

**The Sixth Annual**  
**Honors Student Conference**

*Spotlight on*  
*Research & Creativity*

**DePaul University**  
**Honors Program**

**Friday, May 10, 2019**  
**LPC Student Center**





## **Honors Program Staff**

*Martha Martinez-Firestone, Director*

*Nancy Grossman, Associate Director*

*Jennifer Kosco, Assistant Director*

*Emma Rubenstein, Program Assistant*



## Honors Conference Committee

Rebecca Cameron, *English*

Jenny Conary, *English*

Carolyn Goffman, *English*

Cathy Elias, *Music*

Nancy Grossman, *Honors Program*

Peter Hastings, *Computer Science*

Susan Jacobs, *IDS Program*

Jennifer Kosco, *Honors Program*

Martha Martinez-Firestone, *Honors Program/Sociology*

Clara Orban, *Modern Languages*

Michael Raleigh, *Writing, Rhetoric and Discourse*

Emma Rubenstein, *Honors Program*

Jason Schneider, *Writing, Rhetoric and Discourse*

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 Rodrigues—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  
María Ximena 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 Chazaro, 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 Filicicchia, 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 Koulouvaris, 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  
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 DCI 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 Rodrigues—*Poison and Horses: An Exploration of Feminine Anger*

# Schedule of Thesis Presentations

## ***A1—Citizenship and Nationalism***

4:05-5:00 / Room 312

Faculty Moderator: Clara Orban

**Sofea Lee**—*Hidup Melayu: Malay Nationalism Through the Lens of Malaysia's New Economic Policy*

Thesis Director: Maureen Sioh / Faculty Reader: Carolyn Goffman

Malaysia's New Economic Policy (NEP) of 1971 represented an affirmative action tool to redress economic grievances set in motion by British colonial policy, as well as address a nation fractured by bloody interethnic riots between the Malay and Chinese communities. By exploring the construction of Malay group identity pre- and post-independence through an Orientalist framework, this paper investigates how the NEP attempted to heal the deep identity wounds embedded in Malay race loyalty. No longer was economics simply correcting for history, but also for what it meant to be "native" in a postcolonial Malaysia.

**Elizabeth Woodruff**—*Colonialism and Tourism in Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula*

Thesis Director: Howard Rosing / Faculty Reader: Juana Goergen

This paper analyzes how tourism in Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula functions through elements of neocolonial theory, particularly in the complex power dynamics of economic development. It considers the ways in which tourism can be a source of growth that provides significant financial opportunities, but does so while oftentimes perpetuating colonial imbalances in society. This is understood by the ways in which tourism can structurally disrupt the lives of residents and market an exoticized, touristic identity of local communities.

**Isobel Tollenaar**—*Cicero's Civitas in Republican Rome and Contemporary United States*

Thesis Director: David Williams / Faculty Reader: Alessandra Vaccaro

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 application and tiers of citizenship in each respective society, 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.

## Schedule of Poster Presentations

### **P2: 5:05-6:00**

Deyana Atanasova—*Spiraling Slacktivism*

Mackenzie Baldner—*Hume: Moral Skepticism and the Concept of Intention*

Abigail Barbeau—*US Childcare System: Market vs Government*

Bryson Brooks—*David on a Spaceship: The Shift in Modern Science Fiction*

Alyssa Filicicchia—*Making a Mockery of Freedom*

Cassandra Gomez—*The "Culture" of Tolerance and the Effects on Feminism*

Clare Gordon—*Rape Culture and Victim Blaming*

Gracie Hart—*Beyond the Patient: Discovering How Alzheimer's Disease Affects Patient Caregivers*

Izabella Jablonska—*Effects of Foreign Direct Investment in Ghana from 2000-2010*

Sierra Jackson—*The World's Oldest Profession: Prostitution in Late Medieval Spain*

Nour Jaghama—*Islam: Refuting Hume's Critique of Religion*

Theodora Koulovaris—*Political Polarization: The Decimation of Political and Ideological Compromise*

James Morrissey—*A Radioactive Controversy: Fixing the Politics Behind Nuclear Waste Disposal*

Georgia Pappas—*You Can't Handle (your version of) The Truth!*

Maya Parekh—*The Human Victims of Slaughterhouses*

Kimmi Sanderson—*El Cid: The Man, The Myth, The Legend*

Chris Schafale—*Experiencing Better: Building the Ideal Learning Environment*

Sofia Silveri Sytniak—*Pornography's Negative Impacts*

MaryKate Tobin—*The Uncanniness of Growing Up*

Bhavi Vashi—*It's High Time: Legalizing Cannabis*

Lauren Watson—*Media and Mental Health*

Falon Young—*Prison Nurseries: Protecting the Mother-Child Relationship Behind Bars*

### **Thesis Posters**

Yamini Bangarusamy—*Chicago: A Cultural Salad Bowl*

Matt D'Onofrio—*A Ward-Level Analysis of Chicago's 311 Service Request System*

Daniel Fender—*Identifying the Art of Stage Management*

Quentin Griffin—*Modern Artifacts: What Our Video Games Say About Us*

Grace Grindell—*Honey Girls: Surviving Grief Through Narrative*

Robert Kelly—*The Disruption of Hegemonic Discourses Through 70s Horror Films*

Sofea Lee—*Hidup Melayu: Malay Nationalism Through the Lens of Malaysia's New Economic Policy*

Madison Shiparski—*Overcoming Obstacles: Redefining Disabilities on Public Transit*

Elisa Stanis—*An Animated Examination of Horror in Cinema*

Emily Stolz—*Inequity in Education: Examining the Role of Funding on Student Achievement*

Kendrick Suenaga—*Multicultural Design in Architecture*

Isobel Tollenaar—*Cicero's Civitas in Republican Rome and Contemporary United States*

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

Elizabeth Woodruff—*Colonialism and Tourism in Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula*

## Schedule of Poster Presentations

### P1: 4:05-5:00

- Julio Chazaro—*A Conversation Between Followers of Wildfire and Buddhism*  
Ronan Clague—*Religion With No Intermediary*  
Isabel Cueto—*Understanding Identity and Choice in Academic Writing Through Philosophy*  
Cassidy Delahunty—*We're Here, We're Queer, Now So What? How LGBT Politics and Socio-Racial Stigma Hurt LGBT Youth of Color in Chicago's Boystown*  
Maddie Fernandez Laris—*Frank Lloyd Wright's Light Screens*  
Jenna Gonzales—*Supermarkets and Diet-Related Death in Chicago*  
Yousef Ibrahim—*The War on Terror's Infraction of Freedom*  
Allie Judge—*Shifting Winds: An Exploration of Irish Political Culture*  
Claire Kaczanowski—*Brazilian Samba and Sound*  
Hannah Manion—*Corporate Social Responsibility: A Case Study of the Cerro Verde Copper Mine*  
Beyla Mittal—*Silence in India: The Cultural Struggle for Menstrual Products*  
Ryan Napue—*Private Prisons: Profit in Exchange for Freedom*  
Danielle Palomino—*More Than A Black Artist: Jean-Michel Basquiat's Mixed-Race Artist Journey*  
Kayla Quebral—*Emotion, Space, and Horror: Samantha Wall and Multiraciality*  
Elizabeth Ruda—*What Cannot Be Set in Stone: How Eliza's Transformation Subverts Ovidian Social Conventions*  
Shashank Srikanth—*Robot Regulation: Will Smith Wanted This in I, Robot*  
Claire Trinkle—*The Vicious Circle: The Intersection of Poverty and Violence in Chicago*  
Helen Wargo—*Culture for a Cure: The Gap in Hospital Use in the Chinese Immigrant Community due to Traditional Chinese Medicine and Family Structure*  
Anabel Watson—*Near-Death Experiences*  
Claudia Wilkie—*Lady Killers*

### Thesis Posters

- Julia Golden—*"It Takes Guts": Examining the Relationships Between Age at 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*  
María Ximena Valenzuela—*Latina Girls' Interest in Science: The Role of Ethnic Identity and Helping Others*

## **A2—Cultural Landscapes**

4:05-5:00 / Room 313

Faculty Moderator: Jason Schneider

### **Kendrick Suenaga—Multicultural Design in Architecture**

Thesis Director: Devin Bell / Faculty Reader: Heinz Schuller

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 *ressentiment* 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.

## C3—Environmental Impacts

6:05-7:00 / Room 315

Faculty Moderator: Martha Martinez-Firestone

## A3—Stage & Screen

4:05-5:00 / Room 315

Faculty Moderator: Jenny Conary

### **Daniel Fender**—*Identifying the Art of Stage Management*

Thesis Director: Susan Fenty Studham / Faculty Reader: Coya Paz

Are stage managers artists? Through surveyed responses, this project explores how stage managers identify their role in professional theatre and how other theatre artists also perceive the role of a stage manager. This research will provide an in-depth understanding of how Chicago theatre professionals define an artist, and whether or not stage managers fit their unique definitions.

### **Grace Grindell**—*Honey Girls: Surviving Grief Through Narrative*

Thesis Director: Carlos Murillo / Faculty Reader: Dean Corrin

This creative project is a theatrical production of "Honey Girls," my original play, which tells the story of a high school senior whose mother is diagnosed with terminal cancer, and who must navigate the upheaval of senior year and reconsider the realities of a future without the center of her world. The play is a narrative inspired by the lived experience of the playwright. To supplement the play, I conducted research through the lens of narrative response to grief, using the framework of Joan Didion's play, *The Year of Magical Thinking*, which chronicles her experience of grief the year after her husband's sudden death.

### **Elisa Stanis**—*An Animated Examination of Horror in Cinema*

Thesis Director: Devin Bell / Faculty Reader: Brian Ferguson

"What are common tropes in horror movies, and how have they evolved over time?" By researching the history of horror-related storytelling in cinema, I hope to create an animated short that pays homage to cinematic horror. My research explores the evolution of horror-related movies and alters the aesthetics of animation to fit differing visual themes. I specifically examine the role of young women in horror movies, as well as the idea of turning mundane actions into terrifying experiences.

### **Robert Kelly**—*The Disruption of Hegemonic Discourses Through 70s Horror Films*

Thesis Director: Jason Hill / Faculty Reader: Lawrence Morgan

Horror films have been and will always be 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.

## ***A4—Technological Solutions***

4:05-5:00 / Room 316

Faculty Moderator: Peter Hastings

**Madison Shiparski**—*Overcoming Obstacles: Redefining Disabilities on Public Transit*

Thesis Director: Hank Streeter / Faculty Reader: Peter Hastings

This thesis focuses on how technology can help improve accessibility on public transit. Through examining existing legislation surrounding disability rights in public places, it has become clear that accessibility issues are prevalent in public transit systems. Legislation has made much headway in removing physical barriers, but social issues that impede the independence and decision-making of people with disabilities when using public transit have yet to be rectified. Successful solutions to these less-physical obstacles must use technology creatively and explore how to equip passengers with the right tools to feel confident when using public transit, which ensures access to necessary resources and services.

**Quentin Griffin**—*Modern Artifacts: What our Video Games Say About Us*

Thesis Director: Samantha Close / Faculty Reader: Daniel Bashara

In the span of about 50 years, video games have moved from the outskirts of popular culture to the featured headline from recent media outlets. Considering the relative newness of video games, it's fair to call the industry's growth explosive. When one thinks of video games, often their immediate associations are as a platform of entertainment. However, this play factor often overshadows the academic and cultural contributions that games can also entail. Like other art mediums, video games are capable of reflecting the values and fears of cultures, and thus should be treated as cultural artifacts and used to predict the next steps in evolving games and its community alongside our culture.

**Matt D'Onofrio**—*A Ward-level Analysis of Chicago's 311 Service Request System*

Thesis Director: Euan Hague / Faculty Reader: Carolyn Breitbach

Municipal 311-service request systems emerged in the US during the last 20 years to reduce the volume of non-emergency calls handled by 911 to promote citizen engagement and data informed decision-making in government. Recently, cities have begun to make 311 service request data publicly available, increasing citizen access and government transparency. This thesis uses the Chicago Open Data Portal to analyze variation in the number of 311 service requests completed in Chicago wards from 2012 to 2018, and found that variation in service requests is associated with population change, racial demographics, housing composition, crime levels, and business licenses.

## ***C1—Education and Social Welfare***

6:05-7:00 / Room 312

Faculty Moderator: Valentina Tikoff

### ***B1—Gender Matters***

5:05-6:00 / Room 312

Faculty Moderator: Carolyn Goffman

**Laila Rodrigues**—*Poison and Horses: An Exploration of Feminine Anger*

Thesis Director: Coya Paz / Faculty Reader: Bill O'Connor

This thesis will seek to explore the sensationalism of the female criminal and how the phenomenon of the "poison woman" in modern Japanese culture reflects a greater preoccupation with the feminine experience and those who transgress it. Supplementing this, a live reading of the play *Horse Girls* by Jenny Rachel Weiner will continue to explore the female criminal experience through the lens of a preteen girl. The goal of this thesis is to understand what media depicting feminine evil ultimately says about society as a whole.

**Aurora Lawrie**—*She Writes 'Like A Man': Classical Music for the Cello by Women*

Thesis Director: Kate Brucher / Faculty Reader: Stephen Balderston

In my ten years as a cellist, I have played fewer than 50 works by women composers, as opposed to thousands by men. I find this situation to be untenable, and I intend to make it my life's work to research, discover, and perform music composed throughout history by women. My senior recital at DePaul University School of Music in January 2019 was the first step in this plan. The program is comprised of four pieces of music, all composed by women. My thesis will include an analysis of these works and partial biographies of the composers.

**Sydney O'Hare**—*'Willful' Women: How The London Times Portrayed Female Murderers From 1805 to 1880*

Thesis Director: Amy Tyson / Faculty Reader: Lisa Sigel

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 story-lines 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.

**Emily Stolz**—*Inequity in Education: Examining the Role of Funding on Student Achievement*

Thesis Director: Clement Adibe / Faculty Reader: Liliana Zecker

This paper explores the political and economic influences on public school budgets and how they affect student achievement. This research showcases the implications of funding inequality on the lives of students through an analysis of the budgets of five Illinois cities: Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Calumet City, and Park Ridge. Per-student operational budgets in each city were compared with various measures of student achievement, including standardized assessment results, graduation rates, postsecondary enrollment, teacher retention, and class size. Correlations were discovered to exist between the sources of funding and increased student achievement indicating that the amount and source of finances in a school district impacts student achievement.

**María Ximena Valenzuela**—*Latina Girls' Interest in Science: The Role of Ethnic Identity and Helping Others*

Thesis Director: Christine Reyna / Faculty Reader: Bernadette Sanchez

Latina girls face various social struggles characterized by their double minority identity as girls of color. Such experiences may be heightened in STEM fields given their male-dominated nature, requiring examination of educational aspirations and external factors that may influence STEM involvement. This project examines the role of ethnic identity and a desire to help others in their interest towards a science career. A psychological study was conducted in which participants completed a survey regarding educational aspirations, ethnic identity, and science interest. Project outcomes are showcased through quantitative data analysis. Implications regarding the importance of Latinx collectivist culture and family values in career path choice are discussed.

**Tom Rietz**—*Family and Group Decision-Making: Effects on Foster Care Outcomes*

Thesis Director: Brian Phelan / Faculty Reader: Gabriella Bucci

Family and group decision-making (FGDM) has become an increasingly preferred practice by state child welfare agencies when children are separated from families. Current literature suggests that this restorative justice policy may improve the lives of marginalized children by increasing involvement of parents and relatives in a child's case planning. Research remains inconclusive due to small sample sizes. This project will utilize case-level data collected by the US. Department of Health and Human Services to estimate a difference-in-differences analysis of the introduction of FGDM laws in a state on placement stability, permanency of placement types, and abuse rates.

### **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 Glantsman

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.