

## **Hanna Holborn Gray Undergraduate Research Fellowship 2019 Fellows**

**Musckaan Chauhan '20**

**Political Science**

*The Wretched and the Political: On Subjectivity and Revolution*

My research argues that reading Frantz Fanon in the double register of his political project and his selfhood allows us to envision new political futures from the perspective of an illiberal subject or—drawing from Fanon’s language—a “wretched subject”. Through critical engagements with various aspects of Fanon’s work, ranging from his phenomenological account of his experience in France to his work dealing explicitly with revolution and democracy, this essay puts him into conversation with contemporary theorists dealing with “wretchedness”—blackness, indigeneity, precolonial cultures—and political action. By elaborating upon a new reading of wretchedness, this essay attempts to reimagine citizenry, not in its current iterations, but as a revolutionary, non-episodic praxis, the ultimate politicality of being.

**Kyra Hoerr '20**

**Philosophy**

*Climate Models and the Challenge of Bridging Scales*

Social values are particularly important to understand in climate science because the implications of climate science are inherently social. Many philosophers of science have argued that social values are entrenched in the scientific process such that values may influence both climate science and the responses to climate change recommended by climate scientists. In my research I review current accounts of values in climate science, including Winsberg’s view that social values are too entrenched in climate models to understand. I argue, however, that social values can be understood at the level of the scientific community if not at the individual level. Under my view it is not possible to separate social and epistemic concerns in climate science; however, it is possible to understand the influence of values and to critique the types of values that are appropriate in a given context. For example, social values in the scientific community may influence the types of research questions that are pursued, the modeling strategies employed, and the data included in climate models. Moving forward, I will be evaluating specific cases in which social values influence climate science.

**Hope Jones '20**

**History**

*Ben Zion Goldberg: Jewish National and Religious Identity in the Soviet Union*

During the late 1940s, Stalin intensified the persecution of Jewish intellectuals, including members of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee (JAFC). The JAFC, based in Moscow and headed by Solomon Mikhoels and Itzik Fefer, aimed to eliminate the fascist and antisemitic

ideologies present in countries previously occupied by Nazis. The JAFC maintained strong connections with prominent Jews all over the world. One of these persons was Ben Zion Goldberg, an editor and columnist for a New York City Yiddish newspaper *Der Tog*. When Goldberg visited the Soviet Union in 1946, the JAFC influenced his plans and Goldberg grew close to Mikhoels and Fefer. After Goldberg's trip to the Soviet Union he continued to correspond with JAFC members. When JAFC members went missing, were tried, and executed; Goldberg tried to contact and help the JAFC members. In this paper, I ask: How did Goldberg contribute to the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee's aim to bolster Jewish nationality within the Soviet Union and internationally? In what ways did Goldberg help the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee and Soviet Jews connect to other Jews around the world?

**Cara Navarro '20**

**Growth and Structure of Cities**

*Gentrified Filipino Food: Urban Philippine Restaurants and Filipinx-American Consumers in Washington, D.C.*

In this paper, I investigate the relationship between Filipinx-Americans and 'trendy' Philippine restaurants, using Washington, D.C. as a case study due to its emerging Philippine food scene. What social processes led to the emergence of 'trendy' Philippine restaurants? Why do Filipinx-American restaurateurs and customers view Philippine food differently? I investigated these questions through participant observation at several Philippine restaurants, conversations with customers, an interview with a restaurateur, and a qualitative analysis of Yelp reviews. Ultimately, I concluded that Filipinx-American restaurateurs and consumers both view Philippine food through the lens of personal memory, and both use this lens to inform their respective food production and consumption processes. Restaurateurs and chefs reproduce their food memories in their dishes, and Filipinx-American consumers use their food memories to evaluate restaurant meals. However, since 'trendy' restaurant owners were socialized into the urban culinary field, their reproduction of their food memories was filtered through its beliefs and practices. Filipinx-American consumers were not all socialized into this field, preventing them from appreciating Philippine food in a 'trendy' restaurant context.

**Elina Nikoleri '20**

**Growth and Structure of Cities**

*London's Pop-Ups: How Temporary Projects Permanently Affect the Urban Fabric of London*

London has always been a popular destination, not only due to the multitude of tourist attractions that it offers, but because of how versatile of a city it is. Though it is a city with a deep historic past, most of London's neighborhoods are constantly changing to cater to the needs of the habitants and the tourists. In this age, people are in search of authentic experiences which will excite them. This quest manifests itself into neighborhood revitalization and establishments with temporal features which can take the form of markets, street food stalls, seasonal events, etc. Temporary pop-up projects have started making their appearance in big cities worldwide with success and London is no exception. Through examining two of the city's pop-ups, this research

paper investigates how although such projects are temporary, they can have a long-lasting effect on the neighborhoods that host them. The greater part of the research material was gathered through semi-structured interviews with the projects' staff members, and with residents and business owners of the projects' neighborhoods. The interviews, along with further on-site observation, reveal that London's temporary projects may differ from similar ones in other locations, since they go further than being another case of gentrification.

**Joseph Staruski HC '20**

**Growth and Structure of Cities; Philosophy**

*Prayers for Politicians: Religion and the Public Sphere in Boston, Massachusetts*

How can protestant churches work to foster rational-critical discourses in the public sphere? Such discourses are essential for informed democratic society, but the contemporary situation is struggling to maintain these discourses in a healthy fashion. This paper will engage the public sphere theory of Jürgen Habermas and consider competing arguments from Jose Casanova and W. Julian Korab-Karpiwinz in an effort to understand the proper place of religion in the public sphere. It is part of a sociological research project which instigates four protestant churches in Boston. The paper uses in-person interviews, event observations, historical analysis, and theoretical arguments to explain the contemporary situation of religious institutions in Boston. The paper will make the claim that these institutions can foster the public sphere by: 1, producing public spheres; 2, establishing the proper conditions for a public sphere; and 3, creating content that serves to inform the public sphere. While religious institutions are imperfect and diverse, the actions they perform in support of the public sphere can certainly be benevolent. In sum, the contemporary public sphere requires rejuvenation, and Churches are in a position to provide some level of support for such rejuvenation.

**Alex Tucker '20**

**Classical Languages**

*Soul, Spirit, and the Incarnation in Clement of Alexandria*

Clement of Alexandria, the second-century Platonizing and Stoicizing theologian, was at pains to establish and defend his own religious doctrine against his Christian and Jewish contemporaries. His adaptation of the allegorical exegesis undertaken roughly one hundred and fifty years prior by the Jewish Platonist Philo of Alexandria allows insight into Early Christian points of contention and self-definition. Clement's proto-orthodox doctrine of the incarnation, wherein Jesus was both human and divine rather than only human (as Jews thought) or only divine (as some now-heretical sects thought) led to his unique understanding of how the human soul relates to the divine and the human spirit. I analyze the writings of Philo, Clement, and some of their polytheist contemporaries and predecessors to understand what each author thinks and how this relates to non-Abrahamic cosmologies and understandings of humanity. Philo's construction of the soul in relation to human spirit and to God indicates that an individual is akin to a dim mirror image of God. Clement of Alexandria, on the other hand, treats the human soul and spirit as parallels of the eternal divine Word and the Holy Spirit.

**Emily Williams '20**

**English**

*The Stylings of an American: Identity Performance in 19th Century Literature*

In analyzing William Wells Brown's *Clotel; or the President's Daughter* and Frank J. Webb's *The Garies and Their Friends*, 19th-century novels written by black authors, the uses of performance theory can be expanded to the literary. These books, although fictional, draw on historical events, documents, and experiences to create an image of the United States and how people of color are allowed to exist within the expectations of a white patriarchal nation struggling with the imminent end of slavery. Using theoretical texts focused on both drag and minstrel performance, these novels demonstrate divergence from generic and social conventions of subjectivity and rework oppressive systems through the careful use of performativity. My term for such resistance, authorial drag, occurs when authors use representation to acknowledge the ever-present connection of race and gender with history by recuperating it from misidentification and revealing the multiplicity of selfhood and identity as a tool for survival and futurity. The defamiliarization of both blackness and whiteness in literature confronts the hierarchical structure of the nation and spurs a conscious effort to rework systems of power that disenfranchise marginalized communities by deconstructing the expectations of identity and exposing the intrinsically fabricated nature of race and gender.

**Jiayu Zhou '20**

**Anthropology**

*The "Mandarinization" of Philadelphia Chinatown: An Investigation and Analysis of an Ethnic Linguistic Landscape*

Linguistic landscape refers to the linguistic signs and language-using individuals that mark the public space. This paper investigates the linguistic landscape within the main business streets of Philadelphia Chinatown, an area constituting of over 300 businesses in diverse categories. The research employed a quantitative study that surveys the diversity of the linguistic repertoire employed by the businesses, and a qualitative study that examines the hidden motivation behind language choice in a multilingual environment. Both researches yield the big picture that the surveyed businesses manifest heteroglossia in terms of both usage of written languages (languages displayed) and usage of spoken languages. Yet in contrast to what it was decades ago, the Philadelphia Chinatown nowadays has also gone through a so-called process of "Mandarinization" to certain extent. Specially, the Mandarin-speaking, simplified-Chinese-using people from mainland China have wielded some power on the linguistic and commercial spheres of the place that was traditionally defined by Cantonese-speaking, traditional-Chinese-using population. The Panasian-ization and English-ization of Chinatown is also not negligible.