

The Honors School
FALL Research Conference 2012

Wilson Auditorium
Thursday, December 13, 2012
1:00 p.m.

It is with great pleasure that the Honors School
presents its Annual Fall Research Conference

Student presenters include research in the fields of:
Business, Communication, Criminal Justice, Education,
English, Fine Art, History, Mathematics, Music,
Political Science, & Psychology

1:00 p.m. Welcoming Remarks — Dr. Kevin Dooley

Dean of The Honors School

PRESENTERS

(in alphabetical order)

Sarah Corshia (HS)
Anthony D'Elia (PS)
Casey Finn (FA)
Lauren Halton (MA)
Emily Hunter (COPR)
Aziz Mama (BUBF)

Lori Mueller (PY/CJ)
Katelyn Nawoyski (CO/PS)
Jennifer Sime (PS)
Emily Steeber (MU/EDS)
Jennifer Van Alstyné (EN)

PRESENTERS

Sarah Corshia

Chief Advisor: Dr. Maryanne Rhett

Twentieth Century Nationalism within the United Kingdom

Defining nations and nationalism has never been easy. Constant change marks the manner in which people understand their own nationalism, and it is especially highlighted by the transition from the idea of a more culturally identified nation to a modern political one. The implications of the changes that the theory has undergone is perhaps most interesting within the twentieth century United Kingdom. With the British Empire having effectively ended, the echoes of empire were reflected in the manner in which the United Kingdom transitioned from empire to nation. These reflections were not met with support from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland who desired their own unique self-identity, rather than one that was inherently English, and were willing to fight for such with their own unique forms of militant, cultural, and political nationalism.

Anthony D'Elia

Chief Advisor: Dr. Joseph Patten

Second Reader: Prof. Gregory Bordelon

Moral Combat: The Legal Question of State Video Game Regulation

As one of the most recently developed examples of new media, video games have come under scrutiny for the perceived negative impact some of its violent content can have on minors. In response to such beliefs, several states have attempted to pass legislation meant to involve the government in regulating the sale of violent video games in stores, all unsuccessfully. The recent Supreme Court case *Brown v. Entertainment Merchants Association* (2011) was important because it was the first time a case concerning video games appeared before the Supreme Court, allowing the Court to weigh in on whether or not video games merited First Amendment protection for the first time. This paper examines the concept of free and open expression, the application of obscenity law to not only video games but to various media, and the question of whether or not video games merit protection under the First Amendment; the paper also attempts to draw comparisons between video games and other media in terms of how the public has tried to regulate them. Further, a statistical analysis of the United States is conducted in an attempt to find out which factors, if any, contribute to some states attempting video game regulation, while others have not.

Casey Finn

Chief Advisor: Prof. Karen Bright

Second Reader: Prof. Pat Cresson

The Tone of Type: How Typography Affects Perception

Given the technologically advanced age of this society, most people are exposed to dozens of typefaces each day. Viewers see, acknowledge, and respond to the typefaces, but what in particular is causing this reaction? The fact that typefaces can make a design look different is not disputed, but it is why they feel different that complicates matters. Typography relates to people on an individual level, however it is also relevant to question whether as a society, people have similar typographic tendencies. It is the purpose of this thesis to reveal whether one's perception of typography is restricted to the individual, or if those who share similar societal and cultural norms respond comparably. The exposure and level of importance typography plays in today's society is also explored.

Lauren Halton

Chief Advisor: Dr. David Marshall

Second Reader: Dr. Susan Marshall

Magic Squares of Squares

In this project we investigate the existence or nonexistence of 3×3 magic squares of squares. We suspect no examples exist, though this is not yet known for certain. We begin by providing alternative number theoretic proofs of some of the known divisibility restrictions on the entries. Then, building on the known divisibility restrictions, we are able to derive new additional restrictions concerning the entries' prime divisors. The hope is that by deriving sufficiently many divisibility restrictions on the entries, the existence of such a square becomes impossible.

PRESENTERS (cont.)**Emily Hunter****Chief Advisor: Prof. Shannon Hokanson
Chief Advisor: Dr. Thomas Lamatsch
Second Reader: Prof. Mary Harris****It Is an Online World**

With an increase in methods of computer-mediated communication (CMC), the Internet has revolutionized traditional forms of communicating. Many researchers wonder if the use of CMC will replace interpersonal communication via traditional or face-to-face (FTF) outlets. Using the Uses and Gratifications perspective, an in-depth literature review of existing research on the motivations, communication behaviors, and relational impacts of CMC usage is explored. Following the literature review, a study to determine the following research questions is provided: (1) Does personality type influence communication behavior? (2) Are there unwritten rules in modern communication regarding acceptable communication outlet use in various situations? (3) Do demographic differences exist in communication outlet preference? (4) What behavioral patterns of CMC use exist among users, if any? Participants (N = 500) completed a survey to measure the above variables. Results of the study will be discussed, along with limitations and suggestions for future research.

Aziz Mama**Chief Advisor: Dr. Stuart Dalton
Second Reader: Dr. Thomas Lamatsch****Ethics Unfettered: A Critique of Systematized Ethics**

This paper is a meta-ethical critique which seeks to address systematization in ethics as a philosophical methodology for moral reasoning. It is argued herein that ethical systems are subject to inherent flaws which prevent them from achieving the purported benefits of systematization. Namely, ethical systems are unable to create universal consensus in matters moral and are unable to create absolute moral truths independent of subjectivity which are universally applicable. This is the result of two flaws: the impossibility of universal consensus and the fallacy of absolute moral truths outside the realm of subjectivity. It is argued that as a result of these flaws systematized ethics ought not to be heavily relied upon as a methodology for moral reasoning. Rather, moral reasoning is an individual process linked to a person's reactive subjectivity. One does not need to rely on ethical systems but may instead act as an architect of the ethics of the future through rigorous examination of one's subjective self as it seeks to impose its will on the chaos surrounding humanity and from this chaos create moral meaning.

Lori Mueller**Chief Advisor: Dr. Michele Grillo
Second Reader: Dr. Gary Lewandowski****College Students' Perceptions of Incarcerated Women**

The current study analyzes the degree to which participants' belief in a just world and empathy affect perceptions of incarcerated women. The independent variable will have four levels: record of arrest only, record of arrest and statistics, record of arrest and life story, and record of arrest and guided imagery. The dependent variables are parole decision, and if the participant feels incarcerated women deserve prison programs. The design of the experiment is a multi-group between subjects in which approximately 120 college students will participate. This research will aid in the funding and development of prison programs for women.

Katelyn Nawoyski**Chief Advisor: Dr. Thomas Lamatsch****The Impact of Social Media on Social Activism**

The progression of the Internet brought with it social networking, which allows people from across the globe to connect with each other, communicate, share thoughts and ideas, and maintain relationships. The widespread availability and usage of social media sites in the lives of people across the globe is what lends to those sites' potential to aid seasoned activists and even ordinary citizens who partake in activism movements. This thesis looks at a sampling of Monmouth University students, including their social media use, activities they consider activism, and their participation in such activist activities. It looks at the ability of social media to guide students to partake in activism and to create movements online and move them offline.

PRESENTERS (cont.)

Jennifer Sime

**Chief Advisor: Dr. Kenneth Mitchell
Second Reader: Dr. Kevin Dooley**

The Emergence and Evolution of Transnational Drug Cartels

In the Western Hemisphere, transnational groups such as drug cartels are seen as potential causes of state-to-state conflict and cooperation. Transnational actors and their impact on state-to-state relations and global governance represent significant research topics in Political Science literature, and therefore it is important to understand why and how these groups come into existence and how they develop over time. Much of the current literature on transnational actors links their emergence and evolution to economic globalization and the technological changes that continue to drive it, leaving a large gap in Comparative Politics. This thesis approaches the topic with a small-n, qualitative study in which the three independent variables are domestic and comparative in nature. By looking at solely domestic issues and interactions, my thesis will explore a largely untouched piece of research in the Political Science field today. Comparative Politics and International Relations theory begin to blur the lines as policy makers around the world contend with these actors but do not always appear to understand how best to orient foreign policies. My thesis contributes to the fields of Political Science and Comparative Politics because in understanding the emergence and evolution of drug cartels, it can assist diminishing current transnational threats and preventing future ones, thus significantly reducing levels of violence, corruption, and drug addiction within various affected nations.

Emily Steeber

**Chief Advisor: Prof. Anthony Tafrow
Second Reader: Prof. Michael Gillette**

Discovering the Elements of the Classical Clarinet Concerto

The Classical era of music was a time of great development, instrumental innovation, and structural maturation; many composers used the latter half of the eighteenth century to compose for new instruments and change the world of music forever. This creative thesis project explored the various elements implemented in the first two movements of two similar Classical clarinet concertos: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A Major, K. 622 and Carl Stamitz's Clarinet Concerto No. 3 in B-Flat Major. Through harmonic and melodic analyses and studying the historical and cultural context in which these concertos were created, I was able to create my own movement of a Classical clarinet concerto that synthesized the elements observed throughout the Mozart concerto and the Stamitz concerto.

Jennifer VanAlstyne

**Chief Advisor: Dr. Michael Waters
Second Reader: Prof. Michael Thomas**

Scansioned Music: A Glenn Gould Collection

Glenn Gould was a famous 20th century pianist, composer, conductor, and radio icon most well known for his Goldberg Variations. His drug addiction, hypochondria, and interpersonal relationships inspired this creative thesis, a collection of poetry based on his life. I have attempted to weave my personal experiences with music and his with both form and free verse - lending itself to the collection's title, Scansioned Music. In turn, my writing has become my composition, my elegy, for him. The poem entitled "Orpheus" has been published in an earlier form in Midwest Literary Magazine.