

Hanna Holborn Gray Undergraduate Research Fellowship 2022 Fellows Abstracts

Liz Burke '23

History of Art

Dance on Screens: A Close Look At Creative and Scholarly Work

This project approaches short, experimental dance films from the tense space between academic discourse and contemporary makers' practices. I challenge the dominant use of the term "screendance," in favor of umbrella terms such as "dance film" or "dance and technology", which more accurately meet the unfurling practices of those working at the intersections of art and digital mediation technology. I locate futures of dance and the "dance world" in deepening scholarly conversations and contemporary works, featuring the perspectives of artist-scholars who have historically been marginalized, whose visibility has ascended in the new era of dissemination of dance over the internet. I ultimately conclude that by making dance for the screen, director-choreographers extend dance performance through playful attention to and use of space and time, unprecedented world-building, and advancing the visibility of their craft.

Sonya Friel '23

Anthropology and Neuroscience

International Students and Principles of Belonging at University in the USA

My project investigates how differences in upbringing and background circumstances impact the experience of international students in the USA, particularly in regards to sense of belonging, and how this influences mental health and overall wellbeing. The purpose of the study is to learn from international college students of all backgrounds to gather insights and perspectives about their experiences in college, and the goal is that it will contribute to a body of research that will be utilized by academic institutions to better the experiences of these students in the future. 41 surveys and 13 personal interviews with current and alumni international students of small liberal arts colleges on the East Coast of the USA were conducted, involving students from 6 colleges across 4 states on the East Coast of the USA. The analyzed data suggest how influential factors, including cultural and financial background, race, ethnicity, social status, and language, mediate the experience of long-term study abroad, contribute to sense of belonging, and impact overall health, wellbeing, and academic success. The majority of international students reported difficulties in connecting with domestic students on campus as a result of their race, ethnicity, first language, or socioeconomic status. Language barriers and financial disparities were the most frequently reported barriers to connecting with other students. More reported challenges corresponded with lower perceived sense of belonging on campus. Lower perceived sense of belonging was positively correlated with reported decrease in physical and/or mental health during the college experience. All students, regardless of reported sense of belonging on campus, indicated friends and family - in particular, fellow international students - as a primary source of support during the study abroad experience. This study indicates that institutional support

strategies for international students should focus on strengthening the international student community itself, rather than focusing on student assimilation into American college culture.

Layla Fistos '23

Classical Languages; Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology

"What's up with those magic wombs?" Medicine, Magic, and Agency in Greco-Egyptian Magical Amulets

In this project, I examine Greco-Egyptian magical amulets with uterine imagery and the inscriptions on these amulets to understand how, if, and when the womb is personified. I employ the archaeological frameworks of object agency and new materialism to discuss amulets as objects that were meant to be used. I examine Graeco-Roman and Egyptian medical and magical texts pertaining to the womb to provide context for this personification. Womb personification and object agency can reveal the relationships between the self, body, and illness as they manifest in the discourse between the amulet user and the amulet. An analysis of these womb amulets shows that wombs were imagined to have the agencies of movement and consumption/desire, while the users sought to exercise proactive and reactive forms of agency, the main agentive force being the personification of the womb. The amulets themselves had agency in their visibility, feeling, and size (object agency) which influenced the interactions between the amulet user, womb, illness, and divine and are defined by the affordances the objects have. My research is relevant, not just for the ancient world, but for our present context in the current pandemic and lives of individuals with illness. We personify illness similar to how persons in the ancient world personified the womb on these amulets. It is endemic to the human condition.

Lily Goltz '23

Growth and Structure of Cities

Neurodivergency in Museums

In the United States, the current motivation for creating accessibility in public spaces is to meet the requirements and demands of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Unfortunately, the ADA does not currently include accommodations for neurodivergent people; which is a blanket term that includes people with Autism, ADHD, Down Syndrome, Tourette's Syndrome, mental illnesses, and more. This report discusses neurodivergency in the setting of museums, comparing art museums to science museums. Through observations and interviews with four museums throughout New York City, this research looks to understand the importance of including neurodivergency in accessibility practices, specifically in museums. Accessibility is an uphill battle for most museums, having to overcome funding issues and employee shortages before they can create progress. The Americans with Disability Act seems to be the only driving force for the museums without accessibility initiatives. The individuals who are tasked with accessibility programming in each museum must have the motivation for future accommodations, where it takes time, effort, and education that they may not currently have. The research was conclusive that by including quiet hours or limited access hours for neurodivergent individuals as well as

resources like sensory packets or pre-arrival online information, museums can become significantly more accessible for all individuals.

Deniz Gonen '23 (Haverford College)

Growth and Structure of Cities

“Eating Each Other’s Lunch”: A Study of Campus Expansions at New York City Universities

This project studies Columbia University, New York University, and City College of New York to understand how these colleges view their neighborhoods and New York City as a whole, focusing primarily on physical campus expansions and the nature in which they are carried out. Traditionally, college was seen as a pastoral retreat for elite men and closed campus architecture reflects that. In cities, however, universities present themselves as bringers of democratic education. Much of how the college expands and how the community is included in that process toes the line between these two ideals. This project traces the history of these institutions from the 1950s to the present, where I look at a critical time of expansion for each institution and then see where they are now. Since these colleges are reliant on New York City for a home, an image, and a student body, it is important to consider their place as active agents in the city development process, and how their anti-urban and often anti-community bias is reflected in space and perception.

Ananya Hindocha '23

Sociology and Political Science

Queer and Asian in the Bay: A sociological Examination of Asian American Queer Identity in Immigrant Communities

In an effort to better understand how the intersections of immigrant status, ethnicity, and queerness influence identity, this research project examines the experiences of queer second-generation Asian-Americans in the Bay Area. The project is a sociological examination of the consequences of colonization, migration, and Asian survival in the United States as it relates to queer identity. Throughout the project, I analyze historical data in the form of oral histories, zines, and artwork as well as perform interviews with research participants. Using this data, I trace the origins of the model minority myth and the impacts it has on Asian-American communities. Furthermore, I use this framework to better understand the relationship between Asian identity and queerness, analyzing the view of queerness as a failure to achieve the standards set by the model minority myth. Finally, I use the concepts of assimilation and acculturation to understand the relationship between immigrant parents and second generation Asian-Americans in regard to queerness and cultural values. Overall, this paper is an investigation into this unique intersection and how the relationship between Asian identity and queerness may unravel.

Claire Hylton '23

Classical Languages

"Primeval, two-natured, thrice-born": A study of gender-fluid Dionysos in the Bacchae and the Orphic Hymns

This paper concentrates on the gender fluidity of the gods in the Orphic Hymns, a Hellenistic Greek collection of short invocations. These hymns, mostly consisting of short epithets, are quite mysterious, given their unusual presentation of the gods and cosmogony, and the relatively little information that we have about the authorship or provenience. There is relatively little scholarship about the Hymns, and none that analyzes its depiction of gender. This paper argues that one of the most important parts of the Hymns is its depictions of the gods as gender fluid, transcending the gender binary with a fluid, expansive gender experience. This fluidity is one of the ways in which the gods of this collection are constructed as all-powerful. I use the methodology of polythetic categories and cue validity to show how gender is a constructed category, and I look at a variety of cues throughout the Hymns to evaluate how they signal gender. This study is primarily philological, looking at the specific words used to describe birth, physical function, and appearance. While one might describe the human experience of gender as embodied, the divinities do not inhabit gender in the same ways. I look at the ways in which the divine embodiment is differently conceived, set the gods outside the limitations of the human experience. The Hymns offer a curious challenge to a rigid gender binary, depicting the gods as existing beyond these boundaries.

Ella Kotsen '23

English

Ruth Moore's Quietside and the Power of Island Voices

My research focuses on the traditionally working-class area of Mount Desert Island, Maine known as "the Quietside." Using the literature of famed local female and Queer author, Ruth Moore, I will examine the legacy of both Moore's literature and the storytelling that preserves the local community. I will be using American Literary Regionalism to describe some of the topics that make Moore's work relevant on a grander scale in the literary field. I hope my research will show examples of real-life documented stories on the island, histories of the past, and how that affects an increasingly developing spatialized environment of Mount Desert Island through oral and written interviews with the local population. I aim to explore the dynamics of the increase in tourism and the methodology of writing about delimited, traditionally working-class communities that Ruth Moore so brilliantly wrote about.

Michelle Tran '23 (Haverford College)

Growth and Structure of Cities

Making and Re-Making Home: Vietnamese and Vietnamese-Americans on the US Gulf Coast

How do you create home in a place of contradictions? I explore what home means for Vietnamese and Vietnamese-Americans who have resettled in the U.S. What the implications are of their home-finding, home-making, and resettling in a greater settler colonial narrative as well as what it means to recreate a home on land that was stewarded by slaves. In investigating the intersections of place, history, and violence, I analyze the nuances of resettlement and

commonalities in how we create home across timelines and geographies. Pulling home discourse between queer and feminist scholars, diasporic authors, Southern autobiographers and my family history, I assert that home is an orientation—within it, place, time, remembering, and imagining present themselves as stories.

Saiqian Xiao '23

Growth and Structure of Cities

From Local to Global: Reinterpretation of Food System in Philadelphia Chinatown

This research investigates an immigrant enclave – Philadelphia Chinatown – under the lens of food study and analyzes the adaptation of its food system at urban and regional scales. Even as the core of Chinatown's commerce, culture, and renown, its food is often concealed under spatial connections and overlooked by many urban policymakers. This study analyzes the structure and operation of the Philadelphia Chinatown food supply chain and distribution models for Asian food ingredients. Through doing systematic archival and library research and conducting field trips and interviews, the study uncovers interactions among the food supply chain, various stakeholders, and their spaces. Based on existing data, the food networks of Philadelphia Chinatown include three types of food suppliers on the consumer-end. The discussion of wholesalers is limited by a lack of primary and secondary data. Meanwhile, the dichotomy of the mainstream system and the alternative one needs to be reconsidered given recent development.

Carlee Warfield '23

Political Science

Disability, Deliberative Democracy, and the Digital Landscape

This research model evaluates how online deliberation can ease the burden of participation in deliberative democracy for disabled individuals. Theorists have studied how practices of deliberative democracy can be transformed in order to become more accessible for disabled participants, as well as how online deliberation can increase inclusivity for marginalized groups in opposition to face-to-face deliberation; however, few studies reveal conclusive results on whether online deliberation can better support disabled individuals, specifically. Therefore, this research model details how to build an online deliberative environment and assess deliberative procedures inclusive of disabled participants.