

Joy Cariño

National Conference on Undergraduate Research. University of Central Oklahoma.
Edmond, OK. April 4-7th, 2018

Through the MSU Shackouls Honors College, I had the opportunity to present original humanities research at a national conference. I am grateful for this opportunity to take papers I'd worked on for classes and share my findings with undergraduates across the country who are working in the same topics. I also enjoyed exploring the city and getting to know my fellow MSU researchers.

My first presentation was of a literature research paper on Sandra Cisneros' short story "Never Marry a Mexican" in the context of Gloria Anzaldua's work cultural borderlands. I discussed how Cisneros' short story conceptualizes the larger effects of colonization. My second presentation was on linguistic anthropology research on "preferred" pronouns and the LGBTQ community. By analyzing several online opinion articles, I identified ideological trends about how gendered pronouns should be used in relation to the LGBTQ community, and I discussed how each ideology shows the authors' solution for a cultural deficiency about gender identity.

While I got more experience in giving presentations and answering difficult questions about my research, I also enjoyed networking with students from other universities. I made connections with a graduate school that was interested in my Chicana literature research and exchanged contact info with students interested in my language and gender research. At poster sessions, I talked with students making innovative arts projects, such as developing tactile art museums for people with disabilities, increasing writing center awareness on campus, and developing the best methods for adult music learning. I also talked with students doing work in sociology and attitudes towards the LGBTQ community. It was amazing to discuss ideas and hopes for future research with students from across the country.

My most valuable experiences from this trip came from meaningful discussions with the other MSU students. They challenged me to consider the larger implications of our own research and of academic research in general. We had lots of freedom to explore the city and enjoy time together. Overall, I had a wonderful experience at this conference and was encouraged by other students' passion for research.