The Sixth Annual
Honors Student Conference

Spotlight on
Research & Creativity

DePaul University
Honors Program

Friday, May 10, 2019
LPC Student Center
Honors Program Staff

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Nancy Grossman, Associate Director
Jennifer Kosco, Assistant Director
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Rose Spalding, Political Science
Phillip Stalley, Political Science
Peter Steeves, Philosophy
Valentina Tikoff, History
Elizabeth Woodruff, Honors Program
A Message from the Director

Welcome to the sixth annual Honors Student Conference: Spotlight on Research & Creativity. Ninety students from the DePaul University Honors Program will present their exciting and original work at this gathering. Our annual conference allows honors students to share what they’ve learned with a broad audience of fellow students, faculty, staff, family members and friends. Presentations will feature innovative arguments, distinctive interpretations, and ambitious research findings produced by some of our most talented students. Thank you for joining us to cheer them on!

This conference showcases the work of thirty-three outstanding Honors Program seniors who decided to transform their curiosity and passion for a particular subject into a thesis project. Honors theses involve independent research and writing conducted across two quarters under the close supervision of a thesis director and a faculty reader. Thesis students draw on questions, theories, frameworks, and ideas that emanate from their course work, and then add curiosity, initiative and fresh insight to produce original projects that expand our collective horizons. Their projects have been organized into a series of thematic presentations, moderated by honors faculty, as well as poster viewing sessions.

In addition, fifty-seven honors students took up the challenge of applying for admission or accepting faculty nominations to present their work in poster form at the conference. They met the benchmark for high-quality creative and scholarly work and then adapted their projects for a conference format.

These two groups are prepared to challenge and engage you with their innovative research and creative work. Please join us in engaging and celebrating this fine collaboration.

On behalf of the students whose work is featured at this conference, I want to thank the many DePaul faculty mentors who gave generously of their time and worked closely with the presenters to develop these exciting projects. Honors Program staff members Jennifer Kosco and Emma Rubenstein deserve a special note of thanks for carrying out all of the behind-the-scenes work required to plan and organize an event of this magnitude. Nancy Grossman, the program’s Associate Director, stood at the helm at every phase in the development of the conference, from its early conception and design through to the event itself, and did it all with her characteristic professionalism and grace. Finally, I want to thank Dean Guillermo Vásquez de Velasco, College of Liberal Arts and Social Science, for his enthusiastic support for this initiative.

Offering my hearty congratulations to all,

Martha Martinez-Firestone
Associate Professor, Sociology
Director, DePaul University Honors Program
Conference Schedule at a Glance

3:30-7:00  Registration—Student Center, Third Floor

3:45-4:00  Welcoming Remarks—Room 325
Martha Martinez-Firestone, Director
University Honors Program
Guillermo Vásquez de Velasco, Dean
College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

4:00-7:00  Student Poster Presentations—Room 314 A & B
Student Thesis Presentations—Break-out rooms
Refreshments—Third Floor Lobby

Honors Senior Thesis & Poster Presentations

4:05-5:00  A1—Citizenship and Nationalism—Room 312
A2—Cultural Landscapes—Room 313
A3—Stage & Screen—Room 315
A4—Technological Solutions—Room 316
P1—Poster Session—Room 314

5:05-6:00  B1—Gender Matters—Room 312
B2—Politics, Philosophy, and Academia—Room 313
B3—Creating—Room 315
P2—Poster Session—Room 314

6:05-7:00  C1—Education and Social Welfare—Room 312
C2—Health and Culture—Room 313
C3—Environmental Impacts—Room 315
P3—Poster Session—Room 314
Thesis Presenters
(Student name, major, and presentation schedule)

Yamini Bangarusami—Animation—A2/P2
Madeleine Byrne—Costume Design—B3/P3
Reuben Diaz—Computer Science—B3/P3
Matt D’Onofrio—Geography—A4/P2
Zachary Durec—Political Science—B2/P3
Daniel Fender—Stage Management—A3/P2
Claire Fisher—Psychology—B2/P3
Julia Golden—Psychology—C2/P1
Quentin Griffin—Psychology—A4/P2
Grace Grindell—Theatre Arts—A3/P2
Hannah Kaplan—Theatre Arts/English—C2/P1
Robert Kelly—Finance—A3/P2
Grace Kunkel—Psychology/Philosophy—B2/P3
Aurora Lawrie—Cello Performance—B1/P3
Sofea Lee—Accountancy—A1/P2
Isabella Menichiello—Film & TV—B3/P3
Sydney O’Hare—History—B1/P3
Miguel Perez—Graphic Design—C3/P1
Jenna Reimler—English/Public Relations & Advertising—B2/P3
Tom Rietz—Political Science/Economics—C1/P1
Madeline Robertson—Environmental Studies—C3/P1
Laila Rodriques—Acting—B1/P3
Connor Scoltock—Political Science—C3/P1
Madison Shiparski—User Experience Design—A4/P2
Elisa Stanis—Animation—A3/P2
Emily Stolz—Elementary Education—C1/P2
Kendrick Suenaga—Animation—A2/P2
Isobel Tollenaar—Political Science—A1/P2
Benjamin Tomasik—Business Administration—C3/P1
Ryan Trevino—Health Sciences—C2/P1
Maria Valenzuela—Psychology—C1/P1
Claire Wendt—Spanish—A2/P2
Elizabeth Woodruff—Spanish—A1/P2
Poster Presenters
(Student name, year, major, and presentation schedule)

Deyana Atanasova, FR—Economics/Writing, Rhetoric & Discourse—P2
Mackenzie Baldner, FR—Philosophy—P2
Abigail Barbeau, SO—Public Relations & Advertising—P2
Bryson Brooks, FR—Film & Television—P2
Julio Chazarro, FR—Finance—P1
Ronan Clague, SO—Philosophy/Psychology—P1
Nicolas Clarisse, JR—Chemistry—P3
Matthew Cooper, JR—Media Cinema Studies/Communication Studies—P3
Olivia Crouch, JR—Film & Television—P3
Isabel Cueto, SO—Writing, Rhetoric & Discourse—P1
Cassidy Delahunty, FR—Undeclared—P1
Matthew Donald, FR—Film & Television—P3
Nora Drew, JR—History of Art & Architecture/Peace, Justice, Conflict Studies—P3
Maddie Fernandez Laris, FR—Environmental Studies—P1
Alyssa Filicchia, FR—Peace, Justice, Conflict Studies/Political Science—P2
Isabelle Gallant, JR—Psychology—P3
Cassandra Gomez, FR—Religious Studies—P2
Jenna Gonzales, SO—Economics—P1
Clare Gordon, SO—Health Sciences—P2
Alexandra Gorodiski, SR—Elementary Education—P3
Paulina Grzybowicz, SO—Computer Science—P3
Gracie Hart, FR—Accountancy—P2
Yousef Ibrahim, FR—Biochemistry—P1
Izabella Jablonska, JR—International Studies—P2
Sierra Jackson, SR—Marketing—P2
Nour Jaghama, FR—Political Science—P2
Allie Judge, SR—English/Political Science—P1
Poster Presenters
(Student name, year, major, and presentation schedule)

Claire Kaczanowski, SO—Neuroscience—P1
Theodora Kouliouvaris, FR—Political Science—P2
Hannah Manion, SR—English—P1
Sophia Mazurek, SR—Health Sciences—P3
Anna Rose McGoldrick, SR—International Studies/Arabic Studies—P3
Beyla Mittal, FR—International Studies—P1
James Morrissey, SR—Political Science—P2
Ryan Napue, SO—Neuroscience—P1
Elle Nowogrocki, SR—Peace, Justice, Conflict Studies—P3
Danielle Palomino, SR—Marketing—P1
Georgia Pappas, FR—Biological Sciences—P2
Maya Parekh, FR—Women’s & Gender Studies—P2
Victoria Perez, SR—Marketing—P3
Margaret Porter, FR—Accountancy—P1
Kayla Quebral, SR—Health Sciences—P1
Elizabeth Ruda, FR—English—P1
Angeline Salazar Schulist, JR—Political Science—P3
Kimmi Sanderson, SO—English—P2
Chris Schafale, JR—English—P2
Zoe Seipp, FR—English—P3
Sofia Silveri Sytniak, SR—Psychology—P2
Shashank Srikanth, SO—Computer Science/Data Science—P1
MaryKate Tobin, JR—Finance—P2
Claire Trinkle, FR—Political Science—P1
Bhavi Vashi, FR—Health Sciences—P2
Helen Wargo, FR—English—P1
Anabel Watson, JR—Peace, Justice, Conflict Studies—P1
Lauren Watson, FR—Game Design—P2
Claudia Wilkie, FR—Anthropology—P1
Falon Young, SO—Political Science—P2
Schedule of Poster Presentations

P3: 6:05-7:00
Nicolas Clarisse—Analysis of the Rovibrational Spectra of HCl and DCl by FTIR Spectrometry
Matthew Cooper—Technological Terrors: Wallace and Gromit’s Twentieth Century Anxieties
Olivia Crouch—Edmonia Lewis: The Death of Neoclassicism (or How One Multiracial Woman Reimagined Neoclassicism)
Matthew Donald—Laslo Maholy-Nagy: Chicago Modernist Figure
Nora Drew—Native Feminism: An Approach to Contemporary Art by Native Americans
Isabelle Gallant—Transgender Military Ban: A Question of Masculinity rather than Cost
Alexandra Gorodiski—Providing Food in Schools: A Possible Road to Success
Paulina Grzybowicz—Right-Wing Populism in Poland
Sophia Mazurek—Healthcare and Power: Latinas in Chicago
Anna Rose McGoldrick—Fueling Food Security: Oil, Dairy, and Agricultural Initiatives in Saudi Arabia
Elle Nowogrocki—Reform Bail, Reform the System
Victoria Perez—Societal Criticisms of Inauthenticity for Biracial and Multiracial Artists in Hip-Hop/Rap
Angeline Salazar Schulist—The Acquisition of Language
Zoe Seipp—Gwendolyn Brooks: Chicago Modernist Figure

Thesis Posters

Madeleine Byrne—Embellishments: Exploring Dress in Detail
Reuben Diaz—Repetition, Madness & the Unknown
Zachary Durec—Shaping Imaginations: Plato on Homer
Claire Fisher—The Influence of Religion on the Quality of College Communities
Grace Kunkel—Self-Care as Political Warfare
Aurora Lawrie—She Writes ‘Like A Man’: Classical Music for the Cello by Women
Isabella Menichiello—The Swamp
Sydney O’Hare—‘Willful’ Women: How the London Times Portrayed Female Murderers from 1805 to 1880
Jenna Reimler—Practicing What They Preach: How DePaul can Better Market to Lower Income and First Generation Students
Laila Rodriques—Poison and Horses: An Exploration of Feminine Anger
Isobel Tollenaar—Cicero’s Civitas in Republican Rome and Contemporary United States
Thesis Director: Howard Rosing / Faculty Reader: Juana Goergen
Using source material from classical thinker Marcus Tullius Cicero (103-46 B.C.E.), this thesis will focus on his idea and practice of citizenship outside of the legal realm, and how it materializes both in Republican Roman society and the contemporary United States. By dissecting the liberal focus on his idea and practice of citizenship outside of the legal realm, and how it materializes both in Republican Roman society and the contemporary United States, this paper identifies what a disparity in social results of citizenship (i.e. collective memory and identity) meant for the Roman Republic, and what it could mean for the United States.
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<th>Schedule of Poster Presentations</th>
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<tr>
<td>P1: 4:05-5:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julia Chazaró—<em>A Conversation Between Followers of Wildfire and Buddhism</em></td>
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<td>Ronan Clague—<em>Religion With No Intermediary</em></td>
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<td>Isabel Cueto—<em>Understanding Identity and Choice in Academic Writing Through Philosophy</em></td>
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<td>Cassidy Delahunty—<em>We’re Here, We’re Queer, Now So What? How LGBT Politics and Socio-Racial Stigma Hurt</em></td>
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<td>LGBT Youth of Color in Chicago’s Boystown</td>
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<td>Maddie Fernandez Laris—<em>Frank Lloyd Wright’s Light Screens</em></td>
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<td>Jenna Gonzales—<em>Supermarkets and Diet-Related Death in Chicago</em></td>
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<td>Yousef Ibrahim—<em>The War on Terror’s Infraction of Freedom</em></td>
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<td>Allie Judge—<em>Shifting Winds: An Exploration of Irish Political Culture</em></td>
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<td>Claire Kaczanowski—<em>Brazilian Samba and Sound</em></td>
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<td>Hannah Manion—<em>Corporate Social Responsibility: A Case Study of the Cerro Verde Copper Mine</em></td>
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<td>Beyla Mittal—<em>Silence in India: The Cultural Struggle for Menstrual Products</em></td>
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<td>Ryan Napue—<em>Private Prisons: Profit in Exchange for Freedom</em></td>
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<td>Danielle Palomino—<em>More Than A Black Artist: Jean-Michel Basquiat’s Mixed-Race Artist Journey</em></td>
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<td>Margaret Porter—<em>Deconstructing White-Male Centrism in Museums: Reevaluating an Archaic Institution</em></td>
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<td>Kayla Quebral—<em>Emotion, Space, and Horror: Samantha Wall and Multiraciality</em></td>
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<td>Elizabeth Ruda—<em>What Cannot Be Set in Stone: How Eliza’s Transformation Subverts Ovidian Social Conventions</em></td>
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<td>Shashank Srikanth—<em>Robot Regulation: Will Smith Wanted This in I, Robot</em></td>
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<td>Claire Trinkle—<em>The Vicious Circle: The Intersection of Poverty and Violence in Chicago</em></td>
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<td>Helen Wargo—<em>Culture for a Cure: The Gap in Hospital Use in the Chinese Immigrant Community due to Traditional Chinese Medicine and Family Structure</em></td>
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<td>Anabel Watson—<em>Near-Death Experiences</em></td>
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<td>Claudia Wilkie—<em>Lady Killers</em></td>
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**Thesis Posters**

| Julia Golden—*“It Takes Guts”: Examining the Relationship Between Age and IBD Diagnosis and Socioemotional Factors* |
| Hannah Kaplan—*Young American Jews and the Birthright Trip: An Analysis of Rising Anti-Occupation Campaigns in the United States* |
| Miguel Perez—*National Parks: Rebrand* |
| Tom Rietz—*Family and Group Decision-Making: Effects on Foster Care Outcomes* |
| Madeline Robertson—*A Playful Life Cycle Assessment of the Environmental Impact of Children’s Toys* |
| Connor Scoltock—*A Discourse Analysis of Lakota Solar Enterprises: Reimagining the Framework of a ‘Green New Deal’* |
| Benjamin Tomasik—*Hydrogen Republic: The Cost of Future Fuel* |
| Ryan Trevino—*The Association Between Depression, Discrimination, and Cardiovascular Disease Status* |
| Maria Valenzuela—*Latinas’ Interest in Science: The Role of Ethnic Identity and Helping Others* |

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**A2—Cultural Landscapes**

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<th>4:05-5:00 / Room 313</th>
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<td>Kendrick Suenaga—<em>Multicultural Design in Architecture</em></td>
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<td>Thesis Director: Devin Bell / Faculty Reader: Heinz Schuller</td>
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Written history often forgets the stories of the poor, the disenfranchised and the defeated. The strength that keeps these cultures alive is their visual history, the power to walk into a space and know the people that built it. Architecture symbolizes this power by standing for centuries as a living testimony of the people that once were. I hope to symbolize that preservation of the past in an environment visualizing a society that holds many histories. What is the visual language of a multicultural society and how can we build towards that future?

Yamini Bangarusamy—*Chicago: A Cultural Salad Bowl* |

Thesis Director: Lee Madsen / Faculty Reader: Carolyn Goffman |

This study aspires to research and document the various communities that make Chicago a cultural salad bowl, defined as the integration of many cultures that retain their distinguishable identity, as opposed to a melting pot where different entities lose their essence and spill over into one another. This project will perform a deep dive into select communities within the city—the Chinese, Ukrainian, and Hispanic—that influence and thrive in Chicago. Each community will be examined historically, including their arrival in the city, acclimation to the new environment, important contributions, and their position in present day Chicago in the face of increasing gentrification and cultural loss among the youth population.

Claire Wendt—*The Politics of Emotion: Case Study of Peronismo’s Enduring Legacy* |

Thesis Director: Rose Spalding / Faculty Reader: Carolina Sternberg |

This study analyzes the role that emotions played in initiating and continuing the politics of Juan Domingo Perón, an army General and three-time president of Argentina. The study utilizes framework principles of Friedrich Nietzsche’s *resentment* and Max Weber’s charismatic leadership to assert that emotions form political realities through mass recognition and promised opportunity. Perón’s rise to power through his ability to address working class anxiety by promoting nationalized protections for workers created an enduring loyalty between Perón and his followers that became entrenched in mass consciousness by creating a more expansive definition of Argentinidad. The study also analyzes the legacies of Perón, arguing that in times of crisis, Argentina returns to Peronismo due to its nostalgic call to the past.
Horror films have been a prevalent part of our culture. As action films and comedies farm larger budgets, horror remains humble and often too modest. Despite their innovative success at disrupting norms, mainstreaming diversity and inclusion, and deconstructing normalized stereotypes, only six horror films have been nominated for best picture at the Academy Awards. Greater focus should be placed on the genre that disguises social criticism as monsters. Horror is mostly low-budget but has proven itself over the history of cinema as a viable genre.

Benjamin Tomasik—Hydrogen Republic: The Cost of Future Fuel
Thesis Director: Eric Landahl / Faculty Reader: Frank Limehouse

Hydrogen fuel cell technology is considered a potential successor of fossil fuels due to the renewability and accessibility of hydrogen gas. Despite this, hydrogen and hydrogen fuel cells have yet to be adopted by a significant percentage of the transportation market. To understand why this is the case, and ascertain if hydrogen fuel cell technology is the future of energy storage, this thesis will review existing means of producing, storing, distributing, and consuming hydrogen. A cost-benefit analysis will compare hydrogen fuels/hydrogen technologies to currently used methods in the transportation industry. This analysis will look at the cost of building the fueling infrastructure for a business organization and the benefit to society in the form of carbon dioxide reduction.

Connor Scoltock—A Discourse Analysis of Lakota Solar Enterprises: Reimagining the Framework of a ‘Green New Deal’
Thesis Director: Joseph Mello / Faculty Reader: Catherine May

As language constructs our political and social realities, social scientists have documented the importance of understanding how language frames issues and discourses. I will examine the rhetoric of Lakota Solar Enterprises—Henry Red Cloud’s initiative training tribal members to bring a green energy revolution to Native American reservations. How do these discourses frame issues that encompass both the concern for resources with a consideration for the economic and social underpinnings of these issues and potential solutions? Such an analysis could arguably develop a framework to inform potentially transformative policies such as the Green New Deal.

Madeline Robertson—A Playful Life Cycle Assessment of the Environmental Impact of Children’s Toys
Thesis Director: Christie Klimas / Faculty Reader: James Montgomery

In a world with a rapidly increasing population, it is crucial to be educated and empathetic consumers. To quantify the environmental impact of toys, we use life cycle assessment, a methodology that converts inputs into common impact units. This project examines a sample of toys from the larger toy market, studying the toys’ raw materials, transportation, and environmental impacts (Global warming potential and Eutrophication). Our results can be used to provide information for consumers interested in purchasing toys with low environmental impacts.

Miguel Perez—National Parks: Rebrand
Thesis Director: Lee Zelenak / Faculty Reader: Ian Koenig

The National Parks of the United States are home to incredible landscapes, each with its own wildlife and rock formations. In order for these parks to be one unified system, they must live within one consistent brand expression. The current branding of the parks is no different from other local county parks, which is unacceptable for such iconic locations. In order to correct this issue I have created a new brand expression for the National Parks Service that better complements the parks. This rebrand includes a new logo, informational assets, tone of voice, and postcards. Rather than replicate the landscape as the current system does, these assets complement the landscape in a way that is visually interesting while sparking curiosity about the parks.


**C2—Health and Culture**  
6:05-7:00 / Room 313  
Faculty Moderator: Rose Spalding

**Julia Golden—"It Takes Guts": Examining the Relationships Between Age at IBD Diagnosis and Socioemotional Factors**  
Thesis Director: Susan Tran / Faculty Reader: Joanna Buscemi  
Chronic illness can have physical, developmental, and psychological impacts on pediatric patients. Studying pediatric chronic illness and its relationship with mental health as an undergraduate research assistant has prepared me to research my own diagnosis of Crohn’s Disease at age nine. With thorough literature reviews, my own research study, and personal reflection on my experiences living with severe inflammatory bowel disease, I plan to offer a comprehensive analysis of the relationships between age at diagnosis, coping, social support, and depressive symptoms, therefore highlighting the long-lasting social, psychological, and developmental impact of IBD.

**Ryan Trevino—The Association Between Depression, Discrimination, and Cardiovascular Disease Status**  
Thesis Director: Cricel Molina / Faculty Reader: Judith Singleton  
The relationship between depression and cardiovascular disease is well understood; however, less is known about how this relationship varies across racial/ethnic groups. This study seeks to examine the associations between depression, psychological distress, and discrimination as it relates to cardiovascular disease risk. Using the 2016 edition of the California Health Interview Survey, independent odds ratios and multivariate logistic regression was utilized to examine these associations across all race groups while accounting for various demographic factors. The results showed that, while depression is still the strongest predictor of cardiovascular disease status, discrimination was not significantly associated with increased cardiovascular disease risk.

**Hannah Kaplan—Young American Jews and the Birthright Trip: An Analysis of Rising Anti-Occupation Campaigns in the United States**  
Thesis Director: Carolyn Goffman / Faculty Reader: Maria Acosta Lopez  
Birthright is a free 10-day trip to Israel for young Jewish adults meant to “ensure a vibrant future of the Jewish people by strengthening Jewish identity, Jewish communities and connections with Israel” (Birthright), but the trip does not acknowledge the Israeli-occupied territories. Activist groups in the U.S. seeking peace in Israel/Palestine take different approaches with respect to the Birthright tour. This paper compares and critiques Jewish Voices for Peace’s (JVP) #ReturnTheBirthright and If Not Now’s (INN) #NotJustAFreeTrip movements and explores how their outreach incites conversation and thoughtfulness amongst other young American Jews.
and crime shifted during the 19th century.

This thesis studies how female murderers were portrayed by the London Times as understandings of gender differences in women in the court of public opinion, in some instances creating celebrities to justify further criminal reform. Accidentally violent drunks, or battered victims acting in self-defense. The Times tried almost two hundred cases that reinforced social positions.

Criminal violence found a home in both political change and sensationalized journalism throughout 19th century England. Publications like the London Times capitalized on the public’s growing interest in criminality by crafting murderous characters out of trials at the Old Bailey, therefore creating a handful of common storylines that reinforced social positions. Murderous women were characterized as mentally-unstable mothers, accidentally violent drunks, or battered victims acting in self-defense. The Times tried almost two hundred women in the court of public opinion, in some instances creating celebrities to justify further criminal reform. This thesis studies how female murderers were portrayed by the London Times as understandings of gender and crime shifted during the 19th century.
B3—Creating
5:05-6:00 / Room 315
Faculty Moderator: Rebecca Cameron

Madeleine Byrne—Embellishments: Exploring Dress in Detail
Thesis Director: Deanna Aliosius / Faculty Reader: Cheryl Bachand
This exhibit, and supporting written materials, was created to explore historic costume in detail through a variety of techniques and contexts. Using a methods and materials based framework, this exhibit examines three objects and their construction. The supporting framework and theory behind this exhibit identifies the ways that fashion exhibits in museums have evolved over the 20th and 21st centuries, featuring case study examples from the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Chicago History Museum. This exhibit serves as an example of how fashion might be displayed in museums in the future to better serve visitors.

Isabella Menichiello—The Swamp
Thesis Director: Martha McGee / Faculty Reader: Matt Quinn
Folklore and its creation are at the heart of The Swamp, a dramatic, horror limited series about a town of outcasts in 1890s Florida under investigation by rogue local authorities about the recent disappearance of three sisters at a nearby swamp in The Everglades. The central character of the show is the town itself, a savagely mistreated piece of land that was once sacred ground. The dark swamp is inhabited by creatures ranging from alligators and snakes to the more mythical, such as enchanted flora and bayou demons. The show operates in an air of mysticism and fear that can only come from a good ghost story around the campfire, exploring how societies construct dysfunctional truths through legends and ideologies.

Reuben Diaz—Repetition, Madness & the Unknown
Thesis Director: Ted Anton / Faculty Reader: Kathleen Rooney
In both literary and world history, Jewish and Hispanic cultures frequently interact. However, though the world historical elements of this interaction are well documented, there is remarkably little scholarship dedicated to its impact on literature. In this paper, I conduct a modest survey of major authors from both Jewish and Hispanic backgrounds, with an emphasis on authors published between the years 1900 and 2000. In light of this survey, I argue that Jewish and Hispanic literatures share a common lineage, which begins with the Old Testament; that Jewish and Hispanic literatures respond to one another, often consciously; and that Jewish and Hispanic literatures share several common features, including repetition, “mad” characters, and challenges to the supremacy of human intellect. I also include a brief discussion of how this research influenced my own creative work.

B2—Politics, Philosophy and Academia
5:05-6:00 / Room 313
Faculty Moderator: Phillip Stalley

Claire Fisher—The Influence of Religion on the Quality of College Communities
Thesis Director: Karen Scott / Faculty Reader: Jocelyn Carter
This paper uses a psychological research structure to explore the value among emerging adult college students of involvement in a religious on-campus organization compared to a nonreligious on-campus organization. Prior research about the value of communal support is discussed as well as the benefits of religious community involvement. This study also compares religious to nonreligious on-campus organizations at DePaul to discover the differences in sense of community among respective members. This study aims to discover the nature and value of religious organizations beyond individual religious beliefs, and strives to understand how they are similar or disparate to organizations that are not centered on religion.

Jenna Reimler—Practicing What They Preach: How DePaul can Better Market to Lower Income and First Generation Students
Thesis Director: Kathie Kapustka / Faculty Reader: Jacqueline Kuehl
This thesis examines the current marketing practices of higher education institutions, and how they attract prospective students. I specifically explore how private Catholic universities, which are grounded in Catholic values and inclusivity, can better attract lower income and first generation students in order to uphold their mission. To do this they must implement specific marketing techniques that prove effective for this specific demographic. My thesis aims to examine successful marketing strategies that can be adjusted to cater to the interest of lower income and first generation students in order to increase the number of applicants of this target demographic.

Grace Kunkel—Self-Care as Political Warfare
Thesis Director: Avery Goldman / Faculty Reader: Olya Ginsman
2018 has been a tumultuous year for our country. With such overwhelming hatred being endorsed by our leader and his administration, it can be a challenge for even the most dedicated activists to remain hopeful in the face of attempted alienation and contempt. This climate has led me to want to understand how individuals can manage to function in the current environment. The concept of self-care dates back to the ancient Greeks with Aristotle’s argument that good actions should center around the cultivation of the soul. Using historical philosophical texts as well as psychological concepts, I hope to understand how the personal and the political intersect in our unending quest for the Good Life.

Zachary Durec—Shaping Imaginations: Plato on Homer
Thesis Director: Jim Block / Faculty Reader: Sean Kirkland
Plato’s Republic is widely considered the founding text of political thought, yet in it he spends a great deal of time discussing poetry and Homer. This counterintuitive fact drives my inquiry. Poetry is ultimately a creative force that contributes to shaping the imaginations of individuals, and in ancient Greece, it facilitated the creation of the religious-social world. Plato wishes to think of a stable and lasting polis, and the key to creating one is taking control of the power that informs a society’s imagination. I hope that by focusing on how Plato engages with Homer I can gain a greater understanding of how politics takes place on the creative, artistic level of life.