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1&S DEAN: SCOTT GRONERT IN FOCUS EDITOR: DEANNA ALBA



Mapping the harm of COVID-19 misinformation on social media

Has misinformation about COVID-19 circulating on social media affected the spread of the disease? A group of UWM geographers has tested the question scientifically by painstakingly examining nationwide Twitter chatter and then showing the results on a national map, revealing who was sharing what early in the pandemic.

The researchers found a direct correlation between locations where Twitter misinformation originated and subsequent spikes in COVID-19 infections and deaths in those areas weeks later.

"The social media impact on the pandemic happened very quickly," said Rina Ghose, professor of geography, who led the study of social media activity from May to July of 2020. "We wanted to examine it in this specific time period to see what happened when the pandemic first went 'kaboom!"

Their findings highlight the importance of social media monitoring during a pandemic so that health officials can be alerted to problem areas.



Rina Ghose

The researchers pinpointed specific locations where the association was most pronounced by integrating statistical methods with computerized mapping, a technique called geographic information systems, or GIS.

GIS is used to see all the place-based data together on the same map, revealing spatial relationships and patterns.

Tweets are geotagged, meaning their locations of origin are identified, but not the identity of individual people using Twitter. With locations known, Ghose said, she and her students could connect the content of the tweets with the information about those areas in public databases, such as census tract demographics and health statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

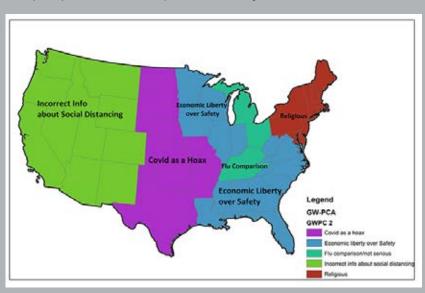
"With GIS, we don't just layer the data on maps, we can integrate it so that all the data is connected and can speak to each other," Ghose said. "We can ask many types of questions and examine 'what-if' scenarios."

Dissecting the tweets

The project was hatched when doctoral student Amir Forati and master's student Rachel Hansen wondered why the pandemic was unfolding the way it was. They wanted to engineer a study that would explain both the reasons for and effects of public resistance to measures to limit the spread of COVID-19.



After analyzing 1,000 individual tweets and their accompanying content, the researchers mapped the themes they identified. The top map shows the seven dominant myths propagated in misinformed tweets during the time of the study in early 2020 while the bottom map shows the next most significant themes of the tweets.



They began by collected all pandemic-related tweets nationwide for May and June and identified the ones that either contained false information or downplayed the severity of COVID-19, Forati said.

Using statistical methods, Forati then confirmed that locations with heavy Twitter misinformation in May and June later experienced a rise in the number of cases in July.

The sharing of misinformation and negative tweets occurred throughout the country. But demographic data from the geotagged tweets indicated some common traits, he found.

"They were areas that were predominantly white, middleage, middle-income, politically conservative, and with low educational attainment beyond high school," he said.

But one surprise, he said, was how widespread sharing misinformation was outside of those trends.

"We saw it even in big cities, where there are greater numbers of educated people," Forati said. "So, you can't just say it was the rural areas that were the base of the problem."

To knit all the information together, the researchers used a multi-platform approach, blending the various datasets – content on Twitter and public demographic and health data – and using it in a statistical modeling method that's sensitive to data on multiple scales - national, state and local.

Their analysis explains about 85% of the COVID spikes across the U.S. in this time period, he said.

Many categories

Ghose and Hansen then turned their attention to categorizing the tweets. GIS allowed the researchers to see what categories were dominant in particular regions of the country.

They analyzed nearly 1,000 individual tweets and their accompanying photos and conversations, and put them into four categories: political agenda, health myths, religion myths and freedom rhetoric.

The tweets were then subdivided to represent seven themes that were spatially modeled. In Wisconsin, they found that "individual liberty over safety" was the dominant theme of tweets during this time period and it was the only area of the country where that was true.

"We saw different discourses of false information when comparing the West Coast and East Coast even in similar demographic areas," Ghose said. "So, the goal behind the categorization was to

identify what the motivations were."

The next step in their research will be adding information from a social vulnerability index to the mapping of false tweets. The index, from the CDC, shows the locations of people who are more vulnerable to illness by several vectors, Hansen said, not just health factors. The index logs socio-demographic factors in addition to factors such as access to health care and health insurance.

"Maps showing that data will show where vulnerable populations also defined by socioeconomic factors, like income, are in the context of the areas with heavy misinformation," Hansen said.

By Laura Otto, University Relations

College of Letters & Science • UW-Milwaukee • 3

'History on your phone' Students take to Twitter to share Zoo history

In 1919, Sultana the polar bear gave birth to a cub named Zero and sparked a revolution.

Until that point, zoos had been more concerned with entertaining the public than they were with the health and safety of the animals on display. Sultana herself lived in Milwaukee's Washington Park Zoo and was repeatedly bred over her lifetime, giving birth to 13 cubs.

But Zero was special – he was the first ever polar bear cub born in a zoo in North America to survive to adulthood. His success inspired zoos to move away from entertainment and begin to focus more on education and conservation, a mission that continues today.

Obviously, thought UWM history professor Amanda Seligman, that moment in Milwaukee history belonged on Twitter.

History 450

Seligman teaches History 450, a class exploring Milwaukee's past. The curriculum covers the land's Indigenous people, the birth of the city, its influx of immigrants, its Socialist mayors, and more.

The course culminates in a Twitter re-enactment of a historical event in the city, hosted in partnership with Milwaukee Public Museum educator Jaclyn Kelly, herself a UWM history alumna. Each year, Seligman chooses a significant event and asks her students to research the historical figures that played a role in its occurrence. Based on their findings, they create personas for each, make Twitter handles, and send out Tweets as



Amanda Seliaman

if their historical figure had access to social media.

This year's cast of historical characters included Edward Bean, the first director of the Washington Park Zoo: Milwaukee Socialist mayor Dan Hoan; fictional children visiting the zoo; and the polar bear mother, Sultana, among others.

If the birth of the polar bear cub Zero captured Milwaukee's hearts back in 1919, it certainly captured Seligman's students' interest in 2021. But the real trick to picking a good historical event for a reenactment, she said, is finding one that stretches.

"They illuminate both the moment that they're in, and how Milwaukee is positioned nationally and globally," she said. "Even things that are small or obscure are connected to global events."

In other words, the birth of Zero was about more than a polar bear cub. To lend authenticity to their characters, the students studied the end of World War I, the 1918 pandemic, socialist governance, and even the history of school field trips.

"All of these things connected to Zero in a big spiderweb," said undergraduate teaching assistant Lillian Pachner.

Undergraduate research assistant Lillian Pachner stands in front of a Lego reproduction of a polar bear and her cubs at the Milwaukee Public Museum during the UWM History 450 class's table sitting event. Photo by Amanda Seligman.

History in public

Seligman doesn't just stop at a Twitter reenactment, however. Students complete two additional projects in the class – one where they analyze a primary historical source, like an original newspaper article or photograph, and another where they curate a poster presentation around that primary source.

View UWM History 450's Twitter reenactment of the "Birth of Zero" by searching the hashtag #MKEZero.

Then, they take work to the public. Seligman had her class give their talks both at the Milwaukee County Zoo and at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

"The work they're doing in terms of making presentations, translating primary sources ... is directly applicable to careers beyond UWM. I see it as having real professional development for our students," Seligman said.

Pachner got a little more development than most. She took History 450 in 2020, when the Twitter reenactment centered around Milwaukee's first weather forecast, delivered by **Increase Lapham**.

Pachner is self-admitted history nerd, so she was delighted when Seligman approached her after last year's class with a new assignment: Create a bibliography of primary sources from the UWM Archives so that students in the 2021 class had documents with which to conduct their research. Pachner spent the summer wading through old Milwaukee Zoological Society records, newspaper clippings, and photographs to find a host of primary sources. She was helped along with a UWM SURF award (Support for Undergraduate Research Fellows).

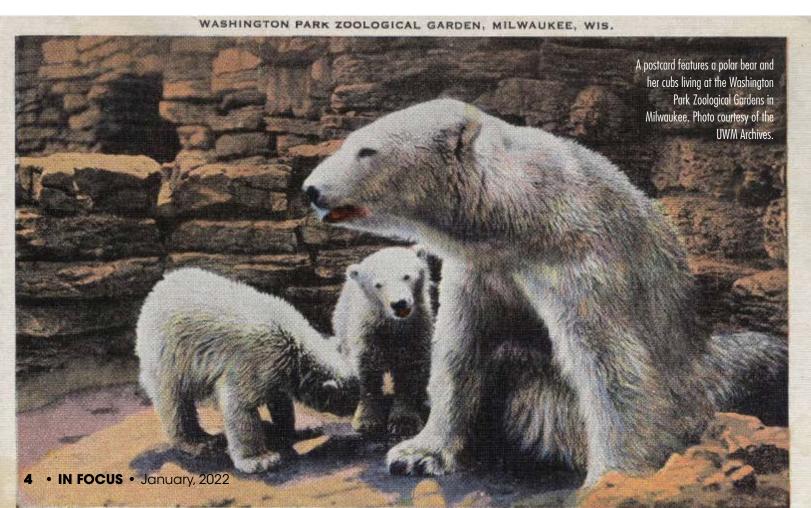
"I had never done anything like that," Pachner reflected. "I can't believe I get to do this. It's the coolest thing ever. I'm only 21 and I don't have my degree, but I get to do this research with an amazing, respected professor."

History via Twitter

Running a historical figure's Twitter account is more difficult than it sounds.

"It was really hard taking all of these little nuggets of history and turning them into something our characters would say," Nicholas Baumgart reflected.

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Greene family returns to UWM to visit ancestor's namesake museum

This was not your typical family reunion.

In November, the descendants of Thomas A. Greene met in the **Greene Geological Museum** on UWM's campus to see the incredible collection of minerals and fossils that their forefather had gathered over his lifetime. Greene was a successful Milwaukee businessman in the latter half of the 19th century. He was also a rockhound who gathered more than 75,000 fossils and mineral samples over the course of his life.

When he died, the Greene family donated his trove to Downer College, and later UW-Milwaukee.

For the first time in years, members of the family met to see their ancestor's legacy in person – and add their own touch. University geologists are in the process of digitizing Greene's collection by photographing every fossil and mineral and uploading them to an online archive. In a full-circle moment, Greene's grandchildren and greatgrandchildren helped photograph some of the fossils in the collection to preserve Greene's work and share it with the world.

"What Thomas Greene assembled here is absolutely unparalleled. This is the most impressive collection (of its type) in the world," geologist Scott Schaefer told the Greene descendants as they gathered in the museum's display room.

A rocky history

Thomas A. Greene was born in 1827 in Rhode Island. As a young man, he moved to Milwaukee and opened a drugstore with his partner, Henry H. Button. Their business grew and with it, Greene's wealth.

He retired in the 1870s after the stress of his business began to take a toll on his health.



Members of the Greene family gathered at UWM's Thomas A. Greene Geological Museum in November. Pictured from left to right are Amy Hughes, Thomas George Hughes, Caroline Hughes Abigail Greene Fassnacht, Thomas Greene Hughes (III), Robin Buerki, and James Hurd Hughes. Photo by Sarah Vickery.

"According to family legend, he got nervous, unhappy, and depressed, and his doctor told him he should take up a hobby," said Thomas Greene Hughes (III), the great-grandson of Thomas A. Greene.

The original Greene took that advice to heart, and then some. He had always been interested in minerals and geology, so he set about collecting specimens from around the world, and in his own backyard – if Milwaukee's guarries counted as his backyard, that is.

"One thing I really think stands out with this collection was that Greene was interested in the best fossils, the best-preserved fossils and the best-preserved minerals," noted Peter Sheehan, an adjunct in UWM's Geosciences Department and an emeritus curator at the Milwaukee Public Museum. "He taught the quarry (workers) what a good specimen looked like so they would bring them to him, and he would buy them."

Continued on Page 9

About the collection

Thomas A. Greene was an avid collector of fossils and minerals. He gathered most of them in the 1880s and 1890s, and found his work heavily influenced by the recently-published *Origin of the Species* by Charles Darwin.

Greene's mineral collection is remarkable because of its quality and rarity. Peter Sheehan noted that some of his samples are from locations, like mines in Russia or Japan, that are no longer in use and no longer accessible.

The fossil collection is an absolute gem, Scott Schaefer contends. Greene collected fossils from around the Great Lakes Basin, spanning from Joliet, Illinois, to Niagara County in New York. Many of the fossils, he said, date to the <u>Silurian</u> and <u>Devonian</u> periods, dating back to almost 444 million years ago.

The world was a much different place then, said Schaefer, as the continents had yet to drift into the locations we know today. This area of the earth used to be covered in an ocean, and coral reefs formed in its shallower waters. Now, he said, we can see where those reefs formed along what would later become Lake Michigan.

The evidence for it lays in the fossils, many of which show fauna that only existed in this particular region, and nowhere else in the world. Therein lies the Greene Collection's value, Schaefer said.

"Even the tiniest little things in here are important, because they teach us about these ancient ecosystems," he said.



Birth of Zero

Continued from Page 5

He took Seligman's class this fall and played two characters during the reenactment: Frederick Law Olmsted, a landscape architect who designed parks and recreation areas across the country and in Milwaukee, and Edward Bean.

"He's credited for building the zoo up to what it is today," Baumgart noted. Bean was the first to notice the birth of Zero; Baumgart says that while not much was known about polar bear gestation and birth, Bean did know a bit about bears. He reportedly threw some hay into Sultana's enclosure and left the pair alone for four months, allowing Zero to grow strong and healthy before introducing him to the Milwaukee public.

Baumgart found other interesting mentions of Bean as well, including in the newspaper article he used to give his presentations at the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Public Museum. The clipping reported on a leopard escaping its enclosure at the zoo 10 years after the fact.

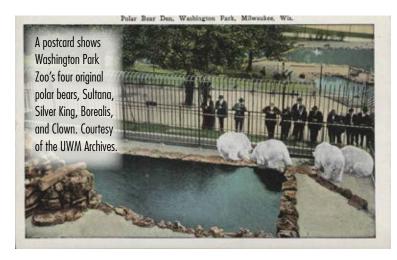
When it came time to write his Tweets, "I chose Edward Bean to be kind of a stereotypical frat boy," Baumgart laughed. "It made it not-so-serious."

For the reenactment, the students met in a large, windowed room at Milwaukee Public Museum. They had drafted 20 Tweets each for their characters and a narrator account, and wrote a script so everyone would know which Tweet to send in what order to build the narrative. The reenactment took about three hours.

"We had done such hard work that (when we finished) it felt like the end of a staged play," Pachner said.

The Twitter reenactment is a unique way to bring a little slice of Milwaukee history to the world, she added. "It's the perfect way to make history so accessible. ... It's on your phone!"

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science



Science Bag returns for a new semester!



Join the UWM campus community for the return of Science Bag, beginning this January!

Proteins are complex molecules responsible with doing most of the work inside our cells and play critical roles related to the structure, function and regulation of our tissues and organs. Join us in exploring how proteins are made, how they acquire their structure and how they use this structure to accomplish their functions.

The January Science Bag is presented by Associate Professor Ionel Popa, Department of Physics.

Science Bag is a family-friendly educational program designed to engage all from ages 8 to 88. Shows are every Friday in January at 7 pm plus a matinee on Sunday, January 16 at 2 pm. Location is the UWM Physics Building on the corner of Kenwood and Cramer, Room 137. No registration necessary.

WHAT: Science Bag

WHERE: Physics 137

WHEN: Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. Jan. 14 at 7 p.m.

Jan. 16 at 2 p.m.

Jan. 21 at 7 p.m.

Jan. 28 at 7 p.m.

MORE INFO: https://wwm.edu/science-bag/

Greene legacy

Continued from Page 7

"He not only knew the quarrymen; he owned the quarry," added Thomas Hughes.

Thomas A. Greene kept his expansive collection in his home. When he ran out of room, "he cut the house in half and put in a great big exhibition hall," Thomas Hughes recalled.

"I never heard what my grandmother's comment was when he did that," mused his cousin, Abigail Greene Fassnacht. Thomas A. Greene was her grandfather.

After Greene's death, the family donated his impressive collection, along with a building to house it, to Downer College. The donation stipulated that the collection be used for public education under the direction of a geology professor. When the College merged with Lawrence College in 1964, the Greene family turned the collection over to UWM.

Education and preservation

Today, the Greene Geological Museum is housed on the first floor of Lapham Hall. It's open to the public and often hosts field trips for area students. The bulk of the collection, though, including the thousands of fossils, are stored in the Lapham Hall basement where Schaefer and his student researchers are busy photographing each piece to build a digital archive.

After viewing the museum, Greene family members rotated in shifts to visit the small Lapham Hall stacks where drawers upon drawers of fossils line the shelves. Student workers Mikayla Walker and Nate Hodges showed Thomas Hughes how to place a fossil under a camera lens and photograph the specimen so it can be uploaded and tagged with digital imagination – when and where it was collected and the flora or fauna imprinted in it.

Schaefer was thrilled to have Greene's family members participate in his legacy, but Thomas Hughes' daughter, Caroline, said there's always been a family interest in rocks and minerals.

"It is a family trait that we tend to classify and order things," she joked, recalling family car trips where her father would point out various rock formations or quiz his kids about the angle of repose.

Caroline Hughes was largely responsible for coordinating the family trip. Her relatives traveled from Delaware, Pennsylvania, Seattle, and Chicago to see the collection.

The trip was well worth it, Thomas Hughes said. "We're very glad it's being used," he added.

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

Top: Thomas Greene **Hughes and Caroline** Hughes examine a fossil. Middle left: Scott Schaefer compares a plush nautiloid cephalopod with a fossil of the same creature. Middle right: A fossil is ready for photography to create a digital record. Bottom: Geosciences student Nate Hodges shows Caroline Hughes a drawer of fossils. Photos by Sarah





(Top) Gustave Doré, Moses Descends from Sinai [Moïse descend du Sinai], from La Sainte Bible, illustrée par Gustave Doré: photographies, vol. 1 (Tours: Alfred Mame et fils, 1868), pl. 55. Photograph by Gabriel Blaise. Musées de la ville de Strasbourg, M. Bertola. (Bottom) Moses and the Ten Commandments, from paint-by-number kit produced by Craftint in 1956. Maria's Pizza, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

An artist of biblical proportions

You may have never heard of Doré, but you've certainly seen his work.

Gustave Doré was a French artist most known for his Biblical illustrations, showing everything from Moses with the Ten Commandments to the Passion of the Christ. And, says Sarah Schaefer, an assistant professor of art history at UWM, he's the perfect lens to understand the staying power of religion, even as the world grew more secular.

It's the subject of her new book,

Gustave Doré and the Modern

Biblical Imagination, which was published in September. Schaefer sat down to talk about her work,

Doré's cultural impact, and the surprising places you can find his work – even in Milwaukee.

Who was Doré? I don't think I had heard of him before I saw your book.

He's most known as an illustrator. He was born in 1832, and the key period of his production is from about the late 1850s until his death in 1883. He started off working in satirical or comicstyle newspaper illustration, and then shifted to more "serious" journalistic interpretation. He moved on from there to serious book illustration. He's one of those artists who, if you don't know his name – and his name is not very well known outside of art historical circles or the circles of book collectors – you have most certainly seen some of his work. He was very prolific. I've seen estimates that he created upwards of 100,000 images in his lifetime.

Some of his most famous illustrations are for Dante and the entirety of *The Divine Comedy. Paradise Lost, Don Quixote,* Tennyson. He was dedicated to illustrating all of what were considered the classic pieces of world literature in his time.

But he's most known for his Biblical illustrations, right?

It's likely that Doré's Biblical imagery is the most reproduced Biblical imagery in the history of the Bible. He was probably the most famous artist in the world when he died in 1883 even though he's not an artist whose name is well-known in America today – which is funny, because America is probably the place where his images are most widespread. You can find them everywhere.

In my case, I decided to focus specifically on his Bible illustrations. I'm using him as a lens to consider the Bible as it is understood and visualized in what we call 'modernity' – a period that for a long time was considered entirely secular, where religion and the Bible were relics of an early modern past. But that's really not the case, and Doré is a figure through whom we can see the continued proliferation of the Bible happening on a global scale.

For sake of reference, when is the modern period?

The French Revolution (in 1789) is a really helpful starting point. One of (the French people's) goals was to overturn the authority of the Church. All Church property in France became the property of the state. A lot of gold was melted down; relics were destroyed. One of my favorite stories from that period was that one of the relics, the bones of St. Genevieve, the patron saint of Paris and France literally bone fragments – were put on trial and accused and convicted of misleading the public. They were publicly burned.



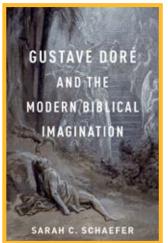
Sarah Schaefer

So, it seems like religion is being questioned, disregarded, even fought against much more starkly than it had been before. But, that's just one particular moment in one particular space. When you move outside of Paris, outside of France, to places like Britain and Germany, Biblical scholarship and interest in the Bible becomes even more pervasive in the late 18th century and the early 19th century.

Today, Doré is everywhere – even here in Milwaukee. I understand there's a Tiffany stained-glass window of a Doré at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

I decided to open the book by focusing on Doré and Milwaukee. My first time in Milwaukee, I came here to see the **Tiffany stained-glass window**. It's the largest stained-glass window that the Tiffany company ever produced.

I started to think more about how many different reproductions or adaptations of Doré's works there are here. I focus on four in the book's introduction. One is the stained-glass window; one is a



second
edition of the
Doré Bible
illustrations
that's in the
Milwaukee
Public Library.
The third is a
painting that
Doré didn't
do, most
likely, but that
someone did
based on his
illustrations.

Art historian's new book

explores Doré and the Bible

that is in the Haggerty Museum at Marquette. The fourth one is a paint-bynumber based on one of his images of Moses that's at Maria's Pizza on Forest Home Avenue in Milwaukee.

I just love these four objects. They're all super-fascinating. He's in Milwaukee, but it's also indicative of how he's ubiquitous everywhere, and you just don't know to look for it.

As you were researching your book, were there any discoveries that stood out to you?

Art historians are always looking for that object that's been molding away in a storage cabinet in a museum whose importance hasn't been highlighted before. For me, that was the primary archive of Doré's letters in Strasbourg, France.

Typically, an artist would produce a design that would then be transferred to a wood-block that an engraver would then engrave. Doré just drew directly onto wood-blocks. The result meant that when the engraver took the block to engrave it, that drawing is destroyed. Both Doré's original design and in most cases, the wood-blocks, are gone. We just don't have them anymore.

But, through the foresight and ingenuity of what had to have been a number of people, his designs on the wood blocks, before they were engraved, were photographed and put into these bound volumes. ... These are photographs of original drawings that don't exist anymore. Some of these images were never published. When I saw these images for the first time, I was super-excited. This was at a time when digitization efforts were underway. Now you can go onto the National Library of France's online catalog and see these photographs.

Why is it so important to understand Doré and how his illustrations fit in with religion and modernity?

Doré provides a really helpful lens because his work was so comprehensive and renowned. His work was absorbed by many different communities, in England, in France, in Germany, the Philippines. You see his works reproduced in a lot of Jewish works as well. It shows up everywhere, so it's really helpful for illuminating how the Bible is adapted for modern contexts and how it is crucial not to just religious communities, but to culture as a

(For example) Cecil B. DeMille, the maker of the film "The Ten Commandments," took compositions basically straight of Doré's illustrations. And he copped to that! A lot of early filmmakers did that. All of them were hugely indebted to Doré's work.

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

Grad student studies history and racism through the lens of baseball

Milwaukee once had its own team in the Negro Leagues.

The Milwaukee Bears, formed in 1923, only lasted one year, so their memory and accomplishments became a minor footnote in baseball history.

However, Ken Bartelt, a doctoral student working toward his PhD in history, is spotlighting the role of the Bears and other Negro League teams in America's complex approach to baseball and race.

He did his master's thesis – "Brew City Black Ball: Milwaukee as Microcosm of the Early-Twentieth Century Black Baseball Experience" – on the history of the Negro Leagues in Milwaukee. Over the summer he was interviewed for a PBS story. PBS was filming a show about the Mallards, a Madison amateur baseball team that plays in the Northwoods League, which did a tribute to the Bears.

"My areas are race and American history and society, but I like to do it through the lens of sports. I think things we might call pop culture are a really great way to get people interested in history."

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Bartelt, who grew up in Buffalo Grove, Illinois, combines his lifelong love of baseball and a passion for history in his work. Neal Pease, a UWM emeritus professor of history who taught a course on baseball and American history, inspired him to use his interest in baseball to look at how history influences contemporary issues.

With his research on the baseball's Negro Leagues, he says, "we're talking about baseball, but we're really talking about race in America. We're talking about labor relations and the immigrant experience; we're talking about business economic history. I just think baseball, being America's pastime, is a great way to learn about history."



The Negro Leagues and the Milwaukee Bears highlight an era when America and its sports teams were divided along color lines.

"A lot of teams do tribute nights, but they don't really talk much about how these leagues were formed and how they struggled to operate in Jim Crow America," Bartelt said. "They really became one of the first and most successful nationwide Black institutions."

When he first started researching the topic, Bartelt found a "glaring void" about Milwaukee's contributions to the

Negro Leagues. Baseball histories mentioned the city had a team in 1923, but they didn't talk about it at any depth. The Milwaukee Brewers had unearthed one historic photo of the team, but not much was known about the team.

He also found that a highly successful all-Black traveling team, the McCoy-Nolan Giants, was based in Milwaukee. They were sponsored by a white owner, John R. McCoy's plumbing supply company.



Ken Barte

"They aren't mentioned anywhere, but they had tremendous success, winning 80% of the games they played throughout the country and overseas and in Cuba and Canada, Bartelt said. "They won the California midwinter tournament in 1930, which was the biggest semi-pro tournament in the country."

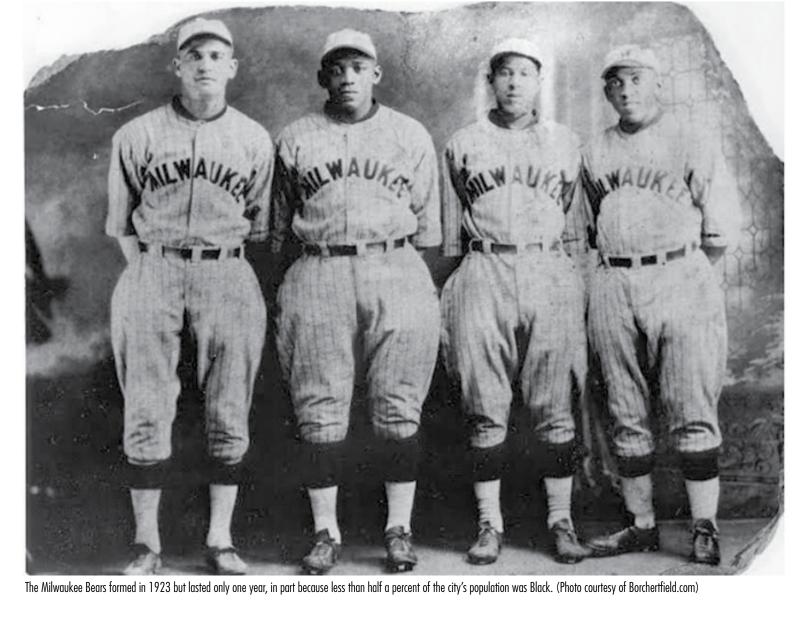
Absent from history

Both teams are largely absent from Milwaukee baseball literature.

"That was one of the blessings, but also the challenges of this work – that nothing had been done before. But it allowed me to kind of interpret the primary sources and make arguments and claims," Bartelt said.

Those sources included 400-plus newspaper articles in online archives – the pandemic year worked in his favor for that, said Bartelt. He earned his master's in public history and museum studies in the summer of 2020.

He also interviewed Dennis
Biddle, who founded and runs an
organization called <u>Yesterday's</u>
Negro League Players Association.
Biddle, a UWM alum who lives
in Milwaukee and played for the
Chicago American Giants, talked



about his experiences in the Negro Leagues. He had also become friends with some of the Bears players later in their lives, giving Bartelt insights into 1920s Milwaukee and the impact of the dual white and Black economies.

Primarily white crowds

Biddle said the Bears often played for majority white crowds because Milwaukee's Black population was relatively small at the time.

In 1923, less than a half a percent of Milwaukee's population was Black. "It was really not a conducive market for Negro League baseball, because the Negro League teams were reliant on Black patronage, while some of these traveling teams would go to these little all-white towns and everyone would come out to see them. As an actual franchise, they needed a Black customer base and Milwaukee didn't have that in 1923. That's one reason why the team failed."

And, in spite of all the challenges, the story of the Negro Leagues is also a story of perseverance, Bartelt said. "These men, and one woman (Effa Manley), who owned some of these teams – they came together to build something that meant a lot to their communities and employed a lot of people. They provided entertainment for people for decades, even during the Jim Crow period."

He sees value in studying the past to prepare for the future, and, as a white scholar, he sees himself as an ally in telling people about this particular slice of history. "It's about seeing this story that needs to be told. I have the tools to tell it and I want to share that with everybody."

"The story of the Negro Leagues is an important reminder of a time in our history when we were quite literally racially divided. If we as a nation are going to reckon with our racial past and the contemporary issues we have, we need to reckon with that."

By Kathy Quirk, University Relations



Catch up with the **Curious Campus podcast**

Join UWM for discussions on science, discovery and culture. Curious Campus is produced by UWM, in cooperation with its research partners. Our work improves the economic outlook and quality of life of our city, state and global community.

www.wuwm.com/show/curiouscampus

Celebrating the holidays in a tapestry of traditions

Leisure is the ticket to less stress, better health

The stresses of everyday life build up and can be detrimental to our health and sleep. More easyaccess resources are needed to help people cope, according to two health psychologists, who have shown that tapping into leisure activities can be a powerful tool to manage everyday stress.

They are trying to figure out exactly why leisure activities are health-protective and are searching for ways to enhance their effects.



Marcellus Merritt



Matthew Zawadzki

chest. This gives us in depth information on things like heart rate or how active are you at a certain time. Then we also have apps we put on people's phones that put out a push notification every so often for a quick assessment. We ask them questions like what they are doing. Are you engaging in leisure? Are you working? How stressed do you feel?

Did those point to any correlations?

Zawadzki: It was shocking how big of an effect it showed. People reported (being) 10% happier in all the moments when they're doing leisure and 30% less stressed. One of the things that really stood out was when we looked at their heart rate data, which came in 4% lower when engaged in leisure. That may not sound like a lot, but the effect was long-term. It lasted for 30 minutes to two hours.

What makes leisure therapeutic?

Merritt: It's related to this notion of being absorbed. We're finding evidence that people who are more distracted when they do their leisure choice, report sleeping better and have fewer depressive symptoms.

It also depends on the individual and their particular engagement with a leisure activity. Playing golf may put you in a better mood, whereas for me, the challenge is exhilarating, and for a third person playing golf just may be more of a social activity on a Saturday afternoon.

We all know that exercise helps to reduce stress, but can a sedentary pastime, like reading, also work?

Zawadzki: We've come to that conclusion that any activity could be beneficial, but it depends on how you're doing that activity. Exercise isn't the only way. When I was growing up my mom had her own ritual each night. She took a bubble bath at 9 pm sharp. So even though it was a sedentary activity, she relaxed and allowed herself to let go of the worries, even for 30 minutes.

By Laura Otto, University Relations

As the holiday song goes, "It's the most wonderful time of the year." Around the world, families and friends are gathering, whether virtually or in person, to exchange gifts, share stories or feast on sweets and home-cooked meals. The holidays also give people an opportunity to celebrate their cultural traditions and heritage. The pandemic changed some traditions, but others continued and are returning this year sometimes in a different way.

On this episode of **Curious Campus**, two folklore experts

talk about the origins of some of our holiday traditions. We

Studies, distinguished professor of social sciences and an

Department of Foreign Languages and Literature who has

Bronner: Holidays are tied into seasonal cycle. With winter

are dark and dreary, so holidays help compensate for that.

It's one of the functions besides celebrating certain events.

A lot of people are inside because of the cold, so holidays

Some would argue with television and the media we don't

need that connection, but there's also the argument that in

a mobile society, holidays are also serving even more so as

How has social media changed the way we celebrate

Bronner: There might be a view that people will hold that

it displaced traditions, but I believe it has enhanced them

outside of their own families and neighborhoods. They're

asking questions about them and even participating in them.

In addition, there is this sense of connection in that people

because people are learning about different traditions

provide an excuse to get together and that's important.

homecomings and ways to be with family.

holidays?

approaching, particularly in the northern climes, the days

internationally known expert in folklore. Joining Bronner

is Meghan Murphy-Lee, a senior lecturer at UWM in the

taught classes on Russian culture and Slavic folklore.

Why are there so many holidays this time of year?

talk with Simon Bronner, dean of UWM's College of General



Simon Bronner



Meghan Murphy-Lee

of different backgrounds can share their traditions with others who are interested.

Murphy-Lee: In talking to Russian friends and colleagues, I've found they've been able to reconnect with the Russian New Year and friends there through social media. There's a romantic comedy called 'The Irony of Fate" that many Russians

traditionally watch on New Year's Eve and they can do that together now online. It has allowed Russians in the U.S. to celebrate with friends and family in Russia with a toast on Skype or video conferencing. They can relive traditions with their families.

What are some traditions unique to Wisconsin?

Bronner: When I came to Milwaukee, I was a little taken aback at what was announced as a Christmas tradition of eating raw beef. People used the term cannibal sandwiches or tiger meat. That was something I was not familiar with. I found out this wasn't exactly cold cuts. This was something that tended to be done at Christmas time. Upon further research it does seem to come from the German roots of this area. There is something called mettwurst, which is a German kind of sausage with raw meat.

What is the origin of the holidays in Russia and the Slavic countries?

Murphy-Lee: The Christmas holidays date back to a pagan holiday called Koliada which was around the winter solstice and the shortest day of the year. A lot of it involved feasting and singing. That transferred to the Christian holiday of Christmas and now to New Year's. Children go door-to-door singing songs and collect treats.

By Kathy Quirk, University Relations

When can stress harm our health?

Merritt: Stress is endemic in our lives – and there's a "good" and a "bad" variety. Our bodies can handle random stresses. But if we have it constantly, that's when it can grow and become chronic. So, our goal is to develop preventive models to help people optimize the good stressors and minimize the bad stress.

Marcellus Merritt, an associate professor of psychology, and

Matthew Zawadzki, an associate professor at the University

of California-Merced, offer some tips in this Q&A. To hear

more, check out this this episode of **Curious Campus**.

If we can't avoid stress, how can we manage it better?

Merritt: One of the things (we) are focusing on this notion of leisure as an inherent model of stress reduction. The idea is, "Why don't we focus on what we already like to do and figure out ways to help you do that better?" So, if you like to golf for leisure, figure out why golf helps you feel better and build solutions around that approach. Is it because you become absorbed and forget your problems? Is it because it gets you engaged in social interaction so you get "out of your head?"

Tell us a little about the study.

Zawadzki: We went outside of the lab and tracked people in their everyday lives to find out what they are doing and feeling in the moment. And we follow them along in a couple of ways. The first is they have a wearable on – sometimes it's a watch and sometimes it's a little electrode on the



In the Media and Around the Community

Why do the old Indigenous names of landmarks like lakes, rivers, and mountains matter? **Margaret Noodin** (English and American Indian Studies) explained on **WUWM Radio**.

Michael Newman (English) was mentioned as a source on the 1980s "moral panic" around video games, in an op-ed article in The **New York Times**, "I Play Video Games With My 4-Year-Old, and That's OK," by Jay Caspian Kang.



Wisconsinites seem to want to help others, given the number of times residents queried the internet on how to start a nonprofit this year. Bryce Lord (Nonprofit Management) explained the process to Milwaukee Magazine. He also commented on the pandemic's effects on local nonprofit organizations for WUWM Radio.

Bettina Arnold (Anthropology) was quoted in an article about the salt mining site of Hallstatt in Austria entitled, "Turning Salt into Gold," in the most recent issue of **Archaeology**.

Scientific glassblowers are a rare breed, so UWM glassblower **Neal Korfhage (Chemistry and Biochemistry)** told **WUWM Radio** all about his profession.

Body shape ideals change as quickly as fashion trends, **Cary Costello (Sociology)** said in a **USA Today** article questioning TikTok body trends.

Hot pot is a Chinese tradition that is gaining popularity across the globe. **Haiyun Lu ('08, MA Linguistics)** explained the particulars of the regional dish in a **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel** article.

Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska (Physics) was one of three scientists, all women, that <u>Milwaukee Magazine</u> highlighted for the efforts in attracting more women and girls to STEM to address the field's gender gap.

Buzzfeed linked to **John Heywood's (Economics)** research on the gender pay gap in Hollywood in a piece covering how male movie stars have advocated for their female co-stars.

In December, Rachel Buff (History) presented on "Dreams of Democracy by Asylum Seekers" and Paru Shah (Political Science) spoke about "Assaults on Democracy Domestically" at the 2021 International Human Rights Day Celebration in Milwaukee's panel discussion on human rights challenges facing democracy's future. The panel was moderated by Chia Youyee Vang (History).

What does Texas' new restrictive abortion law mean for other states, including Wisconsin? **Sara Benesh** (**Political Science**) explained the possible consequences on **Radio Milwaukee**.

<u>LiveScience</u> shed light on some of the mysteries surrounding Antarctica with help from PhD student **Libby Ives (Geosciences)**.

Why does your cursor blink when you're typing in a word processor? **Thomas Haigh (History)** helped explained the history of this piece of computing technology on **Inverse.com**.



A team of physicists at UWM, led by **Abbas Ourmazd (Physics)**, have created "movies" of the ultra-fast reactions of certain proteins that change shape in the presence of light. Their discovery was featured in **Wired Magazine**.

The focus on food during the holiday season can be harmful to some people struggling with eating disorders, **Stacy Nye (Psychology)** told **Spectrum 1 News**.

WISN 12 News spoke to Avik Chakrabarti (Economics) about how supply chain issues may lead to higher heating bills this winter. He explained the same topic for CBS 58 News.

As NASA's James Webb Telescope was launched into space, **Jean Creighton (Planetarium)** helped explain the significance and capabilities of the machine on **Mashable**.



People in Print

Andrew Whetten (Mathematical Sciences). 2021. Smoothing splines of apex predator movement: Functional modeling strategies for exploring animal behavior and social interactions. Ecology and Evolution. Online.

John Berges, Erika B. Young (both Biological Sciences), K. Thamatrakoln, and A.R. Taylor. 2022. From genes to ecosystems: using molecular information from diatoms to understand ecological processes. In https://pubm.ncbi.nlm.nih.goog (Lesley Clementson, Ruth Eriksen, and Anusuya Willis, eds.), Elsevier.

Danielle A. Berg, John Chisholm, **Dawn K. Erb** (**Physics**), Evan D. Skillman, Richard W. Pogge, and Grace Olivier. 2021. Characterizing Extreme Emission-line Galaxies. I. A Four-zone Ionization Model for Very High-ionization Emission. **Astrophysical Journal**, 922(2), 170.

Annalisa Citro, **Dawn K. Erb (Physics)**, Max Pettini, Matthew W. Auger, G. D. Becker, and B.L. James. 2021. SDSS J1059+4251, a Highly Magnified z ~ 2.8 Starforming Galaxy: ESI Observations of the Rest-frame UV Spectrum. **Astrophysical Journal**, 922(2), 187.

John S. Heywood (Economics) and B. Artz. 2021. Unions, Worker Participation, and Worker Well-being. In Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics (K. Zimmerman, ed.), Berlin: Springer Nature.

Andrew Kincaid (English). 2022. Samuel Beckett's Radio Geographies. *Modernist Cultures*, 17(1), 54–73.

In the Media, con't.

The center of the northwestern hemisphere of the Earth is in Marathon County, Wisconsin. **Ryan Holifield** (**Geography**) explained the spot's significance to **WUWM Radio**.

Kundan Kishor (Economics) was quoted in a **Wisconsin Public Radio** piece examining the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on rising inflation. He spoke on the same topic with the **Wisconsin Examiner**.

Complaining about snow is a way for people to bond over a neutral topic, **Michael Mirer (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** said in a **Milwaukee Journal Sentine**l article.

Darian Dixon ('15, BS Geosciences) explained his job as a camera operator on NASA's Mars Curiosity Rover to **WUWM Radio**.



LaLinda Xiong ('16, BA Economics) was recently named the <u>program manager</u> of the Twin Cities Diversity In Practice (TCDIP) new anti-racism initiative, Wanton Injustice Legal Detail (WILD). Xiong will head the program aimed at combatting racism and anti-Black racism in particular, with a focus on expanding voting rights, addressing inequalities in education and policing, and increasing access to wealth.

David Reeves ('92, BA Political Science) is the president of OpenGov and is expanding the business in Milwaukee. The company is on track to have 36 new employees to start 2022, with an eye toward hiring more. OpenGov provides software to government agencies. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation also



avid Reeves

announced \$350,000 in credits if OpenGov creates 65 additional full-time jobs within three years. The company anticipates making a \$400,000 capital investment in the office as part of the expansion.

Roy Domenico ('77, BA History) <u>published his book</u>, "The Devil and the Dolce Vita: Catholic Attempts to Save Italy's Soul, 1948-1974" exploring Italy's secularization during post World War II economic expansion.

Virginia Maher ('94, MA Art History) is the author of several books exploring the history of art and artists in Door County. She was profiled in the Peninsula Post for her latest book which reflects on beauty and simplicity in pottery.

Britt Gottschalk ('15, BA Psychology) was named among Wisconsin's 48 Most Influential Black Leaders by Madison365.com. She is the founder of ReVise Consulting, which offers virtual business consulting and partnering, learning and development workshops, talent management assessments, and strategic sourcing and recruitment.

Trapper Schoepp ('13, BA Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) was featured on WUWM Radio as part of the station's new series on "Pandemic Performers," highlighting local artists who are now getting back to live performances. The segment highlighted Schoepp's album "May Day."



The College of Letters & Science is pleased to report that Emeritus History Professor **David Buck** and his wife **Diane** have made a contribution of \$250,000 that will re-ignite the Buck Professorship in Chinese History supporting the hiring of a Visiting Assistant Professor. David and Diane have generously supported the College of Letters & Science, especially the History Department, for many years and we thank them for their dedication.

We also recognize these donors who have contributed \$10,000 or more to the College recently:

John Brlas (Chemistry & Biochemistry) (planned estate gift)

Greg Meyer (American Indian Languages & Culture) (planned estate gift)

Greater Milwaukee Foundation (multiple funds)

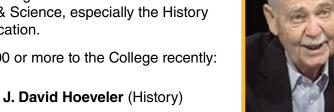
The Fulbright Commission (Celtic Studies)

Dr. Yoshio Niho & Linda Niho (Economics)

Tower View Investment Management (L&S Scholarships)

Patricia Bower (History) (planned estate gift)

Tinsley Helton Charitable Trust (English)



David Buck

Brin (Philosophy)

Bradlev Brin & Glenna Cose

Lurie Irrevocable Trust (Human Resources and Labor Relations)

Dr. Albert & Mrs. Dorothy Marden (Math)

Dr. Ruth and Mr. Frederick Schwertfeger (Stahl Center for Jewish Studies)

Anne E. and Bruce E. Walker Charitable Foundation (Pre-Med)

Peter Layde and Angela Carollo (Chemistry & Biochemistry)



Video Story



Laurels and Accolades

Dazhong Zhao (Biological Sciences), PI, and co-PIs Zhanguo Xin and Melinda Yerka were awarded a grant sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for \$649,820 for his study on hybrid sorghum breeding.

Kimberly Blaeser (English and American Indian Studies)

was one of two authors recently selected to receive a "Notable Author" award from

the Wisconsin Library Association in 2021. This award, designed to promote greater awareness of the state's literary heritage, recognizes an author's entire body of work.



Dazhona Zhao

Dance and sociology major Victoria Isaac talks about what receiving a scholarship at UWM meant to her.

https://youtu.be/Saok1 YsAc8

Congratulations, December graduates!

We are thrilled to recognize the many students who graduated in December at the first in-person Commencement Ceremony held at UWM Panther Arena in three semesters. We especially offer our congratulations to our Letters & Science graduates and wish them all the best as they begin their post-college journey. We are Panther Proud!

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

Thirteen members of the UW-Milwaukee Class of 2021 share their favorite memories, standout moments and advice for future Panthers. Congratulations, UWM Class of 2021! We're Panther proud of you! https://youtu.be/YS6dQ939JSs



