**Faculty and student research collaborations**

**08/30/2018**

**Mehmet Soyer**, Temporary Assistant Professor of Sociology—whose research focuses on environmental sociology, social stratification, intersectional inequality, and the use of new & mass media—has recently helped many USU students present their research.

**Cassidy Gummersall**, a communication major who is getting a minor in sociology, presented with Dr. Soyer at the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM). Their presentation was called “Discourse Analysis of Pro- and Anti- Fracking Groups in Denton.”

**Haley Sorenson** and **Scott Peterson** (pictured left) presented on a panel organized by Dr. Soyer. Peterson spoke about his auto-ethnography paper, which detailed his shifting perception of racial identities, and Sorenson talked about her auto-ethnography paper, which traces her experience as a feminist woman in a Mormon family. Sorenson and Soyer also co-authored a book review of *Critical Autoethnography: Intersecting Cultural Identities in Everyday Life*, which appeared in *Qualitative Sociology Review*.

Dr. Soyer also helped sociology major **Dylan Leiker** prepare for his presentation at the USU Student Research Symposium. Leiker’s research project, “Blocking While Black: An Examination of Racial Disparity on Holding Penalties in the NFL,” was also awarded an Undergraduate Research & Creative Opportunity grant from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.