



# Bates College

2010-2011

Honors Theses Abstracts

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Erin M. Bourgault\*

\*Denotes a combined thesis

## ANTHROPOLOGY

**Hannah M. Arenstam**

*Advisor:* Loring Danforth

### **Representations of Australian National Identity in the Immigration Museum of Victoria**

The Immigration Museum in Victoria, Australia, is dedicated to conveying the many facets of the country's long history of immigration. In my thesis I examine the representations of Australian national identity displayed in the Immigration Museum to answer the question: What does this museum reveal to Australians and others about Australia? My analysis is based on Geertzian interpretive anthropology and has also been significantly influenced by Benedict Anderson's theory of the nation as an "imagined community." During a semester abroad in Australia I conducted fieldwork in the museum from which my ethnographic data are drawn. Australia has long been a nation of immigrants, as a result two competing conceptions of Australian national identity have developed: an ethnic national identity and a multicultural nation identity, both of which are represented in the Immigration Museum. My aim is not to provide a definitive answer to the question of what it means to be Australian, but rather to analyze anthropologically an Australian representation of Australian national identity.

**Alisa J. Hamilton**

*Advisor:* Heather Lindkvist

### **Knocked-Up Baby Mamas: The Normalization of American Childbirth Practices in Hollywood Movies**

Between 2007 and 2010 several romantic comedies premiered featuring a main character who becomes pregnant by unconventional means, and whose pregnancy carries the narrative of the film climaxing at the baby's birth. For young women with little knowledge of childbirth, such movies potentially play a prominent role in constructing their perceptions of pregnancy and birth. I analyze this trend in the movies *Knocked Up*, *Baby Mama*, and *The Back-up Plan*. Using the theory of normalizing judgment, I examine how movies homogenize childbirth practices in the United States. I combine textual analysis of films with data gained from interviews and focus groups comprised of female college students, ages 18-25, who have not had children. Young women with varying degrees of knowledge integrate information gathered from media representations with personal experience to form diverse conceptions of pregnancy and birth that tend toward the normalized versions in films. Such normalizing images may limit perceived reproductive

options and illicit negative emotions from women whose pregnancy and birth experiences deviate from socially constructed standards and ideals. This thesis aims to expose the ramifications of seemingly innocent comedy movies. By combining approaches of medical anthropology and media studies, it provides a unique perspective on reproductive politics in mass media.

## **BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY**

**Joanna C. Mangar**

*Advisor: Jennifer Koviach-Côté*

### **The Radical Scavenging Activity of Phenylethanoid and Phenylpropanoid Glycosides**

Plants are subject to a number of biotic and abiotic stresses such as high light, low temperatures, infection by pathogens, wounding, and nutrient deficiency. Plants often use a set of naturally occurring secondary metabolites, called phenylethanoid glycosides (PhGs), to cope with these pressures. Phenylpropanoid glycosides (PPGs) comprise a subset of PhGs, and have one or more additional phenylpropanoid groups. The phenylpropanoid moiety under investigation in this study is caffeic acid. PhGs and PPGs have garnered particular interest due to their antioxidative ability to scavenge free radicals. It has been found that radical scavenging activity is optimized when both the phenylethanoid and phenylpropanoid groups are present. In addition, radical scavenging activity increases with an increasing number of phenolic protons, and depends on the relative position of the phenylpropyl ester. This work set out to investigate the importance of the phenylethyl group for the radical scavenging activity of PhGs. Radical scavenging was also assessed as a function of the number of caffeoyl groups present and their relative positions. A series of mono-, di-, and tri-substituted analogs were synthesized, lacking the phenylethyl group, and radical scavenging activity was measured by performing a DPPH assay, using  $\alpha$ -tocopherol as a standard.

## **BIOLOGY**

**Carolynn M. Harris**

*Advisors: William Ambrose and Beverly Johnson*

### **Stable Isotopic Shifts in Late Holocene Fish Bones from Multiple Archeological Coastal Middens in Penobscot Bay, Maine**

Changes to nearshore systems and food web dynamics over the past 2,400 years were assessed using stable carbon and nitrogen isotope analysis of fish bone collagen recovered from archaeological middens in Penobscot Bay, Maine. The stable isotope composition of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*), Winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*), and Longhorn sculpin (*Myoxocephalus octodecemspinosus*) from seven coastal middens was compared to two modern samples: one nearshore in Penobscot Bay and one 20-30km offshore on Georges Bank, Gulf of Maine. The  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  of flounder decreased by 4‰ from 2,400 BP to the present and may reflect a prehistoric loss of eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) along Maine's coast. The  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  of cod, an apex predator, decreased by 2‰ from 2,400 BP until the present, suggesting the trophic level of cod declined. This may indicate the population was under constant fishing pressure by indigenous people. The  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  of sculpin and flounder, both mesopredators, increased between 2,400 BP and 1,000 BP, suggesting an increase in trophic level. These populations may have been released from cod predation and permitted to increase in size and abundance, allowing them to feed at higher trophic levels. The  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  of all species decreased between 500 BP and the present likely indicating increased fishing pressures instigated by the arrival of Western Europeans to Maine's coast. The magnitude of offsets among the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  study species at each time period also decreased over time, possibly indicating the ecological niches of omnivorous fish are smaller and may overlap in the modern Penobscot Bay system.

## CHEMISTRY

**Cody H. Newman**

*Advisor:* Rachel Austin

### **Evaluating Ruthenium Catalysts for the Hydrodeoxygenation of Fast Pyrolysis Oil**

A series of supported ruthenium catalysts was evaluated for the hydrodeoxygenation of phenol, a model compound representing a number of similar molecules found in fast pyrolysis oil. Acidic and non-acidic oxide supports were explored, as well as commercial activated carbon and carbon nanofibers. Trends in product distribution and yield indicate the importance of advanced catalyst characterization to determine support effects on activity and reducibility. While Ru/C provided the most desirable activity and selectivity, the potential superior recovery of the silica catalysts examined warrants consideration in future research.

## ENGLISH

**Katie J. Dobbins**

*Advisor:* Sanford Freedman

### **Disabled Characters on a Literary Landscape: Reconsidering Constructs of Normalcy**

Cognitively disabled citizens have been stigmatized in America for decades, though the language by which to describe them undergoes constant transformation. The term *feeble-minded* has transformed over time to *mentally retarded* or *cognitively impaired*. Even though the words themselves have evolved, the weight they carry has not. This is apparent in fiction, in which disabled characters may often appear as misfits. Through narrative prosthesis, a term discussed in great depth by David Mitchell and Sharon Snyder, authors identify then attempt to correct, eliminate, or pacify characters' disabilities. Many narratives demonstrate that disabled characters cannot meet cultural expectations even after undergoing significant transformations. It is important to explore literary representations of disabled characters, as these portrayals can strongly impact reader's perceptions and opinions of real disabled people. This belief and its realization links itself to Ian Hacking's writings on classificatory looping. Thus we also consider the disabled voice through autobiographical texts, in which the disabled write *themselves* into disability studies to affect stigmas. The hope in rethinking disabled stereotypes in popular representations is to create more empowered roles for them in real and fictional realms, such that classroom teachers may rethink critically how to analyze and assess the fictional representation of the disabled.

**Carolyn V. Gallmeyer**

*Advisor:* Lillian Nayder

### **"Muted Possibilities": Female Friendship in Mid-Victorian Literature**

Victorian writers and contemporary critics often idealize sisterhood (whether biological or figurative), presenting it as a source of comfort for women that is in no way indicative of homosexuality, but that often facilitates heterosexual relationships. This thesis examines works by Wilkie Collins, Christina Rossetti, Charlotte Brontë, Elizabeth Gaskell, Charles Dickens, and Elizabeth Barrett Browning to gauge the extent to which female friendship serves the Victorian marriage plot, and uncover the subtle ways in which this relationship is used to question and subvert normative systems. When compared to male same-sex relationships in these works, sisterhood appears much more harmonious, but any initial impressions of uncomplicated affection between women are challenged by

gender ambiguity, homoeroticism, and the blurring of class lines. Furthermore, the subversive strength of female friendship is often quelled at the end of these works, which reasserts the idealized and unthreatening vision of sisterhood or allows it to fade as heterosexual marriage takes precedence. By using relationships between women to question and reinforce patriarchal society, Victorian writers negotiate subversive and conservative values.

**Charlotte A. Green**

*Advisor:* Sylvia Federico

### **Ultimate Weapons: The Persistence of Knighthood in Medieval and Modern Literature**

In my thesis I examine the roles of knights in both medieval and modern sources. Specifically, I explore the ways in which modern portrayals of knights tend to fulfill aspects of chivalry more successfully than their medieval counterparts. Chapter 1 describes the feudal relationship that all knights find themselves in with their lord, with attention to identity, secrecy, and privacy in *The Dark Knight* and various chapters of Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte Darthur*. Chapter 2 examines the requirement of nobility for knighthood, and how commoners and non-aristocrats can become knights, looking at Chaucer's Knight in his "General Prologue," as well as "The Knight's Tale," and Brian Helgeland's 2001 film, *A Knight's Tale*. Finally, Chapter 3 studies the role of women and love in stories of knights, and how women can become knights, with Tamora Pierce's teen book series *Song of the Lioness*, Chaucer's "Wife of Bath's Tale," and the Joan of Arc story, as told by Luc Besson in his 1999 film *The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc* and Vita Sackville-West in *Saint Joan of Arc*. In each instance, modern knights are better able to fulfill their knightly duties than their medieval counterparts.

**Rachel M. Hastings**

*Advisor:* Cristina Malcolmson

### **Constructing Imperial Women in Afghanistan and India: Travel Narratives of Florentia Sale and Emily Eden**

Florentia Sale and Emily Eden, born into upper-class British families, both found themselves brought far from home in the late 1830s by their duties as women of the Empire. Florentia Sale, the wife of a British Army officer stationed in Kabul, survived a disastrous retreat that closed an infamous chapter in British military history. Emily Eden, the sister of the Governor-General of India, traveled with her brother to India for six years to organize his affairs. Sale's journals and Eden's letters to her sister in England reveal the ways in which these women sought to

construct their own identities through their writings. Both women defined themselves and their duties in relation to both Britain and to the men whom they supported, navigating the expected gender roles of their times while far from the social structures of England. While Sale's writings reveal startling independence and strength of mind, Eden's letters are consumed by homesickness and frequent condemnation of India. Sale and Eden seek to construct their own roles and identities through their writings, but are ultimately both limited by the ethnocentrism of the British colonial agenda.

**Emily A. Howe**

*Advisor:* Lillian Nayder

### **Diseased Perceptions**

This thesis considers the ways in which Victorian writers such as Charles Dickens, Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot, and Joseph Conrad employ disease and disease imagery to make some of their most broad and ruthless social critiques. The authors invert both the expected relationship between class and disease, and the expected relationship between the colonizer and the colony in terms of disease. The centrality of disease to the social critiques offered by all four writers reflects the significance of disease during this time, and the importance of understanding how Victorian society conceived of disease.

**Alexandra C. Hyman**

*Advisor:* Sanford Freedman

### **"This Island is My Shadow": Negotiating the Creolized Caribbean Identity in Samuel Selvon's London Trilogy**

In the span of nearly three decades, prolific Trinidadian novelist Samuel Selvon published a trilogy that follows a group of black West Indian immigrants as they attempt to assimilate into London's white society, *The Lonely Londoners* (1956), *Moses Ascending* (1975), and *Moses Migrating* (1983). The three novels witness Moses and Galahad's creolization of England as they negotiate their determination to gain acceptance within the "Mother Country" with their desire to define their Caribbean/black identities. This thesis analyzes a series of criticisms of the London trilogy that consider this creolized self-construct in terms of experimentations with language and dialect, confrontations of the colonial tradition, narrative structure, and self-identification. Specific attention is given to the debate between V. S. Naipaul and George Lamming, with commentary by Edward W. Said, who disagree upon Selvon's influence on the West Indian (Trinidadian) literary field. I argue that Selvon's main contribution is his literary negotiation of what it



means to be a creolized Trinidadian immigrant living in exile. This conceptualization of the Caribbean self, particularly when considered from the immigrant's perspective, was innovative at the time of *The Lonely Londoners*' publication and continues throughout the trilogy.

**Gina A. Mitchell**

*Advisor:* Eden Osucha

### **Corporeal (De)constructions: Race, Language, and Embodiment in African American Fiction**

Historically, discourses on “the body” have been deeply implicated in the defense and perpetuation of racist ideology. The consequences of racial sciences and other historical biological determinisms, compounded by Western assumptions of mind/body dualism, have compelled critical race theorists like Houston A. Baker and Henry Louis Gates Jr. to attempt to disassociate notions of blackness from the corporeal body. Against this disavowal, feminist theory asserts the constitutive interdependence of mind, body, and discourse, reclaiming “the body” as a useful basis of subjectivity and analysis. Taking these contentions as a theoretical basis, this thesis examines tensions over the place of the body in twentieth-century African American narrative fiction. Drawing upon passing narratives, neo-slave narratives, and “postmodern” novels that foreground “the body” as a central site of narration, I juxtapose affirmations of racial and gendered embodiment with deconstructions of race and gender that operate through bodily abstraction. Alongside broader structural and thematic analyses, particular attention is devoted to deciphering the politics of the creative language: How do ideologies of “the body” function at the level of prose? Ultimately, the impossibility of fully circumventing or fully actualizing embodiment in language sustains dynamic and equivocal tensions both between and within the selected novels.

**Sarah E. O'Loughlin**

*Advisor:* Sanford Freedman

### **When Twos Become One: Complexities, Contradictions, and Dualism in Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead***

Tom Stoppard's playwriting has been built on a reputation of being arduously intellectual, difficult, and frustratingly complicated. His first, and most famous work, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, embodies this overly complex and convoluted style for which Stoppard has been acclaimed. This play, however, builds itself around carefully laid contradictions, and purposefully woven dualities. This thesis thus aims to examine such paradoxical concepts, analyzing the constantly

reoccurring force of opposites and constantly shifting ideas of reality and unreality. Utilizing the play's foundation in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, its compositional process and initial reception among audiences as foundational evidence, are investigated and the play's interwoven and multifaceted components are analyzed. From dualistic imagery and linguistic theory, to opposing philosophical perspectives and inconsistent depictions of identity and the human condition, this thesis works to unwind the intricacies of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. Turning to the eventual break down and disintegration of this fantastical world, Stoppard's true intent, and fundamentally important relationship with his audience is able to move into the forefront of his writing, ultimately bringing meaning to this seemingly meaningless and random piece of existentialist writing.

**Danielle M. Scherer**

*Advisor:* Eden Osucha

## **Writing Nation into Nation, The Politics of Transcendental Literature in a Native American Land**

As seen in the writing of key figures such as Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Margaret Fuller, Transcendentalist thought is dominated by a pervasive concern with the "self" in nature. As Transcendentalist texts gained wide currency in the nineteenth-century United States, the philosophy they espoused became integral to the construction of American nationalism—especially as this ideology was being formed in response to the "Indian question." Through a deconstruction of the rhetoric of nation within transcendental writing, this thesis questions the underlying ideology of America as nation by recognizing the writings and experiences of Native peoples. Through anti-imperialist methods, I explore the rhetoric of exploration, travel, and leisure present in transcendentalism as reaffirming the ideologies of Manifest Destiny and Native racial inferiority. In order to dismantle the historical methodological restrictions on the Native written word, I look to the works of Pequot writer William Apess to re-center Native history and political resistance in historical accounts. Drawing on the works of Native scholars such as Maureen Konkle and Robert Warrior, Apess becomes a model for contemporary scholarship in the fields of American literary and Native American studies by rejecting multicultural and postcolonial interpretations that reduce Native writings to a confined entity of the American literary canon.

**Alexander M. Streim**  
*Advisor: Steve Dillon*

### **Beckett, Merleau-Ponty, and the Phenomenological Return**

Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology argues that philosophy should focus on—should return to—the embodied experience of the philosopher. His methodology foregoes the abstract rationalizations of other philosophical schools as it “returns” to the direct, perceptual experiences that form the basis of conceptualized discourse. Because of that return, it has been called a “philosophy of presence,” and has been seen to conflict with the textual predilections of poststructuralist and deconstructive theory. With the rise of poststructuralist criticism of Samuel Beckett's work, phenomenological frameworks of interpretation were temporarily displaced. This thesis attempts to reconcile Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology with Derrida's “philosophy of absence,” with the goal of rejuvenating our ability to read Beckett's work with phenomenological attention. With a particular attention paid to the embodied—and disembodied—experience of Samuel Beckett's protagonists, I explore how Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology can interpret—and is already reflected in—*Molloy*, *Endgame*, and *Waiting for Godot*.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

**Erin M. Bourgault**  
*Advisor: Jane Costlow*

### **Herbal Medicine, Vertical Births and Placenta Rituals: The *Interculturalidad* of Andean Births**

In an effort to decrease the maternal-infant death rate in Peru, the Ministry of Health has published reports aimed at encouraging doctors to incorporate intercultural ways of giving birth in indigenous Peruvian villages. This thesis examines the reproductive rights of, options available to, and decisions made by indigenous Peruvian women in the villages of Coporaque, Callalli, Lari, and Chivay in Peru. Many women prefer to use traditional birthing practices, such as the use of herbal medicine, vertical births, and placenta rituals. Therefore, some women would prefer to give birth with a midwife or alone instead of using the health facilities. I aim to evaluate the conflict between rural, indigenous women in Peru and the medical facilities that do not accept the culture of these women, yet can offer them more professional care. In order to better understand this conflict, I use a framework focusing on reproductive rights, ecofeminism, and the medicalization of childbirth. My preliminary ethnographic research in the province of Caylloma suggests that many health clinics do not incorporate intercultural birthing

practices, leaving many indigenous women unsatisfied with the treatment or unwilling to use the health facilities.

**Molly M. Newton**

*Advisor:* Michael Retelle

### **Monitoring Sedimentation Patterns and Tidal Inlet Migration at Small Point, Seawall, and Popham Beaches, Phippsburg, Maine**

From deglaciation and sea-level rise to major storms and anthropogenic interventions, beaches are geologic features in constant flux. Shifting shorelines and dynamic erosion, among other factors, make barrier beach systems zones of rapid change. Seawall and Popham Beaches, located in Phippsburg, ME are examples of the complexities of interaction between weather patterns, sedimentation patterns, and tidal inlet migration. Since 2004, concurring with shifts in the paths of the tidal inlets linking coastal marsh to ocean, major changes to beach topography and sedimentation patterns have affected the beach systems. Through topographical surveying of the beach face and mapping of tidal channels, this study examines the potential relationship between shifts in position of tidal inlet and erosion/deposition on the beachfronts of these four beaches. Despite the current fortuitous shift in the Morse River, Popham Beach remains a dynamic sedimentary environment. This study focuses on tracking sedimentation patterns at Popham Beach following changes to the Morse River channel. Coincidentally, pocket beaches on Small Point were also affected by a dynamic tidal channel, and results from surveys are included in the study, providing another perspective on sedimentation trends from within the same region. Ultimately, this study will provide the Maine Department of Conservation, the Town of Phippsburg, and Small Point landowners with specific information regarding the sedimentary response of Phippsburg beaches to tidal inlet migration that can be used should difficult decisions concerning the protection of investments again be faced.

## **FRENCH**

**Alexandria R. Alberto**

*Advisor :* Kirk Read

### **L'Identité Nationale Française: Une Collectivité Exclusive**

During the summer of 2010 a French identity crisis was announced in all the major media. The government declared a “national crisis” defined by the loss of cultural and historical elements that once classified the French identity. This

ongoing “crisis” was born out of fears of a decline of national unity, an assault on the traditions of culture, and diminishing patriotism. This crisis occurs in the context of an increasingly globalized world and, more specifically, a significant increase in North African immigration to France. This thesis addresses the political actions of the French government in its attempt to strengthen and preserve national identity. I analyze the governmental proposals and political agendas and investigate the current social and political context of immigration and integration in France. From there, I derive three central themes of the political campaign that the government asserts are fundamental in preserving French national identity: the preservation of the French language, remedial history instruction in school, and the promotion of patriotic symbols of the French Republic. In my thesis, I analyze the historical precedents of creating and upholding a French national identity using a common history, language, and cultural symbols to examine the reasons the government has chosen to recreate a collectivity with these elements. I then consider the social consequences of reinforcing French identity with these three elements. I intend to make clear the discrepancy between the political objectives presented to the people—uniting all citizens under a collective identity—and the underlying intentions and social effects that exclude a significant portion of the immigrant population from this identity.

## GEOLOGY

**Gregory A. de Wet**

*Advisor: Michael Retelle*

### **Analysis of Sediment Trap Yields in Glacial Fed Linnévatnet, Svalbard: Calibrating Watershed and Lacustrine Processes for Paleoclimate Analysis**

Annually laminated lake sediments provide valuable high resolution records of paleoclimate in areas such as the High Arctic where detailed records are generally lacking. Studies of lacustrine sediment deposition and watershed dynamics allow for interpretation or calibration of the annual sediment yields and the connection to climatic controls. Sediment trap studies undertaken since 2003 on Linnévatnet, a High Arctic glacial-fed lake on the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago, provide a critical link from modern processes to the laminated sediment record. In the summer of 2010, 31 traps were collected that had been deployed in the summer of 2009. Their locations in relation to the glacial stream Linnéelva range from proximal (.4km away) to distal (3.3km). Instrumentation in the Linné valley, including time lapse cameras, temperature loggers, snow trees, and weather station data help facilitate understanding of climatic controls on glacial melt and stream discharge. Two sedimentation events occurred in the summer/fall of 2009, accounting for 25% of total sediment accumulation. Spring 2010 sedimentation

began on 15 June with an event that accounted for 12.5% of total yearly sediment accumulation. The most significant event of the year occurred on 24-30 June. It was driven by nival melt and accounted for 50% of the total sediment accumulation. Two further events were recorded by the intervalometer, each accounting for 6.3% of total accumulation. The first of these was caused by settling of fine-grained particles and the second was a distinct event controlled by solar radiation and temperature. The nival melt is determined to be the dominant hydrologic event in the Linné valley and responsible for the majority of sedimentation in Linnévatnet. This timing and intensity of this melt event is controlled primarily by melting degree days. Subsequently further study is needed to determine the validity of using Linnévatnet's varved sediment for paleoclimate reconstructions.

**Wesley R. Farnsworth**

*Advisor: Michael Retelle*

### **A Case Study of Spatial Variability in Snowpack: Norwegian High Arctic and Presidential Range, New Hampshire**

Slab avalanches initiate on weak interfaces in snowpack where the internal stratification is predominantly controlled by meteorological events. However, little is known about how snowpack stratigraphy varies across a slope and what influences local topography has on the internal structure. Although snowpack on a slope can appear "uniform" (consistent aspect, inclination, curvature, exposure, and relative altitude), the internal stratigraphy and stability are not necessarily consistent. This study addresses what roles rock outcrops, topographic lows, and base irregularities play in internal snow structure. How does base topography and seasonal snow-infill change snowpack stratigraphy and stability? Is the snowpack around outcrops less stable? This thesis is a two-part research project with field sites in Svalbard, Norwegian High Arctic, and the Presidential Range of New Hampshire. Initial research was conducted during the spring of 2010 on Svalbard's biggest island, Spitsbergen, and was focused around the region of the main settlement, Longyearbyen. Phase two of the project proceeded in the winter of 2011, at Tuckerman Ravine, flanking the eastern side of Mount Washington. The study was conducted on small uniform slopes during intensive field-days where numerous snow pits were excavated, each providing sites for three snow stability tests (Jamieson, 1999; Simenhois & Birkland, 2006) and occasional snow profiles (Fierz et al, 2009). By conducting the tests on a small uniform slope, it is possible to isolate ground topography as the focus by normalizing other variables that drive spatial dissimilarity. The study focuses on the relationship between the uniform slope surface, the irregular ground topography and subsequently the overlying snowpack. A complete understanding of snowpack and the processes involved in its formation is crucial in maintaining a seasonal record monitoring snowpack stratigraphy/stability. Spatial variability of the snowpack is one of the key factors in avalanche formation (Kronholm, and Schweizer, 2003). A greater understanding of

snow stability will enable better predictions as to where and when slab avalanches will occur. This knowledge becomes increasingly important as more people visit avalanche terrain, directly driving up the number of avalanche related accidents. Initial study results have shown the field tests on the small uniform slopes have successfully isolated base topography as the key component driving variable stratigraphy and stability in snowpack. Inconsistent slab sizes on the multiple weak interfaces also suggest ground irregularities have diminishing presence as snowpack increase and infilling occurs.

**Gregory E. Flynn**

*Advisor:* Beverly Johnson

### **Nitrogen Isotopes in *Zostera marina*: a Potential Indicator of Anthropogenic Nutrient Loading in Casco Bay, Gulf of Maine**

Estuaries that are in close proximity to densely populated areas and/or receive run-off from populated watersheds are particularly susceptible to nitrogen loading, which can lead to anthropogenic-caused eutrophication. The stable nitrogen isotope ratios ( $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ ) of dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) and *Zostera marina* are enriched in  $^{15}\text{N}$  in densely populated estuaries of Cape Cod, where there are high levels of anthropogenic nitrogen. Little is known about whether this technique for identifying the presence of anthropogenic nutrients can be used on the coast of Maine. In this research, two areas in the Casco Bay were studied to see if a populated area (Mackworth Island, Portland) shows  $^{15}\text{N}$  enrichment relative to a less populated area (Maquitt Bay, Brunswick). The DIN and the *Zostera marina* from Mackworth Island have  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values  $\sim 2.5$  ‰ enriched relative to Maquitt Bay, suggesting that nitrogen isotopes in *Zostera* can be used to detect the presence of anthropogenic nitrogen. This information has the potential to help indicate early signs of eutrophication and help prevent any further nutrient overloading in Casco Bay.

**Carter A. Kindley**

*Advisor:* J. Dykstra Eusden, Jr.

### **Paleostress Analysis of Mesozoic Extension in Fractures and Basalt Dikes, Great Gulf, New Hampshire**

A brittle structural analysis was completed in the Great Gulf Wilderness and Mt. Clay area of the Presidential Range, New Hampshire, to complete an understanding of the deformational history of the region and relate brittle structures and intrusions to the broader regional tectonic context. GPS/GIS mapping of basalts and joints in the Silurian Rangeley Fm. migmatites and

Devonian Littleton Fm. schist and quartzite was undertaken where excellent outcrop abundance and steep relief dominate. Three basalt dikes were mapped, and all strike approximately  $55^\circ$  and dip  $65\text{-}75^\circ\text{SE}$ . Four extensional joint sets were defined using Kamb's contour method. The oldest basalt parallel set strikes  $50^\circ$  and dips  $80^\circ\text{SE}$ . This set is best defined in the Rangeley Fm., and dips near vertical in the Littleton. The other joint sets, in order of decreasing age, are: a set striking  $100^\circ$  and dipping  $65^\circ\text{N}$ ; a set striking  $170^\circ$  and dipping  $70^\circ\text{W}$ ; and a sheeted set striking  $60^\circ$  and dipping  $20^\circ\text{W}$ . These results confirm regional studies in New England and Quebec that show a NW-SE extensional stress related to rifting of Pangea, followed by E-W extension related to the intrusion of the New England-Quebec igneous province, then N-S extensional stress related to a later uplift event.

**Ingrid B. Knowles**

*Advisor:* Beverly Johnson

### **A Biogeochemical Study of Ditchplug and Natural Pools in the Sprague River Marsh, Phippsburg, Maine**

Many of the marshes in New England currently have a network of small, hand-dug ditches (put into place by the first European settlers 300+ years ago). Ditches can increase the rates of flooding and draining during the tidal cycle. In an effort to restore these ditched marshes and to increase the surface area of pool habitat available, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plugged several ditches in the Sprague River Marsh, Phippsburg, Maine, in the early 2000s. Since emplacement of the ditchplugs, few efforts have been made to monitor the ditchplug pools. The purpose of this research is to study the biogeochemical cycling of ditchplug and natural pools in the Sprague River Marsh in Phippsburg. In the summer of 2010 mummichogs (*Fundulus heteroclitus*), surface sediment, vegetation, biomass cores, and other marine organisms were collected for stable isotope analysis. General water quality parameters were also monitored along with the collection of nutrient data ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{PO}_4$ , and  $\text{NH}_4$ ). Initial results suggest enrichment in the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  in the muscle tissue from the mummichogs collected in the ditchplug pools. These trends are likely due to differences in vegetation type between the natural and ditchplug areas of the marsh. Further analysis is underway to further understand the isotopic and hydrological differences in the ditchplug and natural pools.



**Keegan T. Runnals**

*Advisor: J. Dykstra Eusden, Jr.*

## **The Vogar Fissure Swarm, Reykjanes Peninsula, Iceland: Aseismic Kinematics of an Oblique Rift Zone**

Exposure of the Mid-Atlantic ridge in Iceland offers a unique place to study hotspot-ridge interactions along an oblique rift zone. The Reykjanes Peninsula is a left lateral shear zone characterized by a series of NE striking en echelon fissure swarms oblique to the rift axis, and N-S trending dextral strike slip faults. This study focuses on the Vogar fissure swarm in southwest Iceland, in order to better constrain the mode of deformation within it. Movement of the faults and fissures that make up the fissure swarm is thought to either be related to seismic events along the ridge, or occur aseismically due to dike injections during eruptive episodes. GPS measurements and field based mapping were employed to examine a 7x3 km cross-section of the fissure swarm in order to constrain its kinematics. The faults tend to terminate at the contact of a historical fissure lava and an ~12,000-year-old shield lava. Cooling properties of the historical lava flow and overflowed pre-existing faults were concluded to contribute to its present day structure. The faults' termination at the historical lava supports the theory that movement along the faults occurs primarily aseismically during eruptive episodes. With this assumption a hypothetical cross section was created of the Vogar fissure swarm extending to the base of the crust, relating the normal faults at the surface to dikes at depth. The continued activity along the Reykjanes Peninsula suggests that it is still a very active spreading center, making it important to constrain the types of deformation that characterize it.

## **HISTORY**

**Andrew W. Beck**

*Advisor: Margaret Imber*

## **Opposing the God of War: Command and Tactics in the Second Punic War**

In 216 BCE, during the Second Punic War, the Carthaginian general Hannibal destroyed a Roman army at the battle of Cannae. Although Hannibal's tactics were devastatingly effective at Cannae, fourteen years later the Romans defeated Hannibal at the battle of Zama. The outcomes of these two battles raise the question, what was necessary for victory of the battlefields of the Second Punic War? To answer this question, I am studying these battles in relation to battlefield principles discerned from Sun Tzu's *Art of War*, which focuses my study on the most important factors affecting victory in ancient warfare. The historian J. E. Lendon,

in *Soldiers and Ghosts*, argues that ancient Roman and Greek warfare was influenced by established military doctrine, reflective of martial traditions and cultural expectations of war. This theory is applied to a study of the Battle of Cannae and Zama. What effect did the military doctrines of the Romans and Carthaginians have on command and tactics at these two battles?

**Anna C. Hogeland**

*Advisor:* Margaret Creighton

### **The History and Evolution of the Receptions and Settlement Experiences of Immigrants to Lewiston, Maine from 1850 to the Present**

Lewiston's dynamic identity and rich history has been shaped by its role as host city to various immigrant groups for nearly two centuries. The three most prominent and influential groups that have settled in Lewiston were first the Irish in the mid-nineteenth century, followed by the French-Canadians in the late-nineteenth and early twentieth century, and finally the Somali refugees at the turn of the twenty-first century. This thesis examines the nature of the native-born population's reception of the immigrant groups and the immigrants' experiences upon their arrival and settlement. Special attention is paid to female immigrants, as they had distinct settlement experiences and were perceived differently from their male counterparts. The influx of immigrant groups to Lewiston's predominately white Protestant community engendered tensions due to differences in race, religion, and socioeconomic status of the immigrants as well as the degree of economic vitality and prevailing nativist sentiments in Lewiston and the United States. I argue that despite these hostilities and occasional confrontations, the majority of the native-born population was largely welcoming and accommodating to the immigrant groups that have settled in Lewiston.

**Camden A. McKenna**

*Advisor:* Gerald Bigelow

### **King Harald Sigurdsson of Norway in History and Legend**

In the year 1066, the English surprised Harald Sigurdsson and his army while they were picnicking. The invading Norwegian forces were routed in the subsequent battle at Stamford Bridge and Harald the "Hard-ruler" met his unceremonious demise, signaling the end of the Viking Age and the beginning of medieval Scandinavia proper. Despite his apparent significance, scholarship devoted to Harald is relatively scant compared to other Viking-Age kings. The historiography spares only a cursory glance at this dynamic historical figure before relegating him to the status of a convenient yet ultimately arbitrary historical

bookend. In reality, Harald Sigurdsson was a complex character in the midst of a transformative process that had been occurring in Scandinavia since the tenth century and continued until well after he died. The circumstances of Harald's lifetime were no less extraordinary than those of his death, demonstrating the true breadth of the Viking experience. His is a story that deserves to be told on its own terms, as Harald himself would have had it.

**Kendall A. Musgrave**

*Advisor: John Cole*

### **Caricature and the Georgian Courtroom: Scandalous, Impious, and Uncensored? C.1760-1830**

Throughout the eighteenth-century and into the nineteenth century, Britons saw themselves as the freest people in the world. With their Bill of Rights close to heart and their glorious mixed constitution, Britons reveled in their unrivaled civil liberties. The freedom of the press was among their most treasured rights. Foreign observers marveled and criticized the public sale of written and drawn rebukes and commentaries of the State. Yet there were limits to the government's tolerance. Especially during threats of revolution and political unrest, radical publishers, customers, and writers were brought to trial for corrupting public confidence or making a mockery of the state. Still, caricature remained seemingly untouched by similar censorship, despite caricature's shocking ability to suggest sexual relations between queens and ministers, mock cuckolded politicians and ridicule incompetent officials? By examining the nature of caricature and of state censorship, this research attempts to shed further light on the relationship between the Georgian state and the press. This investigation examines how vulnerable caricature was to prosecution and whether it was necessary to directly censor caricature? The goal is a better understanding of the freedom of the British press itself.

## **MUSIC**

**Alexander E. Koster**

*Advisor: Hiroya Miura*

### **Conceptual and Extra-musical Frameworks in Music Composition**

There are myriad processes through which the composer can arrive at his/her final product. In one process, the composer writes musical material based on what he/she finds appealing in terms of musical parameters (melody, harmony, texture, rhythm, etc.). This is sometimes referred to as *free composition*. In a second

process, the composer is guided not solely by what is appealing musically. Rather, a concept or extra-musical idea informs the musical material. This thesis explores the latter process. Speech qualities of individuals in different accent regions of the United States of America serve as the extra-musical idea that informs the harmony, melody, and texture of my symphonic piece, "Speech through the Musical Lens." Textural properties of Michael Theodore's video piece, "Color Dream No.246," guide my string quartet, "The Sound in Image." Sound improvised by schoolchildren in Sendai, Japan, and Lewiston, Maine, as part of the project "Listening In, Looking Out," form the soundscape of my solo percussion and tape piece, "Music for a Storm." While this approach does not consciously consider aesthetic appeal, can adherence to the conceptual/extra-musical model produce a final product that happens to be musically intriguing? This thesis strives to answer this question.

**Nicholas A. Salcido**

*Advisor:* Thomas Snow

### **Playing with Time: Jazz Notions in a Hip-Hop Pocket**

This thesis consists of five original pieces of music written for performance by a small jazz ensemble. Through a synthesis of standard jazz compositional processes and more modern forms of hip-hop production, I have composed works that showcase how stylistic elements of jazz and hip-hop can work together to create a sound that pushes the rhythmic and harmonic boundaries of popular music. This fusion of compositional conventions explores how rhythmic concepts like "swing" and "groove" can be stretched by unquantifiable amounts to create a unique, off-kilter rhythmic feel often heard in hip-hop and R&B, but rarely heard in the realm of jazz. Can these modern rhythmic advances succeed in the context of a jazz composition, performed by jazz musicians? This thesis strives to answer that question.

## **NEUROSCIENCE**

**Margaret H. Cadden**

*Advisor:* Nancy Koven

### **The Relationship among Vitamin D Blood Serum Levels, Cognition, and Midsagittal Corpus Callosum Area in Individuals with Multiple Sclerosis**

Multiple sclerosis (MS), a disease with no current cure, is marked by both physical and cognitive deficits. Symptoms, associated with white matter lesions present in the brain and spinal cord, include numbness, tingling, and burning of

limbs as well as slowed processing speed and impaired short-term memory. Data collected over the last ten years have started to uncover a relationship between vitamin D and MS susceptibility and severity. This study looks specifically at the relationships among vitamin D blood serum levels, cognition, and white matter lesion burden in persons with MS. Cognition, including long-term memory, working memory, processing speed, language skills, visuospatial skills, sensorimotor skills, and other executive functions, was assessed with neuropsychological tests. Vitamin D levels and structural MRI data, through which lesion volumes were calculated, were collected from participants' medical records. Correlation analyses were used to test the hypothesis that high vitamin D blood serum levels are associated with better cognitive performance and reduced white matter lesion burden. Results of this study may indicate a beneficial role of vitamin D as an assessable and inexpensive supplement to MS medication.

## PHILOSOPHY

**Molly W. Hereford**

*Advisor:* Mark Okrent

### **The Walls of My Glass Tunnel: Derek Parfit, Self-Construction, and Personhood**

What is it to be a person? What is the nature of the self? How is it possible for us to sustain our personal identity throughout our lives, through physical and psychological changes? What truly matters in determining whether a person does persist through change? My project is to evaluate Derek Parfit's account of human persons as well as offer my own answers to these questions. Parfit offers a Reductionist theory of personhood, arguing that our existence, and consequently the conditions of our survival, depends solely upon the continuity of various primarily psychological states, facts, and events. Though he does not deny outright the existence of persons, he asserts that they do not exist as further facts, distinct and separate from brains and bodies. Instead, "persons" are merely artifacts of our grammar, representative of the way that we refer to what does exist: bundles of psychological and biological states. I argue that Parfit's theory fails on the grounds that it accounts for neither an individual's unique relationship to herself nor her capacity to act as a single, unified agent. Further, our agency is facilitated by entities whose existence Parfit denies, complex constructed selves.

**Mircea Lupu**

*Advisor:* Mark Okrent

**The Rare and Privileged Mood: An Interpretation of Anxiety in *Being and Time***

This thesis investigates the existentialist message of Heidegger's *Being and Time* through a critical examination of Dasein's most privileged mood, anxiety. To start I offer an interpretation of this fundamental attunement that is in agreement with one of Heidegger's overarching claims. Namely, he holds that anxiety occasions Dasein's encounter with the nothing, thereby revealing its identity as a "groundless ground." I agree with Heidegger that such an experience has the power to abolish the "idols" and justifications that traditionally ground and rationalize our everyday commitments. Next, I take up a challenge advanced by Hubert Dreyfus. Since Dasein is always already socialized into the leveled and inauthentic way of life—and it must, according to Heidegger's insistence, always remain fallen in its engagements—how is authenticity possible? That is, does Dasein have to make one "choice" in its becoming authentic, or does the structural nature of Heidegger's account lead to an impossibility? I argue that Heidegger's view can be saved by interpreting Dasein's being-in-the-world as a continual confrontation with "the they" and communitarian demands in general. Viewed in this way authenticity is an ongoing struggle that can only be engendered by an experience of Heideggerian anxiety.

**POLITICS**

**Katherine K. D'Angelo**

*Advisor:* Leslie Hill

**Do Women in Politics Matter?: Ugandan Women's Political Activity in Regard to Reproductive Health Care**

While scholars praise Uganda for the success of its women's movement and the government's response to HIV/AIDS, Ugandan women suffer from poor reproductive health. This thesis addresses why reproductive health outcomes are so poor in Uganda given such high levels of women's political activity. The current scholarship on Ugandan reproductive health care does not treat women as political subjects. This study applies a feminist framework of women, gender, and the state to Uganda to understand how, while Ugandan women act as political agents to advance their own interests, reproductive health outcomes remain poor. The politics of reproduction refers to the interactions among international, national, and local

actors and belief systems as they create the circumstances in which reproductive health care decisions occur. This analysis draws attention to the underlying power relations surrounding reproductive health in order to reveal their effect on health outcomes. I identify women's political activity, the barriers faced when trying to influence reproductive health care, and the conditions that make this activity successful through the evaluation of primary sources and surveys. I also analyze key governmental decisions that affected reproductive health care to understand the government's gender ideology and how its position influences women's political activity.

**Jennifer A. Diefendorf**

*Advisor: James Richter*

### **Taking Back Sicily: The Antimafia Movement and Its Counter-Hegemonic Attack on *Cosa Nostra***

This thesis utilizes Gramscian theory to explore the antimafia movement's shift in tactics from the 1980s to present day. The movement that arose out of the violence of 1980s Sicily is hardly the same in nature as the contemporary movement. During the 1980s, the mafia was conceptualized mainly as a political problem requiring political solutions. When legislative reforms did little to destroy mafia power, however, *Cosa Nostra* came to be perceived as a cultural phenomenon. In order to curb mafia power, therefore, the antimafia movement recognized the need for societal reforms. Drawing on my own fieldwork from Sicily, I found that the movement has changed its focus over time from state to society. Gramscian theory was employed to argue that the antimafia movement is a counter-hegemonic movement working to eliminate the physical and ideological domination *Cosa Nostra* has held over Sicilians for nearly 150 years. Moreover, Gramsci's ideas show why—when challenging hegemonic power—it is not enough for civil society to target the state for reform. Rather, the antimafia movement must engage in a deliberate and evolving attack on *Cosa Nostra*, working within society in order to redirect Sicily's political, social, and economic trajectory that the mafia has dictated since the 1860s.

**Benjamin T. McCall**

*Advisor: John Baughman*

### **How Much Is Too Much: The Implications of Public-Private Partnerships for Maine Human Service Nonprofits**

Today, over 65% of nonprofit organizations that provide human services receive at least half of their funding from government sources. However, the

nonprofit sector has traditionally prided itself on providing services free of government support or intervention and maintaining an independent voice to critique government shortcomings. This thesis explores the contemporary dynamics of these public-private interactions by way of five case studies taken from Maine's human-service nonprofits. The project explores how governmental regulation of nonprofit activity—by way of conditions attached to grants, contracts, and other sources of funding—affects the ability of nonprofits to fulfill their mission and provide the support their targeted populations require. Focusing on the efforts of individual nonprofits to thrive in a time of uncertain funding and increased regulatory fervor, the project examines whether government regulation is doing more than merely ensuring proper use of taxpayer monies, but is preventing Maine's human-service nonprofits from providing the aid that is so crucial to many of those in need.

**Simone F. Pathé**

*Advisor:* Leila Kavar

### **Rwandans with Borders: Doctors Without Borders' Discursive Reterritorialization of National Staff**

While previous scholarship analyzing humanitarian NGOs has criticized the reterritorializing power of the relationship between expatriate "saviors" and native "victims," this thesis attempts to illuminate an important intermediary who is often overlooked: the national staff who make up at least 90% of annual field mission staff for Doctors Without Borders, or Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). During the 1994 genocide, Rwandan national staff were both humanitarian actors and victims/perpetrators of the genocide. Drawing on existing critical scholarship, this thesis suggests that exposing the Rwandan national staff's position as both Rwandans and humanitarians has the potential to challenge emergency narratives that essentialize Western and African conflict and to rupture dichotomous distinctions between Western and African actors. Painting a more complete portrait of the national staff, however, proves difficult because representations of their humanitarian contributions are not prominent in MSF documentation. Examining public and internal documents from MSF, this thesis investigates how the national staff's agency is hidden behind MSF's foregrounding of the expertise and morality of their expatriate "volunteers" to champion their self-image as an NGO uniquely qualified to intervene and speak out on behalf of others.



**Lindsey D. Pryor**

*Advisor: Senem Aslan*

## **Repressing the Muslim Brotherhood: A Comparative Analysis of Egyptian and Jordanian Policy in the 1990s**

The Muslim Brotherhood is the largest and most influential Islamist group in the world, founded in Egypt in 1929 before spreading to many other Arab countries. Two of these countries—Egypt and Jordan—are both authoritarian regimes, yet they deal with the Brotherhood very differently. During political liberalization in the late 1980s in both Egypt and Jordan, the Muslim Brotherhood participated in parliamentary elections and proved its capability as a strong opposition. Although both King Hussein of Jordan and President Mubarak recognized the Brotherhood as a long-term threat to be controlled, this management and control took a different form in Jordan than in Egypt. This thesis examines why the Egyptian regime was much more overtly repressive toward the Brotherhood in the early 1990s, while the Jordanian control was more subtle and legalistic. I argue that regime type explains the different control tactics, and that the Jordanian monarchy possesses inherent characteristics that have allowed it to deal in a more accommodative way with its Islamist opposition. Arguing for regime type allows me to more fully explore possibilities for accommodation between the state and Islamists in the Middle East, which is necessary for stability in the Arab world.

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

**Rachel A. DiStefano**

*Advisor: Nancy Koven*

## **Selective Attention, Memory, and Alexithymia: Performances on an Emotional Stroop Task and WMS-III Subtests**

Alexithymia, a personality construct in which an individual has difficulty processing and regulating emotions, results in a wide range of impairments. This pattern of dysfunction may be explained, in part, by a deficit in selective attention for emotional information, which may then lead to an impaired memory for emotional information. Currently, the role of attention and memory in alexithymia is unclear. In Study 1, participants ( $N = 72$ ) completed self-report measures of alexithymia (TAS-20, MAS, TMMS), an emotional Stroop task, and an incidental memory task. Contrary to hypothesis, individuals who were more alexithymic responded more quickly when the eStroop stimulus was positive (but not negative) than when the stimulus was neutral. Principal components analysis produced two

factors relevant to alexithymia: Emotional Monitoring (EM) and Emotional Clarity (EC). With regard to eStroop, high-EM individuals took longer to respond and made more errors than low-EM individuals, regardless of word type. With regard to incidental memory, high-EC individuals were better at disregarding negative distracters, but less proficient at recognizing negative targets than low-EC individuals. In Study 2, extreme groups formed using TAS-20 scores from a previous study ( $N = 101$ ) underwent a neuropsychological assessment of memory (WMS-III). High-alexithymics ( $n = 12$ ) and low-alexithymics ( $n = 12$ ) performed equivalently on verbal subtests, offering evidence against an underlying verbal deficit. As compared to low-alexithymics, high-alexithymics demonstrated a deficit for a pair of visual subtests that involved remembering pictures of people in social situations. However, working memory represented an unexpected strength for high-alexithymics both within and between groups. Implications and ideas for future research are discussed.

## RHETORIC

**Kirsten H. Laaspere**

*Advisor:* Jan Hovden

### **The Dyadic Nature of Human Language: A Logological Analysis of Genesis 1-3**

“Theologically, as a private person, Adam didn’t have to sin. But logologically, if he hadn’t, the whole rationale of the Bible would have been in ruins” (Kenneth Burke, *On Human Nature*). The first three chapters of Genesis have proven ubiquitous within Anglophone societies, illustrating the cultural significance of the religious text. Without losing the theological context, Genesis 1-3 can be regarded through a neutral, secular scope in order to discern its influence on the human language and conceptual system. Using Kenneth Burke’s double process theory and the concept of the negative in both language and religion, it is possible to apply Lakoff and Johnson’s metaphor types to a logological analysis of the text in order to flesh out Burke’s theory of logology and expand significantly upon his analysis of the first three chapters of Genesis to gain substantial insight into the dyadic nature of our language and conceptual system.

**Michael C. Thomas**

*Advisor:* Stephanie Kelley-Romano

**The Romantic Vampire: How *Twilight* and *True Blood* Continue the Hollywood Tradition of Stereotyping Minorities**

In America cinematic and television history, vampires have always been portrayed as abnormal. The abnormalities of vampires make the vampires seem inferior to the heteronormative pure humans, which leads to the vampires experiencing a state of melancholia. This portrayal of melancholia draws from old Hollywood stereotypes of minorities, specifically the “sad queer” character (Richard Dyer, *The Culture of Queers*) and the “tragic mulatto” (Donald Bogle, *Toms, Coons, Mulattoes, Mammies, and Bucks*). This thesis examines how the vampire genre draws from old Hollywood stereotypes of homosexuals and African Americans to reinforce the supremacy of white heteronormativity by looking at two of the most successful modern vampire artifacts: the *Twilight* film series and the *True Blood* television program. These artifacts demonstrate how metaphors of infestation function to perpetuate the sanctity of whiteness.

**SOCIOLOGY**

**Emma C. Posner**

*Advisor:* Emily Kane

**De-Universalizing Empowerment: Women's Perspectives on Formal and Non-Formal Education in the Peruvian Amazon**

In Santa Maria, an indigenous community in the Peruvian Amazon, parents hope that their daughters will guide the community through both cultural preservation and community development. Specifically, parents hope that their daughters will transmit local knowledge to their children and that their daughters will gain access to secondary and postsecondary degrees and professional opportunities. While cultural preservation and community development do not inherently conflict, the lack of educational and job opportunities within Santa Maria result in out-migration among younger generations. In my thesis, I explore how local women hope to preserve Santa Maria through development and education. Grounded in feminist development theories and framed by literature on education, indigenous movements, and feminisms, my thesis explores women's perceptions of the role that both formal and non-formal education can play in their capacity building and empowerment. I conducted interviews and focus groups during two visits to Santa Maria. My analysis highlights local perspectives on and barriers to

formal and non-formal education, the role of out-migration and male dominance as structural forces shaping access to education, and women's perspectives on possibilities for change. Rooted in principles of community-based research and feminist research methodology, my thesis strives to give voice to local women.

**Christina B. Schnurr**

*Advisor:* Sawyer Sylvester

### **A Critical Examination of the Distinctive Trend in Product Liability Decisions**

Common misconceptions of product liability lawsuits are that they are frivolous complaints, offer unjustified rewards to plaintiffs, and, ultimately, undermine the seriousness of the American justice system. This thesis argues that product liability law does not tarnish the legitimacy of the justice system, but in fact demonstrates how American law has developed according to economic and cultural variables. It is a success—not a failure—of the legal processes. Not only does the development of product liability law reflect social change, but so also does the transition within judicial opinions on the basis of recovery for damages. Initially, courts assigned liability through the standard of negligence. When cost-benefit analysis gained respect in the judicial system, it might have appeared as if it could become a method to assign negligence in product liability claims. However, the mid-twentieth-century courts shifted from the standard of negligence towards a standard of strict liability. Ironically, the late twentieth-century courts reverted to the original standard of negligence with a cost-benefit approach. This thesis focuses on the court opinions and legal literature significant to these trends in product liability.

**Ada Tadmor**

*Advisor:* Emily Kane

### **The Balancing Act of Structure and Agency: How Young Adults in Blended Families Conceptualize Family**

With rates of blended families at an all-time high in the United States, it becomes increasingly important to conduct research that addresses how norms surrounding family structure are adjusting to match this social change. Specifically, shedding light on the ways in which individuals are both constrained by commonly held conceptions regarding what constitutes a family, and demonstrating agency in the ways that they define family for themselves in light of broader structures, is of great social significance. In turn, this thesis draws on fifteen qualitative interviews with Bates College students from blended families in an investigation of the

nuances in how individuals negotiate definitions of family. What is more, by accessing the underlying beliefs of young adults who will graduate with a degree from a highly competitive liberal arts college that provides a certain level of autonomy in the life choices they will go on to make, this research aims to understand the views of those situated at the forefront of the redefinition of family.

**Zoey A. Wortmann**

*Advisor: Emily Kane*

### **I'll Be the Princess, You Be the Knight: A Study of the Social Construction of Gender in a Preschool Classroom**

Scholars have widely recognized childhood as a crucial moment in the social construction of gender. Though there is substantial research regarding the ways in which adults influence the construction of children's gender identity, in recent decades, sociologists have begun to explore the active role that children take as they participate in the creation of their own gender identities through interactions with both adults and peers. This thesis explores the ways in which four- and five-year-olds construct gender in a classroom setting. A qualitative analysis of field notes chronicling over thirty hours of observation in a preschool classroom at a progressive, private school in New York City, sheds new light on the ways in which children both construct and resist traditional understandings of gender. The way children of this age talk about gender, as well as the way they convey ideas about gender in their play suggest that even very young children have a complex understanding of societal expectations regarding gender.

## **SPANISH**

**Limor Finkel**

*Advisors: Baltasar Fra-Molinero and Alma Kuhlemann*

### **Mafalda, la Niña Sabia: la Nación Argentina en la Década de los Años Sesenta del Siglo XX**

In the latter half of the twentieth century, Argentine society underwent successive shifts between democratic and dictatorial governments, creating a social environment of daily and fixed and uncertainty. Military and authoritarian dictatorships, as well as self-proclaimed democracies, censored social and political commentaries that undermined or questioned their consummate authority. One form subjected to censorship was the comic strip. This thesis examines the role one comic in particular as a form of cultural resistance and subtle subversion against

political and social oppression. I analyze Quino's *Mafalda*, Argentina's best-known comic, published from 1964 to 1973 amidst various political coups and regimes. This comic, easily accessible to both urban and rural people, observes society through the lens of the archetypal, middle-class child, Mafalda, who combats oppression and censorship in her penetrating social commentaries. I demonstrate how Quino's criticism focuses on gender norms and class relations, machismo and bourgeois consumerism. Finally, I contend that *Mafalda* reflects an Argentine culture and society in transition, fighting censorship to bring these issues to light in the humorous and poignant medium of the comic strip.

**Christina E. Kratzman**

*Advisor: Francisca López*

**Postwar Cinema as a Battleground in the War to Define Spanishness  
(El cine de posguerra como campo de batalla en la Guerra por definir la  
espanolidad)**

The Spanish Civil War lasted only three years, 1936–1939; however, the cultural tensions that caused the war continued during the extended postwar period and manifest themselves in present-day Spain. The essential battle that has persisted is about defining “Spanishness.” Each side has continued to battle using different definitions. Yet, each is defined within the context of the same values: nation, religion, and family. To best present and understand this ideological front of the Spanish Civil War, I examine nine Spanish films from a variety of genres, political affiliations, and filmmakers from the years 1938–1965. Evaluating these films against these key themes, I aim to discover how each side defined “Spanishness.” Analyzing the conflicting definitions will enable us to better appreciate the importance and implications of present-day events in Spain, such as the informal political exile of judge Baltasar Garzon and the Memoria Historica movement to recover and identify the bodies of Civil War victims.

**THEATER**

**Timothy F. Fox**

*Advisor: Paul Kuritz*

**Tom Ames and His Hopeless Life: Performing the Role of Tom Ames in  
Philip Barry's *Hotel Universe***

The renowned acting teacher Lee Strasberg stated that an actor mustn't only understand the character that the audience watches on stage, but also, and perhaps

more consequentially, understand the character's life that exists *before* the curtain has even risen. In conjunction with Strasberg, the distinguished acting teacher Sandy Meisner believed an actor is only truthful once he has unreservedly committed himself to his fellow actors, the objectives of their character, and to the action of the play. Through the application of both these teachers' methodologies, my project involves the performance, study, and analysis of Tom Ames from the play *Hotel Universe* by Philip Barry. Bringing a complicated character like Tom Ames to life involved a thorough understanding of what it meant to have lost hope in faith, love, and happiness. I attempted to embody a character who was both believable in the complex world of *Hotel Universe* and true to the spontaneity and ever-changing nature of "being in the moment" in live performances.

**Drew S. Gallagher**

*Advisor:* Paul Kuritz

### **Embodying a Character's Fight Between Life and Death in a Performance of Philip Barry's *Hotel Universe***

"All looking for the answer, when there isn't any answer" (*Hotel Universe*). While just *one* example of Patrick Farley's countless pessimistic exclamations, the quotation above encapsulates the themes of hopelessness, despair, dissatisfaction, and nostalgia that are strung throughout the entirety of Philip Barry's dark comedy, *Hotel Universe*. Through the careful analysis of the dramatic script, an exploration of the play and its characters within its influential time and setting, and the investigation and eventual interpretation of my own character, Patrick Farley, I attempt to grasp and then project through my own performance what I perceive to be the ultimate fight between life and death. Given that he is haunted with his failures of the past, a less than favorable childhood, and the guilt of unforgiving relationships, performing this character requires a complete and thorough understanding of his burdensome history and a willingness and motivation to lose myself in state of absolute regret and cynicism. Through the discoveries made in and out of our production's everyday rehearsal periods, it has been my intention to communicate the objectives and intentions of a character whose muddied and wearying past has left him with little to no hope for the future.

**Stephanie Schuyler Rooth**

*Advisor:* Martin Andrucki

**It Is Not Reason that Governs Love: Performing the Role of Armande in Molière's *The Learned Ladies***

Playwright Molière once wrote, “it is the business of comedy to represent all the defects of men, and above all of the men of our own time” (*The Versailles Impromptu*, 1663, scene 5). Molière uses the upending shock of sudden laughter to unveil the absurdities of the French elite. His characters, which come directly from his own time and milieu, are exaggerated incarnations of human folly and vice. This thesis analyzes Molière’s social commentary using his comedy of manners, *The Learned Ladies*, as paragon. I used my research and play analysis as groundwork in approaching the role of Armande, who is the epitome of fanatic preciosity. Armande, who secretly burns with sexual desire and reaches out for the love of a man despite her icy refusal of his initial advances ends up with nothing but the comfort of her erudition—hence, she is the laughingstock of this particular play, which besmirches intellectual pretentiousness and would-be pedants. In analyzing his instruments of comedy and playing a vibrantly Molierian role, I have concluded that, according to Molière, reason and laughter are inseparable, but the spectators are induced to approach reason through laughter, not the other way around.

**Alina Volobuyeva**

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**A Satiric Mocker: Discovering the Role of Henriette in Molière's *The Learned Ladies***

My thesis work is inspired by Moliere’s play *The Learned Ladies* and the seventeenth-century society in France. The thesis comprises a written portion and a performance, the latter being the major element. In the former, I analyze several plays of Moliere relevant to *The Learned Ladies* and my character’s role from an actor’s point of view. I use the seventeenth-century phenomenon of preciosity as a key to unlock the play’s meaning and my character’s part in it.

**WOMEN & GENDER STUDIES**

**Erin M. Bourgault – See Environmental Studies**