UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH WEEK
May 22-26, 2017

Abstract Book and Schedule for
Powell Library and Luskin
Conference Center
Oral Presentations

Undergraduate Research Week is sponsored by the Division of Undergraduate Education, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, School of Engineering, School of Medicine, Herb Alpert School of Music, Division of Humanities, Division of Life Sciences, Division of Physical Sciences, Division of Social Sciences, UCLA Library, Student Affairs, Summer Sessions, Office of Residential Life, Undergraduate Science Journal, Startup UCLA, Blackstone LaunchPad, and Clinical and Translational Science Institute.
# Table of Contents

## SCHEDULE FOR ALL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH WEEK EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 24
- 10-4pm. McNair Research Scholars Senior Presentations

### THURSDAY, MAY 25
- 10am-11am. Session 1A. Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Oral Presentations
- 10am-11am. Session 1B. Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Oral Presentations
- 11am-12pm. Session 2A. Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Oral Presentations
- 11am-12pm. Session 2B. Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Oral Presentations
- 12pm-1pm. Session 3A. Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Oral Presentations
- 12pm-1pm. Session 3B. Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Oral Presentations
- 12pm-1pm. Session 3C. Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Oral Presentations
- 1pm-2pm. Session 4A. Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Oral Presentations
- 1pm-2pm. Session 4B. Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Oral Presentations
- 1pm-2pm. Session 4C. Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Oral Presentations
- 2pm-3pm. Session 5A. Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Oral Presentations
- 2pm-3pm. Session 5B. Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Oral Presentations

## INDEX OF STUDENT PRESENTERS
SCHEDULE FOR ALL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH WEEK EVENTS
See also: http://urweek.ugresearch.ucla.edu/
4-6pm. Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Reception and Awards Ceremony
  • Powell Library Rotunda

**FRIDAY, MAY 26**

2-4pm. Sciences, Engineering, and Mathematics Reception and Dean's Prize Ceremony
  • Powell Library Rotunda

3pm and 8pm. World Arts and Cultures/Dance Senior Project Showcase
  • 200 Glorya Kaufman Hall

**SATURDAY, MAY 27**

3pm and 8pm. World Arts and Cultures/Dance Senior Project Showcase
  • 200 Glorya Kaufman Hall
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24
10-4pm. McNair Research Scholars Senior Presentations
Powell Library Rotunda

Opening: 10:00-10:20

Panel #1: 10:20-11:20: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Examining Subjectivity, Displacement, and Racial Neoliberalism

Ann Tran: Seinfeld: A Show About Something

Kimberly Mirand: Gentrifiers, ¡Fuera!: Resisting Displacement in the Eastside

Miriam Juarez: Affective Bodies: Mapping Language and the Chicana Subject in the Work of Myriam Gurba

Panel #2: 11:30-12:30: Psychological Approaches to Understanding Learning, Bilingualism, and Discrimination

Melissa Walman: “No Pain, No Gain”: Activating Productive Interpretations of Difficulty to Improve Strategies for Learning

Cynthia Garcia: Visual Attentional Patterns of Monolingual and Bilingual Toddlers

Elinam Ladzekpo: Intersectionality within Organizational Contexts: Perceptions of Black Women as Evaluators

Break for Lunch

Panel #3: 1:30-2:45: Pushing for Educational Equity: The Experiences of Immigrant Youth and Students of Color

Mayra Puente: College Proximity and Choice: The Impact of Distance on Rural Latina College Choice

Armando Tellez: “Minor Setback for a Major Comeback”: Experiences of Latino Males at a Model Continuation High School

Bernardette Pinetta: Mismatched: Investigating Cultural Mismatch and its Effect on Quality Teaching

Amy Aldana: High School Transitional Worries among Immigrant Youth

Panel #4: 2:50-4:00: Consciousness Raising within and outside of the Academy: Indigeneity, Self-Care, and Marginalized Communities
Natalia Toscano: The Sacred Purpose of Danza Mexika: Xican@ Indigeneity and Consciousness

Gustavo Garcia: Educación Indígena as a Practice of Self-Determination: A Case Study Analysis of Anahuacalmecac International University Preparatory

Khadejah Ray: Black Superwoman: Juggling Self-Care, Academics, and Student Leadership

Brenda Lara: We are Not Equipment: Epistemic Unconfidence and the Impact on Marginalized Individuals’ as Intellectual Beings

Closing: 4:00-4:10
1. Can Nations Forgive? An Argument for the Possibility of Group Forgiveness

BEN GENTA
Mentor: Joshua David Armstrong

Forgiveness is an essential act in human relations. In Hannah Arendt’s words, if it weren’t for forgiveness we would all be confined to one single deed from which we would never recover. With the recent rise of truth and reconciliation commissions in countries plagued by mass atrocities and the evermore frequent scene of politicians asking their constituents for forgiveness, the following question arises: can groups, such as nations, forgive? In this presentation, I will argue that groups can indeed forgive. I do so by first clarifying the traditional definition of forgiveness, and then proposing my own account to think of forgiveness as a commitment. Based on this account, I proceed to argue that groups are able to forgive. Although some philosophers have argued for a variant of group forgiveness, I do not think anyone of these has fully succeeded. My research hopes to further solidify their arguments. My hope is that the results achieved will provide a new lens in seeing how groups traditionally at odds with each other can work towards a peaceful and healthy coexistence.


LLUVIA IBARRA
Mentor: Anurima Banerji

In this paper, I use choreographic analysis as a methodology, informed by two excerpts from Discipline and Punish by the critical theorist Michel Foucault, in order to parse the use of voice in modern-day US Army formation calls and prescribed cadence marches. Data gathered for this project consists of both my personal experience of a basic training graduation and Skype interviews conducted with four male BMETs. I evaluate to what degree these 21st century soldiers conform to Foucault’s mid-18th century ‘docile body’ by looking at voice in relation to the individual body and to other bodies in space, scrutinizing whether a subversive use of the body corresponds to a subversive use of the voice. I propose that for new US Army recruits and soldiers (Classes I-V) the voice, as used during the assembly and locomotion of ‘functional’ marches, has the potential to transcend the disciplinary matrix. The voice of the soldier could be deployed towards resistance by breaking away from, but perhaps also by reinforcing the choreographies of kinship that seem to perpetuate the system of discipline itself. I examine the limitations and implications of vocalization under the premise that voice is an extension of the body, aiming to disrupt common assumptions about what performing agency may look like.
3. Towards a Boolean Intensional Semantics
DANIEL D. WYMARK
Mentor: Tim Hunter

A new approach to modeling agent role sensitive adjectives and determiners inspired by the model given in "Individuals Explained Away" (Keenan 2015) is developed. A modifier is said to be agent role sensitive if its meaning when combined with agentive nouns such as "doctor" or "lawyer" depends on non-extensional properties of these nouns. An intensional semantics that does not make use of possible worlds is developed to model agent role sensitivity, a semantics which is shown to be sufficiently general to model a wide array of semantic phonemena. Possible worlds semantics is standardly used to model intensionality, but possible worlds semantics cannot account for semantic distinctions between logically equivalent expressions; it is shown that the newly developed semantics does not have this problem.

4. The Distribution of Beijing Mandarin –er Suffix
ZHONGSHI XU
Mentor: Kie Zuraw

The use of the diminutive suffix -er is characteristic of the Beijing dialect of Mandarin Chinese. Even though much work has been done investigating the phonological effects of -er suffixation, namely how the suffix merges with the suffixed word in pronunciation, the distribution of the suffix, which words are likely to be suffixed and why, remains unaccounted for. This paper analyzes the distributional pattern of Beijing Mandarin -er suffix, hypothesizing that certain phonological preferences and word-frequencies together determine the applicability and position of -er suffix attachment in Mandarin words. The study investigates the phonological preferences by asking native speakers of Beijing Mandarin to attach the suffix to loanwords and nonce words, and modeling their responses with logistic regression. The model is then integrated with word-frequency data, and tested with the native lexicon. Through identifying the specific phonological preferences that are prioritized in -er suffixation, the study will contribute to the understanding of the phonological grammar of Beijing Mandarin.
1. Bordering Butterflies: Critical Discourse Analysis of Newspapers During the Mexican Repatriation  
GUADALUPE MADRIGAL  
Mentor: Michael Wesley Suman  
Historically, both economic growth and decline affects how U.S. citizens accept immigrants in general, and Mexican immigrants in particular. The Great Depression represents the first major shift in which the Mexican population was scapegoated for the economic depletion. During the decade of the 1930s, the U.S. government implemented programs of deportation and repatriation of Mexican immigrants and citizens, and ultimately created an anti-Mexican national discourse. The literature pertaining to the Mexican Repatriation and other deportation programs lacks a comprehensive understanding and are, as author Francisco Balderrama put it, “America’s forgotten history”. As a response to this erasure of major events in Mexican-American deportation history, the present project investigates the significance of news narratives during the Mexican Repatriation of the 1930s. This work asks whether the mainstream newspapers’ coverage of the Mexican Repatriation framed a discourse that contributes to the erasure of these occurrences. “Mainstream” newspapers include Los Angeles Times, New York Times and Christian Science Monitor. The project also focuses on La Opinion, a Los Angeles based Spanish-language newspaper written for a Mexican population. Through critical discourse analysis, this project explores how an emphasis on La Opinion’s counter narrative deconstructs the mainstream narrative, analyzes the victimization of Mexicans as scapegoats during the Great Depression, and gives voice to the Mexican population.

2. The Land that Devours its Inhabitants: How Young Ethiopian Jewish Adults Resist the Israeli Melting Pot  
CORY A. BUCKBAND  
Mentor: Aomar Boum  
This paper investigates the effects that social ideologies and perceptions of identity have on both migrant and host communities, and how these influence the development and formation of transnational identities. This study draws on field work in Netanya, Israel during 8 weeks with a group of 12 young Jewish Ethiopian Israeli adults. Analysis explores the narrative of rescue surrounding the migration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel, and how “melting pot multiculturalism”, an ideology characterized by pressure to homogenize diverse groups to particular cultural practices, led to feelings of social exclusion, racial-ethnic discrimination, and inability to claim full Israeli cultural citizenship for members of this community. Feelings of exclusion and discrimination surface from the narrative of rescue, which is connected to uninformed views of life in Ethiopia, the process of migration to Israel, and life in Israel for members of this community. In addition, this study highlights how young Jewish Ethiopian Israeli adults are using education about Jewish Ethiopian heritage to counter this narrative. An alternative narrative about family histories and Ethiopian history is offered, which many community members feel
is not adequately discussed in Israeli schools and public sphere. This new narrative is significant because it is part of the promotion of an unbiased, inclusive, and community-derived discourse in Israeli society.

3. The Eurasianist Appeal: Putin’s Use of Neo-Eurasianist Rhetoric in Support of an Aggressive Third Term Foreign Policy

KATHLEEN E. ROBBINS
Mentor: Yelena Furman

This article examines the assertions of an increasingly dominant political ideology in post-Soviet Russia called neo-Eurasianism, the classical iteration of which took the form of a politico-philosophical ideology and geographic concept to explain Russia’s unique cultural and geographic position in world. Today neo-Eurasianism asserts that Russian identity can be uniquely characterized as “Eurasian” and envisions increased authority for Moscow over the Eurasian space. The article identifies the movement of neo-Eurasianist ideas from the periphery of Russian politics to the core of President Putin’s justification for his increasingly aggressive foreign policy in his third term. Putin has promoted neo-Eurasianism as a national identity framework for post-Soviet Russia, using it to bolster a narrative about cultural and historical ties with Russian borderlands and to justify the formal annexation of Crimea in 2014. Putin’s neo-Eurasianist rhetoric also supported the formation of a major international economic entity called the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) in 2012, which consists of Russia and a number of other post-Soviet states, and represents the Russian leader’s effort to establish continued economic integration with a select number of states in Central Asia and Eastern Europe. Ultimately, Putin’s neo-Eurasianist rhetoric exists as a tool to support his assertion that post-Soviet Russia deserves a role in the management of the global security architecture as an alternative to Western political and economic hegemony.

4. Alliances of the East: How the Interplay Between NATO Enlargement and Russia’s Balance-of-Power Policy Has Undermined Western Interests

PERSIA F. GOUDARZI
Mentor: Yelena Furman

This study examines the development of Russia’s foreign policy in relation to eastward expansion of NATO in the post-Cold War era. When the Soviet Union collapsed, Russia, economically in disarray and militarily weak, was eager to integrate with the West and envisaged a partnership with NATO. However, integration with the alliance appeared unlikely when NATO expansion created a European security structure that excluded Russia. To balance the power with NATO, Russia began looking for alternatives in Asia. Moscow’s top foreign policy agenda became strengthening ties with the East and forming alliances. The first alliance, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), is a Eurasian military organization, essentially a factor for political and military deterrence, comprising of 6 states from the former Soviet Union. The second alliance is the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), primarily focused on security cooperation among its members. The two organizations cooperate politically, militarily and economically. CSTO and SCO together create a military bloc with deterrence capabilities and security missions that resembles that of NATO, forming a counter structure to NATO in the East. Through these two alliances, Russia has managed to establish control over a strategically important
region that holds half of the world’s natural gas reserves and 25% of all oil reserves. The region is geopolitically important for NATO operations in combating terrorism in Afghanistan and transferring troops and equipment to that country.
THURSDAY, MAY 25
11am-12pm. Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Oral Presentations
Session 2A, Luskin Imagination Room

CLARISSA R. BORGES
Mentor: Joan Waugh

For my History Honors Thesis project, I researched Civil War commemoration in Washington, D.C. The study focused on the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall, and Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery to explore how each memorial promoted specific meanings of the Civil War. My thesis analyzes the purposes and ongoing interpretations of each memorial in relation to four major memory traditions of the Civil War, including Union, Emancipation, the Lost Cause, and Reconciliation. My research involved interpreting newspaper accounts, government reports, and speeches related to the memorials, in conjunction with secondary sources that provided frameworks for interpreting Civil War memory. Based on my findings, I argue that in the 1920s, interpretation of both the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House emphasized reconciliation as the most important memory tradition of the Civil War. However, as the century progressed, the emancipation tradition came to play a greater role in both the Lincoln Memorial, particularly during the Civil Rights Movement, and at Arlington House, where narratives of the estate’s relationship to slavery and emancipation were eventually incorporated into the site’s interpretation. Ultimately, I apply these interpretive changes to the complex and oftentimes controversial process of Civil War commemoration in today’s society, arguing that monuments and memorials, rather than having fixed meanings, can be interpreted to reflect and meet changing social needs.

2. The Urban Landscape as Palimpsestic: An Analysis of Urban Renewal, Labor, and Identity
PENELOPE URIBE-ABEE
Mentor: Andrea Fraser

When an individual passes away, we are often met with sayings like: “their spirit lives on,” or phrases like “a person that departs from us never truly leaves, and is forever in our hearts”. What if we could think about the death of a cultural site in the same way? When an urban landscape passes away, into another mode of existence what is lost, and what remains? In an age of heightened urban renewal, Los Angeles is transforming at unprecedented rates geographically, demographically and culturally. The research I will present explores the intersections between public history, labor, and gentrification. In this particular presentation, I will make links between George Lukacs’ foundational theory about “phantom objectivity”--the ghost-like remnants of labor and ongoing urban renewal. If landscape is imbued with value, labor, and the hard work of a community to make it inhabitable what happens to that labor when a landscape becomes gentrified? My research is theoretical as well as visual, and coincides with a 2-minute film that was commissioned by the Mike Kelly Foundation for the Arts in conjunction with the Echo Park Film Center.
3.

Lost Angeles: Collecting Short Stories to Map Out Los Angeles
NATALIE GREEN
Mentor: Frederick d’Aguiar

Los Angeles is a city of contradictions, a city that rightfully confuses and inspires me. Lost Angeles collects nine short stories to map out a city that makes little geographical sense. Each piece takes place in a different Los Angeles neighborhood, but the borders break down within and outside of the stories as characters dream, travel, and interact. Imagined boundaries made to keep people in and out have no place in a collection where I craft a sprawled city’s connectivity and link a talking menu to my mother’s first apartment in Hollywood to an immigrant’s Hollywood dream. If a neighborhood is Guy Debord’s psychogeographical “symbolic separation,” I write through Los Angeles’ traffic and compartmentalization. I deconstruct the idea of a city as a municipality and rebuild my map for the characters in it, engaging a level of reader participation in digital literacy with two online platforms, ArcGIS Story Maps and WordPress. The city allows for, and pushes forward, writing that acknowledges the interconnectivity of other mediums of art, music, and film and the interactivity of web; it encompasses the conventions of literary tradition, more experimental hybrid-genre forms, and right justification. My collection reflects an amalgamation of feelings mapped out in realistic fiction, prose poem, creative nonfiction, narrative screenplay, and magical realism.

4.*

Intersectional Comparison of Urban and Suburban School Districts: An Analysis of Diversity, Homeless Student Counts, and Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility in Sacramento County School Districts
RACHEL E. DAMIANO
Mentor: Edith S. Omwami

My research focuses on two Sacramento County school districts: one largely urban, the other largely suburban. My goal is to provide tangible evidence of the urban/suburban divide in Sacramento with a specific focus on the region’s public school system. I analyze ethnic composition, homeless student prevalence, and free and reduced price meal eligibility utilizing publicly available district data. Through a compilation of district data, Sacramento County income data, home values, and my own knowledge about the area I seek to describe the broader socioeconomic status of the neighborhoods in which the districts are located. Following my description of the urban and suburban regions in Sacramento, I compare the school districts within each region to exemplify how a majority white school district is better served by federal policy such as the McKinney Vento Act in spite of potential inequality in wealth accessible to different ethnicities. I seek to provide evidence for the following claims: 1) majority white, suburban neighborhoods are better served by the public education system, 2) urban and suburban public education are separate, unequal systems, and 3) suburban areas are better served by federal policy specifically implemented to address vulnerable student populations (e.g. homeless families and students).

*unable to present
1. Plate it Forward: Crafting Local Identity as Resistance through Authentic Culinary Traditions in Bologna, Italy
   ZACH MARTINUCCI
   Mentor: Jessica R Cattelino

   Italy's fragmented history is reflected in its diverse regional food cultures that have deep, historical ties to their lands of origin. The concept of terroir that associates a relationship between taste and place is especially important today in capturing and defending regional culinary identities. This study examines the social tensions inherent in contemporary foodways and communities in Bologna, Italy, as individuals attempt to craft identity and a sense of place within narratives regarding globalizing influences like migration, tourism, and industrial production. Through participant observation and interviews, I explore how Italian culture is produced through local foodways, encompassing the attitudes, beliefs, and practices surrounding food in daily life, from agritourism, to a city cooking school, and food manufacturers and marketplaces across the region. Locals resist outside cultural and physical displacement by claiming territory through culinary traditions and artisan production. Through an anthropological lens, this project reveals that tradition, though often characterized as immutable and unchanging, is in fact fluid and flexible in maintaining local identities. These foodways act as sites of resistance against homogenization and modernization. Dynamic interpretations of terroir also allow flexibility in determining the authenticity of cultural products, while exposing tensions over what qualifies as authentic in today's globalized society.

2. Prussian Myth Building and the Prusso-Austrian Rivalry in the Creation of a German National Identity between 1806 and 1871
   STEPHANIE TRUSKOWSKI
   Mentor: Magdalena Tarnawska Senel

   Before the unification in 1871, Germany consisted of several states at odds with each other, unwilling to transcend individual power struggles for a greater cause, and unable to defend themselves against the French invasion during the Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815). Paradoxically, this weakness sparked a drive to unify. The rise of nationalism coupled with the German Romanticism led to a search for the essence of German identity and culture in shared blood and language, while solidifying the belief that the imperial crown belonged to the monarch whose kingdom was the most German. The historiography of German unification in 1871 has focused on the role of manipulations by the Prussian statesman Otto von Bismarck and Prussian military victories over Denmark, Austria, and France (1864-1871) in bringing divided Germany together under Prussian rule. However, it has neglected an earlier ideological struggle between Austria and Prussia, in which both states attempted to define and re-create what they both perceived as the essence of German identity. My research fills this gap by focusing on German ideological unification. I demonstrate that Prussia was able to re-define the essence of German identity,
“Germanism”, as an extension of the older concept, “Prussianism”. By analyzing political proclamations, speeches, and literary texts, I demonstrate that the leaders of Prussia laid the groundwork for unification under the Hohenzollern monarchy, equating German culture with Prussian culture and excluding Austria from German affairs.

3. Infrastructure Cooperation: Diplomacy Between China and Russia

FANQI JIA, Mia Bennett, and Laurence C. Smith
Mentor: Laurence Smith

Interactions between the neighboring countries of China and Russia have increased rapidly since the dawn of the 21st century. In 2013, China's unveiling of its “Belt and Road Initiative”, aimed at promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation in infrastructure initiatives across Eurasia, has opened up new opportunities for Sino-Russian cooperation, too. In light of these developments, this research evaluates the impacts of joint infrastructure projects on China and Russia's bilateral relationship since 2010 by assessing official government documents and texts and establishing a timeline of projects with their corresponding political actions. We argue that China and Russia are pursuing cooperation in infrastructure projects as a diplomatic approach to improve their bilateral relationship. If the cooperation between two countries processes further and extends to more fields such as technology and multilateral financial institutions like Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, this may enhance, improve, and stabilize political and economic ties between countries across Eurasia in the future.

4. Cambodian Women and Remembering Across Generations: Refugees, Trauma, and Resilience

EMILY TAING
Mentor: Victor Bascara

This study will explore the concepts of refugee experiences, post-Khmer Rouge trauma, and community resilience among first, 1.5 and second generation Cambodian women. The goal of this research project is to develop further understanding of the Cambodian community in the context of critical refugee studies. Statistics indicate the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community as a whole has grown tremendously in the past decade. By analyzing the social development of those exposed to trauma within this diasporic community, we can better understand how to sustain the mental, social and economic health of the Cambodian community, and furthermore to strengthen the intergenerational relationship amongst Cambodian women. This research is based on an interdisciplinary anthropological approach drawing from ethnographies, oral histories, case studies and empirical evidence of primary and secondary documentary sources.
1. Internal Party Divisions in Congress and Their Impact on Party Organization During the Nominating Process

ADRIANA MORTON
Mentor: Chris Tausanovitch

After the success of outsider candidates like Donald Trump in the 2016 primaries, many challenged the concept of party control of elections. By examining the history of internal party divisions, both in Congress and in presidential primaries, I aim to understand how modern party relations in Congress led to party divisions of the 2016 election. Regressing the number of ballots at party conventions and popular votes of primary candidates on the number of party Members voting against party leadership in Speaker of the House votes, I found that both before and after the 1950s, party control of elections correlates with party control in Congress. Additionally, analysis of the 1912 Republican nomination and 1924 Democratic nomination process provides two examples of diverging results of party divisions. Through my quantitative analysis, I found that, at times when the party is weak as measured by divisions in party leadership in Congress, the party oftentimes has difficulty uniting during elections. This provides support for the Party-Centered Theory of elections and indicates that the party relations in Congress are generally reflected in the primary process as well.

2. Reforming a National Identity: A History of Italian Immigration Code From Ius Sanguinis to Ius Soli

RACHEL E. COHEN & Lucia Re
Mentor: Lucia Re

Italian immigration code is complex due to Italy’s geographic location, its reunification, episodes of emigration and more recently, waves of mass immigration. Amendments made to Italian codification regarding immigration and citizenship have derived from the state’s concept of a national identity, specifically what qualifies someone as Italian; this debate traditionally revolves around two principles: “ius sanguinis”, a person’s bloodlines, or “ius soli”, a person’s place of birth. This research project addresses the transition to “ius soli” in 2015 by reviewing laws from the Napoleonic era and legislation enacted throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. This thesis assesses the influence of non-governmental institutions on immigration reform and the presence of anti-immigration politics, including the political clout of the right-wing party, Lega Nord. This examination concludes that adapting immigration laws that incorporate immigrants into Italian society does not hinder Italian national identity but rather guarantees the future of a productive Italian state. As the Syrian refugee crisis and other humanitarian events continue to unfold, the immigration laws countries uphold will be tested. The recent trend of some Western countries reacting to globalization with harsh anti-immigration rhetoric, policies and a closed borders stance will affect future generations. It is important to understand what contributes to these approaches and how they can develop; Italy is an example of this shift in global perspective.
3. A Close Look at the Intersection of Reconstruction, Demographics, and Economy in Post-War Dresden, Cologne, and Berlin
ADNAN E. KHOJA
Mentor: Magdalena Tarnawska Senel
Since 1945, there have been two defining moments in German history which split Germany into two eras: one of division from 1945-1989 and one of reunification from 1989 - present. In order to examine the changes in Germany from 1945 - 1989 and from 1989 - present, this research examines three German cities: Dresden, Cologne, and Berlin. Dresden was an important economic and industrial hub and in West Germany, it was Cologne. Berlin is the outlier; West Berlin was surrounded by East Germany and thus isolated and East Berlin was neglected by the government in favour of the development of the south. This project looks in depth at how the reconstruction of these cities, the economic policies, and the demographics and immigration from 1945-1989 and from 1989-present have shaped these cities and how these changes are reflected onto a changing Germany. The research finds that West Germany developed as a nation trying to modernise and turn away from the past and became multicultural and prosperous. East Germany also developed as a nation attempting to modernise and turn away from the past, but due to the totalitarianism of the governance, it was internationally isolated and thus stayed homogenous and became poorer than the west. After the reunification, I find that a more prosperous and multicultural society is forming; one that celebrates certain aspects of its heritage, while also continuing modernisation. But, there remain some differences between the former West and East Germany.

4. Differential Influence of Rivers on Political Border Formation Across Geographic Region and Scale
SARAH POPELKA, Nick Burkhart, Laurence Smith
Mentor: Laurence Smith
Since rivers act as natural delineators of space, governments have often used them to define territories and political boundaries. I aim to analyze the influence of rivers on border formation (both on the location that borders are drawn and on the shape that they take) around the world, comparing the prevalence of river-formed borders at different geographic scales and across world regions. Using rasterized HydroSHEDS and GADM data, I calculated the intersections of rivers and borders to create a global map of river-defined borders, and used Monte Carlo statistical methods to analyze the data under the null hypothesis that rivers have no bearing on where borders form and what shape they take. There appears to be a higher correlation between rivers and borders at smaller geographic scales (i.e. county level and lower), than at larger geographic scales. There also appear to be variations in the roles of rivers as delineators in different geographic regions, related to the time of the border formation and the prevalent political ideologies at the time and in those places.
1. Rawls and Freire: Justice and Critical Pedagogy compared Through Philosophy for Children in the Borderlands
   DAVID REYES
   Mentor: Alexander Jacob Julius
   One measure of a moral good examines justice through social institutions. For John Rawls, justice is an ideal with distinct principles. For Paulo Freire justice is a process through conscientiza. This paper approaches justice based on their work: first, an approach distinguishing both theories from one another with Rawls’ ideal theory positioned as a middle ground between procedural Freirien justice as collaboration, and justice as an outcome. Second, justice as a pedagogical question rooted in moral responsibility. I frame these approaches through the Philosophy for Children in the Borderlands program which enables my methodology: First, I study a pedagogical approach introducing philosophy to children at an early age, showing promise in developing foundations for justice in those children. Second, I look at a question of early justice pedagogy; namely a concern that teaching justice in a profoundly unjust society may cause more harm than good. I argue that although teaching justice as a foundational principle may improve the lives of children in such a program, those children will become arbiters of justice in a society that rejects just principles. I contend early curricular approaches that instill awareness in children provide a foundation for just principles sorely lacking in society today.

2. An Evaluation of the Transformative Effects of High School Sex Squads
   MAYA RAM, David Gere, Arianna Taboada
   Mentor: David H. Gere
   Adolescents are at increased risk for contracting HIV or STIs, often due to lack of knowledge about sexual health issues. The High School Sex Squad (HSSS) program, a collaboration between the LAUSD HIV Prevention Unit and the UCLA Art & Global Health Center, uses an arts-based peer-led approach to comprehensive, inclusive sexual health education that allows students to explore urgent sexual health topics. While research has been done on understanding transformative outcomes for the university students, there is a lack of data on the impact this program has on high school students involved in HSSS. This project aims to explore the transformative effects of the High School Sex Squad program on the high school participants, specifically regarding the students’ sexual health knowledge, attitudes and self-efficacy, in order to demonstrate the value of arts-based sexual health programs adolescents. This study uses a basic thematic approach to analyze focus groups discussions conducted with participants, augmented by observations of program meetings, which help identify and clarify overarching themes within the HSSS experiences. The anticipated results of this project show that students experience various changes by participating in HSSS and specifically emphasize the value of continuing conversations about sexual health outside of the classroom setting, as well as the value of the arts in
communicating these complex issues. Furthermore, this project also highlights the student perspectives and experiences that can make school-base.

3. Craving as a Symptom of Alcohol Use Disorder: Comparing Self-Report to Clinical Diagnostic Interview
MELISSA GARCIA, ReJoyce Green, Lara Ray
Mentor: Lara Allison Ray
Among the revisions made within the DSM-5, craving was added as a symptom for alcohol use disorder (AUD). Prior studies have indicated craving as a strong correlate of hazardous alcohol use and alcohol-related consequences. The aim of this study was to examine the association between self-reports of craving and the AUD craving symptom assessed by the DSM-5 Structured Clinical Interview for AUD in a sample of non-treatment seeking heavy drinkers (n=140). We also examined the associations between self-reports of craving and alcohol frequency and quantity in the past 30-days. Chi-square analysis revealed there was a significant relationship between self-reports of craving and the DSM-5 AUD craving symptom (p < .001). Correlational analysis also showed that craving was positively associated with drinking days (r = .420, p < .001) and drinks per drinking day (r = .285, p = .001) in the past 30-days, suggesting that individuals with greater craving consume alcohol more often and in greater quantities. These results imply that craving is a strong correlate of AUD severity and alcohol use, further supporting the addition of craving as part of the diagnostic criteria for AUD.

4. Learning the Game From Another Perspective: Contributions of Varied Practice to Motor Learning
STEFANY D. MENA, SHELLEY M. AGOSTINI, ZEYNEP GUNGOR, Elizabeth L. Bjork
Mentor: Elizabeth Bjork
Prior research shows that varied practice of motor skills (i.e. varying tested distance in free throw shooting) typically leads to more errors during practice, but results in better long-term retention and transfer to new settings (Schmidt, 1975, Kerr and Booth, 1978). Yet little is known about whether practicing from varied positions in sports will improve motor performance in a player’s primary position. In this study, pairs of participants (Ps) practiced 4 blocks of 4 penalty kicks. In between the blocks of kicks, Ps observed their partner from either behind the kicker, behind the goal, behind both the kicker and goal, or not at all. After a delay, both Ps were given a retention and transfer test. Interestingly, preliminary results (N 95) suggest that, given the same amount of practice, observing from behind the kicker is detrimental to performance at final test, while observing from behind the goal (varying perspective) is the most effective condition of practice. These results have theoretical and practical importance in the field of motor skills learning; varying perspectives may lead to better understanding of game dynamic and thus, promote more durable and flexible learning.
1. **A New Neighborhood for an Old City: The Resettlement of the Athenian Agora in the Middle Byzantine Period**
   
   **ALLISON GREnda**
   
   Mentor: Sharon Gerstel

   When Rome fell in 476 CE, Athens in Greece also contracted, moving inside its walls to protect its people and leaving the Agora, or bustling marketplace which sat outside the walls, abandoned. In the 10th century, at the Byzantine Empire’s economic peak, Athens was finally able to expand outside the walls, and with this repopulation came a new period of building in the Agora. This project seeks to characterize the shift in domestic architecture from before and after the abandonment, leading to a better understanding of the identity of the Byzantine Athenians and acknowledging their rightful place in history, a topic often overlooked by scholars. By analyzing the 20th century excavation reports from the American School of the Classics in Athens, it can be observed that the houses in these new neighborhoods were modest, resembling homes seen in the Roman period more than their contemporaneous Byzantine constructions. Built on the remnants of existing foundations and fashioned with spolia from ancient Roman monuments, the Byzantine Athenians had little interest in creating a decorative style or forming city pride. While they may not be known for their monumental villas or innovative artistic extravagances, the Byzantine Athenians, as evidenced by their resettlement of the Agora, are to be remembered for the simple accomplishment that they were there at all attempting to rebuild, repopulate, and worship a new faith in an old city.

2. **A Show in the Cloisters: Coronations and the Commodification of Westminster Abbey**
   
   **SOPHIE MIRZAIAN**
   
   Mentor: Meredith Marie Cohen

   Westminster Abbey, the architectural site of some of the most important burials, weddings, and coronations of the last ten centuries, plays an essential part in the construction of English national identity. But a Gucci runway show held in the Abbey’s cloisters last year brings into question how and why a place of such significance can lend itself to this type of commodification. By analyzing the history of the Abbey and the coronations that took place within it, along with a modified Marxist theoretical framework appropriate to the discussion of commodities in general, it becomes apparent how this contemporary transference of legitimacy from the Abbey to its renters closely mimics the same such phenomenon of establishing legitimacy through coronation ceremony. These coronations are particularly relevant in periods of political turmoil, as in the cases of queens Mary I, England’s first queen regnant whose reign was shaped by the earlier Protestant Reformation, Elizabeth I, her sister, and Victoria, who ruled during the Industrial Revolution of the nineteenth century. In part a symptom of the passage of time, the Abbey’s commodification in its modern form is a direct result of the globalized industry in which both Westminster Abbey and Gucci are involved. The investigation reinterprets
coronations in a contemporary context and provides an argumentative structure that may be used to explore the commodification of other similar sites.

3. Suger's Chevet: Digitally Reconstructed
   GABRIELA CHITWOOD
   Mentor: Meredith M. Cohen

Despite being understood as the interpreted origin of gothic architecture, Abbot Suger's 12th-century chevet at Saint-Denis has been obscured by a 13th-century construction, limiting our understanding of its place in the development of archetypal gothic forms. This project sought to provide a hypothesis of Suger's chevet and its buttressing system, reconstructing them in the architectural software Vectorworks. The reconstruction was built upon a study of Sumner Crosby's detailed archaeology and subsequently published research. Its elevation was then informed by an analysis of close contemporary churches: Saint-Martin-des-Champs, Saint-Etienne of Sens, Notre-Dame of Noyon, and Saint-Germain-des-Pres, and compared to the chevet elevation proposals of Crosby and Panofsky. This digital model enables virtual interaction with the site as well as the testing of various proposed buttressing systems, contributing to a resolution of the ongoing scholarly debate.

4. The Sea Ranch as a Utopian Proposal and Imaginative Act
   HENRY ANKER
   Mentor: Silke Otto-Knapp

The Sea Ranch as a Utopian Proposal suggests a method of understanding utopianism as an imaginative act through the example of The Sea Ranch architectural project. This analysis will discuss the historical and theoretical history of The Sea Ranch, its design, and its relationship to nature.

I. Define utopia within a specific historical context of imaginative acts
   a. “The Medieval Tradition” Lewis Mumford
      i. the loss of the European commons to industrialization
   b. Thomas More i. Utopian writings are a description of a “no-place”
      c. Frampton: Critical Regionalism
         i. To meditate on the impact of universal civilization with elements derived indirectly from the peculiarities of a particular place
         ii. “phenomenon of universal placelessness”
   II. Provide a history of The Sea Ranch
      i. Architectural Influences
         1. Edgartown, Massachusetts
         2. Pomo Indians
         3. Russian Settlers
   III. Design
      a. The fundamental principle of architecture is territorial. The architect does not simply use materials to create a building, but also a place
      b. “an air of splendid desolation” (Allen, Lyndon, Moore, The Place of Houses, 31.)
c. Locational Scores

d. Socialized Architecture


IV. Nature

a. Rachel Carson

i. “Eventually man, too, found his way back to the sea, ‘not to return to it physically’ but rather to re-enter it mentally and imaginatively”

ii. Techniques to “live lightly with the land”.
1. Italian Women’s Reproductive Health, Fertility, and Gender Equality

RACHEL F. MORICONI
Mentor: Lucia Re

Using a range of available official data, documentary sources and women’s health studies in Italian, this paper examines how the low fertility rate in Italy and the availability of contraceptives are bound to 1. the influences of the Catholic Church, 2. the wide-ranging attitudes of modern women, and 3. laws and policies on abortion and gender equality in Italy. Gender equality is fundamental to the Italian Constitution, yet Italy ranks among the lowest in gender equality in the European Union. Contraceptives, such as condoms and the pill, are widely utilized by young people, but much less so by married women, for whom the preferred method of contraception is still the traditional coitus interruptus (withdrawal). Abortion has been legal in Italy since 1978; the morning after pill is available by prescription. Yet, because of the legality and prevalence of conscientious objection by the medical establishment, both are difficult to obtain. Nonetheless, the fertility rate of Italian women is strikingly low. The Italian government estimates that about 15,000 illegal abortions are performed every year; other sources put that number at 50,000. The paper argues that Italy should create a secular epidemiological system to augment infrastructure and tools of evaluation and education for women’s health. Italy should consider how improving the level of reproductive healthcare would enhance female presence in the official workforce, elevating women to a more equal level.

2. Latino Communities and Issues with Healthcare Access in Los Angeles County

JESUS MIGUEL MAYA
Mentor: Jimena Nelida Rodriguez

The Los Angeles Latino community has been underrepresented in the healthcare system and have encountered significant challenges such as: language concordance, quality of care, and cultural competence; with language being the largest when it comes to accessing appropriate healthcare. Addressing these challenges could reduce health disparities and ensure that predominantly Latino communities are afforded the same healthcare services as non-Hispanic communities. With the shortage of Spanish-speaking medical professionals rising, this research can provide insight to the question: To what extent, is there a relationship between health disparities, in predominantly Latino communities, and access to healthcare services? This mixed-method research study collected data from a random sample of 50 Latino patients at a local clinic serving a predominantly Latino population. The initial findings from 29 of the 50 surveys returned indicate the following outcomes: a) Latino patients prefer physicians that are fluent in Spanish; b) Latino patients prefer clinics that provide services specific to their needs; and c) Latino patients believe that language is not an issue, and prefer cultural competency. The results would benefit Latino first generation college students considering any health or medical field, as well as patients, doctors and other medical professionals in addressing disparities in
healthcare and healthcare access. Suggestions for future research include utilizing a larger sample and including demographics of medical professionals serving the Latino communities.

3. Mental Health Provider Perspectives on Engagement Barriers in School-based Settings
KAYLIN D. WESLEY, Maya Boustani, Kimberly Becker, & Bruce Chorpita
Mentor: Bruce Chorpita

Poor engagement in large, urban, school mental health systems can perpetuate underutilization of otherwise effective treatments. Thus, we surveyed provider perceptions of barriers to mental health service engagement in Los Angeles Unified School District, using a mixed-methods approach. 244 school mental health providers anonymously rated their schools’ culture around engagement issues such as communication with families and attitudes towards students’ mental health needs. Survey results highlight that a majority of schools value student mental wellness and link families to needed resources. However, almost all of the providers expressed that their school could do more to encourage parent involvement. Providers relied heavily on rapport building, case management, and psychoeducation as solutions, but tended not to identify other engagement strategies, such as goal setting and motivational interviewing. Overall, provider responses corroborated other research showing significant barriers to treatment engagement. Further, although there is a substantial literature on successful strategies to engage families, surveyed providers tended to focus on a narrow subset of those as possible solutions. This suggests that one important strategy is to develop practical engagement guides that help providers implement more diverse evidence-based strategies to increase engagement of families in large systems.

4. Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices in Community Settings: Analysis of In-Session Therapist Reports of Emergent Life Events
YESENIA AGUILAR SILVAN, Cristopher Bondoc, Sara Lineiro, Yibing Yang, Juan C. Gonzalez, Adriana Rodriguez, Miya Barnett, and Anna S. Lau
Mentor: Anna Shan-Lai Lau

There has been a push to bring evidence-based practices (EBPs) into community mental health settings. However, community therapists have concerns with ethnic minority families with regards to their acceptability of EBPs and their routinely presented Emergent Life Events (ELEs); unexpected issues disclosed during treatment sessions (Lau et al., 2011; Guan et al., 2015). This study examined the challenges of ELEs encountered by community therapists within the context of the 2009 LADMH Prevention Early Intervention Transformation of children’s mental health services. This reform fiscally mandated the use of select EBPs in community settings (Brookman-Frazee & Lau, 2016). Therapists described their delivery of EBPs within 645 therapy sessions. Most of the sessions were carried out in English (72%) to address presenting problems including conduct problems (31%) and trauma (27%). Therapists reported encountering ELEs with 20% of youth (52% female; 73% Hispanic). The most common type of ELEs were family conflict (32%), peer or social problems (12%), change in family structure (11%), and health problems (11%). We will qualitatively code therapist open-ended responses about ELEs to categorize the types, frequencies, and severities of ELEs. Multilevel mixed models will be used to analyze how youth’s race/ethnicity and family primary language predict therapist report of ELEs.
Our findings will contribute to an understanding of potential racial/ethnic disparities in the implementation of EBPs in a large and diverse context.
THURSDAY, MAY 25
1pm-2pm. Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Oral Presentations
Session 4B, Luskin Artistry Room

   AMAN WILLIAMS
   Mentor: Sarah Haley
   This presentation illuminates the extreme precarity black girls experienced, at the nexus between
gendered and racialized terror, during the Black Power Movement; black girls like Kathleen Smith. A
detailed account of the 1974 wrenching, brutal slaughter of Smith, a seventeen-year-old sex-worker,
and the subsequent trials have remained eclipsed by popular culture and masculinist narratives of
resistance in the Black Power era. A work of collective mourning and remembering, this presentation
endeavors to reconcile community memory with the archive. Drawing upon black feminist criticism and
an array of archival materials, this paper argues that black girlhood, like black womanhood, is historically
queer and violently abject; troubling the gendered category of “girl” itself. As an interdisciplinary
recovery project, this presentation gestures toward U.S. social movement history as a site to interrogate
the resounding silences around black girls' experiences of violence; thus creating new possibilities to
research black girls' practices of refusal and expanding our understanding of the Black Radical Tradition.

2. "Make Yourself Into a Man Here": Dismantling Gender Roles Within the Escapist Writing of Reinaldo
   Arenas
   MARIA S. TORRES, Jorge Marturano
   Mentor: Jorge Marturano
   Machismo, bearded men and “the new man” rhetoric that surfaces during the Cuban Revolution causes
the alienation of multiple populations. Of these populations, homosexuals are targeted, and divisions
arise amongst those who openly manifest their sexuality, and those who do so in private. In reaction to
gender roles and their function in society, the dichotomy of the bugarron and the maricon stereotype
becomes more prominent. While one can maintain status in society, the other, the maricon, is
considered a deviation from hetero-normativity, a residue effect of the capitalistic enemy, and as a
threat to the principles of The Revolution. The research and thesis focus on how the historic role of
machismo has an effect on perpetuating hierarchies of power within relations amongst genders in
Reinaldo Arenas’ novella titled The Brightest Star. Nonetheless, the escapist nature of the protagonist’s
writing-narration also offers more complexity to the stereotypes by demonstrating how there are
“deviations” from the typically assigned facets to each stereotype. Despite the protagonist-writer’s
implementation of oppressive practices when he imposes his perspective upon homosexual identities,
by imposing his machista gaze he also deconstructs facets of oppression and unconsciously reveals, by
means of the stream of consciousness, how the machista gaze alienates him completely from the
Revolution, pressing him to create an alternative subjectivity that dismantles gender roles and provides
him with catharsis.
3. **Rage Work: Sister Souljah’s Performance & Organizing Labors**  
**AMARA LAWSON-CHAVANU**  
Mentor: Sarah Haley

Full of tales of uprising, Sister Souljah’s lone solo recording album, 360 Degrees of Power, was released a month prior to the 1992 Los Angeles riots, proceeding Bill Clinton’s denouncement of her public comments supporting the resistance. However, the scholarship dedicated to explicating a connection between music and the rebellion has focused significantly on NWA and gangsta rap, largely neglecting Black women’s involvement. In positioning Sister Souljah’s performances of rage and warning in the music videos for “The Hate that Hate Produced” and “Slavery’s Back in Effect” as within traditions of Black feminist mobilizing strategies and labor, this presentation asserts the potentials and successes of Black women’s visual work in historical organizing efforts and emphasizes the underlying affective labors those performances require. Drawing an explicit link between her performance work and the 1992 Los Angeles uprising, a relationship more of exchange, rather than causality, pivots discourses away from a singular narrative around men and gangsta rap, and towards performance work as a strategy in Black feminist organizing.

4. **Diversity with Code and Art: Diversifying Technology-Oriented Communities through Visibility and Representation**  
**CHELLY A. JIN & Lauren McCarthy**  
Mentor: Lauren McCarthy

p5.js is a JavaScript library for making interactive art for the web, breaking constructs that define traditional programmers. Utilizing the platform of p5.js, Diversity with Code and Art is web-based artwork series opening the conversation of how to include more marginalized niches within the code and art community. Each series focuses on one marginalized group, with this first series highlighting Asian women and gender non-conforming artists, designers, and coders. The research project embodies a bilateral method defined by visibility and representation. First, a curation of interactive artwork created by these artists, designers, and coders is presented on the p5.js homepage for visibility. Then, taking a qualitative approach, each creator is interviewed to discuss their experiences with coding and art environments in relation to their identities for representation. The result is an in-depth discussion on the lack of racial and gender diversity in art and code. Also, by showcasing artists and designers, the project diversifies the application of code from traditional uses of engineering. The aim is to inspire audiences in seeing reflections of identities they can resonate with as important creators, introduce more voices to a collective conversation, diversify the application of code, and showcase more communities in the continuation of this series.

5. **A Qualitative Investigation of the Acceptance of “Coming Out”: Parents Communication with their Social Networks and LGBTQ Children**  
**NATHAN CHEUNG**  
Mentor: Steven M Peterson
Little research has been conducted regarding the “coming out” experience of LGBTQ youth from the parent’s point of view. At the same time, it is well established that LGBTQ youth with low parental support leads to negative health and psychological outcomes, such as higher rates of depression and suicide. Through semi-structured interviews of parents of 15 LGBTQ children and subsequent thematic analysis guided by Queer Theory and Constructivist Grounded Theory, this study seeks to understand how parents react to, and experience, the “coming out” of their child, and how their social networks were impacted. The effect of cultural upbringing will also be looked at, with half the parents being Caucasian, and half being Asian-American. This study is of clinical significance for counseling and therapy practices, and of academic significance in order to challenge the normative views of “the family”, and to shift the Queer Experience into mainstream family discourse.
1.

Pluralism and Doubt: Relocating Jamesian Religious Experience
DEREK T. BERGMANN
Mentor: Ryan Gillespie

If Charles Taylor is correct, the secularization of the Modern West should not only be assessed in the usual terms of a general decrease in religious faith or religion’s recession from the public sphere, but in terms of a third question: why was it almost impossible not to believe in God in the 14th century, while many of us today find unbelief easy, if not inescapable? This third facet of secularism, which he calls “secularity 3”, arises from the sheer multiplicity of choices available to the modern individual. In this presentation, I will argue that Jamesian religious experience is apropos in this secular modern context based on a two pronged observation regarding Taylor’s secularity 3. The first prong relates to Taylor’s conception of doubt in the midst of choice, and the second prong expands this notion of doubt to encompass the methodology of choice as well as the option itself. Because religious experience is direct, not reliant on a discursive methodology of ‘disengaged reason’, it may offer a promising remedy to secularity’s symptomatic doubt.

2.

The Other as Dreamers, Symbols and Signifiers in the Oneirocritica of Artemidorus
HAROLD FRANCISCO and David L. Blank
Mentor: David L. Blank

The Oneirocritica, a dream interpretation manual, composed by Artemidorus of Daldis during the late 2nd century CE, consists of dreams from people of varying social status and circumstance. On the third volume of The History of Sexuality, The Care of the Self, Michel Foucault uses the Oneirocritica as the primary source to defend his critique of the repressive hypothesis. My research critiques Foucault’s method of interpreting the dream-interpreter through an understanding of the Oneirocritica. My study proposes that the identity of the “ordinary” Greek in the Oneirocritica is relative to their conception of the Other. My study consists of two parts. The first part of my study analyzes the intention, technique, and organization of the Oneirocritica. These analyses aim to reveal how the operation of the Oneirocritica represents the dreams of people from various social status and circumstance. An explanation of the internal workings of the Oneirocritica serves to better understand the underlying principles of the dream manual and how it transmits information about dreams and dreamer. The second part of my study is a close reading of dream interpretations. The chapters of my thesis are categorized by different subjects of alterity. For instance, a chapter is devoted to gender and another to slavery. The categories of dreams examined in this study have been inadequately analyzed or neglected by Foucault.
3.
Redressing God in the Poetry of Anne Sexton and Sylvia Plath
NINA KEEN & Christopher Mott
Mentor: Christopher Mott

Much secondary criticism has been devoted to studying the psychoanalytic origins behind the poetry of Anne Sexton and Sylvia Plath. When God appears in their works, critics usually assume that he is the replacement of a father-figure. In the last two collections by Anne Sexton and Sylvia Plath, “The Awful Rowing Toward God” and “Ariel” I noticed that the poets often portray God and female sexuality together. I researched this connection. First, I read “Becoming Divine: Toward a Feminist Philosophy of Religion” by Grace Jantzen and “Beyond God the Father: Toward a Philosophy of Women’s Liberation” by Mary Daly. Then, I analyzed three poems, “Civil War, Is It True?” and “When Man Enters Woman”, from Sexton’s collection. Afterwards, I analyzed “Daddy”, “Fever 103”, and “The Arrival of the Bee Box” from the collection by Plath. Using the King James Bible, I researched how women’s sexual organs have been demonized. I contrasted this vilification with Sexton’s and Plath’s re-imagination. I found that the final poetry of Sylvia Plath and Anne Sexton go beyond condemning their fathers. I discovered that Plath and Sexton lay the foundation for a “religion of natality”, in Grace Jantzen’s words, in which female bodies and their sexual pleasure are celebrated by a more human God. This is an empowering move for women and one that scholars should no longer overlook.

4.
A Pilot Study: An exploration of the Potential of Zine-Making as a “Pedagogy of Hope” in the Classroom
MITZY Z. MENDOZA
Mentor: Alicia Gaspar de Alba

While zine culture has historically thrived in underground spaces and sub-cultural settings, feminist scholars agree on their impact as creative outlets of social change. In a tradition of feminist activism, the accessibility of engaging with zine-making gives zinesters the agency to produce and self-publish their own content. This project focused on developing a future pilot program to be used in classroom settings for students to learn more about zines and create their own. The main objective of this study was to explore the potential of zines as a public pedagogies of hope and possibility. I explored the following questions: 1) How can zines help young people of color in their identity formation process? 2) In what ways can zines be used as pedagogical tools in educational/political spaces? For the methods of my research, I created a DIY/How-to Zine-making workshop which was facilitated with a group of students in an after-school program. Ultimately, this project revealed the importance of using zines as creative methods of self-expression that help young people of color build community and resist conditions of oppression. Doing studies of zines is of utter importance, perhaps now more than ever before, given the political tensions surrounding marginalized communities as well as the surge of untrustworthy news sources in the trump era. Most importantly, zines are critical tools that serve as collective sources of empowerment.
1. “Do You NOT Want Me To Transfer?”: Institutional Constraints for Black Community College Students In Southern California

CHELSEA MARIE DORMEVIL
Mentor: Zsuzsa Berend

Community college serves as an entry point to higher education for more than half of the Black students across the nation. However, Black students continue to face disparities related to their transfer rates and degree attainment. In California, the disparities translate into their underrepresentation in public and private four-year institutions. Research has suggested that the lack of financial literacy and understanding of college finances affects Black students when it comes to completing a degree and/or transferring to a university. However, there is limited scholarship on the factors that shape Black community college students’ experiences with the financial aid process. I focus on the higher education context since obtaining a college degree allows for a higher chance for financial success, long-term stability and an overall better quality of life compared to non-graduates. This study dissects the ways in which Black students’ community college experiences are impacted when navigating the financial aid process, ultimately having an influence on their ability to transfer. Interviews with eight student and field notes gathered through participant observations were analyzed using grounded theory methodology. Findings from this study identify constraints of the financial aid process on Black students’ ability to navigate community college and ultimately transfer.

2. Heterogeneity in Returns of the Field of Study: Evidence from PIAAC

KAN YAO & Rodrigo Pinto
Mentor: Rodrigo Pinto

The labor market outcome across college majors are unevenly distributed, i.e. students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) have more earning advantages. However, the earnings gap reflects not only the specific human capital investment in college majors but also the impact of unevenly distributed initial skills across majors. I benefit from the rich data from the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) to examine this earnings gap in the United Stated. I show that a sizable portion of the return to majors is due to self-selection and can be explained by the measurement of innate skills. I also find that the return to majors varies substantially by gender. However, this variation is largely gender-specific returns to innate skills, instead of the gender difference in innate skills. Furthermore, male’s innate skills explain a larger share in the major returns compared with female. Based on my findings, this paper establishes new facts that add to the understanding of how returns to majors are generated.
3. **Inter-topic Distances as Leading Indicators for Recessions**  
   MELODY Y. HUANG, Randall R. Rojas, Patrick D. Convery  
   Mentor: Randall Rojas  
   During periods of recessions, topics within news articles about the economy tend to be clustered with one another, while during periods of economic upswings, topics within news articles about the economy tend to be less related. We hypothesize that like sentiment analysis, measuring coherence within the media can yield insightful predictions in both financial markets and the economy as a whole. We apply the Latent Dirichlet Allocation algorithm on a corpus of New York Times articles from the last two decades, and estimate topic distributions within 30-day periods. From the Jensen-Shannon distances between estimated topics, we construct two novel metrics from which we measure strong correlation with financial indices. Additionally, we find that these metrics can be used as leading indicators for estimating the probability of being in a recession, and propose a vector autoregressive model containing these metrics that is able to outperform traditional, recession probability models.

4. **21st Century Senate Obstruction and the Effect of Public Opinion**  
   GWENANELLE CALAISE-HAASE & Kathleen Bawn  
   Mentor: Kathleen Bawn  
   Congress' approval ratings have been decreasing steadily over time. This is partly due to its appearance as a “do-nothing” or gridlocked legislature. In fact, polls show that the public dislikes this obstructive quality of Congress. In a representative democracy, however, members of Congress should respond to what voters desire, so it is logical to wonder who is telling members of Congress to obstruct. Using U.S. Senate cloture votes and secondary analysis of preexisting public opinion surveys, this study provides evidence that senators only marginally base their obstructive behaviors on public opinion. Instead, senators are much more responsive to their political parties in the legislature. These findings legitimize complaints that Congress is stuck in gridlock because the gridlock is fueled by partisanship rather than constituent preferences.
1. Truth to Power: Drama of the Gifted Child at American Four Year Universities
   JABRIL MUHAMMAD
   Mentor: Jerome Rabow

Alice Walker Miller’s book "Drama of the Gifted Child" illustrates the unintended impacts of parental narcissism and its contributions to "gifted-ness" in modern day children. Although the text solely details the vicissitudes of the relationship between parent and child, there are aspects of its offerings that can also be witnessed in the relationship between teacher and student, employee and supervisor, and many other pairs of social roles. This project seeks to apply the concept of the “gifted child” to the general relationship between the individual and their surrounding social environment. How can the power dynamics between parent and child in "Drama of the Gifted Child" shape the way we view the relationship between self and society? Furthermore, how do these dynamics inform our experiences as students at a prestigious four year university? This project will use the insights of Drama of the Gifted Child as a tool to establish an understanding of the motives and intentions that underlie human power relations, which will then serve as a theoretical framework to interpret the experiences of UCLA students gathered via interviews. This project broadly represents an initiation of a critical rethinking of power and power relations, and particularly seeks to pivot the discourse regarding the provision of quality education at American four year universities.

2. Fun, Fearless, Feminist?: An Exploration of Cosmopolitan’s Ongoing Fight for Feminist Legitimacy Within the Changing Landscape of American Feminisms
   AMY R. CUMMINGS
   Mentor: Ellen C. Dubois

While conversations about women’s sexuality are often limited, Cosmopolitan magazine has always offered a bold site of dialogue to engage with this crucial subject. Cosmopolitan invites women to explore topics about sexual health and pleasure in a safe and comfortable environment through the individual or shared experience of reading a popular magazine. This paper examines Cosmopolitan magazine from 1996 to present to uncover its content about sex, sexuality, and feminism and how the magazine has reflected, contrasted with, or ignored prominent ideas in the history of American feminisms. Excerpts from sex-related content, as well as content containing the search terms 'feminism' or 'feminist' from the entire twenty-year span, are contextualized with historical background and discussed with reflection on the historical moments that preceded and created them. Primary source text is considered in conversation with 'first-' and ‘third-wave’, sex-positive, corporate or individualist feminisms, and intersectional and queer feminisms. In the nuanced context of mainstream American feminisms over the last several decades, the conflict between Cosmopolitan and its critics can be understood as a reflection of the tensions between 'sex-positive' feminists and those who, feminists or otherwise, disagree with the centrality of women’s sexuality. Regardless, women worldwide turn to
Cosmopolitan, making it a critical locus for study of women’s sexuality and their engagement with feminism.

3. She is Not a Hammer: La Malinche’s Journey through Epistemic Unconfidence

BRENDA S. LARA

Mentor: Alicia Gaspar de Alba

What makes knowledge relevant and who is allowed to hold legitimate knowledge? For traditional philosophy departments and in dominant spaces in United States society knowledge is legitimized when it meets two requirements. First the foundations and concepts that are created are Western, meaning they emerge from Europe and the United States. Secondly, an individual who is a dominant position in society communicates the ideas. Anglo-Saxon and Spanish colonialism affect United States society and the individuals that reside in this society. Colonization is the embodiment of a structure of power that third world Feminists named white heteropatriarchy. As such, individuals that are privileged by white heteropatriarchy are white heterosexual men. Within this paper I elaborate on a phenomenon I coin epistemic unconfidence. Epistemic unconfidence occurs when an individual lacks the confidence to produce knowledge and feels that they are incapable of creating knowledge. I argue that this phenomenon occurs because white heteropatriarchy’s standards and the colonizers that uphold them constantly deny an individual’s intelligence. In specific, I utilize Malintzin Tenepal, better known as La Malinche; it orders to illustrate this phenomenon. I will be utilizing Martin Heidegger’s concept of the Dasein, a being that imposes meaning on objects and equipment beings that are manipulated by Dasein. As well as, a Foucauldian genealogy a timeline that deconstructs ideologies that are considered objective truths as a methodology.

4. Impact of the 1992 Los Angeles Civil Unrest on College Students

MICHELLE ROLON, Samantha Taylor, and Clavin Chaik

Mentor: Paul M. Ong

Academia that focuses on the 1992 Los Angeles Civil Unrest, also known as the L.A. Riots, focuses on the discourse about the superficial generalizations made by the media at the time, which focused on the “racial tension” between Korean and Black communities in Los Angeles. While there is research on how various communities were affected by this day, literature on the event has not explored its effects on college students at the time. This research specifically examines the effects of the civil unrest on students while focusing on how it changed their personal and political identity. It also takes into account former students’ perspectives on race relations and how university campuses responded to the event. Based on qualitative research methods, we hosted a total of ten interviews with college students from that time frame. These interviews were conducted in-person and over the telephone with a detailed interview protocol and key research questions. We concluded with three major findings: students' interpretation of the events changed over time, universities’ response not as impactful as student organizations, and changes in political engagement and career paths. More importantly, students came to recognize their own personal understanding of their racial identities, the differentiation between the
political atmosphere within their campuses and the rest of the city, and the political changes that followed years after the event.

5. Under Their Roof: The Normalization of the Russian Mafia and Its Effect on Russian Society
   HELEANA MELENDEZ
   Mentor: Yelena Furman

This presentation examines the factors behind the Russian Mafia’s consolidation of power during perestroika and the post-Soviet period. Specifically, it looks at the ways in which its activities in the economic and political spheres normalized its presence in Russian society. Beginning during perestroika and continuing after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Mafia was able to take advantage of the political, social, and economic instability, assuming various roles the state was unable to undertake. The Mafia was able to cut through the state bureaucracy and make things more secure and efficient for others. Through the provision of both legal and illegal services, such as private protection and money laundering, the Russian Mafia was normalized. As a result, Russian entrepreneurs and politicians began to prefer the Mafia rather than going through the legal structures set in place by the government, thus cementing the Mafia’s presence in post-Soviet society. Examining the factors that led to the normalization of the Russian Mafia can then be used to shed light on ways of combating other similar organizations, such as those in El Salvador.
## INDEX OF STUDENT PRESENTERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGUIAR SILVAN, YESENIA</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANKER, HENRY</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BERGMANN, DEREK T.</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BORGES, CLARISSA R.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUCKBAND, CORY A.</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALAIS-HAASE, GWENAEELLE</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEUNG, NATHAN</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHITWOOD, GABRIELA</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COHEN, RACHEL E.</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUMMINGS, AMY R.</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAMIANO, RACHEL E.</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DORMEVIL, CHELSEA MARIE</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRANCISCO, HAROLD</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GARCIA, MELISSA</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENTI, BEN</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOUDARZI, PERSIA F.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREEN, NATALIE</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRENDA, ALLISON</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUANG, MELODY Y.</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBARRA, LLUVIA</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JIA, FANQI</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JIN, CHELLY A.</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEEN, NINA</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KHOJA, ADNAN E.</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LARA, BRENDA S.</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAWSON-CHAVANU, AMARA</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MADRIGAL, GUADALUPE</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARTINUCCI, ZACH</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAYA, JESUS MIGUEL</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MELENDEZ, HELEANA</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA, STEFANY D.</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENDOZA, MITZY Z.</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIRZAIAN, SOPHIE</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORICONI, RACHEL F.</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORTON, ADRIANA</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUHAMMAD, JABRIL</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POPELKA, SARAH</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAM, MAYA</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REYES, DAVID</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROBBINS, KATHLEEN E.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROLON, MICHELLE</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAING, EMILY</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TORRES, MARIA S.</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRUSKOWSKI, STEPHANIE</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBIE-ABEE, PENELope</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WESLEY, KAYLIN D.</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILLIAMS, AMAN</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WYMARK, DANIEL D.</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XU, ZHONGSHI</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YAO, KAN</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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