

# SENIOR SYMPOSIUM

APRIL 24, 2024

STERN HALL

# SHARE YOUR PASSIONS

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**Center for Teaching and Learning**



HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES





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COLLEGES

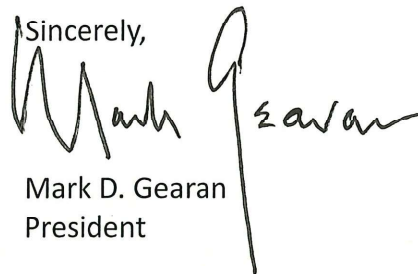
Office of the President

Dear Members of the Hobart and William Smith Community,

I am delighted to welcome you to the annual Senior Symposium – a wonderful tradition that celebrates the sustained and sophisticated work of our seniors and Master’s degree students who, under the mentorship of faculty, push the boundaries of their disciplines and enhance the intellectual community at HWS.

This year’s program features an impressive 83 presentations delivered by 91 student presenters. Whether in the classroom or studio, the library or laboratories, in the Geneva community or across the globe – the work of HWS students gives voice to new ideas and conversations.

I congratulate all of the participants in this year’s Symposium and thank them for their commitment to our community. I am grateful to the many members of the faculty who have engaged our students and encouraged them to pursue this challenging and vital work. And finally, it is with deep appreciation that I commend the Center for Teaching and Learning and Ruth Shields and her staff for the vision and leadership in making the Senior Symposium a highlight of the spring semester and pride point for the Colleges.

Sincerely,  
  
Mark D. Gearan  
President





HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH  
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The Office of Academic and Faculty Affairs

Dear HWS Community,

I am excited to participate in HWS Day, a day dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments, progress, and success in the scholarly and creative works of our students here at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Running currently is the fifteenth year of the Senior Symposium which provides an important occasion for us to reflect on the value of a Hobart and William Smith education and to appreciate the learning, insights, talents, and developments of our community as we applaud our seniors on their academic journeys.

I hope you will all join me in attending a variety of student presentations throughout the day. This event highlights what is so special about a liberal arts education at HWS -- the achievements of our students, the central involvement of our faculty and staff, the interdisciplinarity and multiple approaches to tackling the pressing issues of the day, and the high standards and expectations for rigorous intellectual engagement and debate. As the Provost and Dean of Faculty, I welcome you to join us in these presentations, discussions, and discoveries and I applaud the student presenters for being shining examples of a Hobart and William Smith education.

I also want to express my gratitude to my faculty and staff colleagues who have provided invaluable mentorship as they have nurtured these students and their work throughout their time at the Colleges. Without your support, advice, and encouragement, this experience would not have been nearly as successful. Finally, I want to thank those who have dedicated time, energy, and effort by presenting their work, moderating panels, attending panels, and providing a voice of congratulations and support.

Sincerely,

*Sarah Kirk*

Sarah R. Kirk  
Provost and Dean of Faculty





HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH  
COLLEGES

Members of the HWS Community:

The *Senior Symposium* is an exciting event which reflects and honors the depth and breadth of engagement among Hobart and William Smith students in a diverse spectrum of academic and creative interests. It makes visible that which is often invisible: the long hours and hard work students dedicate to the intellectual journey during their four years at HWS. Most importantly, it provides an opportunity for students, under the guidance of advisors, to engage each other as teachers and learners.

As your Deans, we join with the Center for Teaching and Learning in applauding those who are participating in the fourteenth Senior Symposium as presenters. This is an important academic achievement that you now have as part of your legacy. We applaud the faculty and staff who will serve as panel moderators. The Deans also join in welcoming of all members the HWS community to this wonderful demonstration of student teaching and learning.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kaenzig  
Dean  
William Smith College

Lisa Salter  
Associate Dean  
William Smith College

Kelly Payne  
Associate Dean  
William Smith College

Scott Brophy  
Dean  
Hobart College

David Mapstone  
Associate Dean  
Hobart College

Joe Mink  
Associate Dean  
Hobart College







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Fifteen years ago, an exciting new idea was being tossed around the Provost's Office and the CTL: could we organize some kind of event to showcase student research across the disciplines? Some sort of an academic conference for Seniors? Would we have enough presenters? Would anyone come to hear them?

That first Senior Symposium, in April 2009, defied all our expectations: faculty sponsored their best students and brought the depth and breadth of their own scholarship to facilitating inter-disciplinary panels. Students presented work that was diverse, thought-provoking, and rigorous. They showcased not just their academic passions but also their ability to communicate what they had learned and their readiness to take their learning out into the world. And best of all, we had an audience: faculty, staff, students and community members raved about the day, and asked us to do it again.

Fifteen years later, 1392 students have made 1211 presentations. Most, if not all, faculty members have facilitated panels or sponsored students. So many of us in the HWS community and beyond describe Senior Symposium as one of our favorite days of the year: the day we get to see the liberal arts in action.

This year, we are thrilled to become part of HWS Day. We join today with all our students, not just the seniors, in demonstrating what we do best: asking questions, drawing connections, looking at something from another point of view, and sharing our academic passions. Please join us this year in a new location – Stern Hall – to learn about everything from electric vehicles to Lana Del Rey, from Salmonid diet preferences to US aid in Zambia, from the speech varieties of Barbados to the origins of human musicality.

We hope that you enjoy all the offerings of HWS Day, and join us in celebrating this amazing academic community.

Thank you, and enjoy the day.

The Staff of the Center for Teaching and Learning:

Shanelle France

Susan Hess

Ingrid Keenan

Thom Mascia

Ruth Shields



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The fifteenth annual Senior Symposium was made possible by the vision, leadership, and efforts of many in the Hobart and William Smith community.

Office of Academic and Faculty Affairs

Office of the President

Offices of the Hobart and William Smith Deans

Office of Communications

IT Services

Center for Teaching and Learning  
Shanelle France, Susan Hess, Ingrid Keenan, Thom Mascia, Alton Pace, Ruth Shields

CTL Student Staff  
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Presentation Workshop Facilitators  
Peter Budmen, Kayla Eberhart, Amy Green, Ann Marie Luce,  
Students from Maggie Werner's WRRH 420 class, Writing Fellows



## RESEARCH SUPPORT AND AWARDS

Symposium students have received generous support for their academic projects from the following organizations, programs, and funds:

American Chemical Society

ASIANetwork Student-Faculty Fellows Program

Dr. Ed Franks Grant

HWS Chemistry Department

HWS Faculty Research Grants

HWS Summer Scholars Program

National Institute of Health

National Science Foundation

Polaris Project through the Woodwell Climate Research Institute.

Psi Chi Honor Society

Stephen Cohen Grant



Senior  
Symposium  
2024  
Presenters





## SENIOR SYMPOSIUM 2024 PRESENTERS

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Department/Program</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Panel Time</b>	<b>Room</b>
Agarwal, Aarushi	Mathematics	Erika King	11:50 - 12:50	Stern 203
Ahmed, Umama	Writing and Rhetoric	Maggie Werner	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 204
Albinati, Mateo	Economics	Joyce Jacobsen	2:40 - 3:40	Stern 204
Aracena, Zoereene	William Smith Deans' Office	Lisa Kaenzig	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 303
Aronson, Ashley	Religious Studies	Blaize Gervais	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 203
Ashe, Taylor	American Studies	Elizabeth Belanger	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 203
Atkinson, Cherish	Dance and Movement Studies	Michelle Ikle	2:40 - 3:40	Stern 304
Baillos, Mary	International Relations	Kevin Dunn	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 303
Baker, Tessa	International Relations	Kevin Dunn	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 304
Brazie, Ava	Sociology	Jack Harris	11:50 - 12:50	Stern 204
Brown, Samari	Sociology	Jack Harris	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 304
Buzoverya, Artem	International Relations	Kevin Dunn	2:40 - 3:40	Stern 203
Cardinali, Michael	Center for Teaching and Learning	Ruth Shields	2:40 - 3:40	Stern 203
Cataldo, Emily	Educational Studies	Mary Kelly	3:50 - 4:50	Stern 204
Corbett, Lyla	Dance and Movement Studies	Michelle Ikle	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 303
Cotton, Isaiah	Sociology	Jack Harris	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 203
Craft, Riley	Sociology	Jack Harris	11:50 - 12:50	Stern 204
Crist, Melissa	Writing and Rhetoric	Maggie Werner	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 203
Davis, Hannah	International Relations	Kevin Dunn	11:50 - 12:50	Stern 303
Dicks, Madison	Classics	Leah Himmelhoch	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 204
DiFante, Marlayna	Chemistry	Christine de Denus	2:40 - 3:40	Stern 303
Dillon, Liam	Sociology	Jack Harris	3:50 - 4:50	Stern 204
DiMeolo, Drew	International Relations	Kevin Dunn	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 303
Dimitroff, Ava	American Studies	Elizabeth Belanger	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 203

## SENIOR SYMPOSIUM 2024 PRESENTERS

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Department/Program</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Panel Time</b>	<b>Room</b>
Duchesneau, Peter James	International Relations	Kevin Dunn	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 203
Duma, Jessica	History	Matt Kadane	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 303
Fadlou-Allah, Malak	Biology	Kristy Kenyon	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 304
Foster, Sydney	Writing and Rhetoric	Maggie Werner	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 203
Garcia, Jonathan	Asian Studies	Lisa Yoshikawa	3:50 - 4:50	Stern 203
Gauthier, Taylor	Dance and Movement Studies	Michelle Ikle	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 304
Guan, Cameron	Religious Studies; Holocaust Studies	Michael Dobkowski	3:50 - 4:50	Stern 303
Guan, Cameron	Chemistry	Kristin Slade and David Slade	2:40 - 3:40	Stern 304
Guzman, Hope	Theatre	Chris Hatch	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 304
Horvath, MaryBridget	Geoscience	David Finkelstein	2:40 - 3:40	Stern 204
Hudak, Sylvia	English	Alla Ivanchikova	11:50 - 12:50	Stern 304
Jarvis, Brooke	Writing and Rhetoric	Maggie Werner	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 304
Jensen, Solveig-Margrete	Psychological Science	Elizabeth Belcher	11:50 - 12:50	Stern 203
Johnson, Kaia	Environmental Studies	Beth Kinne	2:40 - 3:40	Stern 204
Jones, Kennedy	Writing and Rhetoric	Maggie Werner	3:50 - 4:50	Stern 303
Kalinchenko-Pesin, Sean	Psychological Science	Emily Fisher	11:50 - 12:50	Stern 304
Kalinchenko-Pesin, Sean	Economics	Thomas Drennen	2:40 - 3:40	Stern 303
Kapitan, Claire	English	Alla Ivanchikova	11:50 - 12:50	Stern 304
Kennedy, Elinor	Music	Charity Lofthouse	11:50 - 12:50	Stern 304
Kerns, Heather	Geoscience	Nan Crystal Arens	11:50 - 12:50	Stern 204
Kilmer, Madelyn	Educational Studies	Diana Baker	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 203
Lax, Hannah	Psychological Science	Daniel Graham	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 204
MacCluskey, Alexander	Economics	Evren Damar	2:40 - 3:40	Stern 303
Mahoney, Katherine	International Relations	Kevin Dunn	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 304

## SENIOR SYMPOSIUM 2024 PRESENTERS

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Department/Program</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Panel Time</b>	<b>Room</b>
Mast, Kyle	Educational Studies	Diana Baker	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 204
McBride, Anna	International Relations	Kevin Dunn	2:40 - 3:40	Stern 203
McCormick, Kristen	Psychological Science	Elizabeth Belcher	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 303
Meyer, Maddi	William Smith Deans' Office	Lisa Kaenzig	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 203
Mirzali, Seva	International Relations	Kevin Dunn	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 304
Mischler, Jackson	Philosophy	Scott Brophy	2:40 - 3:40	Stern 204
Mittleman, Caroline	American Studies	Elizabeth Belanger	3:50 - 4:50	Stern 303
Moolani, Diya	Sociology	Jack Harris	3:50 - 4:50	Stern 204
Moolani, Diya	Sociology	Jim Sutton	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 304
Morgans, Crystal	Educational Studies	Mary Kelly	3:50 - 4:50	Stern 204
Mughal, Sophia	Religious Studies	Richard Salter	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 204
O'Neill, Anna	Biology	Susan Cushman	2:40 - 3:40	Stern 304
Oswalt, Katelyn	Media and Society	Harry Gu	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 203
Plascencia, Brenda	Media and Society	Harry Gu	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 203
Quinones, Samantha	Psychological Science	Julie Kingery	11:50 - 12:50	Stern 303
Quinones, Samantha	Psychological Science	Daniel Graham	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 204
Ratner, Maya	Philosophy	Karen Frost-Arnold	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 303
Renzi, Isabella	International Relations	Kevin Dunn	3:50 - 4:50	Stern 303
Richardson, Ande	Dance and Movement Studies	Michelle Ikle	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 303
Rosario, Genesis	William Smith Deans' Office	Lisa Kaenzig	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 303
Rourke, Emily	Sociology	Jack Harris	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 203
Rowland, Kylie	Writing and Rhetoric	Maggie Werner	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 304
Saavedra-Mendez, Kimberly	William Smith Deans' Office	Lisa Kaenzig	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 303
Schneider, Abigail	American Studies	Elizabeth Belanger	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 304

## SENIOR SYMPOSIUM 2024 PRESENTERS

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Department/Program</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Panel Time</b>	<b>Room</b>
Siegel, Matthew	Writing and Rhetoric	Maggie Werner	11:50 - 12:50	Stern 303
Simon, Jennica	Educational Studies	Diana Baker	11:50 - 12:50	Stern 204
Smith, Cayden	Chemistry	Erin Pelkey	3:50 - 4:50	Stern 203
Smith, Leanna	Writing Colleagues	Hannah Dickinson	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 204
Smith-Padmore, Jada	Writing and Rhetoric	Maggie Werner	2:40 - 3:40	Stern 203
Stephens, Annette	Writing and Rhetoric	Maggie Werner	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 203
Stout, Florence Rodman	Religious Studies	Shalahudin Kafrawi	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 204
Stout, Florence Rodman	Psychological Science	Daniel Graham	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 204
Tanguay, Harper	Dance	Michelle Ikle	3:50 - 4:50	Stern 203
Trevisani, Gabriella	Writing and Rhetoric	Maggie Werner	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 204
VanGorder, Emma	Dance and Movement Studies	Michelle Ikle	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 303
Viviano, Kristoffer	Sociology	Jack Harris	11:50 - 12:50	Stern 204
Washington, Autumn	Sociology	Jack Harris	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 304
Waters, Emilie	Sociology	Jack Harris	3:50 - 4:50	Stern 204
Weeks, Katelyn	English	Kathryn Cowles	3:50 - 4:50	Stern 203
Weiss, Ella	Writing and Rhetoric	Maggie Werner	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 303
Wilkerson, Britta	Sociology	Jack Harris	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 203
Wilmot, Cassidy	Sociology	Jack Harris	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 204
Wilson, Frances	Writing and Rhetoric	Maggie Werner	11:50 - 12:50	Stern 203
Winters, July	Media and Society	Iskandar Zulkarnain	10:40 - 11:40	Stern 204
Winton, Sadie	Sociology	Jack Harris	9:30 - 10:30	Stern 204
Wise, Ahmed	Dance and Movement Studies	Michelle Ikle	2:40 - 3:40	Stern 304
Yeager, Emma	Dance and Movement Studies	Michelle Ikle	1:30 - 2:30	Stern 303

Senior  
Symposium  
2024  
Schedule



### Building Communities

*Moderator: Lisa Kaenzig, Dean of William Smith College*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
9:30 - 10:30	Dimitroff, Ava	Grooving with the Dead: Unraveling the Enigmatic Fan Culture of the Grateful Dead	American Studies
	Kilmer, Madelyn	The Effects of Inclusive Education from Preschool to College	Educational Studies
	Meyer, Maddi	Journey in Activism: The Power of Community and Networking	William Smith Deans' Office
	Oswalt, Katelyn Plascencia, Brenda	FLX Folks: Exploring How Identity and Land Relate across the Finger Lakes	Media and Society
	Questions & Answers		

### Who We Are

*Moderator: Blaize Gervais, Instructor of Religious Studies*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
10:40 - 11:40	Aronson, Ashley	Sex and Hatred: Religion in the Discourse of Incels	Religious Studies
	Ashe, Taylor	Unlocking the American Dream with Lana Del Rey	American Studies
	Crist, Melissa	Beyond Blood and Borders: Rethinking Mexican Identity	Writing and Rhetoric
	Foster, Sydney	An Exploration of my Educational Experience through bell hooks' <i>Teaching to Transgress</i>	Writing and Rhetoric
	Questions & Answers		

### What Conditions?

*Moderator: Elizabeth Belcher, Assistant Professor of Psychological Science*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
11:50 - 12:50	Agarwal, Aarushi	A Graceful Labeling Game on Graphs	Mathematics
	Jensen, Solveig-Margrete	The Impact of Short-Term Mindfulness Meditation on Sustained Visual Attention and Inhibition	Psychological Science
	Wilson, Frances	Sports Writing and the Refrain: Swimming Blind	Writing and Rhetoric
	Questions & Answers		

### Stages of Development

*Moderator: Chrissy Jacobs, Coordinator of Teacher Certification and Accreditation*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
1:30 - 2:30	Cotton, Isaiah Rourke, Emily Wilkerson, Britta	The First 1,000 Days Program: Transforming Lives	Sociology
	Duchesneau, Peter James	State, Class, and Developmentalism in Tunisia and Syria	International Relations
	Stephens, Annette	Stories from the Lost and Found	Writing and Rhetoric
Questions & Answers			

### Looking at Societies

*Moderator: Chuck Vesei, Library Director and Librarian of the Colleges*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
2:40 - 3:40	Buzoverya, Artem	Interplay between Linguistic Policies, National Identity, and Linguistic Nationalism	International Relations
	Cardinali, Michael	Game Plan for Life	Center for Teaching and Learning
	McBride, Anna	Colonialism and French Fashion: The Ethics of Style	International Relations
	Smith-Padmore, Jada	Bajan Speech: An Ethnographic and Linguistic Exploration of Barbados Speech Varieties	Writing and Rhetoric
Questions & Answers			

### As We Create

*Moderator: Amanda Jantzi, Title IX Coordinator*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
3:50 - 4:50	Garcia, Jonathan	ReOrienting Japan: Envisioning Post-Pandemic Tourism through History	Asian Studies
	Smith, Cayden	Do Halogen Atoms Enhance Anticancer Activity?	Chemistry
	Tanguay, Harper	Creative Movement for a Creative Life	Dance and Movement Studies
	Weeks, Katelyn	We are Further Holding: The Poem-Object's Relation to Memory	English
Questions & Answers			



### The HWS Experience

*Moderator: Chris Kerber, Head Coach, Hobart Rowing*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
9:30 - 10:30	Quinones, Samantha Stout, Florence Rodman	The Noise We Don't Notice: An Examination of Decibel Levels across the HWS Campus and Its Impacts on Academic Life	Psychological Sciences
	Smith, Leanna	Supporting Academic Excellence: The Effect of Peer Mentorship at Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Writing Colleagues
	Wilmot, Cassidy Winton, Sadie	Creating Room to Cultivate Communities: HWS Student Spaces	Sociology
	Questions & Answers		

### Identity Based

*Moderator: Leah Himmelhoch, Associate Professor of Greek and Roman Studies*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
10:40 - 11:40	Ahmed, Umama	Queering the Gender Praxis	Writing and Rhetoric
	Dicks, Madison	Classics: A Field Designed to be Engulfed by Hate, or a Chance to Rewrite the Misconceptions of the Past?	Classics
	Mast, Kyle	Identity-Based Research Participation: Evaluating Best Practices for Recruiting Neurodivergent Students	Educational Studies
	Winters, July	There's No Shade Here: Interrogating the Leverage of Black Beauty Influencers	Media and Society
	Questions & Answers		

### Beginning Here

*Moderator: Mary Kelly, Associate Professor of Educational Studies*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
11:50 - 12:50	Brazie, Ava Craft, Riley Viviano, Kristoffer	Who's Next: Mapping the Waitlist	Sociology
	Kerns, Heather	The Long and the Short of It: Microplastics in Seneca Lake and Their Possible Regulations	Geoscience
	Simon, Jennica	Physical Restraints	Educational Studies
	Questions & Answers		

### The Message

*Moderator: Bill Woodson, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
1:30 - 2:30	Lax, Hannah	Simulations of Message Passing on Cortical Networks in Schizophrenia	Psychological Science
	Mughal, Sophia	From "Drug Song" to "Peace": The Music of the Jesus Movement	Religious Studies
	Stout, Florence Rodman	Parallel Narratives in Christian Extremism and the Dobbs v. Jackson Decision	Religious Studies
	Trevisani, Gabriella	From Lectures to Legacies: Angela Davis and the University	Writing and Rhetoric
Questions & Answers			

### Earth's Days

*Moderator: Joyce Jacobsen, Professor of Economics*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
2:40 - 3:40	Albinati, Mateo	Understanding Electric Vehicle Adoption across the United States	Economics
	Horvath, MaryBridget	Welcome to the Tundra: Field Work, Climate Change and Trace Gas Production in Permafrost Lakes.	Geoscience
	Johnson, Kaia	Sustainable Cinema: Balancing Artistry and Ecology in Film Production	Environmental Studies
	Mischler, Jackson	Property Rights and Eminent Domain: Can Combatting Global Climate Change Justify Invoking the "Necessity Exception"?	Philosophy
Questions & Answers			

### Educational Scholars

*Moderator: Ann Marie Luce, Associate Director of the Centennial Center*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
3:50 - 4:50	Cataldo, Emily	Tools for Creating Equitable Elementary School Classrooms	Educational Studies
	Dillon, Liam Moolani, Diya Waters, Emilie	Community Schools: A Gateway to Shared Resources	Sociology
	Morgans, Crystal	Adapting Education: The Gamification of Educational Learning Standards and Expectations	Educational Studies
Questions & Answers			

### Thinking and Learning

*Moderator: Kristen Welsh, Associate Professor of Russian Area Studies*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
9:30 - 10:30	Corbett, Lyla	Using Anne Green Gilbert's <i>BrainDance</i> to Improve Focus in Adolescents and College Students	Dance and Movement Studies
	Ratner, Maya	Social Epistemology and Ethics of Anthropology	Philosophy
	Richardson, Ande	An Individual Approach to Multicultural Dance Education	Dance and Movement Studies
	Weiss, Ella	Writing Colleagues' Role in the Intersection of Departments and Building Communal Spaces	Writing and Rhetoric
Questions & Answers			

### Women at Work

*Moderator: Lisa Kaenzig, Dean of William Smith College*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
10:40 - 11:40	Aracena, Zoereene Rosario, Genesis Saavedra-Mendez, Kimberly	PLEN: Preparing You to Lead	William Smith Deans' Office
	Baillos, Mary	Empowering Women: Unveiling the Dynamics of Kenya's Informal Workforce	International Relations
	Duma, Jessica	Storying the Numbers: Women and Work in Three Northern English Cities	History
Questions & Answers			

### But in this Case

*Moderator: Christine de Denus, Associate Professor of Chemistry*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
11:50 - 12:50	Davis, Hannah	SME Creation in South Korea and Taiwan	International Relations
	Quinones, Samantha	Beyond the Plate: A Comprehensive Examination of Avoidant Food Intake Disorders	Psychological Science
	Siegel, Matthew	A Case Study in the Traumatic Effects of Gatekeeping	Writing and Rhetoric
Questions & Answers			

### Other Strategies

*Moderator: Rob Carson, Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
1:30 - 2:30	DiMeolo, Drew	US Aid within Zambia	International Relations
	McCormick, Kristen	The Impact of CAR T-Cell Therapy on Cognitive Functioning in Cancer Patients: A Pilot Study	Psychological Science
	VanGorder, Emma	Kinesthetic Classrooms	Dance and Movement Studies
	Yeager, Emma	Informing the Choreographic Process with an LBMA Framework	Dance and Movement Studies
Questions & Answers			

### Efficiencies

*Moderator: Erin Pelkey, Professor of Chemistry*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
2:40 - 3:40	DiFante, Marlayna	The Synthesis and Characterization of Molecular Wire Candidates	Chemistry
	Kalinchenko-Pesin, Sean	Lithium and Beyond: Exploring the Future of Lithium-Ion Batteries	Economics
	MacCluskey, Alexander	The Economics of Energy Generation	Economics
Questions & Answers			

### Present Looks at Past

*Moderator: Scott MacPhail, Health Professions and Fellowships Advisor*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
3:50 - 4:50	Guan, Cameron	Holocaust Particularity, Wannsee, and Holocaust by Bullets	Religious Studies Holocaust Studies
	Jones, Kennedy	Right Becomes Wrong: Social Justice Language and the Erasing of Oppressors	Writing and Rhetoric
	Mittleman, Caroline	The Oscars Industrial Complex: Excellence, Race, and Awards during the Civil Rights Movement	American Studies
	Renzi, Isabella	US vs China: Why would Venezuela Prefer One over the Other?	International Relations
Questions & Answers			

### Order and Force

*Moderator: Emily Fisher, Associate Professor of Psychological Science*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
9:30 - 10:30	Mahoney, Katherine	Prison Systems as an Expression of State Identity	International Relations
	Mirzali, Seva	Society Building through the Gulag: Hell on Earth	International Relations
	Moolani, Diya	Behind the Badge: Comparing Policing in India and the USA	Sociology
	Rowland, Kylie	Death is Violent: A Rhetorical Analysis of Stop Cop City	Writing and Rhetoric
Questions & Answers			

### Partnerships?

*Moderator: Susan Cushman, Director of Introductory Biology Laboratories*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
10:40 - 11:40	Baker, Tessa	The Constants and Variables of the US-Israeli Special Relationship	International Relations
	Brown, Samari Washington, Autumn	Geneva 2030: How Connected is the Collective?	Sociology
	Fadlou-Allah, Malak	<i>Sine Oculis</i> in Drosophila Eye Development: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Neuroscience	Biology
Questions & Answers			

### What Makes Us Human

*Moderator: Katherine Walker, Associate Professor of Music*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
11:50 - 12:50	Hudak, Sylvia	Human Education in the Age of AI	English
	Kalinchenko-Pesin, Sean	Social Motivation: Is Socially Explicit Content Connected to Socialization Behavior?	Psychological Science
	Kapitan, Claire	Well-Fed Artists: The Future of Art in the Age of Automation	English
	Kennedy, Elinor	Music and Meaning: On the Origins of Human Musicality	Music
Questions & Answers			

**Performance**

*Moderator: Gabriella D'Angelo, Associate Professor of Art and Architecture*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
1:30 - 2:30	Gauthier, Taylor	Injury Prevention for Competition Dancers	Dance and Movement Studies
	Guzman, Hope	<i>Commedia</i> Unmasked: You May Not Recognize Us Yet, How about Now?	Theatre
	Jarvis, Brooke	Celebrities as Political Actors: An Analysis of Kendall Jenner's Apology Statement	Writing and Rhetoric
	Schneider, Abigail	"Chicken Fried": A Musical Exploration of Post 9/11 White Southern Values	American Studies
Questions & Answers			

**Healthier**

*Moderator: Sarah Kirk, Provost and Dean of Faculty*

Time	Presenters	Abstract Title	Department/Program
2:40 - 3:40	Atkinson, Cherish	Movement for Joy	Dance and Movement Studies
	Guan, Cameron	Public Health Case Study: Battling Cancer in an Undergraduate Laboratory	Chemistry
	O'Neill, Anna	Diet Preference of Major Salmonid Species in Seneca Lake Using Stomach Content Analysis	Biology
	Wise, Ahmed	Everyone Move	Dance and Movement Studies
Questions & Answers			

Senior  
Symposium  
2024  
Abstracts





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## A GRACEFUL LABELING GAME ON GRAPHS

Aarushi Agarwal

Graphs are mathematical structures used to model pairwise relationships between objects represented by points (vertices) and lines (edges) between them. A graph  $G$  with  $m$  edges is said to be gracefully labeled when it meets the following conditions: each of the vertices of  $G$  have been labeled a number from 0 to  $m$  and each edge is labeled a number from 1 to  $m$  by taking the absolute value of the difference of the labels of the two vertices incident to that edge. No edge or vertex labels can be repeated.<sup>1</sup> It is important to note that not all graphs can be gracefully labeled.

The research for this project in mathematics focuses on a two-player labeling game on graphs. Players take turns to label vertices of a graph following the rules of a graceful labeling until no more moves can be made. The last player to be able to make a legal move wins the game. The goal of this project is to define winning strategies for players on different types of graphs using results from Graph Theory and Number Theory.

<sup>1</sup>Chartrand, Gary, and Ping Zhang. *A first course in graph theory*. Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 2012.

## QUEERING THE GENDER PRAXIS

Umama Ahmed

The term *transgender* and *queer* cannot fully encapsulate transnational, culturally specific gender and sexual variant identities. Indigenous identities like the *khwajasira* are thus marginalized not only within hegemonic frameworks of gender but also in discourse of trans rights and activism. The *khwajasira* community, indigenous to the premodern Subcontinent, is an umbrella term for queer, non-binary, and transgender individuals. However, the term not only encompasses gender and sexual expression but also describes a subversive social group that has preserved its indigenous culture and traditions. In a post-colonial landscape, the *khwajasira* remain a non-negotiated existence within the heteronormative matrix, and at a constant risk of violence and abuse, which raises critical implications for this project to enter a discourse where their identity is recognized and protected.

To allow visibility to gender variant identities that do not conform to the Western definition of gender queer and to develop rhetorical agency of the *khwajasira* identity, cultural, religious, and linguistic signs become salient. For this rhetorical study, *khwajasira* activist Mehrub Moiz Awan becomes the site for the expression of these signs as I analyze the interactions of these signs, situating the *khwajasira* identity in social and material reality.

I leverage ideological analysis, particularly employing semiotics to construct the *khwajasira* identity in relation to the colonial hegemony that renders transnational gender variant identities invisible. The *khwajasira* thus offer a way for trans and queer identities to be seen outside of their globalized representations, and their rhetoric to be reified as a network where signs, as actants, interact with human subjects to enable individual variations of gender and sexuality.



# UNDERSTANDING ELECTRIC VEHICLE ADOPTION ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

Mateo Albinati

The transformative insights gained in Professor Drennen's Natural Resources and Energy Economics class sparked this research project to understand the complexities of the nation's energy landscape and investigate the surge in electric vehicle (EV) adoption. Forecasts projected a remarkable 25% increase in EV sales during the first quarter of 2023, with an anticipated 35% year-on-year escalation, reaching 14 million EV sales by year-end, constituting 18% of total car sales<sup>1</sup>. This statistical dynamism signifies a seismic shift, prompting a thorough examination of the EV adoption landscape in the U.S.

The project's motivation extends beyond market trends and includes both individual and global considerations. Beyond the grand narrative of environmental responsibility, the pragmatic appeal of substantial cost savings for U.S. drivers—ranging from \$6,000 to \$12,000 over an EV's lifetime—fuels the exploration. The project actively analyzes adoption rates at the state level, investigating how factors such as political affiliation and education influence EV integration. The urgent global context, marked by substantial government investments and technological advancements, underscores the U.S.'s pivotal role in the broader transition to sustainable technologies. I endeavor to unravel the intricate fabric of EV adoption, bridging the gap between individual choices and the broader global transition toward sustainable transportation.

<sup>1</sup> Global EV Outlook 2023 – Analysis - IEA. (2023). International Energy Agency. Retrieved November 15, 2023, from <https://www.iea.org/reports/global-ev-outlook-2023>

## PLEN: PREPARING YOU TO LEAD

Zoe Aracena, Genesis Rosario, and Kimbelry Saavedra

The Public Leadership Education Network (PLEN) is a national, non-partisan organization based in Washington D.C. focused on empowering, educating, and engaging women and marginalized gender groups to promote diverse, inclusive leadership in policy making.

On campus, our PLEN chapter focuses on promoting leadership, professional development, prioritizing self-care, and aiding students in the navigation of their college journeys through discussions on a wide array of social justice issues. Previous event topics have included LGBTQ+ disclosure in professional settings, navigating disability in the workplace, and addressing the gender gap in male-dominated STEM fields. In addition to these critical topics, we provide a space for students to explore and learn about personal and academic career avenues such as selecting a major, studying abroad, practicing self-care, and salary negotiations. We do this by hosting bi-weekly breakfast meetings and special campus events, including some co-hosted with the PLEN Theme House. PLEN breakfasts are hosted bi-weekly at the AIC or at the PLEN House when the event is co-hosted with the theme house. We enjoy inviting HWS alumni and speakers from various professional backgrounds to share their experience with leadership and the impact of PLEN on their lives and careers.

Additionally, every semester our PLEN chapter sends several students to Washington D.C. to participate in seminars organized by the PLEN National team that gives students insight into different sectors in the policy realm including Health, STEM, and Global policy. PLEN's motto is "Preparing You to Lead," and our chapter at HWS works hard to embody that mission.

## SEX AND HATRED: RELIGION IN THE DISCOURSE OF INCELS

Ashley Aronson

Incels, a name for involuntarily celibate men who are part of a larger alt-right subgroup, are a community that has received growing media and academic attention due to their oftentimes extremist values and the perpetuation of terrorist acts. However, there has been little academic attention from Religious Studies scholars. The relationship between incels and religion is deeply important to understand. My Honors project in Religious Studies aims to unpack the assumptions and unique connection incels hold to Christianity, the dual connection that is present with Islam that is depicted through both islamophobia and deep interest in what incels perceive to be Islam's subjugation of women. I also evaluated whether incels are a cult.

Understanding the complex relationship between religion and incels allows for a better understanding of the manosphere and its alt-right components that hold more and more importance in daily life as politics and social movements in America evolve. There are ramifications related to rights that a group is given when they are understood as religious, marking incels as an important site for academic exploration with tangible contemporary consequences.

## UNLOCKING THE AMERICAN DREAM WITH LANA DEL REY

Taylor Ashe

Lana Del Rey is an American alt-pop singer/songwriter who burst on the mainstream music scene in 2012 with her debut album *Born to Die* and its chart-topping single “Summertime Sadness.” While the album was commercially successful, critics at the time questioned her authenticity and the validity of the themes she explored, calling Del Rey out of touch<sup>1</sup> and “desperate to be what she thinks you want her to be.”<sup>2</sup> Ten years later, the Grammy Awards called Del Rey a “game-changer for pop and music as a whole.”<sup>3</sup> What changed? How did the music that was once panned for its inauthenticity become a hallmark of American youth and womanhood?

I cultivated a lens to analyze Lana Del Rey’s artistic production by reviewing literature exploring popular music and culture, nostalgia, American identity, and iconography. This multi-method approach provides me with the framework to understand how popular music can reveal important cultural discourses about America.

Lana Del Rey has successfully coded her music as “Americana” using symbols, visuals, and musical production that speak to a distinct form of nostalgia. In turn, Del Rey’s nostalgic vision of America both reflected and shaped broader social ideas about youth, womanhood, and female empowerment in the 2010’s. Del Rey’s music holds a mirror to America, prompting her audience to consider their place in a culture riddled with juxtaposing messages of hope and dreams, lust and falsehoods.

<sup>1</sup>Lindsay Zoladz, “Lana Del Rey: Born to Die,” *Pitchfork*, January 30, 2012, <https://pitchfork.com/reviews/albums/16223-lana-del-rey/>.

<sup>2</sup> Rob Harvilla, “Review: Lana Del Rey, ‘Born to Die,’” *SPIN*, February 24, 2016, <https://www.spin.com/2012/01/lana-del-rey-born-die-interscope/>.

<sup>3</sup> “For the Record: Why Lana Del Rey’s ‘Born to Die’ Is One of Pop’s Most Influential Albums in the Past Decade” *The Grammy Awards*, January 27, 2022, <https://www.grammy.com/news/lana-del-rey-born-die-album-record-year-anniversary>

## MOVEMENT FOR JOY

Cherish Atkinson

My research project is designing a series of movement sessions influenced by Patterns of Total Body Connectivity: breath, core-distal, head-tail, upper-lower, body-half and cross lateral. This research, as part of my Movement Studies major and Biology minor, is focused on developing a movement session for senior citizens to support psychophysical wellness by using playful, and adaptive movement for different abilities. Additionally, I focused on the many connections that can be associated with movement, such as music, fun, play, strength/stability, and storytelling that elicits memories. To see whether there is any evidence of these connections I collected an informal survey through the nursing staff familiar with the individuals and testimonies.

In order to support this project I have also done research on other programs that have a similar mission, like Silver Sneakers and ActiveLiving Every Day. I hope to design a simple movement structure that could be done with the general nursing staff. I also expect to learn about an age group that I plan on interacting with more in the near future.

# EMPOWERING WOMEN: UNVEILING THE DYNAMICS OF KENYA'S INFORMAL WORKFORCE

Mary Baillos

This paper focuses on the institutional and historical contexts of the informal work sector in Kenya and why women end up in the informal work sector, including transportation, domestic housework, and sex work. A multi-disciplinary study was conducted using empirical data, including fieldwork, institutional policies, and personal stories to understand the barriers for women in the informal work sector. A historical analysis shows that the informal work sector started during colonialism; analyzing current policies and other government documents shows how little the government works towards supporting women in the informal work sector. Personal accounts gained through interviews share first-hand experience in the informal work sector. This study is important to understand the livelihoods of people from different backgrounds and the importance of the informal work sector in Kenya's economy. Women are less likely to have access to education due to the home's needs, work in agriculture in rural areas, care for younger or older family members, and/or the general lack of funds to support sending women to school. This study calls for a multi-disciplined approach to gender equity and economic empowerment in modern Kenya.

# THE CONSTANTS AND VARIABLES OF THE U.S.-ISRAELI SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

Tessa Baker

The U.S.-Israeli special relationship has been a highly contentious topic in 2023: will we witness the continuation of the status quo or the erosion of this seemingly impenetrable relationship? Drawing from recent literature, I have tracked constants and variables that scholars deem paramount in the reproduction of the U.S.-Israeli relationship: strategic interests, shared values, and public opinion.

Prominent scholars have provided thorough historical accounts until the summer of 2023, leaving the role of Washington in a post October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 world unaccounted for. Assuming these constants are at the core of the U.S.-Israeli bond, I track their relevance in American foreign policy decisions within the timeframe of October of 2023 to January of 2024. Using statistical data, historical, and discourse analysis, I hope to test the role the constants play within American foreign policy decisions regarding Israel. Given the tragic events following October 7<sup>th</sup>, it is more critical than ever to expose the variables and constants that shape American foreign policy and legitimize special relationships.

## WHO'S NEXT: MAPPING THE WAITLIST

Ava Brazie, Riley Craft, and Kristoffer Viviano

Our sociological research team provided consulting for the Geneva Housing Authority (GHA) which provides low-income housing to individuals and families in Ontario and Wayne County. The GHA contains a waitlist of nearly a thousand people trying to find housing. We produced necessary data for the GHA on who their waitlist clients are and how they found the Geneva Housing Authority. This information will help the GHA understand their clients better, so that they can render resources more effectively.

This research combines interviews with geo-mappings. The project includes sixty interviews with current waitlist members and interviews with GHA staff. From the waitlist member interviews, we learned more about the clients' perspectives; from the interviews with the GHA, we gained insight into their current management process. Using the waitlist data, we created a Geo Map to demonstrate the demographics of the clients and where they come from. The Geo Map is an effective way of showing these different factors with different layers and color-coding. This research can help the Geneva Housing Authority manage their extensive waitlist, helping their clients and streamlining their business.



## GENEVA 2030: HOW CONNECTED IS THE COLLECTIVE?

Samari Brown and Autumn Washington

Studies have shown that it is important that every child enters school ready to learn, is supported, engaged, and succeeds in school (Arnold and Doctoroff 2002; Black and Engle 2008). Geneva 2030 is a network of community members, organizations, and institutions partnering to contribute to change in the Geneva community that connects people, ideas, and resources to identify and reduce barriers facing our youth. The goal of this project is to identify, measure, and assess the strength of connections among agencies involved in the Geneva 2030 collective by measuring connectivity and trust; this study quantifies interconnectedness by assessing factors such as communication frequency, collaboration, and shared goals.

We expect that Geneva 2030 may be underutilizing its network of resources and community partners, impacting the distribution of resources and services to the community. Our research began with a comprehensive review of the literature regarding collective impact initiatives. To create our report, we developed an interview protocol based on factors such as literacy, birth to kindergarten, and college and career readiness to evaluate the level of trust and confidence that partners have in the work of Geneva 2030. We identified patterns, themes, and insights to inform decision-making. This research contributes to the ongoing efforts to enhance community support and opportunities for Geneva's children.

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## INTERPLAY BETWEEN LINGUISTIC POLICIES, NATIONAL, AND LINGUISTIC NATIONALISM

Artem Buzoverya

This research project investigates the interplay between linguistic policies, national identity, and linguistic nationalism across diverse political contexts. The paper argues that tightly-regulated language policies drive conflict in linguistically heterogeneous polities by contrasting Switzerland's minimally regulated multilingualism with Canada's imposed bilingualism and the historical and contemporary forced monolingualism in Ukraine under Soviet and post-Soviet conditions.

Building upon the work of Panter (2022), the paper explores the Ukrainian case in diachronic detail. This entails tracing the ramifications of Russian state actions on the formation and evolution of Ukrainian national identity, notably through the promotion of linguistic homogeneity. Additionally, it explores the divergent perspectives within Ukrainian society regarding language and cultural affiliations, particularly evident in the wake of Ukraine's independence in 1991 and the Euromaidan revolution of 2013. The Ukrainian case will be compared to the other two cases with some historical context and explicit government policies to showcase how government policies work to accommodate or exaggerate linguistically heterogeneous populace. Process-tracing techniques and a two-by-two typology will be used to explore the effects of different policies on three linguistically heterogeneous states. This study seeks to offer valuable insights into the complex dynamics between language, national identity, and political conflict.

## GAME PLAN FOR LIFE

Michael Cardinali

Sports extend far beyond the boundaries of the playing field, impacting communities and individuals alike. This independent study explores the multifaceted impact of sports, focusing on community, culture, and character development themes. The power of sports can be used as a catalyst for what is more important than any score of a game, like social justice, leadership, LGBTQ+ representation, race, and nationalism among other ideals. Sports play a pivotal role in addressing social issues because athletes have the platform to promote inclusivity and equality as demonstrated through the years.

Sports not only impact the team or the community as a whole but also undeniably impact the individual. Sports serve as a unifying force that transcends societal divides providing a sense of belonging to individuals. Through participation in sports, individuals develop essential character traits for life such as discipline, resilience, leadership, and teamwork. The second of a game clock or the inch of a yard marker allows the individual to understand the importance of a minute detail. Amidst the world's turmoil, sports provide an opportunity for community cohesion, personal growth, and societal progress. When taking the lessons an athlete learns into the real world, they will be better prepared with a game plan for life.

## TOOLS FOR CREATING EQUITABLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

Emily Cataldo

Creating equitable elementary classrooms is essential for fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment where all students have equal opportunities to succeed. “Equity” in education ensures that every child, regardless of their background, abilities, or circumstances, receives the support they need to reach their full potential, whereas “equality” means treating all students the same. In an equitable classroom, resources, support, and opportunities are distributed based on individual needs rather than being uniform for everyone. It is important that we understand the different needs of our students and create tools to ensure that every student gets the tools to have their needs met so they can succeed.

I have researched specific tools that aid in creating equitable classrooms, and will discuss some of these, like communication charts, “calm down spaces,” movement activities, and more.

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- Weinstein, B. (2023, May 23). *9 ways to promote equity in the classroom*. teachergoals.com.

USING ANNE GREEN GILBERT'S *BRAINDANCE*  
TO IMPROVE FOCUS IN ADOLESCENTS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

Lyla Corbett

From my experience as a tutor with America Reads and a student myself, I have observed students' struggle to focus in classrooms, in addition to the lack of body and brain connectivity that occurs in stressful learning environments. How can dance and movement composition improve participants' physical and mental capacity? My research project will incorporate Anne Green Gilbert's *BrainDance*, into a 5-10 minute ritual that will center the brain and body and prepare for a more effective learning process. I will work with K-5th grade kids through the America Reads program. I also plan to work with peers in my psychology class, in hopes to better understand how this ritual can appear in the routine of a college student.

Through verbal feedback provided by my participants, I am hoping to establish ways in which this ritual proves to be most effective. Does it function better as a morning ritual done first thing after waking up? Or is it a transition ritual done between classes or before structured enrichment? This research will assess ways in which this ritual can be performed by all learners of any age who are hoping to find a body and brain warm up that will prepare them for a more effective learning experience.

## THE FIRST 1,000 DAYS PROGRAM: TRANSFORMING LIVES

Isaiah Cotton, Emily Rourke, and Britta Wilkerson

The developmental period for a child between ages 0-3, their first 1,000 days, is crucial to their future growth mentally, physically, and emotionally. “The First 1,000 Days Program,” part of the Boys & Girls Club at Geneva’s Community Center, asked our consulting team to analyze the program’s impacts on families. The program offers various areas of support to families with children ages 0-3 to reduce family stress and aid in a holistically healthier life for the child. There are currently 425 program members from the Geneva and surrounding area.

This consulting project seeks to learn more about member engagement with The First 1,000 Days Program. Consultants will gather data surrounding which offerings members utilize, which ones they do not, and other support they would like provided. In addition, the project identifies if and how members are implementing the program’s resources at home. With these objectives in mind, we surveyed and assessed data from current First 1,000 Days Program members.

With a better understanding of their members’ needs, the program administration can evaluate both the current and potential impact of The First 1,000 Days Program. Additionally, this research will help to articulate and represent the program’s needs in order to earn funding.

## BEYOND BLOOD AND BORDERS: RETHINKING MEXICAN IDENTITY

Melissa Crist

I'm Mexican, but I don't speak Spanish: does this mean I'm any less Mexican? As a Mexican American whose Spanish is subpar, I find it difficult to find acceptance within myself and my community for my lack of fluency in the language of our ancestors. On my initial visit to Mexico, I was criticized by family members for my limited language proficiency. This experience made me question my belongingness and connection to my culture, which is a mindset I maintained for many years. It wasn't until I reached my senior year of college that I reflected on this issue, discussed it amongst my peers, and realized that my connection to Mexicanity goes beyond the words I speak. Using the popular yet incorrect term "no sabo" (the wrong way to say "I don't know" in Spanish), I will discuss language use as a site for a lost sense of identity.

This conversation will add to the discourse of linguistic diversity and contribute to campus discourse on cultural connections. Through this project, I will showcase how being Mexican is about embracing cultural values and traditions rather than language fluency. Including personal anecdotes as well as theoretical perspectives will allow me to speak to those who have faced similar challenges, as well as evoke empathy from those who have excluded people like me from feeling welcomed into our community.

## SME CREATION IN SOUTH KOREA AND TAIWAN

Hannah Davis

Taiwan and South Korea both constitute a small land mass, both were colonized by the Japanese, and both pursued rapid industrialization under authoritarian leaders (along with US economic assistance), yet South Korean chaebols are hailed as champions of industry that have access to massive capital, while Taiwanese firms are lauded as a prime example of small scale manufacturing. Why, given the similarities in geography, regime type, and subsequent economic accomplishment is the development of SMEs or lack thereof so different?

I have examined an under researched facet of these countries economic success and its associated policy/legal framework: small to medium sized enterprises (SME) operate according to very different political landscapes in both places. I have reviewed government policy and relevant legal cases from the beginning of rapid industrialization to the modern era. I also assembled data about new businesses started, the size of these businesses, and their proportion of market share in each decade to provide a snapshot of trends in SME creation. Finally, I analyzed popular modern sources that discuss public perception about corporate structure, entrepreneurship, and the perception of SMEs in society at large.



CLASSICS: A FIELD DESIGNED TO BE ENGULFED BY HATE,  
OR A CHANCE TO REWRITE THE MISCONCEPTIONS OF THE PAST?

Madison Dicks

From their origins as the spoken languages of two ancient societies and their later function as signifiers of privilege in private schools and prestigious universities, Ancient Greek and Latin's context and significance have changed drastically. Access to the study of Greece and Rome has long been monopolized by primarily white, Christian, upper-class men who constructed a skewed, Eurocentric version of these histories, one rooted not in fact but in propaganda justifying the status quo. This has led to the inaccurate representation of these cultures by modern-day politicians and hate groups, among others.

The field of "Classics" has been working hard in recent years to undo its past mischaracterization of Greco-Roman culture, which generally excluded anyone who wasn't white, male, or Christian. Unfortunately, however, time is running out: as their enrollment numbers continue to dwindle, many classics departments have been dropped by their colleges, even as the few remaining classics departments are trying to re-brand themselves as sources for what the ancient evidence genuinely tells us: that antiquity was a melting pot of diversity in many ways. Ironically, Eurocentric lies about Greek and Roman material may cause it to disappear completely in the name of supporting the very diversity that our historical evidence indicates Greco-Roman antiquity exemplified. Not only would this be a huge loss for anyone interested in history or liberal arts, but it also means that the study of the Greek and Roman past will forever be left in the hands of those who wish to obscure its verifiable diversity and use it as a justification to exclude others.

## THE SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF MOLECULAR WIRE CANDIDATES

Marlayna DiFante

As technology becomes more advanced and necessary for our everyday lives, society continues to demand smaller, faster, cheaper technology, and we are quickly approaching a production wall. Currently, the top-down approach using silicon chip technology is being used, but this will soon reach a miniaturization limitation. A new method for the development of processors is a bottom-up approach for creating a new molecular processor: molecules would be synthesized in a particular sequence or pattern to act as transistors on a processing chip. This would allow for an astronomical increase in the number of transistors per chip and the molecular processor would be capable of achieving the nanotechnological vision society has for the future.

I have been working with Prof. de Denuis for the past three summers on developing synthetic methods to produce molecular wire candidates that will contribute to the fabrication of small molecule molecular devices using the bottom-up approach. There are several key characteristics engineers desire for a molecular wire candidate such as conduction of electrons on a linear path, the ability to attach to a metal uniformly, linear, shape, and thermodynamical stability at high temperatures. Our research group has been investigating the controlled molecular design of three types of bi- and tri-metallic molecular wire candidates. These molecules contain iron and ruthenium and are analyzed by a variety of methods, including nuclear magnetic resonance, infrared spectroscopy, high-resolution mass spectroscopy, UV-Vis, melting/decomposition point, and cyclic voltammetry.

## COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: A GATEWAY TO SHARED RESOURCES

Liam Dillon, Diya Moolani, and Emilie Waters

A Community School consortium is an organization and collection of shared resources within a school, district or community; these resources are meant to serve community members in both academic and non-academic realms, often to compensate for resource scarcity (*National Center for Community Schools*). As a sociological research team we were asked by administrators and service providers within the school districts of Ontario County to examine the county through a sociological lens to determine how a community school program may serve this county, and what motivating factors may tie all nine districts together. Ontario County encompasses two cities, eight villages and 16 towns. These towns, cities, and villages are diverse, having a range of socioeconomic status, and geographic makeup with many areas being rural low income areas.

To perform this research we will be reviewing datasets, familiarizing ourselves with the region and conducting interviews with administrators and service providers. Some central datasets in this research are the Evalumetric Youth Data set from Ontario County, data from an Ontario County Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement plan, and FLACRA's Needs Assessment. To understand the school districts and how the Community School concept is applicable, we will research the concept generally, Community School implementation and funding, model Community School implementation in places like Wayne County Community and Seneca County Community Schools, as well as background information about Ontario County. Our goal for this project is to create an implementation plan and funding proposal for collective Community School hubs shared across all nine districts.

### References:

National Center for Community Schools. (n.d.). <https://www.nccs.org/>

## U.S. AID WITHIN ZAMBIA

Drew DiMeolo

Over the past 60 years, the amount of aid that the US has been sending Zambia has been on the rise, while at the same time, Zambia's GDP has also been on the rise, but there is currently much controversy surrounding whether prolonged aid is ultimately more beneficial or harmful for a low-income economy. Does US aid have a positive or negative effect on Zambia's economy?

My research specifically focuses on the current economy of Zambia and determines how US aid is impacting its economy in terms of GDP, health standards, and other quality of life indicators using discourse analysis as well as interviews to ensure a full picture was constructed of the effects that aid has had on Zambia. I conclude that Zambia has poor checks and balances for the aid that they are receiving, which is hindering their economy's ability to grow, but there seems to be a steady growth regardless in terms of quality of life indicators. Additionally, there are signs that more and better quality institutions are being implemented to ensure that aid is going to the proper sectors.

## GROOVING WITH THE DEAD: UNRAVELING THE ENIGMATIC FAN CULTURE OF THE GRATEFUL DEAD

Ava Dimitroff

An American rock band that pioneered the genre of “Jam Band” music, the Grateful Dead formed in the mid-1960s in southern California from bluegrass and psychedelic roots. The band is widely known for their extensive touring, live shows with hours of improvisation, and their dedicated fans (known more colloquially as Deadheads); among the general public, the band’s fans are nearly synonymous with the band itself.

After meeting several Deadheads and their children, listening to their fan stories, and attending a few shows of the spinoff band “Dead and Company,” I noticed generational similarities and differences within the fan culture between myself and older generations of Deadheads and found myself asking what made this fan culture unique.

This project examines the evolution of Grateful Dead fan culture between 1970 and 1995, paying particularly close attention to the late 1970s and 1980s—a period of accelerated growth of the band’s fans. Drawing from oral history, biographies, and other media, I examine fans’ experience of the Deadhead sub-culture and the meaning they ascribed to it. How did fan experience change as the band gained increasing commercial success? How did fans understand their “fandom” in the context of larger counterculture movements of the time? What did it mean to be a “Deadhead”? In this process, I uncover the unique qualities that both made Deadheads so devoted and pioneered a subculture that remains today.

## STATE, CLASS, & DEVELOPMENTALISM IN TUNISIA AND SYRIA

James Duchesneau

As the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) once again capture global attention, this paper seeks to record and analyze rise and fall of the state developmentalist model employed throughout the Arab world from a class-based and historical perspective, incorporating Marxian and other critical analyses. I undertake a comparative study of this model's manifestation in Tunisia and Syria: what were the factors that set the stage for radical developmentalist experiments? What were its social roots? What role did the state play in class reproduction and relations? What accounted for the variation in developmental policies in Tunisia and Syria? Why did it eventually dissolve and what were the consequences of this dissolution? How did class composition change and shape politics in the period of liberalization?

I begin by reviewing the rise of state-managed development in the Arab world in the 1950s and 1960s and analyze its historical and social roots to place this phenomenon within a wider regional and historical context of the rise of an Arab "Bonapartism," which sprouts in a situation whereby class rule is insecure, and the state intervenes to assert its domination over and above class. I then review the dissolution of radical developmentalism and the inauguration of "infitah" (meaning "openness" in Arabic) policies of neoliberalism in the 1970s and 1980s, considered within the framework of neopatrimonial political conditions and in the context of a global ideological discrediting of socialist developmentalism. Finally, I consider the reconsolidation of the bourgeoisie's political dominance from the 1990s to the 2010s, a development which created mass discontent and set the stage for the Arab world's uprisings in 2011.

## STORYING THE NUMBERS: WOMEN AND WORK IN THREE NORTHERN ENGLISH CITIES

Jessica Duma

Expectations of women's work in the early modern era are generally confined to the domestic sphere. In actuality, women in urban centers often held roles in business ownership and operated trades and services for their community. For my honors thesis in history, I analyzed women's participation in trades and occupations in the industrializing north of England using three directories: John Gore's *Liverpool Directory* (1766), Elizabeth Raffald's *Manchester and Salford Directory* (1772), and William Whitehead's *Newcastle and Gateshead Directory* (1782).<sup>1</sup> Each of these directories was compiled by a single author; they were also the first published works of their type for their respective cities. Among other things, this means that these works were not standardized. They can therefore provide information about the occupational structure of a community, but also impart the biases and perceptions of the compilers.

I took a quantitative historical approach, looking for relationships between gender, marital status, and occupation, but my other aim was to *story* the numbers, to try and reconstruct a series of narratives about the involvement of women in business ownership across various industries.

<sup>1</sup> John Gore, *The Liverpool Directory For The Year 1766*, (W. Newett and Co.: Liverpool, 1766; 1907 reprint); Elizabeth Raffald, *The Manchester Directory For The Year 1772*, (J. Harrop: Manchester, 1781; 1889 reprint); William Whitehead, *The Newcastle and Gateshead Directory, For 1782, 83, and 84*; (T. Lawson: Newcastle, 1782-1784).

# *SINE OCULIS* IN DROSOPHILA EYE DEVELOPMENT: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO NEUROSCIENCE

Malak Fadlou-Allah

This study explores the Sine oculis protein, a transcriptional regulator of gene expression during the development of *Drosophila melanogaster* (fly). Under the guidance of Professor Kenyon, my research focuses on its role in orchestrating the complex process of eye morphogenesis.

A pivotal question is how a protein found in many different cell types is able to take on different functions in varying cell populations. One aspect of this research explores its potential partnership with SOBP (Sine oculis-binding protein), hypothesized to influence the pluripotency of Sine oculis, as well as the interactions between Sine oculis and various genetic factors, including potential binding partners essential for eye development. By employing genetic manipulation techniques, it is possible to dissect the specific roles and interactions of Sine oculis and its cofactors within the developmental process.

Insights into the transcriptional regulation roles of sine oculis suggest potential links to neurodevelopmental disorders. Furthermore, the findings related to the limbic system expression of related genes hint at connections to cognitive and emotional processes in the brain<sup>4</sup>. Moreover, examining the expression of related genes in the brain's limbic system extends this research into cognitive and emotional processes, demonstrating how studies in *Drosophila* can inform our understanding of human brain function. This highlights the significance of Sine oculis research not just in eye development but also in the broader context of neuroscience and genetic regulation.



## AN EXPLORATION OF MY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE THROUGH BELL HOOKS' "TEACHING TO TRANSGRESS"

Sydney Foster

How do educational experiences vary from one person to another? Analyzing educational experience using bell hooks' Teaching to Transgress can show us much about learning. Through a narrative analytical essay written for Professor Ristow's Writing Colleague Seminar called "IEP Student", I reflect on my own educational experience as an elementary student with learning disabilities, such as a speech impediment and diagnosed ADD (attention deficit disorder). Through this narrative, I convey my life by creating a vivid setting, while simultaneously examining the ideological, emotional, and pedagogical features that hooks believes will lead to an educational revolution.

My study began with a personal reflection on my educational journey as a student on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Through the lens of bell hooks' educational philosophy, I highlight the importance of educators recognizing and catering to the unique needs of individual students. In this presentation, I will focus on the second half of my project, where I attempt to connect my past educational experience to my learning here at Hobart and William Smith College.

I hope this reflection on my educational experience over the past twenty years persuades my audiences to join me in thinking about their own unique education experiences.

# RE ORIENTING JAPAN: ENVISIONING POST-PANDEMIC TOURISM THROUGH HISTORY

Jonathan Garcia

The 1955 English language Pocket Guide to Japan by the Japan Tourist Bureau (JTB) described Japan as the "land of color, charm, and courtesy where the East blends with the West and the old with the new." This introduction marked a post-war effort to reinvigorate foreign tourism a decade after US fire-bombings and Japan's defeat in the Asia Pacific Wars. Now, with the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting international travel, Japan, like other tourism-dependent nations, faces a new challenge in welcoming back foreign tourists.

This project explores Japan's historical strategies in attracting tourists, balancing the image of "Oriental charm" and modern advancements. By retracing Tokyo tourist itineraries in old JTB brochures, examining changes over time, and interviewing current residents, the research sheds light on Tokyo's tourism evolution, considering both immediate global economic challenges and long-standing issues in Japan.

## INJURY PREVENTION FOR COMPETITION DANCERS

Taylor Gauthier

Throughout my time as a multi-sport athlete and competitive dancer, I have recognized that injury prevention is not a central focus within competitive dance training. As injuries are common among all athletics and movement based activities, I think it is important to emphasize injury prevention as a critical component of competitive dance training. My research project will focus on integrating injury prevention exercises and methods into competition dance training by creating a model that I can share with studio owners through teaching workshops.

I use my experience as a competitive dancer, student worker for sports medicine, and educational background in biology and movement studies to support my study to research existing injury prevention models for dance training and survey local studio owner(s)/teachers through one on one interviews. I aim to honor individual differences of the body and develop a better understanding of movement mechanics for injury prevention. The end goal of this research is to develop effective training cycles centered towards injury prevention in dancers in the age range of middle school to high school. I hope to find methods of incorporating body knowledge into training curricula, as a way to integrate healthier movement mechanic habits for the bodies of young dancers.

PUBLIC HEALTH CASE STUDY: BATTLING CANCER  
IN AN UNDERGRADUATE LABORATORY

Cameron Yi-Jun Guan

The American Cancer Society estimates 2 million new cases of cancer in 2024, even as cancer death rates decrease annually. One possible target for anti-cancer therapy is the enzyme malate dehydrogenase (MDH), which is upregulated in cancer cells and contributes to the rapid spread of cancer. This semester, undergraduate students of the Biochemistry II CHEM 449-11 teaching laboratory are working with MDH mutants that were created by students at University of San Diego. My focus is to isolate mutant MDH from cultured *E. coli* and run diagnostic tests and purification techniques to understand how single amino acid mutations change enzyme activity and regulation. By semester's end, I hope to leave behind characterized, purified MDH mutants for future students to study. If we understand the alterations in MDH activity and specificity that contribute to cancer progression, this knowledge can inform the development of targeted therapies aimed at disrupting cancer cell metabolism.

## HOLOCAUST PARTICULARITY, WANNSEE, AND HOLOCAUST BY BULLETS

Cameron Yi-Jun Guan

Proponents of particularity assert that the Holocaust has unique aspects that are not found in other historical events. The Holocaust particularity debate requires comparison between examples of genocide, which sparks challenging dialogue. Can the suffering of one group truly be equated with that of another? Learning about the Holocaust necessitates a shift in focus from the comparison of individual or collective suffering to the scrutinization of the Nazi bureaucratic and legal apparatuses and the societal complicity that enabled genocidal racial doctrines. I introduce two lesser-known case studies: the Wannsee Conference and “Holocaust by bullets.” The latter leaves behind extensive documentation for the systematic murder of 1.5 million Jews in the occupied Soviet Union by SS-Einsatzgruppen. Through contextualizing the Holocaust within its own historical framework and uncovering the mechanisms of genocide, we can grasp the significance of its place in contemporary history.

COMMEDIA UNMASKED: YOU MAY NOT RECOGNIZE US YET,  
HOW ABOUT NOW?

Hope Kayla Guzman

Commedia dell'arte emerged in the 16<sup>th</sup> century during the height of the Italian Renaissance. This improvisational theatre style had a profound impact on the playwrights of the time, yet its influence is not widely recognized today. I hope to illustrate the importance of body language and the ways it can bring characters to life.

The presentation will begin with an introduction to commedia dell'arte, its origins and historical significance. Then, there will be a demonstration for three specific commedia archetypes. Pantalone will be the first to be demonstrated. He is often depicted as a wealthy old man known for his greed and quick wit. A key aspect of the presentation will be the comparison between the Zanni and Colombina, two of the most recognizable characters in commedia dell'arte. While both are servants, Zanni is portrayed as a bumbling fool, while Colombina is clever and resourceful. This contrast highlights the range of characters and emotions that can be portrayed through the art form. Accompanied along with the demonstration I will be showcasing the mask that the characters wore. Each mask is intentional in conveying the characters emotions and personalities.

Finally, the presentation will connect these characters to modern pop culture, showing how they have influenced characters in contemporary media that many may recognize. Through this exploration, the audience will gain a deeper appreciation for the artistry of commedia dell'arte as well as gaining new perspectives on the way the characters today were molded from these stock personas.

WELCOME TO THE TUNDRA: FIELD WORK, CLIMATE CHANGE,  
AND TRACE GAS PRODUCTION IN PERMAFROST LAKES

MaryBridget Horvath

Tundra is a permafrost biome that lacks trees and is characterized by its cold temperatures, short growing season, as well as its mossy and lichen rich environment. This environment sits just below the arctic circle in Alaska's Yukon Kuskokwim River Delta. Another key feature about the Alaskan tundra is that it is full of shallow ponds and lakes. As climate warms and growing seasons get longer, there is increased permafrost degradation and greenhouse gas release, which is often left out of our global climate models because it is not as well understood.

This study aims to assess the contribution via these lake environments of methane and carbon dioxide gas by comparing the physical properties of 11 different lakes within the tundra. This study was conducted over the course of two weeks in a remote location in the YK delta only accessible via float plane--where tent camping, bear fences, and a polar safety course was needed. Living in a location like this for two weeks not only provided data, but also a more acute ear to current climate change and indigenous stories.

## HUMAN EDUCATION IN THE AGE OF AI

Sylvia Hudak

Taking all AP classes, A+ report cards, hours of community service, joining many clubs, a part-time job, competitive sports: these are some of the pressures today's high schoolers are forced to endure in order to succeed in competitive college admissions and earn scholarships. And today, in the book *Futureproof*, Kevin Rouse argues that there is the concern of AI technology replacing jobs during our generation. It's not just the boring jobs; AI can give therapy, create art and music, and even do white-collar jobs. No job is robot-proof.

In order to avoid having our jobs being replaced by robots we need to embrace the ways in which humans are different than and more productive than AI. These include our social abilities and our ability to take something we learned in one area of life and use it in another area. However, today's high schoolers are being discouraged from building these qualities through pressures to overachieve, social algorithms, and pressure to follow a specific, crated path in high school and in life.

I build off Rouse's work and review ways in which high schools could be better structured in ways that allow students to be more human. These include better support for arts programs, and ways in which school activities such as sports could be more open and inclusive. During my high school experience, like many of my peers, I often compared myself to others more involved in AP classes, extra-curricular activities, community service, and paid work, and worried that if I didn't follow that exact path, I would be a failure. This idealized path is making us less human and more like robots that get tired out quicker.



## CELEBRITIES AS POLITICAL ACTORS: AN ANALYSIS OF KENDALL JENNER'S APOLOGY STATEMENT

Brooke Jarvis

Kendall Jenner's 2017 Pepsi commercial sparked controversy and conversation about racial issues and celebrity influence. This study uses discourse analysis to examine Jenner's statement from an episode of "Keeping Up With The Kardashians," in which she apologizes for starring in a Pepsi commercial that many perceived as insensitive and offensive. Examining discourse analysis strategies of bolstering (downplaying the action by highlighting positive attributes), mortification (accepting responsibility for the action), and subject positions (identities), I suggest that Kendall Jenner's apology was ineffective and in turn, rejected by the victims.

Determining public apology tactics that are ineffective in this context can allow public figures to approach apologies in more beneficial ways. I hope this research will illuminate the impacts of extreme privilege and the disconnect with marginalized groups that celebrities may exhibit.

## THE IMPACT OF SHORT-TERM MINDFULNESS MEDITATION ON SUSTAINED VISUAL ATTENTION AND INHIBITION

Solveig-Margrete Jensen

Existing literature has shown links between mindfulness meditation and the general improvement of cognitive function; however, few studies have specifically investigated the effect of short-term mindfulness meditation on sustained attention. This study will investigate the effects of short-term mindfulness meditation on sustained visual attention in college students by measuring reaction time and accuracy during the Sustained Attention to Response Task (SART). We will also examine the effect of short-term mindfulness meditation on inhibiting the shift of overt visual attention to distractors like cell phones and cell phone notifications. An electrooculogram (EOG) will be used to track saccades as a measure of changes in overt visual attention.

I hypothesize that mindfulness meditation will lead to a significant improvement in visual attention compared to the control condition. Additionally, it is hypothesized that participants engaging in mindfulness meditation will exhibit a greater ability to inhibit distractions (presence of cell phone and cell phone notifications). We propose this research with the goal of better understanding the effects of mindfulness meditation on sustained visual attention and inhibition.

## SUSTAINABLE CINEMA: BALANCING ARTISTRY AND ECOLOGY IN FILM PRODUCTION

Kaia Johnson

The enchanting world of cinema, while celebrated for its ability to transport audiences into different realms, finds itself at the crossroads of a critical environmental challenge – the substantial carbon footprint left in its wake. Studies have shown that the film industry ranks high in traditional air pollutant emissions, following closely behind petroleum refineries. The film industry's reliance on water, energy consumption, waste generation, and carbon emissions, including leftover materials from set building and emissions from diesel generators, has led to a slew of environmental consequences.

Sustainable filmmaking practices have emerged as not only an artistic choice, but as an ecological responsibility, promoting a global shift towards reducing negative environmental impacts. However, among the artistic portrayal of environmental disasters and the call for societal change, there exists a need to balance critiquing film messages with analyzing their environmental impacts. This paper explores the tension between artistic expression and environmental responsibility in the film industry, advocating for a clear regulatory framework to foster a more ecologically friendly future.

## RIGHT BECOMES WRONG: SOCIAL JUSTICE LANGUAGE AND THE ERASING OF OPPRESSORS

Kennedy Jones

Saying the “right” thing does not always have the desired effect. This can be the case when using social justice language, but not understanding how to do so effectively. When social justice-oriented language intersects with policies, using terminology aimed at providing equal opportunities is only effective when the identities such words are intended to acknowledge are preserved. My discovery of the adverse effects of social justice language, when its relationship to identity is neglected, emerged from my application of James Paul Gee’s tools for discourse analysis to Kamala Harris’ portion of the “Juneteenth National Independence Day Act” speech.<sup>1</sup>

I went into this research expecting the data set to demonstrate proper form and function of social justice language: when the results were paradoxical, this suggests that more of this research needs to be conducted. Furthermore, as a first-generation student curious about how people not involved in academia are included, or excluded, from social justice terminology and the effects that can have, I hope that my findings serve as the steppingstone for my own research on the intersections of discourse analysis and government policies, as well as an encouragement to others to consider the outcomes of their language use.

<sup>1</sup> Gee, James Paul. *An Introduction to Discourse Analysis: Theory and Method*. New York, Routledge, 2014.

# LITHIUM AND BEYOND: EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

Sean Kalinchenko-Pesin

The world is rapidly shifting towards renewable energy, marked by a transition from internal combustion engine vehicles to electric vehicles. As reliance on electricity grows to meet the demand for EVs, the need for efficient energy storage surges as well. Enter lithium-ion batteries. Due to its high energy density and efficiency, the lithium-ion battery has become the standard battery for EVs.

By looking at current research and analyzing existing technological developments, this research project aims to investigate the future of lithium-ion batteries. I plan to explore whether the lithium-battery will continue being the frontrunner for energy storage, as well as whether we will switch to alternative battery technologies. The goal is to inform the public about the future of energy storage, highlighting the challenges and exploring viable options beyond the lithium-ion battery.

## SOCIAL MOTIVATION: IS SOCIALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT CONNECTED TO SOCIALIZATION BEHAVIOR?

Sean Kalinchenko-Pesin

Motivation is an essential part of survival for any organism: in order to find food, shelter, a mate, one must be motivated to do so. Humans are no exception. Throughout history, humans have evolved to have a reward system that makes them motivated to engage and re-engage in certain behaviors. This is where dopamine comes into play. Dopamine is the neurotransmitter that plays a major role in the activation of the reward pathway. It is also the reason humans engage in behaviors repeatedly: by engaging in certain behaviors, humans can receive a boost in dopamine, making them more motivated to pursue that behavior again.

This study examines how consuming sexually explicit material affects how motivated a person is to pursue new relationships. Through survey methodology, responses from over 300 college students were analyzed and interpreted. Consuming sexually explicit material results in a large dopamine hit, and the effects of that are discussed in this presentation.

WELL FED ARTISTS:  
THE FUTURE OF ART IN THE AGE OF AUTOMATION

Claire Kapitan

The increasing automation of written language, visual art, and music is bringing about an alienating sense of purposelessness for creatives. Why write when machines can generate paragraphs in seconds? Why create art when AI could do it better? What does a human have to say that hasn't been said, especially when things are being said and made in a fraction of the time it would take a human counterpart? These are the kinds of questions that artists find themselves asking, faced with the paralyzing effects of automation.

My project explores how art will come to hold value in the future based on discourse analysis and research from my English capstone, *Radical Futures*. I claim that man-made objects will come to convey more status than technology, calling upon ideas of process, physicality, materiality, identity, and individuality. My project incorporates my art practice at HWS and abroad to emphasize the importance and increasing rarity of human time and touch in art-making processes. My project also explores why we must become fluent in understanding when to utilize or resist AI, in conversation with technology theorists Kevin Roose and Aaron Benanav. Learning not just about the world, but how to be in the world, is becoming more and more vital: dissecting what makes us irreplaceably human is the first step.

## MUSIC AND MEANING: ON THE ORIGINS OF HUMAN MUSICALITY

Elinor Kennedy

This project focuses on the use and significance of music in culture as a human process. Incorporating elements of anthropology, psychology, and ethnomusicology, I sought to uncover why music exists – as a universal human experience, what purpose does it serve? In my musicology research I identified various perspectives on the importance of music, the reason it occurs, and how it is used in communities. I was also interested in how music interacts with us and our brains – or rather, how we interact with it. What is happening in our brains that draws us to music? What is special about music as opposed to regular speech and sound?

I became interested in this topic because of my experiences surrounding music, noticing that I had a certain reverence for it that was unique from almost any other field or art form. I wondered what was happening in my brain to create such emotional reactions and deep interpretations. I also have a lifelong interest in learning what connects us all as human, especially between communities where people often only see difference. That interest drove my learning. Ultimately, this project taught me about the power music wields and what it means for us as human beings.



## THE LONG & THE SHORT OF IT: MICROPLASTICS IN SENECA LAKE AND THEIR POSSIBLE REGULATION

Heather Kerns

Microplastics—synthetic polymer fragments, pellets, films and fibers smaller than 5 mm in diameter—contaminate the environment, contaminating the food system and surface drinking water and entering the human body. Fibers dominate microplastics in freshwater systems. In an effort to guide future regulatory efforts, I explore whether fiber length can be used to distinguish the contribution of sources feeding into Seneca Lake near Geneva, New York.

I sampled various routes fibers could take into the lake: precipitation, direct atmospheric fallout, streams (Castle Creek), and wastewater effluent, as well as the destination of fibers, Seneca Lake. Samples were passed through a benchtop vacuum filtration system. Filters were illuminated with UV light to induce fluorescence and then photographed; fibers lengths were measured. Most fibers are small ( $< 1\text{mm}$ ). Results show small but statistically significant differences in length between fibers deposited from the atmosphere and those carried in water. The abundance of small fibers and the unimodal distribution of fiber lengths in Seneca Lake prevent differential length from being used exclusively to track fiber source.

Although microplastic pollution is generally unregulated it is considered a contaminant of emerging concern by the EPA. I will conclude my presentation with an analysis of the current regulation of plastic microbeads and use that as a model for future microplastic regulation.

## THE EFFECTS OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FROM PRESCHOOL TO COLLEGE

Madelyn Kilmer

Inclusive education is beneficial for people with and without disabilities, if done correctly. However, due to various challenges, its unsuccessful application diminishes the progress as students progress through their academic journey.

The first challenge is the student's academic level. The goal of education is to grow one's knowledge. If one student performs above another, the student with or without a disability will fall behind, creating an environment where it is nearly impossible to catch up. Second, more resources are needed for students: expecting students with diverse needs to perform equally without providing appropriate accommodations is unrealistic and detrimental to their educational progress.

The third component is the social factor of an inclusive classroom. The relationship between the neuro-typical student and the student with an intellectual disability usually has two outcomes: one is that the older the student gets, the more likely the neuro-typical student will bully the student with an intellectual disability. Another is that the neuro-typical student will be a caregiver or savior. In neither of these examples are these students friends.

This research project seeks to delve deeply into the experiences of students with intellectual disabilities, comparing the benefits and drawbacks of inclusive education models against segregated programs tailored solely for students with disabilities. By exploring these dimensions, the study aims to provide insights into optimizing educational environments for diverse learners.

# SIMULATIONS OF MESSAGE PASSING ON CORTICAL NETWORKS IN SCHIZOPHRENIA

Hannah Lax

Past research has investigated alterations in brain network structure in individuals with schizophrenia (SZ) compared to healthy controls (HC). However, the nature and effects of structural differences between the groups remains unresolved. To go beyond static analyses of network structure, the current study investigates how patterns of dynamic neuronal message passing could play out in SZ and HC, presenting simple models of message-passing on structural brain networks (connectomes), and apply these models to connectomes of people with SZ and healthy controls. Importantly, these models allow for simple message-message interactions, namely destructive collisions at nodes. Message-message interactions must play a role in brain network dynamics, but because they are difficult to study empirically (neuronal messages can't usually be "traced" from cell to cell through cortex as they spread) and because modeling message-message interactions leads to nonlinear effects, these interactions remain poorly understood and little studied. In past work, Hao and Graham have shown that message-message interactions lead to rich emergent dynamics that may have advantageous qualities in terms of regulating energy use in the brain under simple message passing schemes.

## THE ECONOMICS OF ENERGY GENERATION

Alexander MacCluskey

I will discuss the lifeblood of our modern world, which is electricity, inform my audience about the economic benefits, and drawbacks, of three main forms of energy generation: fossil fuels, nuclear energy, and renewable energy.

The main economic metrics I will be researching are costs, efficiencies, waste, as well as externalities such as environmental impacts, and human cost, to enable people to understand the economic implications of energy generation and will allow my audience a better grasp of electricity generation and help them think critically about the different forms.

My research is based on published works by departments in energy and energy production in the United States, Canada, and various countries in Europe and Asia. I also plan to use independent studies from advocacy groups for the different forms. This allows me to have the most diverse and objective information on this vital topic.

## PRISON SYSTEMS AS AN EXPRESSION OF STATE IDENTITY

Katherine Mahoney

This research project creates a descriptive typology for the prison systems of the United States, Norway, and Russia. The states were chosen because of their starkly different incarceration practices and institutions, as well as their government types and populations.

The histories of the prison systems are examined to identify the tactics, philosophy, and ethos around imprisonment, discourse analysis of politicians in the individual states, and statistical data from incarceration rates, recidivism rates, economic effects, racial demographics, and public opinion. The two methods provide both qualitative and quantitative data to answer the bigger question of how prison systems contribute to state identity and vice versa. Through this research, I diagnose the supposed practices of each prison system, the way those goals manifest, and the way they distinguish the State.

## IDENTITY-BASED RESEARCH PARTICIPATION: EVALUATING BEST PRACTICES FOR RECRUITING NEURODIVERGENT STUDENTS

Kyle Mast

When attempting to create academic spaces that are more accessible, there becomes the need to identify what aspects of academic institutions both hinder and benefit students with disabilities. In an original research study titled "Autistic Students on Liberal Arts Campuses: Successes, Challenges, & Questions," Diana Baker, PhD, Hyejung Kim, PhD, Jesse Saperstein, and myself attempt to answer this question and identify what aspects of small liberal arts campuses are beneficial or detrimental to the success of autistic students. This study implemented a 'multiple case study approach' and conducted semi-structured interviews with 13 stakeholders to gather the qualitative research results. This study was successful in identifying five main themes that correlated to the successes of autistic students.

This research study incorporated autistic students, a population not frequently included in academic research, as one of the primary stakeholders. However, it was challenging to find and recruit stakeholders that fit the research criteria. Recruiting for the study involved reaching out to faculty at various institutions, posting to social media, contacting students via email, and hoping for snowball sampling once students recruited their peers for participation. I will compare the recruiting methods used in this research project to tactics used by other researchers. I will do so by conducting a literature review evaluating my own positionality as an autistic-identifying student, and assessing how different methods of recruiting impact the overall outcomes of the research paper.

## COLONIALISM & FRENCH FASHION: THE ETHICS OF STYLE

Anna McBride

The textile and garment industry proves to be an unavoidable institution of western life largely influenced by the seventeenth century in Paris. This research will aim to understand how the textile and fashion labor of French colonial efforts in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries provided a basis for the modern French fashion industry: from this, I will examine the modern cases of LVMH 360 and Hermes' approach to corporate social responsibility and the degree to which their modern practices may be parallel to those found in colonial efforts.

As this industry moves towards sustainable development and issues of social responsibility come to the forefront of business, this examination will provide insights based on the industry's foundational practices. This will be done through historical analysis of accounts and primary sources as well as a modern discourse analysis of official statements from firms. Interviews with experts in French fashion marketing and history, like Petronella Weijers, will also prove useful. The bifurcated nature of this study helps explore the ethical, economic, and social history of French fashion and apply these findings to the analysis of modern business practice. To conclude, the research will draw a connection between French colonial efforts and modern fashion industry practices and will explore its implications in both historical and modern contexts as we each choose to express ourselves uniquely through our clothing.

# THE IMPACT OF CAR T-CELL THERAPY ON COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING IN CANCER PATIENTS: A PILOT STUDY

Kristen McCormick

CAR T-cell therapy is a high-risk, high-reward therapy used in cancer patients when other treatment strategies cannot eradicate the cancer. After a blood draw, T-cells are isolated from the patient's blood and genetically modified to increase their immune response against tumor cells when the blood is reinfused back into patients. However, once inside the body, the modified T-cells trigger the release of inflammatory mediators such as cytokines during cytokine release syndrome (CRS). This can result in fevers, tachycardia, and respiratory failure. Also, CAR T-cell therapy can cause immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity syndrome (ICANS) days or weeks after the therapy, which may result in changes in cortical thickness, blood perfusion, or neuroinflammation, and lead to symptoms such as delirium and aphasia. Despite these intense acute side effects, the long-term effects of CAR T-Cell therapy on brain function are relatively unexplored.

For my independent study, I worked under Professor Elizabeth Belcher using data from her 2019 pilot study conducted at the University of Rochester in the laboratory of Dr. Michelle Janelsins. I organized and analyzed data collected from a cross-sectional study of 30 participants, including 15 patients who had undergone CAR T-cell therapy and 15 age and gender-matched controls. Self-report of cognitive function was recorded and analyzed via Jamovi software.



## JOURNEY IN ACTIVISM: THE POWER OF COMMUNITY & NETWORKING

Maddi Meyer

Activism can teach many valuable lessons, including determination, emotional intelligence, and relationship-building. While individual influence on the world may be limited, avenues such as voting, staying informed, and protest can amplify influence. National and international change is not the result of solitary efforts, but rather grassroots activism at the local level.

My journey in activism, spanning high school and college, follows themes of fostering community connections. Through participation and leadership in campaigns such as reproductive rights advocacy, an independent study on the abortion landscape of New York state, and various work with the Geneva Women's Assembly, I have learned that making change requires unrelenting dedication and community-building. Through the examination of my activist experiences, I will discuss the impacts of each campaign and the common themes that unite them.

## SOCIETY BUILDING THROUGH THE GULAG: HELL ON EARTH

Seva Mirzali

This research project examines the historical and contemporary significance of the Soviet Union's Gulag system—a vast network of forced labor camps that operated from the 1920s to the mid-1950s. The research aims to understand the Gulag's role in political repression, the suffering of its estimated 18 to 20 million victims, and its broader implications for human rights and state-sponsored oppression. This study draws comparisons between historical and current concerns regarding state power and human rights, emphasizing lessons from the Gulag to avoid future atrocities and highlighting the necessity for transparency, accountability and international cooperation in addressing human rights violations by authoritarian regimes.

The central question addressed here is the impact of the Gulag system on both the individuals it directly affected and the wider societal and global consequences of such a massive instrument of state control. Methodologically, the research synthesizes historical accounts, survivor testimonies, and international responses. The findings highlight the Gulag's chilling effect on Soviet society, the challenges it presented to the concept of state sovereignty, and its influence on the development of international human rights law.

PROPERTY RIGHTS AND EMINENT DOMAIN: CAN COMBATTING GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE JUSTIFY INVOKING THE “NECESSITY EXCEPTION?”

Jackson Mischler

The effects of global climate change pose catastrophic physical and economic harm to the United States, endangering the well-being of millions and threatening trillions in property damage. The necessary government response will inevitably encounter conflict with private property owners, forcing the government to fall back on its eminent domain power to seize privately owned property. However, given the Fifth Amendment’s Due Process and Just Compensation requirements, the scale of the response would require extensive compensation for seized property and an enormous amount of time and labor, including litigating the merits of seizures in court, which would place an insurmountable fiscal and administrative burden on the government. As such, many legal scholars suggest using the Necessity Exception to the Fifth Amendment’s Taking Clause, which allows private property seizure without due process or just compensation when the government is responding to a public emergency.

While much attention has been paid to whether the context of global climate change provides legal justification for employing the Necessity Exception, little attention has been paid to the underlying ethical considerations of such a grave violation of individual property rights. This paper aims to fill the ethics gap by analyzing how subscription to various philosophical conceptions of property rights morally constrain potential government climate-change responses. Ultimately, I conclude that use of the necessity exception can be justified only in a utilitarian moral framework, and only when limited to global-climate-effects that are both immediate and harmful.

## THE OSCARS INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX: EXCELLENCE, RACE, AND AWARDS DURING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVMENT

Caroline Mittleman

In 1968, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences postponed their annual awards show (The Oscars) after the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Days later, the show opened with actor and Academy president Gregory Peck solemnly addressing the events of the past week. Praising the Academy for recognizing films that addressed America's racial realities, he called on the audience to "unite in compassion in order to survive." "The lasting memorial that we of the motion picture community can build to Dr. King," proclaimed Peck, "is to continue making films which celebrate the dignity of man whatever his race or color or creed."

However progressive the Academy appeared in Peck's 1968 monologue, the reality was that while the films of 1967 might have celebrated "the dignity of man whatever his race," the Academy did not: Sidney Poitier, a black actor of Caribbean origins, was the highest-achieving box office actor of 1967, starring in two highly acclaimed films nominated for Best Picture (*Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* and *In the Heat of the Night*). While his co-stars and directors were nominated (and won) numerous awards in '68, he did not.

Using Poitier's experience with the 1968 Oscars as a case study, my project traces how the Academy tied awards and excellence to whiteness in ways that perpetuated racism against actors of color. I employ Bourdieu's theories of awards as values of power to unpack how the Motion Picture Academy created a system that upholds white supremacy, from the initial nominating processes to post-Oscar film advertising. Far from being a celebration of authentic "excellence," the Oscars industrial complex – its members, nominating process, awards, and advertising—served as an agent of racial status quo during a time of social change.

## BEHIND THE BADGE: COMPARING POLICING IN INDIA & THE USA

Diya Moolani

Discussing policing is fundamental because it is one foundation of societal order and justice, and law enforcement shapes day-to-day experiences of individuals and communities. I examine policing styles across different countries to understand the diverse approaches to law enforcement and their societal implications. I explore police training, and compare different styles of policing between United States versus India. I aim to highlight the strengths, weaknesses, and potential lessons that can be learned by using different approaches. I hope to share what I have learnt by interning with the Geneva Police Department.

## ADAPTING EDUCATION: THE GAMIFICATION OF EDUCATIONAL LEARNING STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS

Crystal Morgans

The social climate in which a person is born drastically shapes not only their outlook on society, but also the way they are best suited by education. While working in the elementary school setting with children of generation Alpha (those born between 2010 and 2024), it became apparent that traditional methods of teaching failed to adequately engage students to the point of knowledge recollection, let alone concept mastery.

I suggest that gamification is an effective tool for nurturing the strengths of this new generation of learners. Utilizing NYS Next Generation Learning Standards, I created a series of original board games, and monitored the progress of a group of students at the fourth and fifth grade levels concerning specific knowledge and performance tasks. As a future educator, gamification is important as it can contribute to leveling the playing field of accessibility while targeting the educational inequity that plagues the United States, most noticeably in lower income areas. By finding unique ways to engage students in active learning, formative assessment and cooperation, educators can fulfill their responsibility to foster the growth and encouragement of new, creative minds.

## FROM “DRUG SONG” TO “PEACE”: THE MUSIC OF THE JESUS MOVEMENT

Sophia Mughal

In an era of turbulent social and political events—the Vietnam War, the Watergate Scandal, President John F. Kennedy’s assassination and the Cuban Missile Crisis, to name a few—the Baby Boomer Generation was imbued with a sense of disillusionment and distrust of institutions, often turning to the countercultural movement. One of the counterculture’s main tenets was the centrality of experience, which Baby Boomers, in this socio-political context, viewed as a reclamation of their individual agency and authority.

For some, the counterculture was too free, uncertain, and unstructured, so they turned to Jesus Movements, which kept the importance of experience, but had a more authoritative and concrete moral structure. This recentralization of experience for the Baby Boomer Generation was also reflected in the emergence of a Christian folk genre that both sonically and lyrically aligned with the unique needs of the time and of the Jesus Movements themselves. Dave Bixby, a convert to a Jesus movement in Grand Rapids, Michigan, recorded *Ode to Quetzacoatl* in 1969, an album that describes his born-again conversion and continual faith. *Ode*’s message held a deep resonance with his peers and was later used as a recruitment tool for a Jesus movement known as the “The Group” or “The Movement.” In creating a new type of worship music, Bixby captures both the inciting discontentments of a generation and the salve they found.

## DIET PREFERENCES OF MAJOR SALMONID SPECIES IN SENECA LAKE USING STOMACH CONTENT ANALYSIS

Anna O'Neill

This study was conducted to look further into the diet preference and health of Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) in Seneca Lake using gut content analysis. Diet preference of Lake Trout and the other observed salmonid species is important because it informs on the health of the ecosystem and shows where key players in Seneca Lake's food web are located, both throughout the water column and around the different regions of the lake.

Salmonid (predator) fish species were collected from the National Seneca Lake Trout Derby in late May 2023. Lake Trout, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Landlocked Salmon were collected in two major areas, the northern (Stivers) and the southern (Watkins Glen) parts of Seneca Lake. The gut content analyses involved dissecting the stomach, and removing, visually identifying, and measuring the prey species, if possible. Salmonids from the derby were large, having an average length of 575.54 mm and weight of 453.59 g. Out of the 64 stomachs dissected, only 4 were empty and the mean mass of the prey was 4.00 g (n= 391). The major prey categories were Alewife (63.17%), Slimy Sculpin (2.81%), Spottail Shiner (0.26%), Mysid (1.53%), Quagga Mussel (3.07%), Zebra Mussel (0.26%), Snails (0.26%), Fly Larvae (3.07%), Fly (0.77%), Beetle (0.77%), Plant/Leaf Material (0.51%), and Unknown (23.53%). While salmonid diets were largely dominated by Alewife, they were observed to be variable and contained a multitude of prey types, especially considering the percentages of unexpected items such as the invertebrate species.



## *FLX FOLKS*: HOW IDENTITY AND LAND RELATE ACROSS THE FINGER LAKES

Katelyn Oswald, Brenda Plascencia

Throughout our four years at HWS, we have come to know our campus community well but felt less connected to the locals of the Finger Lakes. We sought to apply storytelling methods in collaboration with Assistant Professor of Media and Society Jiangtao Harry Gu for his *FLX Folks* multimedia project as a part of the 2023 Summer Scholars program.

Our independent study project is an extension of our summer research that has helped us to hone our journalistic and multimedia skills to tell the stories of those who live and work in the Finger Lakes region. Specifically, we have utilized stylizations in journalism through interviewing, capturing documentary footage, and writing elaborate profiles. We focused on examining individuals' relationships to the land, whether that be through agricultural business, veganism, farm worker advocacy, or sustainability practices.

Before our visits, we completed research on these industries, as well as various profiling methods found in publications such as *The New Yorker* and *Bon Appetit*. Throughout the summer, we profiled three individuals working in various agricultural-related industries in Geneva, Naples, and Trumansburg. This semester, we have expanded this research and profiled four additional community members from Rochester, Ithaca, Lyons, and Penn Yan. By the conclusion of our semester, we will have visited and profiled seven locations in the Finger Lakes area.

## THE NOISE WE DON'T NOTICE: AN EXAMINATION OF DECIBEL LEVELS ACROSS THE HWS CAMPUS AND ITS IMPACTS ON ACADEMIC LIFE

Samantha Quinones & Rodman Stout

In this project, we attempt to understand how the decibel volumes at essential locations on campus vary, and how this might affect the students' ability to concentrate. We examined the decibel levels of various essential locations on campus: the first floor of the library, the main dining room of SAGA, the cardio room in the gym, the main lobby of the Gearen Center, and the first floor of Smith Hall. The data for this project was recorded between 12:00 pm and 1:30 pm, relatively high traffic times to get the most accurate understanding of the noise levels at these locations and prepare for analysis of how noise might impact student concentration.

We used a decibel meter to record the different decibel levels (maximum, minimum, average, etc.) around campus and compared and contrasted these values using a map of campus that shows these volume levels, as well as comparative charts that demonstrate our results. These methods of recording our results may provide a helpful reference for future students looking for good environments for focus. The results of this research were then analyzed based on past research surrounding the impact of decibel levels on student performance. This allows a deeper understanding of how the noise levels in various locations might impact the academic lives and mental health of HWS students.

# BEYOND THE PLATE: A COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OF AVOIDANT FOOD INTAKE DISORDERS

Samantha Quinones

Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Eating Disorder (AFRID) is a recently added subset of an eating disorder that appears in the DSM-V (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). From initial observation, developmental textbooks only briefly touch on AFRID and how it is related to other eating disorders, but none of them have dedicated a specific section to this disorder in the same way they do with anorexia or bulimia. Therefore, I intend to define AFRID, the symptoms involved; and discuss how it affects children differently than eating disorders like anorexia or bulimia, the important and highly researched comorbid disorders of AFRID, and what future treatment plans for the disorder could look like: not enough clinical research has been done for there to be a recommended effective treatment for AFRID.

Because AFRID tends to be comorbid with so many different physiological or psychological disorders (Waugh & Kreipe, 2012), it is necessary to observe this topic from a more broad view, in order to observe which type of treatment methods could be the foundation to helping children with AFRID. In all, my research question is “How can previous research on eating disorder treatments, including AFRID, help create an effective treatment plan for those with AFRID?” Since researchers cannot give a distinct and confident answer as to what is the best way to treat AFRID, I approach my research proposal for Psy403 (Capstone Research in Developmental Psychology) with a multidisciplinary lens to treatment and solutions.

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## SOCIAL EPISTEMOLOGY AND ETHICS OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Maya Ratner

My honors thesis in Philosophy examines the interdisciplinarity of Philosophy and Anthropology. It shows how both disciplines can interact with, critique, and benefit each other. My thesis explores problems within Anthropology brought up by the general public, indigenous groups, and fellow anthropologists. Additionally, I describe problems that I discovered by looking at Anthropology through social epistemological, and ethical lenses. Additionally, I propose and evaluate solutions to those problems based on philosophical theories, anthropological discourse, and my ideas backed up by philosophical theory.

This thesis is inspired by post-modernist anthropological thought that questioned anthropological methods, writing, and truth value. One of the shortcomings of post-modernist anthropological thought is that it mostly describes problems and does not actively propose or evaluate solutions. By adding the interdisciplinary element of philosophical theories, one can take the problems described by post-modernist anthropologists further to better the discipline of Anthropology.

## US VS CHINA: WHY WOULD VENEZUELA PREFER ONE OVER THE OTHER?

Isabella Renzi

Within the past two decades, Venezuela has made a concerted effort to move away from its dependence on the United States, and towards diversified bilateral relations with countries such as China. What has caused this shift away from US dependence, and why would China be seen as a better bilateral partner? Existing literature paints a complicated picture of varied state interests between relationships between Venezuela and the US or Venezuela and China, as well as the triangular relationship between all three of the countries. However, no scholar has yet focused on the motivations which drove the Venezuelan shift from US dependence towards bilateral relations with China.

Using historical and discourse analysis, I analyzed political rhetoric and policies, as well as secondary sources, to track the relationship between the US and Venezuela, determine the role former Venezuelan President Chavez's foreign policy had in this shift, and then analyzed why China appeared to be a better bilateral partner. I conclude that a growing anti-American sentiment based on US infringements on Venezuelan autonomy caused Venezuela to seek a bilateral relationship with China, whose strict non-interventionist approach to FDI and aid protects Venezuelan sovereignty. These findings reflect the larger relationship between China and the Global South, and imply that a shift towards a more multipolar order may come about as a result of smaller states' preference for China as a bilateral partner.

## AN INDIVIDUAL APPROACH TO MULTICULTURAL DANCE EDUCATION

Ande Richardson

During my time as a dance minor at HWS, I've been introduced to Diasporic dance and the roots of jazz. As I've learned, many institutions in collegiate dance education prioritize Eurocentric forms like ballet and modern. Because of the weight given to these forms, students may not be encouraged to pursue education in genres that are unfamiliar to them. Those who obtain degrees in dance may unknowingly recreate a cycle: only certain genres are learned, leading to a lack of knowledge about other forms.

Building upon prior research, I explore how students can proactively cultivate interest in multicultural dance education. This includes identifying how the terminology, imagery, class structure, and historical context shape which dance forms are favored in collegiate settings. I reviewed analyses by Julie Kerr-Berry and Nyama McCarthy-Brown on multicultural contributions to dance, and examined what some educators are doing to decenter ballet being taught as the foundation of all forms.

From this research I aim to derive a mindset and journaling reflection exercise that students can work on at an individual level, during and after dance classes. It is my hope that this can help students like me incorporate multiculturalism and intersectionality into their dance education.

## DEATH IS VIOLENT: A RHETORICAL ANALYSIS OF STOP COP CITY

Kylie Rowland

Following the mass protests of 2020, awareness of the systemic nature of police violence in the United States has increased dramatically. However, much of this work remains to be finished, as is seen in the current “Stop Cop City” protests to prevent the construction of a militarized police training complex in Atlanta. In this presentation, I examine a Stop Cop City protest following the police killing of an activist named Tortuguita. In analyzing this sit-in, I aim to uncover new understandings of the rhetorical functions of embodied portrayals of victims of police brutality.

To that end, I analyzed the protest using feminist rhetorical criticism alongside theories of body rhetoric to bring to light how these protests disrupt the hegemony of militarized policing. I found that by juxtaposing incongruities between peaceful protestors and violent police, rearticulating victimhood and symbolic death, and enacting their right to protest the police, Stop Cop City protestors reframed the narrative surrounding Tortuguita’s death and militarized policing at large. Therefore, I found that embodiments of victims of police brutality utilize performances of victimhood and the interplay between violence and nonviolence to intervene in the normalization of police brutality.

I hope that this study contributes new insights to our understandings of the rhetorics of nonviolent protests such as sit-ins and die-ins. This research can provoke a re-seeing of these types of protests as not wholly “nonviolent,” as their rhetorical strength comes in essence from their ability to make violence and death symbolically present and visible.

## “CHICKEN FRIED”: A MUSICAL EXPLORATION OF POST-9/11 WHITE SOUTHERN VALUES

Abigail Schneider

Emerging a few short years after the 9/11 attacks, the 2006 hit song “Chicken Fried” by the Zac Brown Band captured the American imagination, topping the country music charts for several weeks and garnering numerous awards. The song’s musical journey culminated in the Grammy award show performance, where the band performed the song against the backdrop of a soaring eagle and the American flag in a mash-up that featured “America the Beautiful.” Listening to the song as a northerner, I couldn’t help but wonder: What made a song about fried food so popular?

My project examines “Chicken Fried’s” overwhelming popularity and success in the context of the resurgence of Southern identity in post- 9/11 America. While the title of the song and its lyrics may seem like a caricature of a stereotypical southern rural life to listeners today, its success symbolizes a desire for pride and reclamation of white southern values in the early 2000s. Undertaking a close textual analysis of the song, I identify five elements—food, place, troops/patriotism, God, and the sense of being ‘not in the north’—that characterize a “southern” identity as expressed in popular culture and trace how the hit song both reflects and shapes these elements. If, as some claim, country music lies at the core of southern culture, a close cultural analysis of “Chicken Fried” illustrates how music serves to popularize and support specific notions of identity linked to southern life and white rural culture in America.



## A CASE STUDY IN THE TRAUMATIC EFFECTS OF GATEKEEPING

Matthew Siegel

Often when people care about something, they feel the need to protect that thing; once that feeling becomes held by a large group, often the harmful practice of gatekeeping follows: not only are those seen as “others” restricted from accessing a piece of public content, but they can quickly become victims of harassment, unfair criticism, and bullying, all of which leave scars of trauma that a linguistic analysis can reveal.

My study examines the 2022 interview of one of the victims of gatekeeping, actor Hayden Christensen, who played the role of Anakin Skywalker in the Star Wars film franchise. By analyzing the structure of his interview responses and the specific utterances that held a greater sociolinguistic context, I discovered that an actor’s experience can serve as a case study for the cultural impacts of gatekeeping.

I explain gatekeeping in a very digestible way to highlight the greater threat that gatekeeping can have, and hope to fill in some of the gaps in academic work regarding gatekeeping.

## PHYSICAL RESTRAINTS IN THE CLASSROOM

Jennica Simon

As a future teacher who loves working with students with disabilities, I've become interested in behavior management and, more specifically, questions surrounding physical restraint. Physical restraint is defined as restricting the freedom of movement of all or part of a person's body against their will. I have spent time in local classrooms, I have been surprised by how often physical restraints are used. One of my most vivid memories is seeing a student in a physical hold for 15 minutes. He was screaming and crying until the very end.

After witnessing so much physical restraint, I sought to learn about both this method and better, less traumatic ways to help students de-escalate and self-regulate. I will discuss the history, international perspectives, and current controversies surrounding physical restraint. My experience in schools led me to wonder how and why and how educators implement physical restraint and, perhaps more importantly, how this can be avoided. The research that I have done this semester as the capstone to my individual major has led to a set of best practices that I will carry with me into my teaching career.

## DO HALOGEN ATOMS ENHANCE ANTICANCER ACTIVITY?

Cayden Smith

A promising approach to developing new anticancer drugs involves the synthesis of small molecules that target an enzyme called tubulin. Tubulin provides structural support and division in cells, so antitubulin agents work to promote cell death and stop the division. By causing cell death or regulating the cell cycle, tumor formation is decreased. Many of the current antitubulin agents have limitations including low solubility, toxicity, multi-cancer efficacy limits, and multidrug resistance. In this talk, I will highlight my research in the Pelkey Research Group that is aimed at developing new antitubulin agents that show successful anticancer activity; the anticancer activity then is evaluated in cancer cells by Professor Mowery and her research group.

We synthesized a series of halogenated indolylfuranones to test in cancer cells. These compounds are analogs of antitubulin compounds previously made in the lab. Our goal was to study the impact of the introduction of fluorine or chlorine atoms on anticancer activity. During the process of completing one of the analogs, PY-324-E, we ran into a roadblock in the synthesis. The talk will describe how the synthetic methodology was modified to allow for the completion of PY-324-E.

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## SUPPORTING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: THE EFFECT OF PEER MENTORSHIP AT HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES

Leanna Smith

Hobart and William Smith Colleges, as a liberal arts institution, provides holistic support for students encompassing both academic and emotional needs from the start of their collegiate journey. Two programs that are central to this commitment and, therefore, integrated into the curriculum are the First-Year Mentor and Writing Colleagues Programs. As a member of the Writing Colleagues Program, I have been attuned to the influence of peer mentorship; in the culmination of my undergraduate experience during my senior year, I have engaged in an Honor's project in collaboration with program directors, classroom professors, and fellow peer mentors to create a qualitative analysis of the effects of these programs within and beyond the classroom.

I argue that the Writing Colleague Program creates a safe place for students to adapt, relate, and make sense of the context in which they are communicating, while the First-Year Mentor Program models the expectations, culture, and community of HWS to help First-Year students succeed both academically and socially at the Colleges. Ultimately, these programs encourage a holistic view of the First-Year student through peer-to-peer engagement and provide structure within the curriculum for academic, social, and emotional development.

# BAJAN SPEECH: AN ETHNOGRAPHIC AND LINGUISTIC EXPLORATION OF BARBADOS SPEECH VARIETIES

Jada Smith-Padmore

“Bajan” speech is a complexity of standard and vernacular forms which are imperative to the identity of individuals in Barbados. The rich history and culture of the Barbadian identity presents a perspective parallel to this linguistic study of the speech varieties in this community to explore the societal and historical influences on the construction of the Bajan use. By examining the social constructs and history of colonialism, this study provided an ethnographic account on how the Bajan language can be analyzed as not a creole-like linguistic structure but a distinct identity marker for this small community. As society continues to evolve, the Bajan speech is stigmatized and thus it poses greater risk for the instability of such linguistic style and identity marker through language.

The inspiration for this project stemmed from my first-year experience of migrating to America from Barbados. During this period of my social integration into the American linguistic community, I quickly realized how the Bajan speech differs to that of the standard American English to signal a foreign identity. This need for change in my linguistic form shaped my intellectual inquiry into the study of language and identity, as I examine how such studies can be used to prevent instability of lesser-known linguistic varieties. By combining rigorous ethnographic methods with linguistic analysis, "Bajan Speech" aims to contribute valuable knowledge to the linguistic field while providing a platform for all audiences to engage with real-world linguistic phenomena.

## STORIES FROM THE LOST AND FOUND

Annette Stephens

It is my belief that there is an invisible familiarity that constitutes both self-discovery and constantly finding yourself in new homes. In a synthesis of two creative nonfiction essays written while studying in Galway, Ireland during the Spring 2023 semester, I explore these ideas and construct them around the idea that a “cloud of unknowing” shadows what we know about ourselves and the things most integral to the fabric of our being. The synthesized essay portrays me in my lowest and highest states, details great failures and successes, and is written with an eye towards story-telling.

This work presents a writing style that stretches beyond traditional analytical writing and allowed me to explore and experiment with different styles and techniques. “Stories from the Lost and Found” tests my comfortability as a writer and allows me to write independently from the world of academia. This work exhibits thinking through writing, which is not only the purpose of the essay as a genre, but a pillar of the Writing and Rhetoric department.

Language creates opportunity and is deeply tied to identity; this essay dives into that and considers our place in the world as travelers and critical thinkers. Written in emotional prose, this piece engages through a combination of deep vulnerability, philosophic thinking about trials and tribulations that everyone encounters, and moments of comedic learning.

## PARALLEL NARRATIVES IN CHRISTIAN EXTREMISM AND THE DOBBS V. JACKSON DECISION

Florence Rodman Stout

This Honors Project began as a continuation of the work I completed with Professor Kafrawi in the Summer Research Program over the summer of 2022. This research coincided with SCOTUS's *Dobbs v. Jackson* ruling that overturned *Roe v. Wade*. At the time the decision was published, I had spent weeks studying Christian extremist movements in the United States, particularly the way narrative contributes to their growth and maintenance. Reading through the SCOTUS decision with the same critical lens led me to my current research question: In what way do the narratives used by the Supreme Court in the recent *Dobbs v. Jackson* Decision parallel those used by Christian extremist organizations?

I approach this question in two ways. First, religious extremism itself is examined: the psychological underpinnings of religious extremist movements are analyzed alongside the role narratives play in their growth and maintenance. This framework is then extended to an overview of global examples of extremism contextualized by the role of narrative in each movement. Next, the historical context of *Dobbs v. Jackson* is analyzed, along with relevant contemporary Supreme Court decisions. The ultimate narrative comparison involves an examination of five extremist groups: Operation Save America, the Westboro Baptist Church, the Christian Identity Movement, Eric Rudolph, and the Army of God. Then, narratives central to their messaging are examined and compared to those found in the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision. In this examination, these parallel narratives are identified as serving unique purposes in their respective contexts. The parallel narratives found in these two contexts may be a site for future research.

## CREATIVE MOVEMENT FOR A CREATIVE LIFE

Harper Tanguay

Many parents put their children in dance classes at a young age, mainly to give them a release and a safe space to burn energy (and to give themselves some much-needed time alone). However, what may not be as obvious to these parents is the physical and psychological benefits children get from just one hour of dancing. Since coming to the Colleges, I have wanted to explore the connection between dance and cognitive development; here I blend these two passions and research the influence of movement and dance on early cognitive development in children.

I examine the original concept of Creative Movement developed for young children. Accessible to students of all levels, Creative Movement teaches the value of the mind, body, and attitude to help participants find their own personal expression, allowing new ways to grow and gain confidence. Creative Movement as a technique leverages some of Rudolph Laban's discoveries; together, Laban Movement Analysis and Bartineiff Fundamentals explore the ideas of space, time, and effort in the quality of movement.<sup>1</sup>

At a young age, it is impossible for children to understand these approaches, but with the technique of Creative Movement, children can explore and personalize these concepts based on how they feel and what they find most enjoyable and comfortable.<sup>2</sup> Studies have proven that young children with dance experience develop motor skills at a faster rate, while experiencing creativity and broadening their awareness and knowledge of ways of learning.<sup>3</sup> I aim to dive deeper to uncover and share the benefits of movement on early cognitive development.

<sup>1</sup> Louisapenfoldblog. (2021, January 3). How to teach creative movement to children. Art. Play. Children. Learning. <http://www.louisapenfold.com/creative-movement-young-children/>

<sup>2</sup> Lloyd, Marcia Lou. Creative Dance: A Manual for Teaching All Ages. University of Malaya Press. (2014)

<sup>3</sup> Anjos, I. de, & Ferraro, A. A. (2018). A influência da Dança Educativa no Desenvolvimento Motor de Crianças. Revista Paulista de Pediatria, 36(3), 337–344. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1984-0462/2018;36;3;00004>



## FROM LECTURES TO LEGACIES: ANGELA DAVIS AND THE UNIVERSITY

Gabriella Trevisani

Who is an accused terrorist charged on three accounts of murder, kidnapping, and conspiracy; a fugitive on the FBI's Top Ten Most Wanted List; a black feminist scholar who received a standing ovation in a packed crowd at Hobart & William Smith Colleges? You might be wondering, what do these three people have in common? What if I told you that they are all the same woman? For Angela Yvonne Davis, first impressions are deceiving, but this fiery orator is not afraid to stand her ground and, through her rhetoric, change our minds about how we judge others.

This project stems from a nonfiction narrative I submitted for the *Hobart Bicentennial Timeline* in the spring of 2022. I was tasked to profile Angela Davis and her three visits to the Colleges in 1986, 1995, and 2018. However, I was particularly intrigued by the timeliness of her lectures, the familiar thread of moments of political unrest, and why undergraduate students were her ideal audience to address. Once shunned from academia, spending decades rebuilding her activist identity, I argue that Davis empowers college students as the next generation of changemakers by targeting our open-mindedness at a liberal arts university.

As an Education major and a Writing & Rhetoric minor, I plan to incorporate both areas of pedagogy into my project, from analyzing the dialogue spoken at these lectures to how this analysis contributes to her HWS legacy to make visible the barriers of access to education.

## KINESTHETIC CLASSROOMS

Emma VanGorder

As a double major in Dance and Educational Studies and a candidate for the Master of Arts in Teaching, I delve into the integration of physical movement into classroom instruction. Drawing from Laban's six patterns of total body connectivity (PTBC) and Ann Green Gilbert's Brain Dance model, I aim to address the challenges teachers encounter in engaging students amidst shrinking attention spans, limited movement opportunities, and high academic demands.

Research suggests that physical movement correlates positively with information retention and learning outcomes,<sup>1</sup> yet post-pandemic, children's physical activity has declined significantly.<sup>2</sup> Fewer than 25% of children aged 6 to 17 engage in 60 minutes of physical activity daily, while merely 11% of school districts mandate that elementary schools incorporate routine classroom physical activity breaks throughout the school day.<sup>3</sup> Because of children's reduced physical activity levels, educators should integrate movement into their daily teaching instruction to support students' academic and social-emotional well-being.<sup>4</sup>

I explore methods for integrating movement into classroom instruction to increase student's awareness of the connection between mind and body, ultimately leading to improved student success. Laban's (PTBC) underscores that movement during instruction is key to improved academic outcomes, reiterated by Ann Green Gilbert's Brain Dance model. Through this integration, I hope to find ways for teachers to help center and enhance learner comprehension and motivation.

<sup>1</sup> Lengel, T., & Kuczala, M. (2010). *The kinesthetic classroom: Teaching and learning through movement*. Corwin.

<sup>2</sup> Wilson, D., & Conyers, M. (2015, May 1). *Smart Moves: Powering up the Brain with Physical Activity*. Kappanonline.org.

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, July 26). *Physical activity facts*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. cdc.gov.

<sup>4</sup> Johnson, B., & Jones, M. (2022). *Learning on your feet: Incorporating physical activity into the K-8 classroom*. Routledge.

## WE ARE FURTHER HOLDING: THE POEM-OBJECT'S RELATION TO MEMORY

Katelyn Weeks

*We Are Further Holding* is my poetry collection written in completion of my Honors project in English. My poetics have always centered the relationship between memory and emotion. Memories are faulty – light and wispy things which are altered each time you recall them. In the poems of *We Are Further Holding*, I investigate the ability for objects to act as vessels, holding a memory and allowing it to stick to the page. The poems focus on the “object-ness” of objects, the relationship of the tactile world to the emotional.

The selection of objects, from nightstands to words, is influenced by my study of Modernist writers such as Gertrude Stein and Marianne Moore. In the works by both these poets, poetic objects produce an element of shock from their humor and singularity. In my poetics, I am interested in the ways play and experimentation make their way into poems through the objects we use to describe our existence. Emotion in the poems of *We Are Further Holding* is precise, zeroed in on a specific memory and its emotional resonance. Through the description of a poetic object which is quotidian and real, the poems are able to stick to the page, as the more human the poetic object, the more real to the audience the emotion of the poem.

## WRITING COLLEAGUES' ROLE IN THE INTERSECTION OF DEPARTMENTS AND BUILDING COMMUNAL SPACES

Ella Weiss

The Writing Colleagues Program is one of the only programs on campus that intersects with all departments, all languages, and all disabilities that we encounter at HWS. My Writing Colleague philosophy allowed me to understand the idea of HWS as a blended community with the writing process at the center. During my time at HWS, the most impactful relationships and leadership roles have resulted from my time as a Writing Colleague, whether that has been guiding someone toward learning how to properly frame their academic papers for the next four years of their life, nominating someone I see to be a talented writer to join the program, or watching students I've worked with improve their writing skills immensely in just one semester. Seeing the HWS community as an intersection of studies and people with the writing process at the center motivated my writing of this statement. This project gave me an opportunity to demonstrate and reflect on the skills, abilities, and dispositions I have acquired over the course of my second placement as well as over my experience as a Writing Colleague as a whole to create a personal narrative and discussion surrounding rhetorical space.

At the first Professional Development Meeting of the Fall 2023 semester, William Smith alumna and our guest speaker Alex Hanson discussed her research about the feminist ethics of hope and care in pedagogy and how we put these ethics to work in our placements. In addition to her perspective, I also include sources regarding rhetorical space relating to the community established in the space of a Writing Colleague meeting. My motivation for the project comes from my deep appreciation for the professors I have worked with, students I have helped through the writing process, and Amy Green, Hannah Dickinson & Ben Ristow's job advising the program seamlessly.

## CREATING ROOM TO CULTIVATE COMMUNITIES: HWS STUDENT SPACES

Sadie Winton and Kassidy Wilmot

Shared student spaces are multipurpose areas where students can socialize, eat, study, and engage in various activities, ultimately fostering a sense of community and belonging. While some changes have been made over the past few years to communal spaces at HWS, there are still problems that need to be addressed.

Mary Gearan, the wife of HWS President Mark Gearan, is working to enhance community and belonging for students on campus. She has been active on campus working to revamp and redecorate student spaces, but would like to understand how these spaces can be improved, what spaces need to be created, and what students look for in a shared space.

We have conducted research by sampling a population of HWS students through an online survey that prompts students to reflect on the shared spaces they use, their feelings of belonging within the campus community, and the features they believe must be incorporated into a new space. This survey is being distributed to the entire student body through email, tabling in Scandling, and flyers. Additionally, we plan to have a conversation with HWS Sodexo, rather than a formal interview, to ask about staffing options and hours to further understand whether some spaces are more feasible than others for improvement.

We aim to provide Mary Gearan with the information needed to improve community and belonging on campus. Our goal is to find a location on campus that can be redesigned to better meet the needs of students, ultimately fostering a stronger sense of belonging.

## CHALLENGES AND SPORT

Frances Wilson

As a former competitive swimmer prior to participating on the team at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, I began to wonder how swimmers deal with obstacles, either with external or internal disabilities or challenges. David Abrahams, a partially blind Harvard swimmer, dealt with poor eyesight his entire life and struggled with schoolwork and swimming. As his eyesight grew worse, he realized that in order to achieve his goals, he needed to strategize and learn techniques in order to maintain his speed and endurance in the water. After interviewing him, I observed the challenges he faced in order to achieve his goal to participate in the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics. I furthered my understanding of how those who live with external or internal challenges overcome the boundaries within sports.

In this piece, I researched how the Paralympics grouped swimmers with similar disabilities in order to give every athlete a fair advantage. From this research, I was able to define and articulate who the Paralympics strived to support within the realm of sports and how David was able to participate in this life-changing event. From this, I hope to gain an understanding of how to support athletes with external and internal challenges and the inner workings of how athletes strategize their techniques in order to pursue their goals within their sport.

## THERE'S NO SHADE HERE: INTERROGATING THE LEVERAGE OF BLACK BEAUTY INFLUENCERS

July Winters

My project asks what we can learn about influencer culture by engaging with minority voices. Currently, much of the media scholarship surrounding the achievement of Instagram fame analyzes white bodies in this space. Because of this, there is a false sense of equal opportunity in self-starting a career as an Instagram influencer. This project interrogates the hidden roadblocks for Black influencers entering the space. Specifically, I concentrate on Black women influencers within the Lifestyle and Beauty content space.

I perform a discourse analysis using text derived from the comments and posts of Instagram influencers. I also take the aesthetics of their posts into account. Additionally, I collect direct anecdotes from influencers through interviews. Specifically, I examine how these influencers, along with Black women that consume their content, engage with topics of European beauty standards within their community.

I argue that despite the lack of traditional structures of power in the social media landscape, Black women still perform additional labor in an attempt to level the playing field. This labor is caused, in part, by conventional beauty standards found in analog forms of media. However, I suggest that at a time when the digital arena is a prime landscape for challenging hegemonic norms, the responsibility of breaking those norms falls on Black women, and illuminate these disparities to highlight the importance of promoting equity within the industry and lifting marginalized voices.

## EVERYONE MOVE

Ahmed Wise

We currently live in a world that supports a sedentary lifestyle in all that we do. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 1 in 4 Americans are physically inactive, which can increase the chances of cardiovascular diseases, cancer, stress disorders, and more. As a Dance Movement Studies and Educational Studies double major, I will use my experience as a mover and an educator to create yoga-based movement classes for three different populations: 2nd grade school children, a class of Down syndrome college students, and a group of college students and adults. Through referencing the “Journal of Sport and Health Science” and my lived experience, I hope to showcase somatic movement’s potential for all demographics when tailored responsibly.

My research advocates preventative and holistic health practices, which proves to be beneficial for cognitive and physical development of all individuals. My goal is demonstrating accessibility and usefulness for all through movements that build bodily self-awareness through stretching, strengthening and somatic yoga. Having been a college athlete and now a dancer, I incorporate that embodied wisdom into targeted lesson plans. This research will determine how I will lead the movement sessions differently based on that given group. My teaching must attune to each group’s individual needs. For example, children require a more creative sense of engagement to keep them entertained; it is crucial to give adaptive options for various capabilities for all students, but especially those with DS, while adults may benefit from anatomical terminology.



## INFORMING THE CHOREOGRAPHIC PROCESS WITH AN LBMA FRAMEWORK

Emma Yeager

What is Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis? What is the choreographic process? How can concepts from Laban Movement Analysis inform and enliven the creative process in dance choreography?

Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis was first developed by the architect Rudolph Von Laban, who pursued a better way for perceiving movement and sought to create a way for individuals to access more movement potential through conscious intentionality. L/BMA further enriches the pursuit of moving by increasing movement possibilities and providing options for greater clarity. In the LBMA framework, the elements of body, effort, shape, and space come together within a specific context to create infinite relationships within movement and challenge perspectives in ever evolving ways. L/BMA is layered and nuanced, providing opportunities for inroads and intersections within other theoretical dance frameworks, such as choreographic approaches.

By exploring my own choreographic work this semester, with references to texts, I seek to analyze L/BMA in the context of dance choreography. I aim to create a foundation of choreographic prompts based in Laban's theories of movement analysis that can be utilized for anyone attempting to choreograph, making the process more accessible to beginners. Merging the ideas of L/BMA and compositional approaches together in order to widen perspectives on meaning making, relationships (self, other, environment), and perceptions/interactions with space will give me and artists more tools for our work.