

Cassandra A. Leonard

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Education

Washington State University – Pullman, WA PhD Student, Sociology	August 2019-present
Stony Brook University (S.U.N.Y.) – Stony Brook, NY Bachelor of Arts, <i>Cum Laude</i> , French Language and Literature Bachelor of Arts, <i>Cum Laude</i> , Political Science	May 2018

Research Interests

- Foreign aid
- Gender roles and family structure
- Portrayal of Haiti in Western media

Experience

Teaching Assistant Sociology 102: Social Problems <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instructor: Dr. Mariana Amorim	Spring 2019 Pullman, WA
Teaching Assistant Sociology 102: Social Problems <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instructor: Dr. Sarah Whitley	Fall 2019 Pullman, WA
Undergraduate Intern Life Skills/Athlete Network <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Served as a representative for Athlete Network at Stony Brook, a professional networking company for collegiate student-athletes• Encouraged peers to utilize the network as a means of promoting themselves and improving their professionalism for the future• Outreach to recruiters, fellow student-athletes, and alumni for professional development	Spring 2018 Stony Brook, NY
Steering Committee Founding Member HeForShe <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selected to champion United Nations movement at Stony Brook University• Consulted with faculty advisor, Vice Provost, Dr. Charles Robbins, to engage in grassroots activities to promote gender equality• Founded general student body club to advance movement	March 2016-May 2018 Stony Brook, NY
International Volunteer Be Like Brit <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learned about local customs and language before traveling to Grand Goâve, Haiti• Spent two weeks living in an orphanage and building a home for a Haitian family• Utilized language skills and expanded upon research interests• Continues to lend support and maintain connections with employees	July 2016-present Grand Goâve, Haiti

Relevant Research

<i>“Bilinguisme aux anciennes colonies francophones: des exemples d’Haïti et du Madagascar” (“Bilingualism in former French colonies: the cases of Haiti and Madagascar”)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Independent study advised by Dr. Sarah Jourdain, Associate Dean and professor in Department of French Language & Literature• Investigated and considered the relevance of bilingualism as an institution in both countries	Spring 2018
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- Drew possible conclusions about limits of bilingualism as it relates to culture and social attitudes in each respective country, in spite of their both being nominally French-speaking bilingual

“A Claim for Language Instruction that Replicates Second Language Acquisition” Spring 2017

- Semester-long independent project overseen by Dr. Robert Kaplan, professor of Advanced Analytic & Argumentative Writing
- Asserted and providing evidence favoring foreign language instruction mirroring language acquisition over explicit teaching
- Made a claim against the present test-based language education system in many American public schools

“Comparison of the Morphology and Syntax of Haitian Creole and French” Fall 2016

- Discussed history of Haitian Creole language, pronoun and article variations, verbs and word order
- Submitted as final paper for Romance Linguistics course

“Les différences entre le français standard et le français aux pays africains” (“Differences between standard French and French in Francophone African countries”) Fall 2016

- Research presentation given for course in Phonetics & Diction
- Discussed the prevalence of French language in Africa
- Provided cursory examples of variances in pronunciation in Maghreb and sub-Saharan Africa, versus standard French, as well as their sociological implications

“Linguistic Diversity as a Problem and Solution for Immigration Integration” Fall 2016

- Assessed the implications of borders in a globalized world and contended that the United States would benefit from embracing, rather than placing negative stigmata upon, the cultural and linguistic diversity that immigrants provide
- Written as an independent research project, overseen by Professor Gallya Lahav during her course on Immigration and Refugee Politics

Presentations

- *“Bilingualism in Former French Colonies: The Cases of Haiti and Madagascar”* URECA Undergraduate Research Conference, Stony Brook University, May 2018.
- *“A Claim for Language Instruction that Replicates Second Language Acquisition”* SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference, Suffolk Community College, April 2017.

Awards & Honors

Dean’s List, Stony Brook University	Fall 2014-Spring 2018
America East Commissioner’s Honor Roll	
Society of Distinguished Scholar-Athletes	
National Society of Collegiate Scholars	

Service

Bishop’s Development Team	February 2020-present
St Mark’s Episcopal Church	Moscow, ID

- Working with Diocesan staff to prepare congregation for new priest
- Reviewing and assessing budget, staffing, programming operations

Vestry Member	May 2019-present
St Mark’s Episcopal Church	Moscow, ID

- Aiding in the call process for a new rector
- Oversees church finances and operations