



Capstone 2020

International Studies Program Senior Thesis Presentations



Tuesday, May 5, 2020

10 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Student panels throughout day

**Student Advisers: Dr. Hilary Parsons Dick and Dr. Jennifer Riggan
Department of Historical and Political Studies**

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES VIRTUAL CAPSTONE SCHEDULE Spring 2020

PANEL 1	<i>Making Criminal and Enemy Others</i>	10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
	Catherine Hill Sarah Krimson Ashley Lamoreaux Jeremy Lepore Catherine McGurk	
PANEL 2	<i>Place and Power</i>	11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
	Selena Colon Shannon Deforest Brenna Dufour Sarah Green Casey Lebo Renee Travis	
PANEL 3	<i>The Resurgent Right and Its Others</i>	12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
	Caitlin Aldridge LaTae Johnson Zack Konopa Madeline Ritter Heidi Specht	
PANEL 4	<i>The Production and Politics of Identities</i>	2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Clare Donovan Sabrina Freed Kiara Jacoby Tessa Kilcourse Destiny (DJ) Torres Luke Victor	
PANEL 5	<i>Migration, Culture, and Policy</i>	3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.
	Nicole Alfonso Ramirez Olivia Grajewski Raquel Kubicz Sarah Velasquez Claire Weisner	

The Launching of the Tenth Crusade:
Medievalism and Post-9/11 Discursive Deployments against an Enduring Enemy

Catherine Hill

Abstract: This paper demonstrates that the discourse produced by the Bush Administration in the aftermath of 9/11 effectively constituted the War on Terrorism as the tenth crusade. Almost immediately, Bush's discursive deployment of the Crusades functioned to construct a Muslim enemy. Civilizational divides found in Bush's speeches framed the enemy other as Eastern, Muslim, and medieval. The Administration deployed rhetoric of good versus evil, us versus them, and East versus West dichotomies. This discourse also framed the war as an inevitable clash of civilizations between America and an enduring other in the Middle East. Bush's employment of civilizational dichotomies, the Crusades, and positioning of the enemy as medieval legitimized the War on Terror against the age-old constructed enemy of the West—Islam. Through imitating the structure of the Crusades, the War on Terror became another conflict in the history of Western crusading. Using Ethnographic Discourse Analysis (EDA), this thesis provides an analysis of the language of Bush and his officials to understand its larger contextual significance, socio-political implications, and effects of discursive practices (Wotham and Reyes 2015). EDA's purpose is to show how these practices systematically construct social dynamics and non-normative behavior. Post-9/11 political discourse in the Bush administration was further evaluated by drawing on Edward Said's conceptualization of Orientalism, Derek Gregory's theory of civilizational divides, and Andrew B.R. Elliott's analytical framework of medievalism (Said 1991; Gregory 2004; Elliott 2017). These frameworks evaluate how the discursive deployment of the Crusades and medieval rhetoric cast the War on Terror as a civilizational struggle fought to preserve civilization from the "heathen."

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Jennifer Riggan

PANEL 1

Making Criminal and Enemy Others

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Catherine Hill

Sarah Krimson

Ashley Lamoreaux

Jeremy Lepore

Catherine McGurk

The USA Patriot Act: A Policy of Discrimination

Sarah Krimson

Abstract: In response to the increased national security threat caused by the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 the United States implemented new anti-terrorism laws, such as those found in USA Patriot Act, which have made many Muslim individuals vulnerable to racial profiling and discrimination. Through a close examination of the Act, this analysis argues that the adoption of racial profiling policies and procedures which target Muslims that has been enabled by the USA Patriot Act, in addition to subsequent policies influenced by this Act, has perpetuated and normalized a problematic association of Islam with terrorism by placing it at the center of official, institutionalized security practices since 9/11. After establishing both the existence of and the rationale behind racial profiling in the United States prior to 9/11, I demonstrate the comprehensive shift in profiling tactics and in the target population for law enforcement and security agencies after 9/11. Finally, I show how ambiguous sections and clauses found throughout Title II of the Patriot Act have led to the misapplication of the law and abuses of enforcement by law and security officials, as well as the general public's acceptance of such discriminatory behavior simply because the features and traits of individuals have been deemed a "threat" to national security. Recommendations are made to modify the security policies and procedures outlined in the Patriot Act to create profiles targeting individuals based on race, gender, age, and other factors in order to substantially mitigate the chances of error in judgement during the screening process, rather than relying solely on the broad category of "Middle Eastern appearance", of which is often referred to for a potential terrorist pool.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Hilary Parsons Dick

Externalizing the Internal: The Criminalization and Externalization
of the Black Township-dweller in Post-Apartheid South Africa

Ashley Lamoreaux

Abstract: This research, focused in contemporary South Africa, analyzes criminality through the interlinkages between marginalization, space, and public discourse. The discursive stigmatization projected upon certain racial groups directly results in the criminalization of these groups and their township communities. These racial groups and related geographical territories mirror the same segregated and discriminatory political system that was, and arguably still remains, as apartheid South Africa. These constructed stigmatizations perpetuate apartheid-era collective memory—one that is deeply embedded with institutionalized racism as well as the structural and historical remains of apartheid geographies. As a result, the state-sponsored violence that is waged against these groups is justified through this criminalization, and subsequently waged through the rapid militarization of the police force. Despite the symbolic essence of change which followed the democratic transition in 1994, the new South African government continues to militarize the police force and deploy them into townships to fight the disillusioned War on Crime. Because these apartheid-era geographies are unduly criminalized through popularized understandings of crime and criminality, the socio-political landscape of apartheid maintains its integrity. The data collected helps illustrate how the black South African township dweller has been thrust into a racial and spatial historicization of society which has already labeled him as criminal through discursive propaganda that constructs ideas of criminality and misconstrues them with notions of space, race, morality and humanness; further, these discursive stigmas have worked within public discourse and through public policy to justify the army's deployment into vulnerable township communities, destabilizing these communities and perpetuating their suffering.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Jennifer Riggan

Rehabilitating Sexually Abusive Clerics: an examination into the role of clerical-Child
Sexual Abuse in contemporary Church-State relations

Jeremy Lepore

Abstract: This paper explores how and why we have seen an increase in Western State supervision over religious affairs within the past three decades. An increase in supervision comes as Western States begin to exert greater influence over extra-Statal authorities, in response to a public or national demand for a reevaluation in State–non-State socio-political relations. This article considers, in the evaluation of Church-State relations, how there has been an increase in awareness since the 2000's of the clerical-Child Sexual Abuse (cCSA) problems present within the Catholic Church, and how this has led to an investigatory response on the part of State authorities where cCSA has reached a breaking point within popular, public opinion (especially in the USA, Ireland, and Australia). It further argues that this response has effected a campaign seeking the homogenization of national ideology, particularly centering around criminal justice theory, and a rejection of non-Western, democratic ideologies.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Hilary Parsons Dick

Supervised Injection Facilities:
A Critical Review of Cases in Canada, Australia, and Western European

Catherine McGurk

Abstract: Globally, communities are experiencing increasing overdose mortality as well as infectious disease among injection drug users (Kerr, Kimber, Debeck, Wood, 2007). Contemporary drug policy in most parts of the world still rely heavily on prohibition and criminalization, however in response to the HIV/Aids epidemic of the 1980s some regions in Europe opted for a harm reduction approach and instituted needle exchange programs and supervised injection facilities (Kammersgaard, 2019). These supervised injection facilities are sanctioned areas where people who inject drugs can inject pre obtained drugs under medical supervision, gain access to sterile injection equipment, receive emergency overdose response, and referrals to social programs (Kerr, Mitra, Kennedy, McNeil, 2017). My research focuses on the effectiveness of these supervised injection facilities in Western Europe, Australia, and Canada as a harm reduction response to treating injection drug use as a health issue rather than a judicial issue. I explore how these international cases can support efforts to start safe injection sites in the United States. By examining international cases of supervised injection facilities and their benefits as a public health intervention for opioid addiction I explore the feasibility of this controversial harm reduction tool being implemented in the Kensington area of Philadelphia, United States as the usually prohibitionist country begins to open up to treating people who inject drugs with more comprehensive care.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Jennifer Riggan

South Korea: Where Pop Culture and Politics Collide
Selena Colon

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Hilary Parsons Dick

Behind the Images: The Hidden Agenda in Maps of Palestine-Israel

Shannon DeForest

Abstract: Maps can be understood as scientific or artistic representations of geography. They can be used as political propaganda or issued as a national standard. Maps are in our schools, homes, workplaces, phones, and even the backseats of our cars. While maps can be studied for their functional uses, they can also be analyzed as rhetorical devices. Analyzing the inclusion or exclusion of mapping elements such as orientation, coloring, labels, scope and scale, infrastructure, and significant locations helps reveal the hidden agendas and socio-political dynamics that affect cartographic production. This thesis uses rhetorical cartographic theory to analyze maps produced by the United Nations, the Israeli Ministry of Defense, and the Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem. There are significant discrepancies in locational labels, language choices, and infrastructural detail. Despite depicting the same geographic location, the high degree of cartographic variability between each map producing body indicates the influence of social hierarchies, political power dynamics, and perceived geographic importance when depicting Palestine-Israel.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Jennifer Riggan

Colonialism in the Gaza Strip: Understanding the Degradation
of Infrastructure Following the 2007 Blockade

Brenna Dufour

Abstract: This paper analyzes the economic and security policies that have been implemented by Israel in the Gaza Strip. Following the Six-Day War and the implementation of the 2007 air, land, and sea blockade, Israel deployed numerous preemptive self-defense measures that have degraded the Gaza Strip's infrastructure. The 2007 Israeli blockade led to a vast humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip and has been associated with numerous violations of international humanitarian law. Scholars have theorized that the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip and subsequent degradation of the Gazan socio-political, economic, and physical infrastructures can be understood through several theoretical frameworks: postcolonialism (Gregory 2004), ethnocratic settler states (Yiftachel 2003) and self-determination (Awawda 2018). The "colonial like" structures implemented by the Israelis have facilitated de-development of Gaza's basic infrastructure and municipalities, which has crippled Gaza's capacity to provide essential utilities to its people.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Jennifer Riggan

PANEL 2

Place and Power

11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Selena Colon

Shannon DeForest

Brenna Dufour

Sarah Green

Casey Lebo

Renee Travis

The Buzz About Ethiopia: A Look at Self-Reliance, Beekeeping, and Local Economies

Sarah Green

Abstract: Upheld by 12 million smallholder farms which account for 95% of agricultural production, Ethiopian's are highly dependent on their agricultural industry. These smallholder farms account for 85% of the country's labor force, and this lack of income diversification has led to an estimated 33% of Ethiopians living in poverty. While the agricultural industry is not annually sustainable due to drought and lack of infrastructure, Ethiopia's thriving apicultural (beekeeping) industry has led the country to become the highest honey producer in Africa, creating over 45,000 tons of honey per year. With the help of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), beekeeping has been promoted nationwide as an income diversifying practice, prompting over 1.9 million households to adopt the craft. I argue that with the support of NGOs, beekeeping fosters localized self-reliant development, which in turn encourages a fruitful cycle of economic and ecological diversification, providing alternative forms of income as well as enhancing existing agricultural practices and plots. Case studies provide detailed analyses of apiaries, including regional factors, number of hives, honey yield, etc, which are necessary in determining the effectiveness of beekeeping in local communities. By turning to apiculture-focused NGO websites and personal testimonials, I analyze the goals and practices initiated in rural Ethiopian communities in order to understand the direct economic and social effects of beekeeping.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Hilary Parsons Dick

Post-War Ethno-Religious Nationalism and the Establishment of Israeli Settlements: 1967-1975

Casey Lebo

Abstract: The Six-Day and Yom Kippur Wars created a political and social climate that was welcoming to the establishment of Israeli settlements. Settlements, which are illegally established communities, first appeared in Israeli occupied territory following the Six-Day War; however, civilian-driven settlements only began after the Yom Kippur War in 1973. I make the argument that the three key factors, necessary for the creation of settlements, emerged following these wars: the weaponization and use of religion to legitimate unverifiable territorial claims, the unique Israeli ethnic identity, and an anxiety about the presence of the non-Israeli populace. First, in an effort to legitimate the settlements, Israelis were consciously creating unverifiable religious connections to certain areas to ensure Israeli dominance over the land. Concurrently, a new Israeli ethnic identity was being constructed around their shared religion, and language, which bolstered a sense of ethnic nationalism. From this sense of ethnic nationalism came an anxiety about the non-Israeli population in Israel, which caused Israelis to feel threatened by the existence of a separate population within Israel. These factors ultimately culminated in the creation of the settlement movement.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Jennifer Riggan

Natural Resources in the Arctic: Geopolitical Impact Natural Resources Have on the Canadian Inuit

Renee Travis

Abstract: Out of the 4 million inhabitants in the Arctic, about 1.13 million of those are Indigenous. The melting sea ice combined with the large quantities of oil and gas in the Arctic making it an area of new possibilities. Therefore, it is important to understand how the unresolved tensions between mainland Canadian sovereignty, Inuit native sovereignty, and Canadian Arctic sovereignty violate fundamental Indigenous human and sovereign rights of the Inuit by enabling excess resource extraction that makes Inuit practice, inherent to their sovereignty, difficult to practice. The thesis provides a review of scholarly sources to determine the impact that natural resource extraction has had on the Canadian Inuit and their livelihoods. The findings indicate that although effort has been made to include Inuit sovereignty and human rights in decision-making, their voices have not been properly heard and acknowledged resulting in loss of linguistic and traditional hunting practices. Knowledge of Inuit, and other Indigenous groups, practices are important in creating a cohesive partnership between the corporations and Indigenous communities in order to create a broad, ground-level approach. Arctic states and corporations can help by allowing Indigenous voices on international decision-making bodies with the ability to vote.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Hilary Parsons Dick

Rising British Ethno-Nationalism and the Saliency of Racialized Discourse
in British Mainstream News Media

Caitlin Aldridge

Abstract: Over the last two decades, the prominence of far-right speech in mainstream British news sources has grown exponentially. Due to the efforts of far-right groups like the British National Party and the UK Independence Party, a distinctly racialized discourse has emerged surrounding British nationality and migration, obfuscating immigration debates with questions of “British identity”—who is British, what are British values, and, above all, who should be allowed to live in Britain. I argue that the British far-right employs a discourse to racialize both migrants and Muslims as unwanted “Others.” They do so by characterizing migrants and Muslims as aliens who threaten the notions of British indigeneity, national purity, and security. This discourse hinges British citizenship on ideas of race, and places immigration and immigrants—particularly Muslim migrants—as diametrically opposed to the concepts of Britain and Britishness. Using an ethnographic discourse analysis technique from Wortham and Reyes (2015) along with key anthropological theories on the construction of difference and enmity, I analyze notable racialized speech events from top far-right figures in the UK’s most-used television and print news sources within the last ten years.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Jennifer Riggan

The Political Consequences of “Rape Prevention” and Other Principally Assimilative Components
of the Introduction Programme for Norwegian Immigrants

LaTae Johnson

Abstract: This paper seeks to analyze assimilation programs and their methods as they are conducted by local municipalities in accordance with the Introduction Act of Norway. This paper investigates how and to what extent assimilation programs and associated immigration policies in Norway are contributing to the nation’s rise in far-right nationalism—as it presents itself in anti-immigration sentiments that have resulted in hate crimes and the emergence of the Progress Party at the forefront of current Norwegian governance—and program activities targeting Muslim immigrants. The research conducted for this paper on classroom practices for the introduction program takes place in the context of several cities in Norway with the policy that makes these classes compulsory for immigrants being the common element enacting their existence. Reviewing the aforementioned components is essential in identifying any relative connections between the rise of the far-right in Norway and discrimination or marginalizing practices that present themselves in these programs that immigrants are required to participate in. Keywords: assimilation, national identity, identity politics, nationalism, values, immigration, multiculturalism, Norway, Introduction Act, Progress Party, introduction program.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Hilary Parsons Dick

PANEL 3

The Resurgent Right and Its Others

12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Caitlin Aldridge

LaTae Johnson

Zack Konopa

Madeline Ritter

Heidi Specht

Trading Neoliberalism for Nationalism:
How National-Populist Ideologues in India
and The United States Use Sociocultural Dissatisfaction to Scapegoat Minorities

Zachary Konopa

Abstract: In this paper, I investigate how national-populist rhetoric scapegoats minority communities for sociocultural dissatisfaction. I argue that the propagandistic narrative used by the current administrations of India and The United States to bolster support amongst their base results in immigrant and minority communities being blamed for cultural anxiety and economic dissatisfaction. I demonstrate this argument by displaying how policies of economic liberalization under the administrations of Obama and M. Singh perpetuated conditions in American and Indian society that made people predisposed to accept the anti-establishment narrative of national-populist ideologues. Afterwards, I demonstrate how the language used by Trump and Modi, manipulate the narrative surrounding their respective nation's tumultuous socio-economic conditions to scapegoat immigrants and minorities for the failures of neoliberal policy. The method of investigation was to discursively analyze political speeches from Trump and Modi and qualitatively examine them for patterns of speech that blame minority groups for sociocultural dissatisfaction. The results of my analysis were that Trump and Modi consistently show patterns of using language that reduces out-group empathy and that they repeatedly use this emotionally charged language to blame minorities for sociocultural dissatisfaction. This research is important because understanding the underlying conditions that allow a group to become targeted for identitarian propaganda gives the academic community a greater understanding of how to prevent it in the future.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Jennifer Riggan

Frameworks of American Identity Building: Necropolitics and the Construction
of an Enemy, Immigrant Other

Madeline Ritter

Abstract: In this paper, I focus on how racialized rhetoric is present in contemporary immigration policy as a means to define the idea of an exclusive American identity. My central claim is that wording and discursive measures in asylum and immigration policy builds a more explicit picture of a racialized American identity. With those constructed identities of who is American and who is other, I explore how some lives are framed to have more worth than others in rhetoric. In the context of asylum seeking criteria being restricted under the Trump administration, “[if] certain lives do not qualify as lives or are, from the start, not conceivable as lives within certain epistemological frames, then these lives are never lived or lost in the full sense” (Butler: 1). I utilize various anthropological works that explore identity building through the construction of enmity to analyze patterns of speech by President Trump and Jeff Sessions as well as tweets, policy documents, and official statements on the white house website. I also track the shifts in policy through the Bush, Obama, and Trump administrations to argue that Trump’s immigration policy as well as the way he talks about immigrants exacerbates an already existing problem.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Jennifer Riggan

Nicknaming Corruption: Jair Bolsonaro’s Populist Rhetoric in the Social Media Construction
of Ontologically Corrupt Social Types

Heidi Specht

Abstract: On 28 October 2018 Jair Bolsonaro, an extreme-right candidate, won the presidential elections in Brazil with 55% of the vote, bringing Brazil into the surging ranks of populist, authoritarian and far-right international movements. Bolsonaro’s rise to power was made possible due to popular discontent with the Workers’ Party (PT), Brazil’s governing party from 2003-2016. This was reflected through Bolsonaro’s 2018 campaign, which centered on cleansing Brazil of the left-wing, a phrase strikingly similar to US President Donald Trump’s ‘drain the swamp’ rhetoric. Bolsonaro’s 2018 campaign strategically employed a similar rhetoric of hate and personal attacks about corruption, characterized by the use of depersonalization and offensive nicknames on Twitter and Whatsapp. Taking inspiration from the campaign rhetoric of US President Donald Trump, Bolsonaro framed his right-wing populism as relatable, authentic, and honest in contrast to his “corrupt, pro-establishment” opponents in the Workers’ Party (PT). By constructing his opponents as ontologically corrupt social types, Bolsonaro sought to intensify the polarization amongst Brazilians and capitalize upon anti-petista sentiments, and destroy any positive public image of the Workers’ Party. This discursive strategy of hate and personal attack on social media is representative of a broader pattern in right-wing populists’ campaign rhetoric. It is imperative to recognize these patterns, as they have been effective at generating success for right-wing populists, thereby furthering the normalization of far-right rhetoric on social media.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Hilary Parsons Dick

“We are not gays!”: Queer practices and identities as Foreign in South Africa and India

Clare Donovan

Abstract: Discrimination against queer and gender diverse people is a universal issue often rooted in cultural understandings of gender and sexuality. Notably, there is a dominant narrative in many formerly-colonized nations that homosexuality, and to varying extents, gender diversity are foreign concepts that were imported by Western nations during the colonial era. In South Africa and India, the narrative that same-sex sexual practices and gender variant identities are “un-African” or “un-Indian” is a dangerous ideology that manifests in widespread violence and marginalization. This thesis will explore the origins of why this narrative exists and remains so influential in popular culture and politics today. In doing so, this thesis will argue that colonization should be regarded as a catalyst for the intensification and institutionalization of queerphobia in South Africa and India, and not as a process that created these practices and identities. The impact of colonization on African and Indian people is reflected in profound changes to conceptions of gender and sexuality that occurred as a result of British colonial policy, criminalization, and cultural domination. In analyzing these transformations born out of an oppressive colonial system, this thesis will convey how colonization has ultimately led to significant cultural and historical erasure which serves in perpetuating this harmful, inaccurate narrative.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Jennifer Riggan

South Korea: The Barriers of Gender Equality in modern-day South Korea

Sabrina Freed

Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to discuss the Barriers of Gender Equality in modern-day South Korea. The question of “how gender inequality in South Korea changed over time: past issues and future possibilities?” is answered by the end of the paper. One of the biggest issues in the past, and well known still today, is the South Korean nationalism. Historically, in Korea, Confucianism has been the root of their culture and its patriarchal values and ideology. A major part of Korea’s history is based off of the Japanese Colonial Army’s rule from 1932 to 1945, when the Japanese soldiers invaded and took control of Korea. During their time in Korea, they turned the Korean women into “comfort women” or prostitutes. This is still an ongoing discussion among women about the abuse they suffered within their society. The paper describes the impact that South Korean’s nationalism has towards the women in the political, economical, and social aspects of their culture. Each aspect is clearly outlined and analyzed, including women's experiences, point of views and how they are perceived by society. Other topics discussed in this paper are the feminism and women’s movements, which have existed in Korea for decades. It was not until the 2000s that South Korean women began making a bigger impact. Society is contributing to those changes, new laws being implemented in favor of women, existing laws being modified, an overall positive change to their society and women’s “role” within their life.

Key Words: Gender Inequality, South Korea, Feminism, Women’s Movements, Confucianism, Comfort Women, Nationalism

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Hilary Parsons Dick

PANEL 4

The Production and Politics of Identities

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Clare Donovan

Sabrina Freed

Kiara Jacoby

Tessa Kilcourse

Destiny (DJ) Torres

Luke Victor

Commercially Geneticizing Race, Ethnicity and Nation: The Implications of Discourse
Surrounding Commercialized Genetic Tests about Identity

Kiara Jacoby

Abstract: Commercially Geneticizing Race, Ethnicity and Nation: The Implications of Discourse Surrounding Commercialized Genetic Tests about Identity Since around 2006 there has been an increase in companies selling products to individual consumers that collect your data (DNA), and return to you information about the ethnic, racial, and national categories associated with the genetic markers found in your genes, also often referred to as 'your roots'. These tests categorize results in groups based off of existing racial, ethnic, and national constructed identities. The implications made about identity as a result of the discourse surrounding these tests are explored. Using a culmination of ethnographic discourse analysis methods, analysis of indexes, deictics, and cross event configuration of meaning are traced through commercials, reaction videos, and websites from the companies 23andme, AncestryDNA, National Geographic Geno 2.0 and MyHeritageDNA. The relationship between DNA and ethno-racial-national identity is explored as they index one another, becoming a normalized association through the cross event configuration of multiple examples (all three types of media analyzed). Accompanied by the negation of lived and learned ethno-racial-national identities, scientific discourse validates the iconization of DNA to identity which is presented as the truest form of self, found in the results of these commercialized genetic tests. Discourse presented in media representing commercialized genetic tests in ads, reaction videos, and on company websites collectively iconize a discoverable 'true' identity as rooted in a person's genetic makeup (DNA), understood as defined by one's group identity through previously constructed ethno-racial-national frameworks; all of which is re-affirmed through the negation of previously learned identities and the use of scientific discourse.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Hilary Parsons Dick

Gender-Based Violence in Mumbai, India: International NGO Failures and Legacy Barricades

Tessa Kilcourse

Abstract: Gender-based violence is not confined by national borders, nor does it discriminate between the wealthy and poor. There is no one attribute of a country that causes it, and there is no one solution to eradicating it. In the case of Mumbai, India a number of historic and traditional factors have aided the continuation of violence against women. International NGOs such as the Human Rights Watch, United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations Human Rights Council have all sent assemblages of volunteers and violence mediators to Mumbai studying the symptoms of abuse and publishing their findings to the world. They have remained for decades, without understanding the rooted gender-based violence to the city, and have unwittingly elevated levels of violence by placing women and girls at the front line of India's gender dichotomy.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Hilary Parsons Dick

The Formation and Solidarity of Puerto Rican National Identity

Destiny (DJ) Torres

Abstract: Identity remains to be an important, yet, complex process that tends to adapt throughout one's lifetime due to various reasons. Within Puerto Rico, Puerto Rican national identity is no different. Puerto Ricans have experienced numerous changes within their identity that has shaped their ideologies while under the sovereignty of both the Kingdom of Spain and the United States of America. Focusing on Puerto Ricans within the island of Puerto Rico through several journals and news articles, theories of nationalism and identity, and even documentaries regarding Puerto Rican identity suggest the two main factors that have assisted in shaping Puerto Rico's national identity; 1) English being enforced onto the island has fueled their desire to speak Spanish rather than English, and 2) the "us vs. them" ideology that have forced Puerto Ricans to not see themselves as United States citizens, as they simply view themselves separate to the United States despite over 100 years of their influence. By making enquiries into the factors of Puerto Rican identity, my thesis concludes that the confidence and awareness held by the people of Puerto Rico showcases their willingness to fight for what they believe to be is their national identity.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Hilary Parsons Dick

The Revival of Fashion: Aesthetic Imaginaries and the Reconstruction of the Modern Italian Nation

Luke Victor

Abstract: Under the Fascist rule of the Second World War, creatives of the Italian fashion industry were suppressed by Mussolini's centralized fashion body, the ENM. Once liberated from the Fascist corruption and creative confinement, the Italian nation was reconstructed using an aesthetic-driven imaginary, produced by nation-builders, policy makers, and prominent actors within the fashion industry. First, the national imaginary facilitated an internal reorganization amongst regionalist societies which united the nation on the commonality of artistic culture. With a cohesive national aesthetic identity, the imaginary then fostered the reinstatement of the Italian nation-state in Europe where the aesthetic identity served as the nation's ambassador. The identity would demonstrate physical beauty through art and figurative beauty of the nation through the distinguishable aesthetic-driven identity. Lastly, the aesthetic-driven imaginary promoted economic sustainability through the development of the national 'Made in Italy' label which granted economic prosperity but transformed the modernizing society that strove to uphold tradition.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Hilary Parsons Dick

PANEL 5
Migration, Culture, and Policy
3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Nicole Alfonso Ramirez
Olivia Grajewski
Raquel Kubicz
Sarah Velasquez
Claire Weisner

Intergenerational Trauma and its Effects on Family Dynamics and Self-identity

Nicole Alfonso Ramirez

Abstract: Intergenerational trauma is a phenomenon that deals with the transfer of trauma to other generations, through the retelling of those traumas. This affects many communities with collective trauma, or CPTSD, starting with the older generation that first experienced it and continuing to younger and younger generations until that trauma is dealt with. This thesis aims to dissect how trauma is passed on to younger generations, and the effects it can have on family dynamics and self-identity, through symptoms similar to PTSD. It focuses on the start and history of said traumas, as well as the conversation of this topic among different communities. As well as taking a closer look into the phenomenon through the experiences of Somali refugees residing in the Dadaab Refugee Camps, located in Kenya. Confined to the camps for decades, this community has a unique demonstration of intergenerational trauma and how it affects the individual as well as the community.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Jennifer Riggan

The Rohingya Muslims: Liminality and Statelessness

Olivia Grajewski

Abstract: The Rohingya Muslims have been subject to decades of persecution, violence and expulsion from Myanmar to Bangladesh. In order to aid the Rohingya, the international refugee regime has repeatedly used repatriation, which has only served as a temporary solution. Yet, are the Rohingya actually repatriated, or are they refouled? Repatriation, the most favored of the three 'durable solutions', is the voluntary return of refugees to their country of origin. On the other hand, refoulement is the forced return of refugees to their country of origin, and its use is prohibited under international law. The Rohingya are forcibly repatriated, or refouled, because the international community perceives the Rohingya people as residents of Myanmar and pressures the government to allow them to return on that basis. However, forced repatriation is ineffective, as the Rohingya remain in the liminal space of statelessness, not truly belonging in Myanmar or Bangladesh. This thesis focuses on case studies of the 1991, 2012, and 2017 exoduses and consequential refoulement of the Rohingya to reveal a problematic and seemingly inescapable cycle. We can better understand this cycle by looking at Liisa Malkki's concept of refugees' liminal positioning within 'the national order of things' (Malkki 1995 a). Applying Malkki's framework to these case studies helps to illuminate why forced repatriation continues to happen and why this 'durable solution' is ultimately ineffective.

Senior Thesis Adviser: Dr. Jennifer Riggan

Offenders of Solidarity: Far-Right Politics, French Migration Policy,
and the Criminalization of NGOs

Raquel Kubicz

Abstract: “If solidarity is a crime, I wish to be prosecuted for this crime.” These final words conclude the Manifeste des délinquants de la solidarité or Solidarity Offenders Manifesto, signed by over 350 French migrant aid organizations to protest the harassment towards their aid workers by authorities. In recent years, an increasing number of aid workers have reported harassment from police including being arrested without a warrant, being unlawfully videotaped, and being subject to random searches of their homes. Many humanitarian organizations refer to this treatment as the délit de solidarité or crime of solidarity where aid workers and individuals are punished for providing migrants food, clothing, shelter, and hygiene items. Countless stories of aid worker marginalization stem from the French city of Calais, a migration hub home to many migrant-aiding NGOs. I argue that this treatment is due in part to the draconian migration policies that have been passed by right-wing leaders that serve to punish those who help migrants. Article 21 of the Revised Ordonnance of 1945 is one key policy that punishes the smuggling of migrants, but its vague wording is used to legitimize the harsh treatment of aid workers that we observe today. By referencing narratives from individuals and NGOs in Calais as well as Article 21, I analyze how pressures from far-right political parties and the policies they encourage have led to the marginalization of aid workers.

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Latino Male Immigrant Workers: The Unvoiced Workforce Within the United States, Subject
to Higher Risks of Injury & Left Without Compensation and Support

Sarah Velasquez-Rosario

Abstract: While the general rate of workplace injuries gradually goes down, for Latino male Immigrant workers (LMIW) the rate continues to climb—why? Background: This paper explores possible reasons why LMIW within the United States, have higher risks of injury within fields involving physical labor. Aims: To establish the causes of underreporting occupational injuries amongst LMIW and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)'s role in providing safety guidelines and injury reporting procedure. The author also aims to identify the vulnerable socioeconomic position LMIW can typically find themselves in, and relate it to their accessibility to healthcare and injury compensation. Data/Methods: Various safety procedures and protective equipment guidelines set forth by the U.S. Department of Labor and OSHA, were used to identify safety violations, typical at the workplaces of Latino male Immigrants. Ethnographic data collected from studies that administered surveys, interviews, and field work from popular Latino Laborer hot spots, were also used to study LMIW's interactions with health, within their communities. To understand the social position of immigrants and how it relates to their risk of injury, the author also utilized news reports of Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) raids at factories where many Latinos work, protests from the Latino community advocates, and political discourse revolving Latino Immigrants in order. Results: OSHA fails in its responsibility to keenly supervise work environments for safety protocol, and in ensuring Latino Immigrant Laborers compensation for their injuries sustained at work. The social position and associated financial strain on Latino Immigrants due to their documentation status and ethnic identity simultaneously elevates their risk of injury, weakens their mental health, and discourages them from seeking injury compensation or medical attention. Conclusions: The government bodies within the U.S. that produce regulatory public health policy, need to recognize the needs of LMIW's intersectional identity, and work with OSHA to make sure this workforce's health is a priority.

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Development Aid as Migration Management:
A Case Study of the US Strategy for Engagement in Central America

Claire Weisner

Abstract: Faced with an influx of migrants from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, US policymakers adopted a development-oriented approach intended to deter migration by addressing its root causes like poverty and violence. This thesis argues foreign aid sent to the three countries through the US Strategy for Engagement in Central America cannot reduce migration in the short-term. The approach is built upon three flawed assumptions: that economic underdevelopment leads to migration, that foreign aid promotes economic growth and development, and that migration is undesirable. Framing migrants from the region as phony asylum seekers taking advantage of the asylum system and threatening national security, policymakers justify the use of development aid to curb migration. However, research on the effects of aid on migration is inconclusive. The Strategy is implemented under a series of coercive conditions which leverages aid in exchange for recipient states' cooperation in facilitating greater forced repatriations. By prioritizing repatriation and limiting the amount of aid actually spent on projects, these conditions effectively constrain development goals. Coupled with a narrow time frame and insufficient funding, the Strategy is incapable of accomplishing its objectives. The preventative nature of the development initiative is then transformed into a coercive policy that prioritizes immediate migration targets over the long-term stability and development of the region.

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