

# **Hanna Holborn Gray Undergraduate Research Fellowship 2018 Fellows**

**Simon Balukonis HC '19**

**Growth and Structure of Cities**

*Investigating the Production, Distribution, and Consumption of Club Culture in Chicago*

As a regional cradle for blues and jazz, as well as the birthplace of house music, Chicago has a longstanding legacy of creating novel nightlife spaces for the city's disenfranchised. In the past 40-odd years, as a post-Fordist economic shift has taken place, a new geography of inequality is emerging in the city. Guided along by neoliberal policy at the local and federal levels, interests in competing with cities around the world, and more recently, the 'Great Recession' of the late 2000s, Chicago is reinventing its entertainment options with the wealthy in mind. Through anthropological, archival, and mapping-based research, this project primarily investigates how such a geography has both informed and been informed by the development of new entertainment districts and the nightclubs which populate them. Through this, nightlife reveals itself to be a complex window into pasts, presents, and futures of Chicago and the global city writ large.

**Leah Borquez, '20**

**Classical Languages**

*Guilt of the Day, Innocence of the Night: De Medicina Early Imperial Roman Madness*

Displays of madness have always drawn attention from scholars, artists, doctors, and philosophers. Among these is the encyclopaedist Aulus Cornelius Celsus, author of *De Medicina* (On Medicine), who lived in the early Roman Empire. He writes extensively on the medical symptoms and treatments of insanity and uses examples from the Greek tragedies *Ajax*, by Sophocles; and *Orestes* by Euripides. I investigate the ways in which *De Medicina*, a medical text, interacts with tragedy and social history to create the image of a madman. I contextualize Celsus in literature, science, and an example of social customs. Through analyzing internal and external factors that affect Ajax and Orestes' respective madnnesses, I show how portrayals of madness in tragedy indicate societal expectations of a madman. The key to unlocking the Roman perspective is to put both the tragedies and the medicine in an early imperial historical context and analyze them as a part of Roman history, rather than as just either medical history or literary history.

**Rebecca Chang HC '19**

**Growth and Structure of Cities**

*Navigating Adolescent Ethnic Identity: A Case Study of Second-Generation Chinese-Peruvians in Heritage Schools in Lima, Peru*

As of 2011, there was an estimated number of over 40 million Overseas Chinese, defined as

those who are of Chinese ancestry but reside outside of China and Taiwan, and are of any citizenship status (Poston Jr. & Wong, 2011). Within this group, there exists much diversity in that it includes descendants of migration that date back to the 1800s, as well as current migration, in addition to a wide range of dialects and ethnic backgrounds. Within Latin America, Peru has one of the highest populations of Chinese immigrants and their descendants. While much past research has focused on the historical roots of the Chinese community and its origins in indentured labor, this project was an attempt to examine more recent patterns of migration. Of interest are young second-generation Chinese-Peruvians, meaning the children of migrants, who in their daily lives among school, work, and family life negotiate and traverse a number of identities, traditions, and practices. Through qualitative, semi-structured interviews, themes such as one's multi-dimensional identity, assimilation, family, language, heritage school attendance, Chinese language classes, and extracurricular activities rooted in Chinese culture, arose and demonstrated the complexity in youth ethnic identity.

**Isabel Gellert '19**

**Independent Major in Comparative History and Literature:  
China and Spain, 14th-18th centuries**

*Bending the Boundaries: Understanding Seventeenth Century Chinese and Spanish Women Writers*

In this project, I examine the writing of Spanish and Chinese women writers in the seventeenth century, during Spain's Golden Age and China's Ming-Qing dynastic transition. At this time, when both places were empires that had experienced economic growth and periods of stability and instability, women were writing and being published more than before. The two empires were also connected through trade, and class and status were important yet precarious. In both places, tropes about women writers emerged. Women were expected to fit an ideal. At the same time, women were enjoying more freedoms. Women then, like today, were not homogenous. My questions are: Did women understand themselves only in relation to established structures? How did they respond to absences or changes in these structures? Did they understand themselves to be individuals? Through a comparative analysis of two writers' works, I demonstrate that some women had the luxury to write. Their writings reveal that they did see themselves as intelligent individuals with agency but did not reject the larger social structures. They both use language to make critical observations, but ultimately neither of them is eager to disrupt existing roles for men and women.

**Isabell Gerbig '19**

**Comparative Literature/East Asian Languages and Cultures**

*Are We Home Yet? Finding Heimat and 鄉 (xiāng) in The Last Illusion and A Home Too Far*

Many of those in exile have turned to art to express their coming to terms with the exilic experience. Regardless of cultural background, these texts have been central in making the exilic experience accessible to those who are curious about it. Two such texts, *The Last Illusion* and *A Home Too Far*, are examples of exile films from different areas of the world in the 20th century.

Though each film depicts the characters in different exilic situations, both share more stylistic choices than expected. Despite the characters suffering from widely dissimilar problems in trying to regain their home, the central message of both films emphasizes one aspect of the characters' lives: family. Family takes a central role in both films, and even though both films do not end in happily ever after, the source of hope that is left for the audience is love and comfort from the family.

### **Leah Packard Grams '19      Classical Languages/Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology**

#### *A Foray into the Bryn Mawr Papyri: Papyrus as Text, Papyrus as Artifact*

The papyri in Bryn Mawr's special collections have not been examined since the 1970s. My examinations this summer revealed that they show new and interesting textual elements. Among these new finds are a fragment of Arabic poetry, a Coptic epistle, and an exciting Greek paraliterary fragment mentioning beehives. Unfortunately, the provenance for these papyri has been lost over the years. Papyri without provenance can thus be tricky to interpret, since their findspot, previous ownership, date of acquisition, and date of excavation have been lost. This is a problem for unidentified fragments all over the world, and it is a difficult situation to reconcile. However, an interdisciplinary approach to papyrology facilitates the interpretation of papyrus as text and papyrus as artifact. Archaeological methods can inform the field of papyrology by providing detailed records of excavation such as stratigraphy, findspots, and other contexts useful for informing papyrological research. Luckily, there are ways to remedy the divide between papyrology and archaeology; and the technological improvements of the twenty-first century may provide solutions.

### **Emily Haller '19**

### **Growth and Structure of Cities**

#### *Interactions between Philadelphia and its Waterways in the Maps of John Hills*

Studied in their historical context, maps create images of the physical and cultural structures of a specific place. In the history of Philadelphia, features of the natural environment, particularly waterways, have clearly influenced narratives of the city's development. In a close examination of two maps created by John Hills, this study analyzes visual elements of the maps alongside historical context in order to better understand how Philadelphians viewed the relationship between the city and water in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The first map, published in 1797, uses rivers and creeks to separate and categorize space. The second map, created in 1808, celebrates the ways in which the regions' waterways were utilized to support and sustain the city. In both maps, the city and the rivers influence each other. Each map emphasizes particular aspects of the interactions between Philadelphia and its waterways. These maps demonstrate that features of the landscape can perform multiple roles in a complex, multi-layered relationship that cannot be fully captured by a single representation. Each representation must be viewed as part of a whole in order to understand the full image of a city's relationship with the natural environment.

**Abigail Lua '19****History of Art***Piña: Weaving the Fabric of Philippine Identity*

A diaphanous yet sturdy fabric woven from pineapple leaf fibers, piña cloth has been widely used since the nineteenth century to fashion Philippine national costumes and upper-class accessories such as handkerchiefs and fans. In light of the mechanization of textile production, the laborious, manual weaving of the fabric has endured, further contributing to the high material and commodity value of piña textiles. In my research, I will be learning more about the history behind the various textiles that this fabric fashions in addition to its material properties through visits to regional collections that house piña textiles, including the Jefferson University Textile Collection, Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Textile Museum, and the Rhode Island School of Design Museum. Through this historical and object research, I will be using the material history of piña textiles to interpret different narratives within Philippine history, imbuing these narratives with new cultural meaning.

**Elena Luedy '19****Growth and Structure of Cities***From the Ashes We Will Rise: Building a Sustainable Detroit*

Since 1950, Detroit, Michigan has seen unparalleled amounts of disinvestment and abandonment, thus leaving the city with thousands of derelict buildings and homes. Due to this, the city is essentially a blank slate for a rebirth. With a newly elected sustainability director and several new sustainable projects taking hold, Detroit is already taking steps to become a greener city. I plan to analyze the sustainable building efforts made by the city and its residents, and to evaluate their effect on the city. In order to best understand this, I aim to look at the goals of these projects to assess whether they have or are on track achieving them as well as gauge public support for the project. The data I collect will be used in my senior thesis for the Growth and Structure of Cities department.

**Annika Lutzenhiser '19****Anthropology***Constructing a Radical, Queer Community: LGBTQ-Affirming Christian Congregations in Seattle*

In this research, I explore the fusion of secular social and religious practices that occur within LGBTQ-affirming Protestant churches in Seattle, Washington. "Affirming," in this case, refers to the acceptance of the identities and relationships of queer individuals by the church. After conducting more than twenty formal interviews and two months of participant observation at two different affirming congregations, I argue that different facets of reconciling churches become queer. This happens through a process of reconfiguring common Christian rituals such as the Holy Communion to more fully include LGBTQ congregation members, as well as through a rejection of an assumed theological argument for acceptance. Instead, many heterosexual, cisgender congregation members cite personal social experiences with the LGBTQ community as their reason for belonging to a reconciling church. I delve into these phenomena deeper

through a queer theoretical lens with the following main research question: How do the intersections of queerness and religious belief manifest themselves within an individual, or on a larger scale, a congregation?

**Aayzah Mirza '19**

**History**

*Penal Plurality: Investigation of Race, Religion, Class and Gender in Nineteenth Century Straits Settlement*

Under the British system of transportation, thousands of convicts from South Asia fulfilled their sentences in the Strait's Settlements in the 1800s. Here, they provided cheap labor critical for the urban development of these colonies. Despite this, the lives of these men are still in the shadows, and very few scholars have attempted to study them. The current research attempts to shed light on the diversity of convict experiences that resulted from the interaction of various identity factors, like race, gender, class and religion, with colonial penal policies. Since the main goal of transportation was the provision of cheap labor, this work demonstrates the colonial categorization of prisoners in various groups based on the aforementioned variables, and the deployment of differences in these, to maximize productivity and minimize any political revolt. This led to the creation of a model convict stereotype: an Indian man who first served the Straits Settlements as a laborer, and then aligned with the colonizer to become a warder who would aid British authorities in controlling other subaltern bodies. This project dismantles this stereotype; it examines the processes by which it was created and analyzes the political and economic influences that led to its subsequent evolution.

**Ekaterina Olson Shipyatsky '19    Independent Major in Philosophy, Politics, Economics**

*Visitor Encounters in a Museum of the Holocaust: Undermining Totalitarian Logic*

Though no community confronts the aftermath of totalitarian atrocity in exactly the same way, we see museums designed to both represent and respond to past genocides in nearly every post-atrocity context. As such, I believe it is worth asking whether there is some link between anti-totalitarian measures and genocide museums. Using analysis of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), this paper argues that visitors' experiences in the museum undermine totalitarian logic, preparing them to resist totalitarian rhetoric. The USHMM's dual identity as both a spiritual and educational site marks it as a unique space: one of fact-based historical education and one of a more affective, emotional and moral education. Through the course of this paper, I argue that, faced with this duality, visitors to the USHMM are confronted with a sense of uncertainty concerning the relationship between the past and the future as well as deeper experience with the overall mystery of the human experience. I argue that these encounters with mystery and uncertainty in the USHMM undermine the logic of totalitarianism and prepare visitors to resist totalitarian rhetoric.

**Xinyi Shen '19**

**Sociology**

*Reform of Pedagogy in China: the View from the Rural Teachers*

In 2001, Chinese government published 6 policies to initiate the curriculum reform. The curriculum reform aims at shifting the teacher-center pedagogy to student-center pedagogy in order to bring up the soft skills (i.e. analytical skills, critical thinking skills, information literacy and etc) of students. However, due to the structural impediments that rural teachers are facing, the teachers in rural high school have low incentives and low motivations to cope with the new policies. Under this circumstance, this research focuses on the rural high school teachers who are motivated and resilient to do the curriculum reform. Namely, why there are still groups of teachers who are able to engage in the curriculum reform continuously despite of all the obstacles they are facing? The specific aspect of the research is the practical knowledge of teachers, a kind of knowledge that comes from the experiences, reflection and refinement (Chen, 2017). This research attempts to draw the connection between the practical knowledge of teachers and their resilience to do the curriculum reform. That is to say, the components of the practical knowledge of teachers, which are their missions, identities and beliefs, strongly determine the resilience of teachers in doing the curriculum reform.

**Ananya Sinha '19**

**Fine Arts/Growth and Structure of Cities**

*Authenticity in the Network Society: Splintering People, Places and Purpose*

The creation of three decentralising creative districts within Baltimore is local and modern. This means that local place is interjected with global spatial references and representations. The districts singular overarching capitalist goal simultaneously create antithetical spaces and people marked by their 'difference' to its goal. The combination of leadership and control within the districts, their representation of the districts and the use of the space reveal marginalisation and discrepancies tied to people, place and image in each district. Station North Arts & Entertainment District management prioritises the creative industry and creates tensions of neighborhood identity and gentrification. Highlandtown Arts & Entertainment District multiple coalitions selectively activate the arts and neighborhood history within its space while commodifying its Hispanic residents and neglecting their space. In the Bromo Arts and Entertainment district, its management mediates the space through heavy-branding, negligence or superficial connection to the segregated array of people and services within the compact space. These results seen through the differentiated infrastructure of the network society yielding nuanced sentiments and representation of place and place tied to time and spatial temporalities reveal oversights by managing agents.

**Clara Wright '19 Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology/Classical Culture and Society**

*Isis and Cleopatra in Rome: How One of History's Most Famous Queens Influenced an Egyptian Cult in the Heart of the Roman Empire*

For centuries, Cleopatra VII has been remembered as a temptress who seduced powerful Roman men like Julius Caesar and Marcus Antonius. However, the infamy of Cleopatra's legend is rooted in the ancient propaganda of her enemies who constructed this narrative to suit their own ends. In an effort to sexualize and vilify her, this narrative purposefully leaves out Cleopatra's own agency as the sovereign of one of the most powerful empires in the ancient Mediterranean world. During her reign in Egypt, Cleopatra strongly connected herself to the Egyptian goddess Isis. This served to legitimize her rule and to connect herself with the native religion of her people. Cleopatra's political and religious influence extended beyond the borders of Egypt and into the heart of the Roman Empire. This paper argues Cleopatra VII significantly impacted the Roman Isis cult in three ways: she associated herself with the divinity of Isis while in Rome through a carefully curated image; her political sway influenced the construction of the first major Isis cult site in Rome at the Temple of Isis Campense; and her military defeat in 31 BCE led to the stigmatization and persecution of the Roman Isis cult.

**Ruoli Yang '19**

**Growth and Structure of Cities**

*Planning Exhibition Halls within Planning Field in Contemporary China*

What are the functions of planning exhibition halls in major cities in contemporary China? And how do those planning exhibition halls convey their ideology to the public both on-site and online? Through on-site observations and interviews with the staffs, this paper will compare and contrast planning exhibition halls in Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Wuhan, and Chongqing regarding to the messages they convey. I argue that planning exhibition halls in China, as a unique phenomenon of exhibiting master plans and policies, are bridges that deliver made-decisions from the government to the public. Looking from different lens, this paper will investigate the situation, narration, and public interaction of PEHs in China.