

A large, multi-story stone castle with multiple towers and crenellations, set against a clear blue sky. The castle is surrounded by a green lawn and some trees. In the foreground, there is a paved road with white directional arrows.

Arcadia University

History Department of Historical & Political Studies

**Senior Thesis Capstone
2020**

Friday, April 24, 2020 ♦ **Noon - 4:00 p.m.**

Department of Historical and Political Studies
History Senior Theses Presentations

Presenters

(IN ORDER OF PRESENTATION)

Amanda Dombroski
Emma Connolly
Morgan Keller
David Jerez-Szathmary
Krystine O'Connor
Clare Donovan
Houda Ouadda
Jack Shoplock
Joseph Worstall
Catherine Hill
Marisa Gonzalez
Haley Nixon
Tori Zangrilli
Emily Price
Michael Costigan



Amanda Dombroski

***Mind the Gap: The Metropolitan Railway, Metro-Land,
and the Birth of the Modern Metropolis***

Abstracts

(IN ORDER OF PRESENTATION)

The purpose of this paper is to provide an analysis of the role of the Metropolitan Railway Company and Metro-Land in the creation of the modern metropolis London that we are familiar with today. To do this, I will trace the history of the push for railway networks within London, the early efforts to create them, the eventual implementation of the London Underground, and the effects that this network had on the city and its expansion. Furthermore, I will be looking specifically at the Metropolitan Railway Company and its suburbs, affectionately known as Metro-Land, on account of the fact that it was the first underground railway (despite the majority of it actually being above ground) and how it set a precedent for the establishment of subsequent lines and suburbs along them. Metro-Land also provides an interesting case study, given the Metropolitan Railway Company had special privileges from the government for its building expenditures and land usage through acts of Parliament and grants from the City of London, allowing it to become the giant that it is today. Finally, this paper will touch on the enduring significance of the London Underground, socially, politically, and culturally, as well as providing discussion on why the Underground map itself illustrates the reconfiguration of the city and the introduction of a new modernity. The Metropolitan Railway and Metro-Land played a significant role in the development of the modern day metropolis and set a precedent for future transportation infrastructure and the suburbanization of Greater London and beyond.



Emma Connolly

*Altered Narratives: How Women Changed History
in the Post-Civil War South*

This project examines the rise and fall of various women's organizations in the approximately half century following the American Civil War, focusing specifically on how these organizations strove to alter the historical narrative of the war and the Confederacy. By examining the broader trend of Ladies' Memorial Associations and the resulting creation of the United Daughters of the Confederacy—a memorial group still active today—it becomes clear how and why the narrative of the Civil War differs so drastically between the north and the south. Through an examination of the origins of these women's organizations, as well as an analysis of the various activities they engaged in, this paper aims to explain the process by which these women were able to change the accepted historical narrative of this period. The source material for this project includes the authoritative texts on women and the Lost Cause, documentation of the various monuments and memorials erected to the memory of Confederate veterans, as well as various texts written by these organizations explaining their methods and purpose. The white southern women of the immediate post-war era are an interesting example of how the historical narrative of a region can become intentionally biased through an organized effort, as well as how women of this time period utilized the often patriarchal structure of their culture in order to make an impact on the next generation. Through their involvement in supposedly benevolent activities, such as memorialization, education, and preservation of "true" history, these women were able to almost completely rewrite the history of the Civil War, and indoctrinate entire generations of southern children into this belief system, leading to the perpetuation of dangerous misinformation into the modern era.



Morgan Keller

Chernobyl, 1986

Nuclear energy became an important part of the Soviet Union's history with the creation of the first ever nuclear plant to generate electricity in 1954: Obninsk. With its massive success, the Soviet Union determined that nuclear energy would be an effective resource to power the nation. Due to this belief, Chernobyl was built. This plant was intended to be the largest source of power to date and the Soviets hoped it would put the Soviet Union back on the map, as they were afraid to appear as though they were falling behind the rest of the world. For such a crucially important project, they worked to ensure that the design and safety precautions were thorough. However, both of these things would be tossed aside, due to the Communist party's involvement in both its construction and day to day functioning. The building structure would be compromised and the safety regulations forgotten as the workers rushed to complete the plant. This was due to a variety of reasons: the communist party had little patience, and those in charge were in fear of losing their jobs and standing, and thus they were willing to falsify reports and use faulty or broken parts to accomplish the job. All of this would factor in to the meltdown of nuclear reactor four. The nuclear meltdown at Chernobyl was a preventable disaster, as the event transpired due, in immediate terms, to incompetence and, in the most fundamental way, because of the flaws in the Soviet Union's political system.



David Jerez-Szathmary

The Story of the “Mighty Eighth” 1941-1945: Pearl Harbor to Normandy and Beyond

My thesis is about the American Eighth Air Force, and the role it played in World War II. When the unit was activated in January of 1942, it had only a handful of men, and no aircraft. By the end of the war in 1945, the “Mighty Eighth” was 350,000 strong, stationed across over 100 bases in England, and had lost 26,000 men, more than the United States Marine Corps had lost in all of World War II. By 1943, the Western Allies planned to open a second front against Nazi Germany, by invading Western Europe. With all of Western Europe under Nazi control or influence, the only way to attack them prior to an invasion, and weaken their ability to repel said invasion, was from the air. The Eighth Air Force, along with the Royal Air Force, were called on to perform this task. This was a new kind of war: a bombing campaign on such a scale had never been done before, and as a result, everything they learned about how to carry out this campaign successfully had to be learned through trial and error. I show how the Eighth Air Force had a decisive role in making D-Day possible. Using primary sources, postwar analyses and secondary sources, I analyze how they failed to destroy the German war machine, but succeeded in destroying the Luftwaffe and making the Third Reich’s oil resources run dry. I also show how the Eighth Air Force, through trial and error, changes in policy, not to mention resources and manpower, went from a failure to a success story.



Krystine O’Connor

Criminals In Action: The CIA and the Crack Epidemic

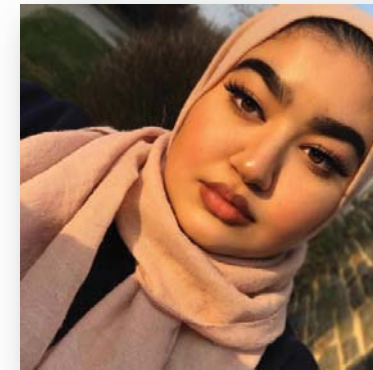
The Crack Epidemic hit the United States in the early years of the 1980’s. Crack was cheaper to produce and therefore cheaper to distribute. The Crack Epidemic disproportionately affected black communities and created long lasting issues that crippled many communities for decades to come. Incarceration rates, death rates, gang violence, fetal death rates and long term health effects rose dramatically between 1980-1995. With the epidemic reaching its peak and its effects becoming unavoidable, communities struggled to find a reason as to how crack had gotten into the country and into their cities. In 1996 a small town journalist from San Jose named Gary Webb published his series entitled ‘Dark Alliance’, where he reported his findings from following an investigation involving the trial of known crack dealer, Ricky Ross. My essay discusses how Webb’s findings were able to spread nationwide and the effects that the series had on the affected communities. I also cross-examine Webb’s evidence with official reports from the OIG, OIJ, CIA and other testimonies to determine the validity of Webb’s claims.



Clare Donovan

***“A Burden Upon the Rest”: The Impact of Family Studies
on the American Eugenics Movement***

During the height of the Eugenics Movement, 15 studies were published focusing on the “disease of degeneracy” in impoverished rural communities across the United States. These studies sought to prove the connection between societal issues, such as poverty and crime, and heredity; poverty was not seen as a product of inequality but one of personal choices and attributes passed down through unfavorable bloodlines. The localized nature of these studies made its claims easily relatable to many Americans who began to see degeneracy as an epidemic. My thesis explores how family studies positively impacted the Eugenics Movement by substantiating its claims and giving its proponents the ability to gain support in academia, politics, and from much of the general public. In analyzing multiple family histories, I argue that family studies were integral to the transformation of Eugenics from a body of ideas into what was perceived as an evidence-based science. Additionally, family studies fostered the integration of eugenic thought into law which, for a few decades, ensured that measures such as forced sterilizations were seen as necessary to public health and grounded in constitutional legitimacy.



Houda Ouadda

Marginalization of Algeria and Morocco’s Berbers

The purpose of this paper is to explore the process of Arabization in Northern Africa, and the severe effects it had and continues to have on the largely indigenous population of Algeria and Morocco. This paper aims to answer the following questions: What is Pan-Arabism, what was the result of this ideology, how did it affect Berbers, what have Berbers done to combat this marginalization, and what have governments done in recent years to fix this marginalization? The paper opens up with an introduction to the history of Northern Africa: Pre-Islamic, Islamic, and European colonization and decolonization. It goes on to explain the ideology of Pan-Arabism that was designed to unite Northern Africa under the identity of being Arab and led to the linguistic, cultural and educational marginalization of the Berbers. The paper then delves deeper and explores the policies implemented by the Moroccan and Algerian governments that reduces Berber culture to folklore status. This paper concludes with current-day Berber identity movements and government reactions to these movements’ demands.

Jack Shoplock

Murder, Mayhem, Manson

Charles Manson is one extremely horrifying, yet alluring, figure to emerge in recent history, in part due to his crimes and their nature, and his odd behavior displayed during his famous trials in the early 1970s. Born in a small town in 1934, Charlie took to criminality from a young age, being institutionalized for over half his life before he was finally released in 1967 during the heyday of the summer of love in San Francisco. Once back on his feet, he began a quest for musical superstardom, gathering a harem of unstable, broken and misused runaway teens wandering around the hippie capital. Soon he would have about three dozen young men and women under his spell. During this time, Manson crossed paths with many renowned musicians and celebrities, including Dennis Wilson, Neil Young and Terry Melcher, who he hoped to secure a record deal from and become bigger than the Beatles. However, when rejection came, Manson turned to rage and paranoia, conjuring up images of a race war, the destruction of civilization, and the imminent rise of Helter Skelter, a combination of both the latter ideas. In reality, this was most likely just a scheme from the unstable, but criminally clever, Charlie to get members of his family to enact revenge against the society that since birth had discarded Manson to the side. Someone with Charlie's enormous and twisted ego just could not conceptualize why this would happen to him. No-one can truly know if Manson truly believed in Helter Skelter and the apocalypse, or just implemented the idea into the minds of his followers in order to have his revenge on 'straight society.' However, it is possible to come up with a plausible answer that combines Manson's traumatic personal biography and how it intersected with the fallout from the hippie dream gone bad.



Joseph Worstall

Enduring the Unendurable: Examining Cultural Trauma in Postwar Japanese Film

WWII and its aftermath fundamentally changed the collective consciousness of the Japanese people. For the first time in history, and at a tremendous cost, the country was vanquished. By the end of the war, sixty-seven cities had been firebombed, three million people had been killed, and millions more found themselves suffering from poverty, hunger, and homelessness. Most controversially, the USAAF dropped atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki—two acts which have been so universally condemned that they've never been repeated. For the next seven years, the U.S. armed forces occupied the country and charted its course, effectively operating a colonial puppet regime. But there are limitations to looking at the facts alone. By contextualizing and analyzing four films of the early postwar era, this paper takes an actively empathetic approach toward understanding how the Japanese examined, debated, and eventually came to terms with their own wartime experiences. Drawing on a variety of sources from sociologists, historians, and film critics alike, the aim is to emphasize the incredible power of artistic expression in the complex process of overcoming cultural trauma. One Wonderful Sunday (1947) displays the cathartic release of the war generation's deep despair. Rashomon (1950) casts light, via allegory, on the problems of memory and truth in a defeated nation. Gojira (1954) explores the guilt and sorrow of the Japanese, declaring "never again" to nuclear war. Finally, Pigs and Battleships (1961) shows the continuing struggles of Japan's first postwar generation, offering a glimmer of hope to those yet to come. These films, chosen both for the breadth of topics they engage with and their enduring renown so many decades later, tell the story of how the Japanese were able to "endure the unendurable".



Catherine Hill

The Reconquista and Crusading in the Late 11th Century and Early 12th Century

The purpose of this project is to recount the historiography and literature of the Crusades and the Reconquista and then offer some commentary on their relationship in Spain in the late 11th and early 12th centuries. Both of these fields have a tremendous amount of scholarship to understand these phenomena in medieval history. Therefore, the scope of this project is to compile the main scholarly debates surrounding the connection between the Crusades and the Reconquista and consider the evidence for the various approaches. The relevant background history of the Reconquista contextualizes the literature of the two fields. The main debates within the scholarship of the Crusades and the Reconquest of Iberia will be considered in order to set up each field and their literatures. The final section will consider the scholarship on the relationship between the Crusades and the Reconquista. Defining a Reconquista as a crusade or a crusade as a form of Reconquest ignores too much of the vast literature that highlights both events as evolving historical events wrought with complexities and ever-changing characteristics. Rather, it will be argued the Crusades and the Reconquista share a complicated history and a relationship that the most respected scholars of the period have grappled with. This work will show how these two medieval events have become interlaced and developed into large scale narratives of the past, which should continue to be evaluated by medieval scholars.

Marisa Gonzalez

The Cyprus “Problem”: How Civil Society Has Found A Path to Peace in a Decades Old Conflict

Cyprus, at a crossroads of civilizations in the Eastern Mediterranean, has been heavily shaped by third-party influences. The divisions that today have resulted in a de facto partition of the island with seemingly no solution, the “Cyprus problem,” can be traced back to not only the deep-rooted ethnic conflicts between the majority Greek Cypriots and the minority Turkish Cypriots, but to the various conflicting international influences fueling them. Since its 1960 independence, Cyprus has been framed in the context of unresolvable ethnic differences that foreign powers have capitalized on. As the conflict developed around the threat of making internal Cypriot problems broader international ones, the two ethnic communities have given little ground. Though politicians from various interest groups since before independence sought to find a solution to the divisions on the island, no formal political solution has yet been established. Despite this, the modern Cyprus problem has shown signs of thawing as the nation and its leaders begin to separate from the international context. Through a new framework, civil society has found solutions from their place in the conflict where international and political actors have not. However, they remain blocked by lack of legitimization by those same international actors. The Cyprus problem persists today due to the influence from these various outside interest groups, who, while trying to establish a peace, have become part of the persisting problem.



Haley Nixon

The Celts and Christianity: The Celtic Religion and How the Rise of Christianity Affected It

Christianity was introduced to the Celtic people by the Romans in the 5th century CE. Just as they began to get a foothold in the Celtic region, the Romans backed out of their British occupation. This allowed for more freedom in how Christianity was adopted by the Celts. The Celtic pagan religion that was established long before Christianity had enough symbolic similarities with the newer religion that the two melded together fairly well in some ways. However other aspects weren't as simple. The Christian leaders altered and even sometimes erased parts of the Celtic religion in order to fit the two together. Not everything was touched, though, and some of the more grounded elements remained. This paper analyses the extent of those alterations and impacts that Christianity had on Celtic paganism.



Tori Zangrilli

The Escalation of the Anti-War Movement After the Tet Offensive

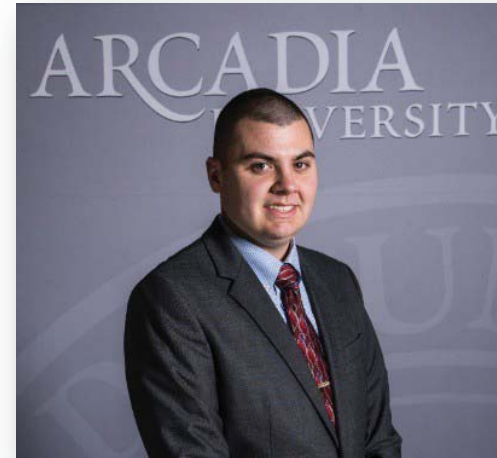
The Vietnam War sparked a definitive moment in American history. It was one of the deadliest wars, as well as the first war that split the American public and turned them against each other and the administration. The questions that will be analyzed throughout this paper are: Why was there such a large escalation in the anti-war movement after the Tet Offensive? Did the Tet Offensive make a difference to the anti-war movement? The Vietnam War did not have full support from the public like other wars in the past. However, a large amount of the nation did support the Johnson administration and the war effort. However, others who questioned the decisions of their country stopped automatically assuming America stood for democracy and justice in the world, and therefore many people were not only against the war, but saw the United States as a deeply unjust society. All through the beginning years of the war, the anti-war movement remained small. Throughout this paper, it will be argued that it was not until the Tet Offensive that this really began to change. After the Tet Offensive in 1968, there was a surge in the anti-war movement across the United States. Tet made many among the American people come to the realization that the war was far from over, and the U.S. was not close to winning, as previously believed. Also, Vietnam was the first war to be broadcast to the American public. Television and the media generally played a big role in shaping public opinion. The unfortunate results in Vietnam outraged a massive amount of the American people, resulting in a large escalation in the anti-war movement.



Emily Price

***Rational Beings: Examining the Cat-Dog Divide
in the Medieval World***

The spiritual chasm of status that exists between man and beast is daily put to the test by the very beasts kept in our homes. Human beings have a long history of keeping animals for one reason or another, but it has only been recently that the concept of animals purely maintained for companionship has taken center stage. The Middle Ages in particular served as a transformative moment in the history of the “pet,” where not only was the role of the animal within man’s existence re-examined, but so, too, were the specific animals preferred by different cultures more solidly defined. As the old axiom of “man’s best friend” is so ubiquitous within the Christian consciousness today, so does Islam parallel this with the normalized presence of cats in urban centers like Istanbul—and the roots of this divergence can be found in the Medieval period. Pet ownership for the sake of companionship is at least demonstrated to be most common amongst the elites. Pets are far more likely to be used for their ability to aid humans, and any friendship the owner may take up with the animal is often regarded as incidental. Dogs can be utilized for their skills of hunting and tracking, something that would be more widely useful for the common man, or even for a Christian nobleman interested in hunting for sport. Cats, contrastingly, are primarily beneficial in terms of their ability to control rat populations, protecting not only food stores, but also expensive texts that may be chewed by them; furthermore, cats are notoriously independent and difficult to train. The preference for cats in the medieval Muslim world and dogs in the medieval Christian world can thus be explained not by differences in the religions or animals themselves, but rather by a complicated blend of factors ideological, political, and social in the respective environments.



Michael Costigan

***A Treacherous Transformation: 1968 and the Collapse
of the Liberal Consensus***

1968 was a year of upheaval in America--especially in politics. The year featured a presidential election between Richard Nixon (R), Hubert Humphrey (D), and third-party candidate George Wallace. This election was one of the closest in American history. It marks a significant transition, coming four years after a Democratic landslide, and four years before Richard Nixon's landslide re-election. The 1968 election uniquely captures four important trends in U.S. Politics. The American public had grown increasingly dissatisfied with President Johnson and the war in Vietnam, illustrated by Eugene McCarthy’s campaign. The South, a longtime bastion of Democratic support, accelerated its transition to the Republican Party. White working-class voters in the Northeast and Midwest voiced their frustration with the establishment and the counterculture, through the campaigns of Wallace and Nixon. Finally, the Democratic Party grappled with its nominating process, turning over significant power to the people through primaries and significantly more democratic delegations. The current American political landscape reflects these long-term trends collectively, which began to transform American politics beginning in 1968.

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