Anisa Arcos Pangione

Thesis Title: African Centered and Black Radical Approaches

Thesis Advisor: Patricia Sullivan, Honors Program & Communication (Rhetoric)

Thesis Abstract: Within the practices and institutes of religion, a specific system of faith and worship through both spiritual and social laws has been used as a tool of oppression and liberation. Historically, religion has been constructed as a disconnected entity rather than an interconnected continuum. This has been accomplished through the understanding that religion holds sacred power, mastering a social and political function within society. Documented throughout ancient to present day times, religious symbols, Holy Scriptures, and laws have been manipulated by institutions of power in order to gain one's social or political agenda, leaving humanity to be divided and hierarchical in thought and in action. The Baha’i faith began with the revelation of Baha’u’llah, who Baha’is believe to be the latest divine messengers of God, in 1844. It is considered the youngest of the world wide religions, foundationally grounded in social laws that promote world unity, the oneness of humanity, religion and God. Through the historical and spiritual lens of the Baha’i faith, this thesis will explore the oneness of religion and how internal colonialism has disconnected its singularity. The purpose of this research is to demonstrate both ancient religious systems and the major world-wide religions through the African worldview. This worldview is essential as it values the interconnectedness of time and space, equality between humanity, and the oneness of self with the cosmos, concepts that are found in all major, world-wide religions. Through this exploration, the reader will be shown evidence of universal themes and laws that are shared throughout a historical, religious timeline starting with the ancient Kemetians to the Hindus, Buddhists, Zoroastrians, Jews, Christians, Muslims, and the Baha’is. The importance of the thesis is to challenge the notion that religions are not unified in nature while exploring how systems of power have corrupted the unifying purposes religion can hold within a society and within the world.
Rachel Beaudoin  
*Thesis Title: Myth, Performance, and Individuation in the Self-Portraiture of Edvard Munch*  
*Thesis Advisor: Reva Wolf, Art History  
Beth Wilson, Art History*

Thesis Abstract: Throughout his prolific career Edvard Munch frequently depicted himself as the subject, resulting in hundreds of painted, printed, and sketched self-portraits. A chronological overview of his most important self-portraits and the way they have functioned reveals much about the artist himself. Munch often explored existential themes, emphasized the subjective experience, and suffered with his own bouts of mental illness - resulting in his reputation as the “Mad Genius” and the frequent interpretations of his work through the psycho-biographical approach. However, in order to fully understand the artist and his production he cannot simply be marginalized as an abnormal and mentally ill creator, whose work is a mere manifestation of his own psychological state. Rather, critical investigation of Munch’s intellectual, philosophical, and artistic activity exposes another side of the artist with more agencies in his own artistic production. Formal, socio-cultural, and historically contextual approaches towards his artwork provide insight into the multi-faceted motivations behind his production. A thorough analysis of Munch’s self-portraits reveals the way he constructed his artistic persona and his strategic involvement in the formation of his own reputation and legacy.

Madeline Chilton  
*Thesis Title: Developing Harmony: Parent–Infant Bonding*  
*Thesis Advisors: Marie Montserrat Gimeno, Music  
Alison Nash, Psychology*

Thesis Abstract: Hearing is one of the first senses to develop in utero and is more mature at birth than many others. A multitude of research shows the rhythm of heartbeat and the sound of a mother’s voice are integral aspects of the prenatal environment, and remain vitally important to the infant post birth. Harmonic resonance between the mother and child's heart frequencies
allows for normal neurological growth, and has a direct impact on parent-infant bonding, which is essential for building secure attachment. Research in music therapy with premature and high-risk infants has shown music therapy often leads to improved developmental outcomes in promoting bonding between parents and newborns.

Annemarie Courtens

Thesis Title: Historical Shifts in the Meanings & Practices of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Thesis Advisors: Salvatore Engel-DiMauro, Geography
Brian Obach, Sociology

Thesis Abstract: Community Supported Agriculture is an alternative food system model based on a direct market partnership between the farmer or farmers and a dedicated network of consumers. The first CSA farms appeared in the United States in the mid-eighties and have since expanded to over 12,000 farms as of 2012. The CSA model seeks to provide a more honest and personal relationship with the farmer and the food while promoting a more sustainable and just food system. With its rapid expansion in the U.S. some have criticized it to becoming a “marketing scheme” and losing sight of its original intentions. My paper analyzes the history of CSA and how current CSA farms stand in contrast to the original philosophies that the model was built on. How do we maintain the integrity of the CSA model and what remains essential to sustaining the partnership between communities and farmers? How is the “embodied experience” created through CSA that distinguishes it from other forms of alternative market strategies that promote local, organic produce?
Monica Farrell

*Thesis Title: United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and the Prevention of Recurring Conflict*

Thesis Advisors: Jonathan Schwartz, Political Science
Nancy Kassop, Political Science

Thesis Abstract: My study will be examining countries after the onset of a conventional crisis that threatens the democratic rule of the country, and thus leads to United Nations intervention. My central research question is Does United Nations intervention prevent conflict in the aftermath of a crisis? My case studies will all be focused on states post-Cold War era, because that is when most authors agree that United Nations peacekeeping missions were highest. Based on my research, my preliminary hypothesis is that UN intervention post-crisis is less likely to prevent reoccurring conflict than states that do not have UN intervention. A rival hypothesis is that UN intervention post-crisis does eliminate future conflict.

This question is important to the real world because it calls into subject the ability of a large, international organization to carry out one of its main functions, which is peacekeeping. The inability of the UN to carry out effective peacekeeping missions would indicate that Chapter Six of the United Nations Charter has ineffective mechanisms to promote long-term stability. This calls into question the effectiveness of multilateral intervention post-crisis and if certain crises are more likely to lead to further conflict.

I will be examining post-Cold War cases in which the UN has stepped in to mediate in a conventional crisis. This means that military tensions in the region were high and possibly escalated into war. I plan on using different definitions of crisis, including the definition from Michael Brecher in the Diel article. I would like to create a model that examines the type of peacekeeping intervention (traditional, humanitarian, preventative, etc.) and gauges under what type of conditions UN intervention is most likely to prevent the onset of another conflict following a crisis within a state.
Kathleen Gagnon

Thesis Title: Integrating Restorative Justice into a Capitalist Society

Thesis Abstract: The criminal justice and social welfare systems are inextricably linked in today's society. In the 1990s with welfare reform came a growth in the criminal justice system and vice versa. The connection shows the influence these institutions have on socially marginalized groups and general inequality in the United States. Today we have moved away from a social paternal state to a capital paternal state focused on individualism and meritocracy. These ideals have removed the general public from the criminal justice system creating an overarching public fear that has led to harsher punishments and the epidemic of mass incarceration that is seen today. My paper will address these issues and relate it to juvenile delinquents and restorative justice.

Nicole Hoerold

Thesis Title: Genocide and the Need for International Legal Reform

Thesis Abstract: Despite common knowledge in the international community regarding the atrocities and illegalities of genocide various states continue to engage in this behavior within their domestic borders. My research will focus on the trends and developments of major genocides through history, as well as researching the various organizations responsible for combating genocide in the international community. I will attempt to provide an explanation for why these organizations and legal customs have so far failed to eradicate genocide, and offer some potential solutions and new approaches in the hopes that together we can eliminate genocide all together.
**Michael Khoury**

*Thesis Title: The Role of Anatomy in the Hemolymph Sugar Homeostasis of M. domestica*

Thesis Advisors: Aaron Haselton, Biology  
Spencer Mass, Biology

Thesis Abstract: The Dipteran crop is a specialized alimentary tract region that typically stores carbohydrate-rich fluids for later nourishment between nectar meals. In the house fly, *Musca domestica*, it is postulated that the crop plays an essential role in hemolymph glucose and trehalose homeostasis, but substantial evidence for this hypothesis is not currently available. In this experiment, we investigated the time needed for the expulsion of a known volume of sucrose solution from the crop, *in vino*. Ultimately, we hope to better understand the physiological mechanisms underlying carbohydrate homeostasis in *M. domestica* and to be able to draw connections between adaptive morphologies and physiological function.

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**Sara Lyons**

*Thesis Title: Rootless*

Thesis Advisors: Connie Rotunda, Theatre Arts  
Sarah Wyman, English

Thesis Abstract: This play follows the journey of a young girl named Jenny. She starts out looking for her stolen comb, and ends up finding herself and her identity, meeting all sorts along the way.

This play is an exploration of my personal psychological and emotional experiences as a 2nd generation American torn between inherited culture and heritage, and an increasingly American-washed social environment I find myself in. It also draws on the experiences of my friends who came of age in their family's cultural transition towards "Americanization." Though the things, people and institutions that affect 2nd Gen-ers on their journey of self-discovery are abstracted and anthropomorphized, the truth and strength they carry remain present,
emphatically. Ultimately, I hope to give voice to my struggle and the struggle of people in my position – the “rootless”, if you will.

Zameena Mejia

Thesis Title: United We Understand

Thesis Advisors: Sharina Maillo-Pozo, Languages, Literatures & Cultures
Lisa Phillips, Digital Media & Journalism

Thesis Abstract: “United We Understand” explores the construction of Dominican and Haitian identities, and the relationship between the two nations, from the point of view of Zameena Mejia, an American student of Dominican heritage. Furthermore, it explores the nations’ people both in the island and their respective diasporic communities in the United States. This project seeks to provide a better understanding of the events that have delineated the relationship between Dominicans and Haitians through reporting historic and current events, observing arts, cultural and political movements, and finally, through original interviews of people who further develop this grand conversation. Although there are many students, activists, scholars, and organizations that have brought attention to the topic through conferences, academic books, fiction stories, articles and many media resources, there does not appear to be a source which brings together this diverse and available information into a single collective. “United We Understand” will bring together many of these resources in a navigable website, with most resources available both in English and Spanish. The website will be promoted through various social media platforms and connections made through this process.
Julian Mostachetti

Thesis Title: Stray Dogs

Thesis Abstract: I will be writing a novella for my thesis.

The story begins in the aftermath of a public death, and the brushing away of private ones. But some bodies don't stay buried forever and some won't retreat to the ground at all. We pick up with the living, Jeffrey Larker, and the new friends he's found, from an impoverished magician to the rich, hedonistic queer of an estranged family to the quiet boy in the corner who happens to be one of the greatest blues guitarists alive.

They and others feel the tremors of things slowly falling apart. The microcosms of their threadbare lives pull apart through the breakdown of their community, a chaos that finds its epicenter at the college they all attend. A group of student activists taste the dark allure of violence while the government that towers above them feels control slipping from its grasp. The despair of those students with a perfect present and no future cannot find expression and, at the center of it all, is the possible existence of a serial killer who convinces his victims to kill themselves.

Through this ever-spreading chaos Jeffrey Larker will be our witness and guide. His goal is to watch what is unfolding with clear eyes, behold its horror, and make some attempt to mend what is broken.
**Sarah Nirenberg**

*Thesis Title: Sex and Society*

Thesis Advisor: Heather Hewett, English & Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies
Patricia Sullivan, Honors Program & Communication (Rhetoric)

Thesis Abstract: For my thesis I will be writing a syllabus detailing a sexual education course targeting college individuals. The syllabus will span 8-weeks of class, each week with a topic. The primary topics are such (not necessarily in this order): Consent and Safe Sex, Sexuality vs Romanticism and Sex vs Gender, Sex Toys and Masturbation, Biology and Trans* Issues, Porn and the Porn Industry, Fetishes, How Sex is Taught in School and Common Myths, STI's and Stigma. In addition, I will be taking one class period and expanding it into a lesson plan complete with readings, activities, discussion points and homework assignments. The driving force behind my thesis is that I believe in Middle and High School students don’t receive proper sex education, and when offered the opportunity to write a course for college level students I felt this was one very important topic that was lacking.

**Eirinn Norrie**

*Thesis Title: The True Tales of Scotland*

Thesis Advisors: Anne Goding, Communication
Fiona Paton, English

Thesis Abstract: Eirinn’s project is a collection of stories for children about how events of history have been recorded incorrectly. Each story is preceded by the history and legend that a child may have heard. The story then reveals how one key aspect of the tale was missing: the fairies.
Andrea Pacione

Thesis Title: The Perfidy of Life (godfun II)

Thesis Abstract: A series of oil paintings to be included in the Dorsky Museum BFA Thesis exhibition from May 1st to May 4th, 2015. In the spirit of interdisciplinary learning, this body of work is a culmination of my study of contemporary art, whose content is informed by my experience as a biology major, with abstract forms that refer to cellular and molecular bodies.

Artist Statement: Contesting the division between experience and transformation, I make abstract-surrealist dreamscapes comprised of an intense and slow layering process. Resonating with the alchemy of the subconscious, these hybrid paintings are created through methods such as impasto, glazing, and paint-skinning (where a carving tool is taken to the top layer to re-expose thickly applied colors beneath the surface).

Challenging the limits of reality and that imagined by its perceiver, I investigate and deconstruct the meaning of external landscape to translate an internal, ever-expanding dreamscape by means of recognizable devices, ironic sentimentality, and deliberate figurative omissions. With purposeful incompletion that rebels at the stagnation of a fixed narrative, my aim is to render a translation of the trenches dug by the repetition of memory as obsessive mark-making, while inexorably preserving and simultaneously expanding the essence of thought in perpetual forward motion.

Compositions that generate tranquility leave traces edging toward amplified disturbance. The image shifts, and ineffable interpretation becomes multifaceted. These paintings signify a step beyond the surrealist, stream of consciousness poetry that first housed my artistic voice--into the realm beyond words, the color beyond music, and the light beyond sound. This work establishes a link between the concepts of time and movement. Movement reveals an inherent grace that echoes the awkwardness of emotional states. Time allows the impressions made to settle into places that differ from their origin.
Mackenzie Palma

*Thesis Title: Course – NYC*

Thesis Advisors: Arthur Hoener, Art Department  
Saki Rizwana, Art Department

Thesis Abstract: Although many people have an interest in traveling and experiencing different cultures, it’s not easily available or financially possible for everyone. Food is a major part of many cultures, therefore I am creating a restaurant experience for people who have the desire to learn and eat unique food in a more accessible way. The menu will always be changing, with food from three different parts of the world each month. Research of the food and aesthetics of different cultures will aid in the process of creating a visual identity for each culture. Once that is established, one cohesive restaurant brand will be created for all of the cultures to exist together.

This setting will encourage people to try something new while learning about different cultures through eating, and possibly inspire people to travel to these places in the future. There will be a personal connection with the guests because they will be encouraged to bring travel photos, which will then be displayed in the restaurant. Travel stories will also be collected on the website and to be made into small books.

Jessi Putnam

*Thesis Title: Dear She: Love Letters to the Self*

Thesis Advisors: Arthur Hoener, Art Department  
Saki Rizwana, Art Department

Thesis Abstract: My thesis will focus on the issues of body image, self-confidence and positive self-worth. I plan to create a book, website, merchandise/product line, and social media campaign centered around a collection of anonymous love letters people write to themselves as well as research/statistical information.
Danielle Roberts

**Thesis Title:** Blackroots: A Battleground of Blood, Blues and Beauty

**Thesis Advisor:** Teri Roiger, Music

Thesis Abstract: I will approach my Senior Recital through the lens of African worldview. This is a way of learning taught in Black Studies that approaches learning through a Black perspective instead of a white western perspective. Learning through African worldview resonates more with me as a person of color and it is the foundation of Jazz music. I will be combining Black history with my presentation/performance of Jazz music and I will be incorporating call and response through spoken word.

Megan Rooney

**Thesis Title:** The Falling Man: Don Draper’s Descent into Dante’s Inferno

**Thesis Advisors:** Patricia Sullivan, Honors Program & Communication (Rhetoric)  
Lynn Spangler, Digital Media & Journalism & Associate Dean – Liberal Arts & Sciences

Thesis Abstract: This thesis sets out to explore the narrative connections between the character of Don Draper in the AMC television series Mad Men and Dante’s pilgrimage in Inferno from his allegorical epic poem, The Divine Comedy through a close textual analysis of the individual texts. Particular attention will be paid to Mad Men’s sixth season that began with a conflicted Don Draper pictured reading Inferno, acting as a catalyst for this analysis. The crafted persona of Don Draper and the story arc of his character will be deconstructed to evaluate his potential for recovery from his personal destruction over the course of 6 seasons in comparison to Dante’s own journey towards salvation that began with his descent through the nine circles of Hell. I will compare and contrast Dante the everyman and Don Draper the idealized man, as they exist with the cultural frameworks of their time. Furthermore I will explore Dante’s potential influence on Don Draper in his reading of a man led
astray who eventually redeemed himself through the recognition and rejection of sin. This thesis analyzes fraudulence, sin, humanity and redemption within the structure of Dante’s Hell. In reviewing Dante’s Inferno, episodes from Mad Men and references from scholarly journals, television critics, and culture editors, I will illuminate the parallels between Dante’s pilgrimage and Don Draper’s likely demise.

James Senzer

Thesis Title: American Waste: Landscape and Identity
Thesis Advisors: Francois Deschamps, Art Department
Ann Lovett, Art Department

Thesis Abstract: An examination of the waste industry through photography and appropriation of found identification documents.

Carly Shaw

Thesis Title: Ecopsychology in a Time of Collective Trauma
Thesis Advisors: Alice Andrews, Psychology
Karla Vermeulen, Psychology

Thesis Abstract: Delving into the unexamined world of the mental health and practices of professionals in psychology. How do therapists keep themselves mentally fit in order to provide the best and most helpful services possible?

Emily Smith

Thesis Title: The Impact of Self-Handicapping in Strategic Board Games Upon New Player’s Experiences
Thesis Advisor: Douglas Maynard, Psychology

Thesis Abstract: Self-Handicapping behavior in board games involves an experienced player taking it easy on someone else, a new player in this study. We predict that self-handicapping
SPRING 2015 Thesis Abstract

Shannon Suhl

*Thesis Title: Sacred Spaces*

Thesis Advisor: Robin Arnold, Art Department

Thesis Abstract: My series of work consists of paintings and drawings that explore uninhabited interior spaces. These spaces are inspired by abandoned buildings, cathedrals, mosques, and palaces. This work explores themes of time, mystery, decay, and emotion. I am exploring the quality or feeling of uninhabited buildings and offering a space for the viewer to contemplate their histories. The work is mostly large-scale, in oil paint or ink.

Miriam Ward

*Thesis Title: The Superman Letters*

Thesis Advisors: Gregory Bray, Digital Media and Journalism
Patricia Sullivan, Honors Program & Communication (Rhetoric)

Thesis Abstract: The Superman Letters is a documentary film that chronicles the controversial story of the creation of Superman. The 20-25min documentary is focusing on a collection of original letters and documents found outside a dumpster in 1997 that contains never before seen correspondence between DC Comics and Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, the original creators of Superman. The collection of documents, which are dated from 1937-1947, show a complex relationship between the creators of Superman and the editorial ship from DC Comics. These documents, which are the lawyer’s files used in 1947 against DC Comics, challenge the myth in pop culture that Siegel and Shuster sold the rights to Superman to will create a more enjoyable experience for the new player. I will be investigating the importance of winning on the new player's rating of their encounter. This will be compared to the self-handicapping condition to determine the value of these two variables as predictors.

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DC Comics for one hundred and thirty dollars and completely got a bad deal. Instead, the documents show the relationship between DC Comics and Siegel and Shuster was a dynamic, and two way flowing relationship. Superman Letters uses the medium of documentary to discuss the historical importance of Superman and the influence on pop culture. The documentary will feature interviews with prominent figures in the comic book industry: including a conversation with Jenette Kahn, the first female comic book executive who was president of DC Comics from 1981-2002. Furthermore, Superman Letters uses the medium of film to discuss and analyze the human story behind the collection of documents: Lauren Agostino. Lauren Agostino, held onto these rare documents and refused to sell them even when she was offered millions. The film aims to showcase her story with finding the truth behind the creators of Superman and DC Comics, with the backdrop of the greater historical significance of the superhero Superman.

Juliana Wintrob

Thesis Title: *The Umbrella Movement in Hong Kong: A Challenge to Legitimacy*

Thesis Advisor: Alexandra Cox, Sociology

Thesis Abstract: This paper examines the legitimacy of the government and relationship between the Chinese and Hong Kong government through the Umbrella movement. This will include looking at the goals of the movement as well as opposition to the movement. The paper will present information about participants in the movement and public opinion about the movement. In order to create a holistic and comprehensive understanding of the Umbrella Revolution, it is important to look at the movement within the political discourse of “One Country, Two Systems” as well as in comparison to previous student movements such as the Tiananmen Square movement of 1989. Looking at the political discourse of “One Country, Two Systems” will help to interpret the views of the pro-democracy group that started the Umbrella Revolution. Drawing comparisons and contrasts between the Umbrella Revolution and previous student protests will provide a deeper understanding of the significance of the
movement as a whole. Establishing connections between the Umbrella movement and previous protests will provide a context to analyze key elements and aspects of both present and past demonstrations. Some of the key elements or aspects that I will look at consist of the presence of the Hong Kong police force, and the social nature of the movement.

Samantha Wright

Thesis Title:  Art Under the Vichy: Art as a National Identity

Thesis Advisor: Mary Christensen, Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Thesis Abstract: I'll be exploring the looted art during WWII, most notably in France. Not only will I try to focus on the historical importance of reclaiming the art but on the symbolic importance of the art from France, particularly after its destruction in WWII. The moral question of where the art should be returned (to families or museums) will also be discussed in the close.

Maggie Zielinski

Thesis Title: Beating the Clock: Why We Delay Childbearing

Thesis Advisors: Glenn Geher, Psychology
Greta Winograd, Psychology

Thesis Abstract: In this thesis, I would like to acknowledge the challenge that modern women face in regards to their focus on either a career or a family. I would argue that this challenging decision results in an increased burden on women.