

Sabbatical Leave Report for Spring 2023
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The purpose of my request for spring 2023 sabbatical leave was to complete data collection and engage in data analysis and preliminary write-up of findings from intensive interviews on generous practices. My current research focuses on the conceptualization of generosity and “being generous”—as an action and an identity—and on the emotions, contexts, and behaviors that shape social understandings of generosity and generous practices. As such, my project, “The Work of Generous Practices,” will examine the meanings attributed to generosity, generous individuals, and their contexts as well as to explore the emotions that underlie those meanings and processes. Data collection began in fall 2022 and involved intensive interviews with three groups of individuals: college students, working-aged adults (ages 24-68 years), and individuals who have experienced adverse circumstances. The initial interview data helped to guide an understanding of the character of generosity and the diverse contexts in which it emerges.

This sabbatical leave to engage “The Work of Generous Practices” provided time (1) to empirically explore a long-time interest in the intersection of generosity, identity and well-being (individual and societal); (2) to develop a more nuanced conceptual and empirical understanding of how generosity and “being generous”—as an action and an identity—shape individual and social relationships and potential well-being; (3) to engage in rigorous research to inform my scholarly contributions and teaching. I was less able to use the time specifically (4) to create a foundation for a competitive external grant application to examine generous practices and social isolation and potential avenues for intervention.

Prior to sabbatical leave, I amended my Institutional Review Board protocol, and received approval for the conduct of research with human participants (SSU IRB protocol #3211). During the first part of my leave, I submitted approval requests to IT for software to transcribe audio-recorded interviews (Otter*ai) and to organize and code transcribed interview data (Atlas*ti).

First, I collected demographic and intensive interview data (audio-recorded interviews) from 57 people and developed a Qualtrics database for the demographic survey data. Interviews explored definitions of and diverse experiences with generous practices, including related persons, emotions, and the details related to contexts. The Qualtrics interface facilitated data organization of the demographic survey data.

Second, preliminary findings related to the “Generous Practices” data were presented at the Pacific Sociological Association Meetings in March 2023, Bellevue, WA, by me¹ and two undergraduate SSU

¹ Paterniti DA, **Trosky E, Shahade M.** “Inequities in the Emotional Economy of Generous Practices.” Session 126. Social Psychology: Meaning-Making and Prosocial Behavior [Formal (Completed) and Research in Progress Session]. Pacific Sociological Association Meetings. Bellevue, WA. March 31, 2023.

students, who worked with me to collect the data in fall 2022.² Further analysis was accepted for presentation at the national meetings of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in Philadelphia, PA in August 2023. These findings were not presented, however, as the date scheduled for presentation intersected with convocation and the start of the SSU fall 2023 semester. More theoretically-rich interpretations of the data have since been presented at the Western Psychological Association meetings in San Francisco, CA on April 26, 2023,³ and have been accepted for presentation at the American Sociological Association meetings in Montreal, Quebec, CANADA, August 2024.⁴

Third, analytical development of the theoretical themes in the data offered opportunity to engage students in complex understandings of social psychological research as applied to meaning making and inequality (SOCI 201-Introduction to Sociology, F23 & S24; SOCI 498-Senior Seminar (Identity, Biography & Society), S24) as well as to engage a group of Koret Student Scholars (AY 2023-24) in more complex theoretical understandings of the literature on generosity as well as with the existing data.

Fourth, while waiting on approval of software to transcribe audio-recordings and to organize and code additional interview transcripts (beyond preliminary analyses), I used preliminary data to apply for a 2023-24AY Koret Scholars Award, and a Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Program fellowship award (Summer 2024) to organize and systematically examine the larger corpus of data. These awards will assist with development of the theoretical framework, selection of detailed evidence from the data, and the write-up of results for final presentation and publication.

Finally, during my spring 2023 sabbatical leave, I applied for (and received) a Community Involvement Research Award from the School of Social Sciences (AY 2023-24) to work with a Santa-Rosa-based non-profit organization, Vital Immigrant Defense and Advocacy Services (VIDAS). I also collaborated on two studies with UC Davis School of Medicine faculty. The first was an interview study with project personnel and key investigators for no-cost Tobacco Replacement Programs, funded through one-time grant monies from President Biden's Moonshot initiative; for this study, I collaborated on project design and development of instruments and strategies for data collection to explore the strategies for program success and obstacles to sustainability following the loss of grant funding (paper with Dr. E Tong et. al.). The second of the two papers explores the dynamics of patient race on the clinical diagnosis of pathology specimens (paper with Dr. JP Graff & Dr. D Dwyre).

I am grateful to have had the sabbatical semester in spring 2023 to further my research focus on generous practices and to consider the implications of the everyday experiences of generosity for persons, institutions, and community engagement.

² **Shahade, Madlina** and **Trosky, Erin** (mentor: Debora Paterniti) "Experiences of Generous Practices: Initial Observations on Practices of Giving." Student Roundtable Session: Social Psychology. Pacific Sociological Association Meetings. Bellevue, WA. March 31, 2023.

³ Paterniti, DA & **Shahade, M.** "The Social Problem of Generosity: Expectations for Emotional Exchange." Western Psychological Association. Regional Conference. 26 April 2024. San Francisco, CA.

⁴ Paterniti, DA. "Social Dialectics and Emotion in Everyday Generous Practices." Social Psychology & Sociology of Emotions Roundtables. American Sociological Association. National Meetings. 10 August 2024. Montreal, Quebec, CANADA.