

# 18th Annual Student Research and Ideas Fair

March 18th, 2022

## ABSTRACTS

### PANEL 1: GANDHI AND HIS LEGACY

#### PABLO COSTA

History/French, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Carey Watt, History

#### **The Extended Gandhi 'Family': The Experience and Influences of M.K. Gandhi's Jewish Friends**

Gandhi's life and legacy spanned three continents, two centuries, and numerous revolutionary changes in technology, politics and history. His (largely) peaceful satyagraha (truth-force) campaigns against British colonial rule in southern Africa and India from c. 1906 continue to influence social movements to this day. In general, however, his time in England and South Africa c. 1888-1914 has been overlooked despite its transformative effects. In London, Gandhi found community in vegetarian and Theosophical circles. In South Africa, Gandhi was directly involved in social activism against colonial discrimination, which later earned him the title of "Mahatma" ("great soul"). These years were also marked by his bodily experiments, his life in experimental settlements and his close ties with Westerners of various religious backgrounds.

Although Gandhi was relatively unfamiliar with Judaism, his closest confidants and acolytes in South Africa were Jewish. Using primary-source evidence and the extensive secondary literature on Gandhi in South Africa, this presentation will attempt to answer three main questions: (1) the motivations of these Jewish figures to join Gandhi's inner circle, (2) the similarities and differences in their assessment of their time with Gandhi, and (3) the influence of Judaism on Gandhi's religious and political views.

## **ABIGAIL MORRISON**

History, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Carey Watt, History

### **Unified: Gandhi and African-Americans, A Global Fight for Freedom**

By 1915 M.K. Gandhi was a global figure known for using non-violent satyagraha (truth-force) campaigns in pursuit of social and political justice. Eventually satyagraha became linked to movements of non-cooperation and civil disobedience around the world. This paper will explore how civil disobedience, imprisonment, and non-violence functioned within Indian and African American societies during the 20th century. It will analyze what information was spread; how the information flowed in multidirectional ways; who received the information; and how it was used in practice. The circulation of Gandhian ideas in America created a pool of tactics for fighting colonialism and imperialism, and their biproducts of racism, immiseration, etc.

While Gandhi never set foot on American soil, he has often been seen as a Christ-like figure within the American consciousness – including in the African American consciousness. For example, his influence was a major force in the civil rights movement. African American visitors to Gandhi's Indian ashram paved the way for later generations to use those Gandhi's strategies and ideologies. Martin Luther King Jr., for instance, was an ordained Baptist minister who was heavily influenced by Gandhi and even undertook a "pilgrimage" to India in the late 1950s along with others from the civil rights movement.

### **PANEL 2: SOCIAL CHANGES IN THE INTERNET AGE**

## **HANA DELANEY**

Communications and Public Policy/Psychology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Jamie Gillies, Communications and Public Policy

### **Blue-Light Poisoned Youth: Impulse Purchasing, Targeted Marketing, and Generation Z**

Social media advertising is a multibillion-dollar industry that has exploded in popularity. It is cost-effective, user-friendly and dynamic. Yet, it has come with many concessions on the part of the user. Social media users are bombarded by thousands, if not tens of thousands, of persuasive, personal, targeted ads each day. Furthermore, the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in a nearly captive audience. Despite invasions into consumer privacy, the majority of the users remain unconcerned. Targeted social media advertising, increasing impulse buying and decreased regard for consumers' privacy have formed a trifecta of highly effective but overall unethical marketing practices. Utilizing an understanding of the intersectionality of communications, psychology, and journalism, I seek to identify the effects of constant, personal, and direct marketing on consumer impulse control. Long-term target marketing reduces the ability of the individual to control their impulse to purchase unnecessary products. That ability for control decreases when the individual is young or under stressful circumstances, such as during a pandemic. I will be specifically focusing on young adults as a lens through which to understand the long-term implication of instant gratification in a constant positive feedback loop.

## **WIL ROBERTSON**

Great Books, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Matt Dinan, Great Books

### **World Alienation and the Degradation of Truth**

This presentation will seek to demonstrate how our societal focus on the material, particularly the development of technology, has led to the degradation and manipulation of the truth in various instances currently and in recent history. This phenomenon will be considered through an Arendtian lens via the concept of world alienation. The generally accepted definition of world alienation is put forth by Arendt herself and recognized by most scholars: "a twofold flight from the earth into the universe and from the world into the self" (1958, 6)." In our focus outwards into the universe through the development of technology, and dually inwards in our fixation with and presentation on social media, we begin to abandon and lose our commonly shared world, and thus an element of our human condition. Arendt links the problem of technology to the problem of speech and thus to politics. In our focus on technology, we indulge in the separation of thought from know-how, and in Arendt's view, enslaving ourselves to our own technological developments and devices. In process, thought, and thus speech and the human experience of truth and politics is made eternally subjective to our technology.

## **ADAM MCDUGALL**

Political Science, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr Shannonbrooke Murphy, Human Rights

### **Alt-Right Radicalization: An Identity Theory Approach**

Stochastic terrorism perpetrated by the alt-right has caused far too many bloody scenes in recent years. Twenty-three people died at the hand of white supremacist action in the 2019 El Paso shooting. Eleven were murdered in the antisemitic Pittsburgh synagogue shooting of 2018. Six were killed and nineteen injured in the Islamophobia-inspired 2017 Quebec City mosque shooting – showing that this violence is alive and well in Canada. Although these attacks, along with many others, were perpetrated in different manners and by different individuals, they were largely perpetuated by the alt-right and its rhetoric. The alt-right is a decentralized white-nationalist movement of individuals who reject mainstream right-wing conservatism. The internet is an integral feature of the alt-right's dealings, as much of the movement's discourse occurs online, but the internet also operates as a platform for the alt-right to increase its membership through radicalization. This research presentation will examine online radicalization through the lens of Identity Theory, as originally proposed in 1974 by Henri Tajfel, outlining the idea that an individual's social identity is that part of an individual's self-concept which derives from the knowledge of their membership of a social group together with the emotional significance attached to that membership, and that individuals often turn to groups to resolve insecurities in their identity. This presentation will outline how Identity Theory is especially illuminating when examining the specifically online radicalization process of the alt-right. Understanding how online alt-right radicalization occurs will lead to a greater capacity to fight the radicalization process, reduce support for alt-right activity both online and in the physical world, and should reduce support for and incidents of alt-right stochastic terrorism, saving innocent lives.

## **PANEL 3: MEMORY, RECALL, AND MISINFORMATION**

### **CAITLYN LEVESQUE-BROWN**

Psychology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr Sandra Thomson, Psychology

### **Do Gestures Influence Event-Related Recall when They Accompany a Verbal Question?**

Previous research has demonstrated that the wording of a question posed to an eyewitness can bias their memory of an event (e.g., Loftus & Palmer, 1974). This study examines whether naturalistic gestures made by an interviewer can similarly bias recall of an event. Participants were asked to view a series of images and videos and then recall details about them in response to questions posed in a series of prerecorded videos. These questions were accompanied by either, no gestures, accurate gestures, or misleading gestures. I predict that participants will utilize the gestures that accompany the interviewer's questions as a source of information, and therefore their recall accuracy will be influenced by the type of gesture observed. This study may yield important findings for police officers, lawyers, and others in professions relying on interviews to elicit accurate recall of events from memory. Preliminary results will be presented.

### **TABATHA BLANEY-GALE**

Psychology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tyler Bancroft, Psychology

### **Believing Not-Truths: The Influence of Spacing on Memory for Negated Propositions**

Beliefs are organized collections of understandings derived from individual experiences which inform cognitions, decisions, and behaviours (Asp et al., 2013; Ladowsky-Brooks & Alcock, 2007; Porot & Mendelbaum, 2020). Verbal communication is one method of influencing beliefs. Verbal communications can be affirmative (e.g., the car is red) or negated (e.g., the car is not yellow). Verbal negations require more time and cognitive resources to be processed than their non-negated counterparts (Carpenter & Just, 1975; Clark & Chase, 1972; Deutsch et al., 2006; Dudschig & Kaup, 2018, 2020a, 2020b; Harris et al., 2007; Hasson & Glucksberg, 2006; Mayo et al., 2004; Wason, 1959; Wason & Johnson-Laird, 1972; Wiswede et al., 2013). As a result, negations are less likely to be accurately represented in memory. This has the effect of producing misunderstandings which lead to the formation of erroneous beliefs. This study will investigate the possibility of decreasing erroneous belief of negated propositions through the use of spacing methods known to increase associative memory.

## **CALISTA LYONS**

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Claire Goggin, Criminology and Criminal Justice

### **The Effect of Misinformation on Eyewitness Memory Recall**

Confirming the veracity of eyewitness accounts is crucial within the Criminal Justice System. Memory itself can be often times forgotten or manipulated and through this research project I would like to test this. Using an experimental design, the study will expose respondents to an event and then test their memories of it by asking them questions about the details of the event. Specifically, what effect does misinformation have on eyewitness memory recall of an event? Having obtained their informed consent, respondents will be asked to view an on-line event and, after an intervening delay, answer questions about it. In an effort to test the effects of misinformation on memory, respondent eyewitness accounts will be challenged by presenting them with conflicting accounts of the event. Drawing from self-perception theory, the goal of the study is to demonstrate the effect of misinformation on memory. Current research suggests that when people receive misleading information about a previously witnessed event, they will often incorporate that misinformation into their memories of the event.

## **PANEL 4: HEALTH STATUS, HEALTH CARE, AND PUBLIC HEALTH INEQUALITIES**

### **ELIZABETH DOHERTY**

Sociology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Marilee Reimer, Sociology

### **NB Lung Transplants: At What Cost?**

Lungs are the only organs that are not medically transplanted on the East Coast of Canada. News reports have highlighted that some transplant seekers are opting for palliative care instead of going through with the life saving procedures because of the associated costs of relocating to Toronto for surgery. It is eye opening that in a first world country which boasts free medical care for its citizens, that some are forced to choose a slow death due to the hidden costs of treatment. More alarming is the reality that this issue has been largely ignored by Federal and Provincial governments. Patients feel as though they are being punished for requiring medical care not provided in their home province. My research is based upon interviews with the Director of Health Programs and Initiatives of the New Brunswick Lung Association in addition to individuals from the N.B. Lung Transplant Support Group who provided firsthand accounts of their struggles with the transplant process.

## **MEGAN PARDY**

Psychology, 5th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dave Korotkov, Psychology

### **Underdogs and Health Status: The Relationship between Underdogs, Health Status, and Psychological Capital**

Underdogs are present in everyday life in various walks of life whether these be sports, politics, marketing, work organizations, business and more. Underdogs are well-studied in relation to the above-mentioned topics, although there is a lack of research directly relating the underdog to health, thus the present study aims to find a relationship between underdogs, health, and psychological capital. This study will include a secondary analysis of previously collected data for a larger study. It is hypothesized that underdogs will be healthy and will possess high levels of the psychological capital characteristics of hope, self-efficacy, resilience, and optimism.

## **CHI NGUYEN**

Psychology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michelle Lafrance, Psychology

### **The Challenges of Recognizing Early Signs of Dementia: Caregivers' Retrospective Accounts**

This study examines different challenges that informal caregivers faced during the process of diagnosing dementia at the early stage. Participants were six adult children, who were informal caregivers of a parent with dementia. Participants ranged in age from 41-65 years and were all residents of New Brunswick. The study involved semi-structured interviews, in which participants were asked open-ended questions around their daily experiences with providing care for their adult parents. To analyze these interviews, we employed a thematic analysis approach. There were 7 common challenges that were identified, including the subtlety of early dementia symptoms, parents hiding the symptoms, denial (of parents, caregivers, and doctors), assumptions of the medical system, a lack of family doctor and agist attitudes of doctors, and a lack of presence around parents and knowledge about dementia of informal caregivers. In contrast, participants often described finally 'seeing the signs' when a dramatic event confirmed the presence of dementia. The findings suggest many challenges that make it hard to diagnose dementia at the early stage, which then further complicate the process of providing care for older adults of informal caregivers.

## **FLORENCE AWDE**

History/Psychology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Karen Robert, History

### **Public Health Inequalities in Modern Latin American Pediatrics: A Case Study of the Argentine and Chilean Health Care Crises**

Modern health care infrastructure in Latin America has been shaped by the neoliberal and economic affairs embedded in the history of its nation-states. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has exerted a new substantial pressure on the health care systems of Latin American countries, deepening/exposing the cracks of some countries and proving others within the continent's strength. Two countries that exemplify a storyline of economic hardship and neoliberal ascendancy considering the recent global pandemic are Argentina and Chile. Through comparing the history of Latin American countries, the economic and social implications of neoliberalism, to the modern impacts of the ongoing pandemic, the role such events have on shaping the health care infrastructure in Latin America is palpable. In this study we will approach the narrative of Argentina and Chile and their neoliberal foundations in connection with the state of health care since the 1970s to the current pandemic. The use of Argentina and Chile's case study from a historical perspective will bring further sociological and cultural considerations to the study. This study will aim to unveil the impacts of neoliberalism and economic turbulence of these countries' past in hope of uncovering modern insights into the current state of health care in Argentina and Chile.

## **PANEL 5: CITIZENSHIP, ACCESS TO SERVICES, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN NEW BRUNSWICK**

### **JOYCE ANG**

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Claire Goggin, Criminology and Criminal Justice

### **Cataloguing Available Services and Resources for Criminalized Women in Fredericton**

This study will catalogue the current services and resources available to criminalized women in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. As the number of women serving sentences in the community or in New Brunswick's provincial jails continue to rise, service providers in Fredericton are necessarily having to provide support to more women post-release. Using an anti-oppressive and intersectional, trauma-informed theoretical approach, the study will identify the gaps that are present within the existing network of services and resources. These gaps will be identified through an online survey of service providers in the area. This study will identify any gaps in service provision and utilize that information to propose: (1) modifications to current services and resources; (2) additional services and resources; and finally, (3) make recommendations regarding practice using anti-oppressive, intersectional, and trauma-informed strategies to improve and sustain service provision for Fredericton's criminalized women.

## **HILLARIE SCHRIVER**

Sociology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Matthew Hayes, Sociology

### **Strangers in a Strange Land, First Generation Students at St. Thomas University**

As universities in New Brunswick, and particularly speaking, St. Thomas University, are increasingly made up of first-generation students, that is, students who are first in their immediate family to be pursuing an undergraduate degree, the province, and the educational institutions must prioritize, and seek out ways to improve the accessibility of, and persistence through post-secondary education for these students. Since 1995, the capacity of New Brunswick's provincial government to intervene in matters of social inequity, has devolved alongside the devolution of the federal government from provincial matters, such as post-secondary education. This has depleted the provinces of adequate funding and support, both in regard to the educational system, as well as the social programs that helped to alleviate social inequality in society. To understand how the neoliberal turn has impacted disadvantaged students in Fredericton, New Brunswick, I draw on Pierre Bourdieu and Annette Lareau, as well as the individual experiences of five first-generation students at St. Thomas University, to demonstrate the ways in which the "first-generation experience", and accompanying "first-generation disadvantage" influences the educational experiences of students in their pursuit of an undergraduate degree. The themes I establish from the interviews, reflect key factors that must be taken into consideration when fabricating and evaluating social programs aimed towards first-generation students.

## **EMILY O'DONNELL-SHAW**

Sociology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Erin Fredericks, Sociology

### **Living in a Pro-Life Province: Citizenship and Abortion Access in New Brunswick**

In this presentation I examine how the New Brunswick Government and its actors position abortion rights and access in the province. In this thesis research project, I engaged in a critical discourse analysis of a selection of provincial Hansard transcripts, which detail the debates of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick. Rooted in theoretical concepts of citizenship and feminist theory, this analysis draws on academic literature about abortion access in Canada and the provincial transcripts to understand the ways in which government actors position themselves in relation to New Brunswickers. This research is important because it presents a critical analysis of the frameworks that underlie the state position in the continued struggle for abortion access in New Brunswick, and details what these frameworks mean for the collective sense of citizenship for New Brunswickers who are directly impacted by limited reproductive rights. By exploring discourses about abortion, the accessibility issues surrounding abortion, and what this means for the treatment of marginalized genders in New Brunswick, these study results shed light onto how systems of social inequalities operate and are maintained by governments and their actors.



## **PANEL 6: PERSPECTIVES ON HUMAN SEXUALITY**

### **CLAIRE LEIGHTON**

Psychology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sarah Vannier, Psychology

### **Sexual Competence at Debut and the Role of Parental Influence**

Sexual competence is an emerging construct for understanding and predicting physical and emotional outcomes of sexual activity based on relevant-contextual factors (willingness, timing, motivation, and use of contraception). Research has shown that sexual competence is critically lacking in adolescence, a time when most people experience their sexual debut. Until now, the literature on sexual competence largely concerns prevalence and health outcomes related to the construct but has yet to explore variables related to its development. This study, therefore, explores authoritative parenting as a predictor of sexual competence at time of sexual debut. Teenagers raised by authoritative parents have more autonomy and experience a greater sense of acceptance overall, conditions which may help facilitate the development of and ability to exercise sexual competence. We conducted a survey of 46 university students whose sexual debut occurred between the ages of 15 and 19, and, through self-report measures, determined whether or not they met the criteria for sexually competent at the time of debut as well as the degree to which their primary caregiver(s) were authoritative in style. We found a significant effect size which supported the hypothesis that participants who did meet the criteria had more authoritative parents than those who did not. These findings have potential implications for sexual health interventions in adolescence.

### **DANIELLE ENGLAND**

Psychology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sarah Vannier, Psychology

### **New Mothers' Sources of Information About Sexuality**

New mothers experience a variety of changes and concerns regarding their sexuality and sexual relationships during the transition to parenthood. These include changes in sexual frequency, sexual functioning, sexual satisfaction, and relationship satisfaction (De Judicibus & McCabe, 2002; Gałazka et al., 2015; Leite et al., 1992). Indeed, 59% of new parents report between 16 to 20 sexual concerns in the first 12 months after the birth of a child (Schlagintweit et al., 2016). Despite this, little is known about the sources of information that mothers use or prefer to use to gain access to sexuality information. The current study will include participants who are currently pregnant or who have given birth in the past 6 months, and they will complete online measures about their use and preferences of 15 traditional and digital sources of information regarding five common sexual concerns (i.e., sexual functioning, safety of sexual activity, sexual desire, changes in body image, relationship with partner). Data collection will be complete in early March. Understanding how women access sexuality information will ultimately be useful to distributors of this information, and this study will inform future interventions targeted at improving the sexual and relationship well-being of new parents.

## **THAO PHAM**

Psychology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mihailo Perunovic, Psychology

### **Personality and Rape Myth Acceptance**

The study aims at examining the relationship between personality and deviant behaviours, considering additional mediating variables. Rape myth acceptance is the level of misinformed beliefs about rape. Dark Triad traits are malevolent personality traits, which include psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism. Previous research has linked The Dark Triad with rape myth acceptance (e.g., Jonason et al., 2017). This study aims to expand on previous studies by examining variables that may mediate the relationship between the dark triad and rape myth acceptance. These potential mediators include rape empathy, ambivalent sexism, and sociosexuality, which have been shown to correlate independently with either Dark Triad traits or rape myth acceptance. 118 introduction to psychology students participated by completing surveys. The study can have implications on education against rape myth acceptance.

## **PANEL 7: ECONOMIC, LEGAL, AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS**

### **MOLLY REID**

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Claire Goggin, Criminology and Criminal Justice

### **The NCRMD Defence as Viewed from a Maritime Academic Sample**

Section 16 of the Criminal Code of Canada states that “no person is criminally responsible for an act committed or an omission made while suffering from a mental disorder that rendered the person incapable of appreciating the nature and quality of the act or omission or of knowing that it was wrong”. In contrast, the general public continues to have misconceptions about offenders who are designated Not Criminally Responsible due to Mental Disorder (NCRMD). This research proposes to examine the key variables that affect attitudes towards the NCRMD defence. Existing research indicates that they include demographic factors such as gender, age, and political orientation as well as academic factors such as year of study and major discipline. Participants will include students enrolled at St. Thomas University who have consented to respond to an on-line survey. Question categories will include general knowledge of the NCRMD defence; perceived dangerousness of mentally ill offenders; actions and decisions of professionals in NCRMD cases; statistics and prevalence of the NCRMD defence; and the treatment/punishment of NCRMD offenders. It is anticipated that upper-year students, liberals, and social sciences students will be more accepting of the NCRMD defence.

## **JOYCE ANG**

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 3rd year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Fleming, Sociology

### **Shortages of Long-Term Housing and Enforcement in Short-Term Rental Regulations: The Rise of Airbnb in Toronto, Canada**

This case study analysis examines the current housing crisis in Toronto, Canada through the theoretical framework of state-corporate crime. Since 2014, the city of Toronto has been met with low vacancy rates, exorbitant rent, and a dwindling housing stock. These conditions continue into 2022, leaving an increasing amount of housing seekers priced out of what they can afford. Online and peer-to-peer short-term rental marketplace Airbnb entered Toronto's rental housing market shortly after the emergence of Toronto's housing crisis in 2014. Working towards shared goals of capital accumulation and tourism development, Airbnb and the governments of Canada have been complicit in exacerbating this crisis with their acts of omission. Accordingly, this study argues that Airbnb's neoliberalist creation of an oligopoly within the rental housing market, its resultant externalities, and the lack of effective regulatory action and enforcement taken by the governments of Canada can all be characterized collectively as state-facilitated state-corporate crime.

## **MARIA GRACIA HIDROBO POSSO**

Economics, 3rd year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Fariba Solati, Economics

### **The Financial Vulnerability and Lack of Social Protection for Divorced Women in South America**

Marriage and divorce are important and impactful events in an individual's life. Traditionally, marriage has been considered a safety net for women around the world. Factors like the wage gap and motherhood penalty constantly retain women from being financially independent. Marriage can determine access to wealth, retirement funds, and health care. Although this is a worldwide problem, women from the Global South are especially affected due to poor management of social resources in their home countries. Social safety nets are especially important when it comes to preventing women from falling into poverty if their marital status changes from married to divorced. The concept of marriage as a safety net is flawed because financial instability and poverty can affect marriages and the quality of marriage influences women and children's success. Finally, the objective of this study is to investigate and examine the social safety nets available for divorced women in three Latin American countries and why marriage should not be considered the only safety net option available for them.

## **PANEL 8: POLITICAL CONFLICT IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPHERE**

### **TRAN MY PHUONG UYEN**

International Relations, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Shannonbrooke Murphy, Human Rights

### **South China Sea Dispute: A Perspective from Southeast Asian Countries under US-China Tension**

Under the context of China-US tension, the South China Sea is considered the most potential geopolitical flashpoint to ignite a truly global conflict. In the complexity of the South China Sea, the security dilemma between China and the other five states is primarily built around the sharing anxiety regarding China's military power to resolve the South China Sea dispute. The honours thesis proposal first examines the nature of Southeast Asia's diplomatic response to the dispute and the factors forming such choices. Secondly, it reviews ASEAN's effectiveness in preventing conflicts in the South China Sea. Finally, the proposal outlines the involvement of the US in the wider region and identifies how it can shape the future interaction of Southeast Asia with China.

### **ALEC PELLERIN**

Economics, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Fariba Solati, Economics

### **The Cost and Benefit Analysis of the Taliban's War with the West in Afghanistan between 2001-2021**

A cost and benefit analysis of Taliban attacks against western societies between 2001-2021 will develop from the model originated by Kjell Hausken. The project will research the history of the Taliban to understand how they view costs and benefits from their perspective. For the object of the attack, the project will account for the lost value of human lives, lost economic value, and lost influence that is counted as benefits for the Taliban. The corresponding values will count as the Taliban's costs. The project will account for two probabilities from successful attacks to unsuccessful attacks. Unsuccessful attacks can still have successful preparation and planning but fail to execute. The data for the project is retrieved from the GTD which covers over 10,000 attacks between 2001-2021. The variable of interest for the cost and benefit model will be the Taliban's marginal utility. If the marginal utility is greater than zero, the attack will be beneficial and vice-versa. This project will attempt to find efficient ways to negotiate ending long-term warfare.

## **VICTORIA YOUNG**

Political Science, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Shaun Narine, Political Science

### **Obama and the Islamic World: Explaining a Deteriorating Relationship**

The Islamic world has historically had a hostile relationship with the United States of America. This hostility shapes American imperialism and the perception of the US in many Islamic countries. Barack Obama delivered an address in Cairo to the Islamic world at the beginning of his presidency, which granted him favourable ratings by the Islamic world and a more positive perception of the US. By the end of his presidency, Obama was as disfavoured as his predecessor, George Bush, because his actions did not match his words on foreign policy decisions. This research examines why this shift in popularity occurred by analyzing actions towards the Islamic world, including the expansion of drone warfare, combatting extremism through continued invasion and violence against Muslim countries, lack of support for the Arab Spring protests, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

## **PANEL 9: POLITICAL ECONOMY**

### **HALEY BROWN**

Economics, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Fariba Solati, Economics

### **A Cost Benefit Analysis of Hosting Mega-Sporting Events in Developing Countries**

Over the years, hosting mega-sporting events has been seen as a tool for economic development and has been advocated for by the government of host countries, justifying the large implicit, explicit and opportunity costs attached to hosting with the event's ability to catalyze waves of economic activity throughout their country. Hosting these events has been proven to stimulate the host country's economy by simply advertising the country to a global audience of prospective international investors, increasing international tourism, employment, government revenue and much more. These benefits are frequently insignificant in comparison to the costs that these countries must bear. Are these costs, which start from the bidding stage and require large subsidisation from the government, the best allocation of a developing country's resources? To build a new soccer stadium, Nigeria spent over \$330 million, which was more than the annual national government expenditure on health or education (Farah, 2001). Things like this are often underplayed in ex-ante reports that continue to over-project the event's economic capabilities and underplay the costs incurred by hosts. So, it begs the question, do these economic boosts justify the risks of making the large investments these events require? Do these short-term stimulations have long-term positive ramifications on the host country's economy? Should these countries continue to throw their hats in the ring or learn from their predecessors? These are the questions I explore in my research by using a series of precedents to analyse different macroeconomic variables during specified stages of the event.

## **HANNAH ELIZABETH JOHN**

Communications and Public Policy, 4th year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrew Secord, Economics

### **The Political Economy of Unpaid Internships – A Comparative Study of the Canadian Landscape by Drawing on International Literature**

Internships are incredible experiences for students, and earning a sought-after position is a testament to their drive and intelligence. However, the ubiquity of unpaid internships disproportionately benefits financially privileged students who have greater opportunities to gain essential experience for their future careers. While employers understandably want to hire the most qualified candidate, they must acknowledge that these qualifications are a privilege afforded to the few students who possess the “right” work experience. This paper will investigate the impact of unpaid internships on social inequality as a comparative study between private and government internships in Canada. The objective of the study will be on magnifying the reasons why such a form of unpaid work becomes popular in a capitalist society, relying on theories of accumulation by dispossession, along with scrutinizing its deeper impact on sustaining and perpetuating socio-economic disparities.

The normalization of unpaid internships is significant not only because of its dimensions, but because of its complex interplay with key social patterns of power and coercion. Unpaid internships are not just taken by any able person in the labour force, it is deeply embedded in relations of power, reflecting and reinforcing them. The unpaid internship, therefore, is a form of unpaid work and is in need of scrutiny because not only is it such an integral element in student lives and outcomes, but also because it is core to present-day capitalism and its complexity perpetuates patterns of social inequality.

## **ANDREW HOWE**

Political Science/ Environment & Society, 3rd year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janice Harvey, Environment & Society

### **The Environmental Impacts of Resource Extraction for Renewable and Nuclear Energy Technologies**

A global increase in energy consumption coinciding with a shift to carbon-neutral energy sources has led to an increased concern in how we are extracting raw materials for this development. Frequently, mining companies fail to properly handle their waste or engage in exploitative extraction techniques. These dangerous practices are exacerbated when hazardous materials are mined and local communities face the long-term consequences of their effects. Digging deeper, this presentation will disclose my findings on the environmental impacts of extracting resources for renewable and nuclear technologies.

## **PANEL 10: YOU NEVER KNOW YOURSELF: SENIOR CREATIVE WRITING STUDENTS, 2022**

Come hear your peers read from their Senior Projects in Creative Writing. You never know where their imaginations will take you.

### **Madigan Donovan-Downs**

English, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kathleen McConnell, English

### **Neomi Iancu Haliva**

English, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kathleen McConnell, English

### **Sara Lamk Saavedra**

English, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kathleen McConnell, English

### **Tiger Levi**

English, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kathleen McConnell, English

### **Liv Levesque**

English, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kathleen McConnell, English

### **Milly Squires**

English, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kathleen McConnell, English

### **Salima Tourkmani-MacDonald**

English, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kathleen McConnell, English

## **POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

### **ANASTASIJA DEBOK**

Gerontology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Linda Caissie, Gerontology

### **Importance of Indigenous Women and Their Role in Community Wellbeing**

This study was done on Indigenous women's important roles in community well-being. I used both personal interviews, digital academic resources, and academic papers in this study. In this study, I looked at the importance of health in Indigenous communities' differences seen among different nations, tribes, and communities. I discussed Western medicine versus traditional practices. I learned about experiences with trauma and struggles some elders and younger members grew up with. Though the role of a female elder isn't the same in every community, what I found was female elders play an essential role acting as a mother and guide supporting their own families, their community, and others members from other Indigenous communities. This study opened my eyes to the respect and influence women play in keeping traditions and culture within their community, how many strong women are supporting those struggling, and the importance of community support, well-being, and balance is in community health.

### **JULIA EVANS**

Human Rights/Political Science, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Shannonbrooke Murphy, Human Rights

### **The Legislative Last Word at the Expense of the Minority Voice: The Notwithstanding Clause in Canada**

The defence of the notwithstanding clause as a democratic tool to preserve parliamentary sovereignty overlooks a fundamental structural flaw, the ways in which minority groups are uniquely vulnerable. The period of constitutional hibernation is over and there is a heightened risk of the political weaponization of Section 33. The notwithstanding clause is inconsistent with Canada's international human rights obligations and more routine invocation will only further exacerbate the vulnerability of minority groups. With the 40th anniversary of the Charter approaching, there is no better time to critically reflect on the Charter and its strengths and shortcomings. A legislature today may respect minority rights out of a genuine desire to do so, out of respect for the role of Courts or perhaps may be refrained from invoking the clause by fear of public perception or majority opinion. However, this commitment to minority rights is far from static or timeless. With a recent political normalization of the clause, the contentious contemporary applications from provincial governments, and the rise in populist trends across the Western world, the weaponization of the clause against minorities is no longer a dormant possibility but an active reality.



## **Minahil Fatima**

International Relations/ Political Science, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Shaun Narine, International Relations/Political Science

### **India and Kashmir: The Hidden Colonial Narratives of Post-Colonial States**

India, as a postcolonial nation-state continues to adhere to British colonial laws to impose colonial legislation and attitudes regarding religious and civil identity onto the people of Jammu and Kashmir to curb challenges to its authority from a population intent on gaining its national freedom and sense of identity. The aim behind asking the question of whether India has colonial intention in Kashmir is to discredit the notion that colonialism is simply a time period and that to refer to it is an event of the past with a murky beginning, yet a definitive end is a harmful fallacy whose repercussions can be seen in Kashmir.

## **ELISHA GUNARATNAM**

Human Rights/Political Science, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Shannonbrooke Murphy, Human Rights

### **Why Should the European Union Be Held Accountable for the Human Rights Abuses that Occur as a Result of its Refugee Policy?**

In 2015, the world was shaken by the image of 2-year-old Aylan Kurdi's body washed up on a Turkish shore. Kurdi's tragic death put a face to the dangerous reality that many refugees face while attempting to enter Europe. Ever since the European Union adopted policies designed to restrict the free movement of refugees – such as the Libya Memorandum and the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan – the human rights of more and more refugees have been threatened. Human trafficking has increased, refugees are beaten, and many, like Aylan, die after resorting to desperate measures to seek asylum. This research presentation seeks to demonstrate why the European Union should be held accountable for the consequences of its refugee policies. I propose that because countries in Europe are bound by both either the European Convention on Human Rights or European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights, and most European countries have ratified the Refugee Convention – all of which place great emphasis on upholding the right to life and security of person – the European Union and its member states should be held accountable for the effects of its current refugee policy as it is in violation of both international law and regional laws.