Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Education with an emphasis in Educational Practice

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The Process of Oral Academic Discourse Socialization and Workplace Enculturation
of International Graduate Students of Business

Date: April 16, 2019
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place: COE TLC Conference Room 1

Abstract
This study addresses the process of oral academic socialization that learners of a second language and culture undergo to succeed in disciplinary graduate courses. The participants were students from Mainland China and Taiwan pursuing an International Master of Business Administration (IMBA) degree at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL). Guided by social constructivist and language socialization theories, this longitudinal ethnographic case study investigated factors that facilitated oral academic discourse socialization of speakers of Chinese. A group of eight IMBA Chinese and Taiwanese students studied their first academic year in their home country and culture before transferring to study abroad in the U.S. to complete their graduate degree. After the beginning of their second semester of studies in the U.S., they shared their experience of adapting to oral academic discourse in the classroom and workplace over a period of eight months. The participants reflected on sociocultural differences in education, challenges they encountered, and coping strategies in their disciplinary studies through a second language and culture. In the summer, five of the same participants began an internship in St. Louis, of which they shared their challenges and strategies working in a second language and culture. They also reflected on how these compared to those in their academic classes. Data included focus groups, individual interviews, reflective journals, and field notes from class observations. Drawing on data analysis rooted in grounded theory, findings from transcripts and notes were triangulated. Open and axial coding were used to identify features and themes of the socialization process in academic and professional settings.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
Chairperson, William C. Kyle, Jr. Ph.D.
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