Tabatha Barton '15 (Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology & Classical Languages)

Agricultural Cults of the Archaic Roman Forum

The oldest religious buildings in the Roman forum were places of worship for the following gods; Saturn, Vulcan, Vesta, Mars, Ops and Dis Pater. These gods, their presence in the forum and their agricultural festivals represent the Romans' fears and attentions towards their agricultural economy. These gods continued their agricultural importance throughout the republic and into the late empire to varying degrees. Despite their origins in other cultures (Greek, Sabine, Etruscan, etc.), the grouping of these gods in the forum is inherently Roman in nature.

Stephanie Bredbrenner '15 (History)

Appreciation or Appropriation? Arabic to Latinate Translation Activities in the Ebro Valley and Toledo in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries

Medieval Iberia is a topic that is constantly being negotiated and reimagined. The site of over seven hundred years of cultural contact between Christians, Jews, and Muslims, it has alternatively been conceived as a turbulent time of violence and reconquest and an idyllic time of convivencia, or peaceful coexistence and cross-cultural exchange. While scholars have largely debunked the myths of a unified reconquista or convivencia as ideological myths, the idea of scholarly translation activity, especially in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, has persisted as a sign of noble intellectual dialogue regardless of religious creed. But many of these translation movements coincided with decisive victories for the Christians, the increasing subjugation of Muslims, and the appropriation of Islamic cultural styles, especially in architecture, to symbolize the Christians' mastery of all religions, cultures, and languages in their newly diverse and enlarged kingdoms. Over the summer, I researched translation methodologies including the employment of previously expelled Jewish translators, the rhetoric of translators in their prefaces, ideas of translatiostudii and the inherent decline of Islamic civilization, and decisions about vernacular translations to resituate these translation activities as legitimizing, nation-building extensions of conquest rather than an expression of intercultural respect and understanding.

Diana Corrado'15 (Philosophy)

Filmic Language, Deleuzian Language: A Conversation about Space

Ideology is everywhere. It is both imperceptible and undeniable, described by thinkers such as Zizek as constantly affecting people in every aspect of their lives: their priorities, their ability to communicate, and even the things they think. Can people still be sincere and authentic in the face of ideology, or is its impact completely inescapable? Much ink has been spilled by twentieth century psychoanalytic thinkers in attempts to penetrate this question. It is my project to utilize and synthesize their progress while solidifying a new perspective, buttressed by a wide array of references ranging from written discourse to music, film, and art.

Maya Felman '15 (English)

St. Clare's in the Colonies: Echoes of Enid Blyton

My research will begin with a close reading of St. Clare's, a boarding school series written during World War II by immensely popular British children's book writer Enid Blyton. I will explore how St. Clare's interacts with British national and imperial identity during WWII. How is this identity produced and gendered? I will also explore the cultural, psychological, and aesthetic effects of Blyton in post-colonial literature, specifically Jamaica Kincaid's Lucy (1990) and Rohinton Mistry's A Family Matter (2002). Both these novels reference Enid Blyton by name. How does Blyton inform the way that the colonized children in these novels view themselves? How does she inform the the way these children view their mothers and their homelands? How are Blyton's messages refracted and subverted in post-colonial literature? Finally, I want to interrogate how the British publishing industry continues to cultivate and maintain markets for their products in the former colonies.

Sarah Ferrieri '15 (History of Art)

Depictions of Early Colonial Medical Care in Central Mexican Codices, 1500-1600

In my research, I examine depictions of disease, health, and medical care in Central Mexican manuscripts from 1500-1600. Specifically, I source illustrations from the *Florentine Codex, Codex Aubín*, and *Codex Magliabecchi*. Through the analysis of these images as primary documents and the support of secondary sources from the History of Medicine and the History of Art in New Spain, I hope to demonstrate how images were utilized to document and preserve history while reflecting on disease, health, and treatment in Central Mexico. These few images were hand-painted alongside thousands of others in encyclopedic volumes; they become intertwined in a network of the early colonial body and mind illuminating the relationships between conquest, health, disease, and art.

Sofia Javed'15 (Anthropology)

Hindu-Islamic Relations Post the Partition: The Conflict in the Population's Collective Memory

I would like to explore how the social order on the basis of religion has changed or remained static in Lahore since the partition of India and Pakistan. To elaborate, I will begin with examining the religious life of Pakistan through visiting religious sites and places of worship and interviewing the designated guides there on their perception of religious tension in the subcontinent and how it affects the dynamic of social life in Pakistan overall. The places of worship would include churches, mandirs (Hindu temples), gurdwaras (Sikh temples) and mosques as well. The larger bulk of my project would involve interviewing those who were alive during the partition and/or their family members on how the social tension from that time period had affected their lives. Additionally, I would like to engage the media in my findings and interpret different forms of religious propaganda, such as Islamic talk shows.

XueJin'15 (Growth and Structure of Cities)

The Rhetoric of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the Sustainable Tokyo Concept

"How does the Olympic bid transform Tokyo's urban policy, and how does such focus fit with the ideas of Sustainable Tokyo?" will be the leading question for my research project. Over the last decade, the governmental attempt to brand Tokyo as a global city has been replaced by attempts to establish the capital as a paradigm of sustainability. Two major urban design processes – the planning for 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the rebuilding for 3.11 Tōhokudisaster occur in this very delicate moment when Tokyo is reframing its urban policies, and the events are similar for their high demand on urban transformation in a timely manner. This research will examine the interaction between the two process and how they together shape Tokyo's future image. It will also identify possible opportunities and challenges faced by Tokyo in the post-Olympics era with reference from the previous two Olympics in London and Beijing.

Ailun (Ellen) Li '15 (Political Science)

Why it is dangerous to say "We are all Chinese?" An Analysis of Chinese nationalism in Hong Kong

After 156 years of British rule, Hong Kong was handed over to the Chinese government in 1997 and now serves as a Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Following the return of sovereignty, both Hong Kong and Chinese society have undergone great social changes and have engaged in frequent economic cooperation and cultural exchanges. According to political economy theory, strong economic cooperation should foster amicable relations between two regions. However, despite the fact that Hong Kong has benefited from mainland China's rapid economic growth and mounting political power, Sino-Hong Kong relations are often characterized by friction. Even more importantly, An anti-mainland emotion is growing stronger in the city. Inspired by this discrepancy, Ellen tries to explain the lack of patriotic emotion in Hong Kong by applying modernist theories.

Allegra TomassMassaro'15 (Growth and Structure of Cities)

Philanthropies in Philadelphia: Understanding Their Role in the Urban Agenda

With severe economic downturn, there is increased pressure on the civic sector to bridge economic gaps and provide social services. As more than one of every four Philadelphians live below the poverty line, a quartet of foundations (Lenfest, William Penn, Pew, and Annenberg) have played a dynamic role in the city for the past 13 years in a variety of areas and in different ways. Through an 8-week lived period in the city of Philadelphia, I plan to examine the civic sector as a third force within this city through the lens of four foundations, investigating how these foundations interact with the municipality and its urban agenda, how they've impacted the structural layout of the city, and how they've answered to prominent issues of race and gender inequality. I aim to answer these questions through a combination of primary and secondary research methods, combining quantitative and qualitative data.

Eileen Morgan'15 (English & History)

Medieval Food and Modern Palates: Historical Re-enactment and the Politics of Consumption

By considering contemporary acts of medievalism that are explicitly linked to food, I was able to compare the cultural function of food as a medium for reflexive identity formation with nostalgic nationalist elements of modern medieval reenactments in Europe and the United States. This path of inquiry led me to investigate the evolving relationship between the teaching of history in the classroom and the pedagogical challenge posed by historical re-enactment, the role of consumerism and commodification of history in themed banquets, and the influence of various interpretations of the medieval period by re-enactors on collective historical imaginings of the Middle Ages. Far from critiquing the accuracy of recreated medieval food, with this project I sought to study the relationship between history, medievalism, and re-enactment through the lens of food in order to gain a better understanding of the ways in which contemporary culture engages with the past.

Leigh Peterson '15 (History of Art)

Motivated by Victory: The Portrait of Roger II crowned by Christ as a political statement against the Byzantine Emperor

The subject of my study is the portrait of Roger II crowned by Christ in the Church of Santa Maria dell'Ammiraglio, Palermo, Sicily. This portrait was constructed by George of Antioch, the prime minister to Roger II (1095-1154), the first Norman king of Sicily. Historically, scholars have studied this mosaic from an iconographic standpoint; Ernest Kitzinger's analyses are some of the most compelling and accurate in my opinion. However, I feel that Kitzinger does not do enough to provide a historical explanation as to why the portrait of Roger II crowned by Christ was created in Santa Maria dell'Ammiralio during the late 1140s and in a style that dramatically appropriates Byzantine imperial garments. I propose that the creation of this mosaic was motivated by the tense geo-political situation between Roger II and Manuel I Kommenos, the Byzantine emperor, and that George of Antioch intended for it to commemorate Roger's victories and convey the Norman king's superiority to the Greek clergy attending the church.

Angela Rosenberg '15 (English)

The Road Goes Ever On and On:The narrative elements of Sandbox RPGS

By focusing on the ways in which video games tell stories and employ literary elements for dramatic effects, modern video games can be read as potential subjects for critical literary analysis. Many games engage readers with their text in a way that requires constant critical interpretation, quick thinking and highly-developed understanding of the text that relies upon not only the player's knowledge of the game but also their skills as a reader. *Dragon Age* and *Skyrim,* two favorite archetypes of the fantasy RPG genre, utilize both ludological and literary elements to create quest narratives that are uniquely player-driven and ask their players to carefully interpret the text to determine the best outcome.

PamuduTennakoon '15   (Growth and Structure of Cities & Fine Arts)

The Relationship between the Postcolonial Elite and Colonial Architecture

In many postcolonial cities, the presence of colonial architecture is very evident. This presence is not limited to the surviving colonial buildings but also includes colonial inspired buildings erected after gaining independence. Both, colonial architecture and colonial inspired architecture are generally associated with the elite of the country. Using Colombo, the commercial capital of Sri Lanka, as a case study, I wish to discover the complicated connections between the elite and "colonial architecture." Taking into account the caste system, class system, (post-) colonial mentalities, and colonial architecture of contemporary Sri Lanka I wish to research the root of this relationship. I wish to conduct this research by moving backwards through history. Using 3-4 case studies I will question the fascination and strong association of postcolonial elites with colonial architecture.