Faculty and student research collaborations

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Mehmet Soyer, Temporary Assistant Professor of Sociology—whose research focuses on environmental sociology, social stratification, intersectional inequality, and the use of new & mass media—has recently helped many USU students present their research.

Cassidy Gummersall, a communication major who is getting a minor in sociology, presented with Dr. Soyer at the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM). Their presentation was called “Discourse Analysis of Pro- and Anti- Fracking Groups in Denton.”

Haley Sorenson and Scott Peterson (pictured left) presented on a panel organized by Dr. Soyer. Peterson spoke about his auto-ethnography paper, which detailed his shifting perception of racial identities, and Sorenson talked about her auto-ethnography paper, which traces her experience as a feminist woman in a Mormon family. Sorenson and Soyer also co-authored a book review of Critical Autoethnography: Intersecting Cultural Identities in Everyday Life, which appeared in Qualitative Sociology Review.

Dr. Soyer also helped sociology major Dylan Leiker prepare for his presentation at the USU Student Research Symposium. Leiker’s research project, “Blocking While Black: An Examination of Racial Disparity on Holding Penalties in the NFL,” was also awarded an Undergraduate Research & Creative Opportunity grant from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.