**Writing Abstracts**

Guiding questions:

1. Highlight words you don’t know. Look them up if necessary or ask me.
2. What is the controversy that the paper is responding to?
3. What is the thesis of the paper?
4. What are the key pieces of information that go into an abstract?
5. Is this a good abstract? Why or why not?
6. *Note: if you finish early, you can start drafting an abstract for your essay 2.2.*

Bodian, Miriam. “Hebrews of the Portuguese Nation: The Ambiguous Boundaries of Self-Definition.” *Jewish Social Studies* 1.15 (2008). 66-80. *Jstor.* Web. 30 Oct 2013.

**Abstract**

This article explores why the Portuguese Jews of northern Europe never established a solid sense of belonging to the wider Sephardi diaspora. It explores how, historically, the Conversos lost the consciousness of being "Sephardi" in the generations after the expulsion from Spain and the mass baptism of Portugal's Jews in 1497. To be sure, once the Portuguese ex- Conversos organized in Jewish communities, their leaders made efforts to reconnect with the wider Sephardi world, and these efforts had serious symbolic and strategic value. But the Portuguese Jews' rootedness in the Converso experience meant that their core sense of collective self remained distinct. Contributing factors to their enduring sense of distinctness were these aspects of Converso experience: the absorption of Catholic notions of piety; the "de-rabbinization" of crypto-Jewish belief; and the difficulty for many Conversos of maintaining any stable set of traditional beliefs. The outward image their leaders sought to cultivate may have been one of Sephardi traditionalism, but, at an emotional level, members of these communities continued to regard themselves as members of the "nagao" - a term that evoked the Converso past.

*(note: a converso is someone who was forced to convert to Christianity during the inquisition)*

Baddeley, Jenna L, James W. Pennebaker, and Christopher G. Beevers. “Everyday Social Behavior During a Major Depressive Episode.” *Social Psychology and Personality Science* 8 Oct. 2012. *Sage*. Web. 31 Oct. 2013.

**Abstract**

Although social functioning deficits are believed to characterize major depressive disorder (MDD), few studies have examined the social behavior of individuals with MDD in everyday life. The current study’s aim is to assess the everyday social behavior of individuals in a current major depressive episode. Participants with current MDD (n¼29) and healthy controls (n¼28) wore the electronically activated recorder (EAR), an ambulatory assessment device, for 3–4 days. The EAR recorded 90-second sound clips from participants’ immediate environments. Participants’ conversations were transcribed and locations and activities coded. Indicators of social isolation and negative emotional expression were examined. Individuals with and without MDD spent similar amounts of time talking, laughing, and with another person. However, depressed people spent less time in groups and used more negative emotion words, particularly in reference to the self, and particularly around romantic partners. Findings suggest depressed people’s social interactions suffer in quality but not quantity.

Fuller, Trevon et al. “The cost of postponing biodiversity conservation in Mexico.” *Biological Conserviation* 134 (2007): 593-600. Web. 31 Oct. 2013.

**Abstract**

Though Neotropical countries are the most species rich in the world, their biodiversity is threatened by the loss of native vegetation. Land conversion in Mexico during the last 30 years has been extensive and is representative of that of other developing countries. How- ever, the effects of land use change on the required size and configuration of an adequate biological conservation area network are largely unknown. It is shown here that endemic mammals in Mexico could have been protected considerably more economically if a conservation plan had been implemented in 1970 than is possible today due to extensive conversion of primary habitats. Analysis of the distributions of 86 endemic mammal species in 1970, 1976, 1993, and 2000 indicates that the distributions of 90% of the species shrank during this 30-year period. At each time step, optimal conservation area networks were selected to rep- resent all species. 90% more land must be protected after 2000 to protect adequate mammal habitat than would have been required in 1970. In addition, under a realistic conservation budget, 79% fewer species can be represented adequately in a conservation area network after 2000 compared to 1970. This provides an incentive for rapid conservation action in Mexico and other biodiversity hotspots with comparable deforestation rates, including Burma, Ecuador, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. Due to ongoing habitat degradation, the efficiency of a conservation plan decreases with delays in its implementation.

Voit, Richard A et al. “Generation of an HIV Resistant T-cell Line by Targeted ‘Stacking’ of Restriction Factors.” *Molecular Therapy* 21.4 (2013): 786–795. *CrossRef*. Web. 31 Oct. 2013.

**Abstract**

Restriction factors constitute a newly appreciated line of innate immune defense, blocking viral replication inside of infected cells. In contrast to these antiviral proteins, some cellular proteins, such as the CD4, CCR5, and CXCR4 cell surface receptors, facilitate HIV replication. We have used zinc finger nucleases (ZFNs) to insert a cocktail of anti-HIV restriction factors into the *CCR5* locus in a T-cell reporter line, knocking out the *CCR5* gene in the process. Mirroring the logic of highly active antiretroviral therapy, this strategy provides multiple parallel blocks to infection, dramatically limiting pathways for viral escape, without relying on random integration of transgenes into the genome. Because of the combination of blocks that this strategy creates, our modified T-cell lines are robustly resistant to both CCR5-tropic (R5-tropic) and CXCR4-tropic (X4-tropic) HIV-1. While zinc finger nuclease–mediated *CCR5* disruption alone, which mimics the strategy being used in clinical trials, confers 16-fold protection against R5-tropic HIV, it has no effect against X4-tropic virus. Rhesus TRIM5α, chimeric human-rhesus TRIM5α, APOBEC3G D128K, or Rev M10 alone targeted to *CCR5* confers significantly improved resistance to infection by both variants compared with *CCR5* disruption alone. The combination of three factors targeted to *CCR5* blocks infection at multiple stages, providing virtually complete protection against infection by R5-tropic and X4-tropic HIV.

*(Note: I recommend crossing out anything that you don’t understand and trying to piece together a story.)*

*Note: “restriction factors” are proteins that block virus replication.*

Pizer, Ginger, Keith Walters and Richard P. Meier. “Bringing Up Baby with Baby Signs:

Language Ideologies and Socialization in Hearing Families.” *Sign Language Studies* 7.4 (2007). 387-430. *Muse.* Web. 1 Apr. 2014.

**Abstract**

This article presents an analysis of the functional roles of "baby signing" in three hearing families in the United States, as well as a discussion of the social and ideological implications of the practice. Baby signing fits neatly into the parenting ideologies prevalent in the professional class in the United States that value early communication with infants and promote the adaptation of the physical, social, and linguistic environment to their perceived needs. In the details of everyday interaction, these baby-signing families used signs to socialize their children into particular interaction rituals. Although the practice of baby signing is based on a positive view of sign language, the relatively quick disappearance of signing from the family discourse as the children grow older will most likely limit any long-term impact on the hearing community's views of sign language.

*(Note: “signing” here refers to sign language.)*