMERICANS (CSFA)

- **Heritage of Native Peoples**
The Center investigates the prehistory of the first people to enter the Americas during the last Ice Age (ca. 20,000 years ago) through the study of stone tools, subsistence remains (bones and plant remains), geology and dating of archaeological sites, and molecular genetic studies of human remains (bones and coprolites) from archaeological sites in Northeast Asia, North America, and South America.

- **Human Colonization**
Center research explores the process of human settlement of empty landscapes, especially how the colonization process affects human groups, and how it impacts the environments and ecosystems encountered (e.g., animal extinction). A major objective is to understand how humans explore, learn, and settle empty landscapes, and the factors that drive human expansion and exploration. Of primary interest is the origin, timing, and routes of migrations leading to the peopling of the New World.
- **Climate Change and Human Adaptation**
The Center studies the ancient environments, climates, and ecology at archaeological sites in the context of human evolution and adaptation. The Center focuses on the time period of the last Ice Age (ca. 20,000 years ago) to the period of Earth's warming (ca. 10,000 years ago)—a major and tumultuous period of climate and ecological changes.
- **International and Interdisciplinary**
The nature of the Center's archaeological research is interdisciplinary and international in scope. The Center has strong working relationships with institutions and researchers in Russia, Japan, Canada, Europe, and South America. Our research is interdisciplinary, drawing from other disciplines such as geology, chemistry, genetics, paleontology, ecology, geography, atmospheric sciences, and others. The Center's publications reach international and interdisciplinary audiences.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (ELIN)

- **Computational Linguistics**
The use of computer technology to quantify how people actually speak and write, as computers allow for the collection and quick analysis of a large corpus of inputs. Calculating differences in the use of locational nouns and prepositions, gerunds, cohesive elements, lexical diversity, and other linguistic elements, among American and Korean biomedical abstracts provides an analysis allowing ELIN to say with some scientific validity what the norms of writing are for a particular community or genre.
- **English for Specific Purposes**
Teaching English to nonnative speakers within specific academic or professional communities, such as medicine, business, legal, etc. Examines the biomedical field and the English language and syntax most commonly used within these communities (professional and academic) which distinguish themselves by drawing boundaries, not always be clear to those from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, for acceptable and unacceptable language and discourse.
- **Performance-based Assessment Instruments**
Research focused on consistency and utility of assessments used to ascertain English proficiency implied in written and spoken discourse of prospective international teaching assistants, other international students and professionals.
- **Culture Shock**
Factors associated with international students' transitions into American culture; the role of English for individuals coping with this phenomenon; English as an International Language. Pragmatics, how learners acquire sociopragmatic and pragmalinguistic competence in a second language.

- **Enhancing the Teaching Assistant/Undergraduate Student Experience in the First Year Chemistry Program.**

Research on intervention to improve undergraduate receptiveness to instruction by international teaching assistants.

MELBERN G. GLASSCOCK CENTER FOR HUMANITIES RESEARCH (GCHR)

The Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research supports research in the humanities without restriction to disciplines. Its infrastructure and funding enable pursuit of interdisciplinary research by humanists and non-humanists engaged in humanities-related inquiry. The Glasscock Center has also directed energies toward developing research in three areas.

- **Digital Humanities** – Since 2002, the Glasscock Center has provided funding, logistic support, and leadership for work that uses digital technology to further humanities research. The Center also supports research on the impact that information technology and digitization has had on humanities teaching, learning, and scholarship.
- **Ethics** – Since 2006, the Buttrill Endowed Fund for Ethics has allowed the Center to develop programs that deal directly with contemporary ethical issues facing higher education and in public discourse.
- **Humanities and Medicine** – In collaboration with the Health Science Center’s Department of Humanities in Medicine, the Glasscock Center is identifying ways medical practice and research engage the knowledge provided by humanities scholarship and ways in which humanities research engages medical practice and science. The Glasscock Center is in a position to support collaborative projects in these areas.

The center also supports working groups, of whom the most active in research are:

- **Cognoscenti** – Intellectual exchange on issues concerning mental functioning in humans or other species, including topics such as language and culture, figurative language processing, bilingualism, memory blocking, infant perception, reasoning, philosophy of mind, categorization, aesthetics, creative thought, and the mind-brain interface.
- **Early Modern Studies** – Any aspect of the literature, culture, and/or history of Early Modern Europe from 1500-1800.
- **New Modern British Studies** – British, Irish, and Postcolonial literary, historical, and cultural studies from the eighteenth century to the present.
- **Queer Studies** – Emerging interdisciplinary field of Queer Studies, which questions the meaning of sexual identities, performances, discourses, practices, and representations. The group is particularly interested in engaging work that rejects and destabilizes essentialized ideas about sexuality, gender and race.
- **Religion and Culture** – Interdisciplinary investigations of the subject of religion both past and present. The group adopts broad-based theoretical approaches to the study of religion, understood in this context

to include the material culture, modes of expression, philosophy, institutions, and experiences that are infused with spiritual or transcendent meaning.

- **South Asia Studies** – Focuses on the interplay and confrontation between dynamics of liberalization, globalization and nationalism in the South Asian region. Precolonial, colonial, and postcolonial periods of South Asian history will be studied using area, cultural, and women's studies as well as other disciplinary perspectives on the politics and cultures of South Asia as a region
- **Women's and Gender Studies** – Research on various aspects of gender.

MEXICAN AMERICAN U.S. LATINO RESEARCH CENTER (MALRC)

- **Education and the Hispanic Population**
This includes family involvement in education, the school drop-out challenge, literacy among Hispanic adults, access and success of Hispanics in American public institutions of higher learning, and parent-teacher interactions and school achievement in public schools.
- **Health Disparities and the Hispanic Population**
This includes parental attitudes toward childhood obesity, brucella infection among Hispanics, birth defects and cancer among farmworkers, the high incidence of diabetes among Hispanics, effective anti-drug advertising in Hispanic communities, disparities in the rates of lower extremity amputation among Hispanics and non-Hispanics, asthma and environmental factors in Hispanic communities, mental health disparities.
- **Labor and Community**
This includes factors in immigration of Hispanics to the United States, immigration of Hispanics to non-traditional areas in the United States, ethnic entrepreneurialism among Hispanics, internal migration of Hispanics in the United States
- **The Environment and Hispanics**
This includes environmental inequity in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, Latino knowledge and attitudes toward natural resources and the environment, and affordable water filter production facility prototype: Artists as change agents in the colonias and beyond.

PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PPRI)

In its 25th year, the Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) has a record of utilizing cutting-edge social science techniques to provide policymakers with the information necessary to make informed decisions in policy areas such as health care, education, judicial processing, social welfare, criminal justice, workers' compensation, etc. PPRI seeks projects that can positively influence the formation of policy through the dissemination of timely, accurate information. This approach has allowed PPRI to remain relevant in the policy arena. For example, a recent Amicus Curiae Brief to the United States Supreme Court cited two separate PPRI reports.

During this time, PPRI has served more than 90 unique clients in the national (e.g., CDC, HHS, NSF, etc.) and state (e.g., DSHS, TEA, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Governor’s Office, Legislative Budget Board, etc.) levels conducting more than \$65,000,000 in research.

PPRI’s work has recently taken on an international focus. The Institute is currently working with Qatar on five research projects. One recent project, The Global Family Matters Information System was presented before the United Nations earlier this year.

Interdisciplinary research is a top priority of PPRI. Recent projects have involved collaborations with scholars from the Bush School, Colleges of Liberal Arts, Education, Agriculture and Life Sciences, Engineering, and the Health Science Center.

PPRI tackles many projects at once. In FY 2007, PPRI conducted 26 separate projects totaling more than \$4,100,000 in research—all of this with only 6 faculty equivalent scholars. To conduct this level of research, PPRI must rely upon outstanding research efficiency, generating \$50 in extramural research for each dollar of state support.

The infrastructure of PPRI facilitates this level of research. The largest public survey research organization in Texas allows for 100,000 phone, 300,000 mail, and 10,000 in-person surveys each year. Further, an extensive IT staff permits PPRI to work with population size data systems—creating, collecting, analyzing and interpreting program policy data systems.

Prior sponsors –

Federal Agencies

Centers for Disease Control
Department of Education
Department of Labor
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Environmental Protection Agency
National Science Foundation
National Institutes of Health
National Institute on Drug Abuse
Department of Health and Human Services

State Agencies

Texas Department of State Health Services
Texas Office of the Attorney General
Texas Workforce Commission
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
Texas Education Agency
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Texas Office of the Secretary of State
Texas Legislature
Texas Office of the Attorney General

RACIAL AND ETHNIC STUDIES INSTITUTE (RESI)

Liberal arts faculty affiliated with RESI have research interests in the following areas:

- racial and ethnic socioeconomic inequality
- racism and anti-racism, prejudice, and discrimination
- ethnic identity; intersectionality of race, class, and gender
- race and ethnicity in old and new media
- literature of racial and ethnic groups
- health disparities
- differential impacts of criminal justice system

- qualitative and ethnographic studies of ethnic communities in various settings
- residential segregation of racial and ethnic groups
- race and the legal system
- critical race theory
- differential impacts of criminal justice system;
- racial and ethnic differences in educational opportunities
- the demography of race and ethnicity
- historical experiences of racial and ethnic groups in the US
- stress and mental health consequences of racism and discrimination
- international perspectives on racial and ethnic relations