

Sociology - Anthropology - Geography Graduate Students Association**Presents****Dr. Dennis Wiedman****"Chronicities of Modernity Theory as an Explanation for the
Global Pandemic of the Metabolic Syndrome (MetS)"**

As a physical embodiment of modernity, diabetes and the Metabolic Syndrome (MetS) reflect the body's biological response to social and cultural structures that routinize an individual's daily behaviors and contain their physical body. From an anthropological perspective, the Chronicities of Modernity Theory contends that for most of human history as hunters, gatherers, and agriculturalists, an active physical lifestyle that varied with seasonal resources promoted cardiovascular and metabolic fitness. At the juncture with modernity, populations shift from seasonally variable physical activities and food resources to chronic, consistent, and routinized behaviors. Industrialization and globalization diffuse labor saving technologies, processed foods, and built environments that contain the body, reducing metabolic fitness. In recent decades, this process has gained extraordinary momentum, enabling large numbers of people to live a life of low physical activity, with consistent energy intake from foods, and chronic psychosocial stresses resulting in a pandemic of obesity, diabetes, and MetS.

This presentation uses Chronicity of Modernity Theory to explain the global pandemic of metabolic disorders in rapidly industrializing countries, especially in the Middle East and Asia.

No countries have yet reduced the MetS epidemic. By identifying structural chronicities affecting specific population segments and life situations, it may be possible for individuals, communities, and nations to reduce the effects of the MetS pandemic.

**Friday, September 2nd
LC 110 12:30-2:30 PM
FIU - Modesto Maidique Campus**