



# Research Clusters 2013-2014

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## Biopsychosocial Research Cluster

**Conveners: Thomas Ritz and Pia Vogel**

Efforts to understand health and disease processes increasingly use a biopsychosocial model, incorporating biochemical and cellular processes, physiological function, psychological behavior, and individual experiences, all in relation to society and the physical environment. Our research cluster will discuss the opportunities and limits of this interdisciplinary approach by exploring research collaborations between relevant disciplines in Dedman College and SMU, including but not limited to the biological sciences, psychology, chemistry, and anthropology.

## Linking Mathematical and Life Sciences

**Conveners: Andrea Barreiro and Brandy Stigler**

In this cluster, we will explore interdisciplinary connections between the mathematical, physical, and life sciences by conducting informal seminars and discussions led by cluster participants.

## Thinking with Affect: New Approaches to the Body, Emotions, and Politics

**Conveners: Beatriz Balanta and Shilyh Warren**

This cluster aims to bring together a group of interdisciplinary scholars to tackle questions such as: How does the "affective turn" influence our contemporary thinking about the social, the political, the cultural, and the scientific? More specifically, can such an analytical framework account for war? For revolution? For identity categories such as race, gender, and sexuality? For feelings that have consequences in the material world, such as hate, depression, optimism, or joy?

## Interdisciplinary Approaches to Inebriation, Addiction and Recovery Literature

**Convener: Bruce Levy**

This research cluster brings together scholars and professionals working both directly and indirectly within the areas of inebriation, addiction, and recovery. In spite of the strong contemporary interest in these issues, approaches have generally failed to foster conversations across the disciplines and the professions, with the major focus isolated within the realm of clinical psychology. This research cluster will address this limitation by examining inebriation, addiction, and recovery issues from historical, literary, anthropological, legal, and medical perspectives, with participants from a cross-section of disciplines, professions, and practices.

## **Global Health Services Cluster**

**Convener: Eric Bing**

The major challenges in global health today are no longer medical challenges, but rather challenges in distribution, delivery and demand--getting quality care to people in ways that they will use it and at a price that they can afford. These challenges require innovative solutions from students and scholars skilled and motivated to work across areas including technology and informatics, human behavior and motivation, social and cultural networks, entrepreneurship, economics and policy, media and the arts. The Global Health Services Research Cluster will facilitate cross-campus, cross-disciplinary discussion and engagement that may lead to global health services research and training proposals, funding, and opportunities.

## **Removing our Blind Spots at the Intersections of Thought in a Global Society**

**Conveners: Nayelly Dominguez and Chase Harker**

This research cluster creates an academic initiative enabling us to tackle the most pressing issues of our future interdisciplinarily. We want to research and explore the intersections between global economics, politics, philosophy, innovation, creativity, and business to understand the patterns of the past, make connections to the present, and to recognize the challenges of the future. To analyze the intersections of ideas in fields such as government, education, energy, and healthcare, we will look at case studies from organizations participating in world markets to learn from their strategies, successes, and failures.