



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE  
**ALL-COLLEGE  
SYMPOSIUM**

2023 Abstracts

Presented by seniors at the  
All College Symposium,  
November 2, 2023

# AMMERMAN CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM 2023 ABSTRACTS

## **Juliette Chait**

Creative Discomfort: An Exploration of Personal Growth Through Music

My SIP is an EP of original music, recorded and produced by myself, that explores personal growth/experiences throughout college. I focus especially on my creative process and how that's changed throughout my time at Conn; traditionally, I've always had the same writing process, but by adding technology into the mix-- more specifically, incorporating randomness and probability into my music-- I am pushing myself out of my comfort zone and removing my treasured sense of control. This too reflects my own personal growth, as I use technology to make decisions instead of carefully calculating every step myself.

## **Giorgi Chikvaidze (with Bazeed Shahzad)**

don't lose your head over it

This is a collaborative project centering a 3D animated short film that uses folklore from both Pakistan and The Republic of Georgia to represent how tragedy and comedy might be combined as an effective method of storytelling.

## **Leron Dugan**

Jamais Vu

My Ammerman project is a curated series of digital collages aimed at capturing, revisiting, and recontextualizing pivotal cultural moments documented in visual culture. Through the dynamic use of wide-ranging iconography, these artworks will transport viewers between the realms of collective and individual experiences, offering a vivid exploration of the cultural tapestry that binds us all.

## **Manan Isak**

Chess Robot

Advancements in AI and Robotics are being made at an accelerating race. What sacrifices in safety and security are creators making in the rush to make the next big thing? I would like to explore these themes and tell a story through the medium of a real robot performance.

## **Ben Ledoux**

Creating Dynamic Environments Using Procedural Generation

This project aims to create a gaming general-use tool for the Unity Real-Time Development Platform, designed for use by environmental artists and developers. Using procedural generation, which is shaped by user-controlled parameters, the tool will create a unique "tile map" for any purpose. The tool can fill in empty areas or generate an entire game world, spawning in structures and agents to fill the empty space.

## **Milo Lynch**

Thinking Outside the Box

Is technology good for me? If not, how can it be? These questions have been evolving in my mind since late 2019, when I first became concerned about how I used technology. Currently I am working on changing the paradigm by which I use technology, where I minimize when technology makes me feel empty, but maximize when technology makes me feel connected with people. This leads me to a standard of only using technology when it is social. My approach to interacting with technology is always changing, but slowly it feels, technology is serving me, not the other way around.

## **Bazeed Shahzad (with Giorgi Chikvaidze)**

don't lose your head over it

This is a collaborative project centering a 3D animated short film that uses folklore from both Pakistan and The Republic of Georgia to represent how tragedy and comedy might be combined as an effective method of storytelling.

## **Sarah Umphlett**

"Process is the Material" A Fashion Show

I am directing/stage designing a runway show that previews my fashion collection, Digital Bi-Funk. I will create a cohesive environment for the clothes to be shown in using live screen projections and then analogue tech equipment (the sound/video mixers) to make feed-back loops for sound and video content used in the performance. Heavily influenced by Donna Haraway's "Cyborg Manifesto," I will mimic cybernetic systems, systems in which have circular processes such as feedback loops, by creating my own using analogue tech equipment.

# **CCSRE (Center for the Critical Study of Race and Ethnicity)**

## **SYMPOSIUM 2023 ABSTRACTS**

### **Jazmyn Gillespie**

"Made in USA": The Identity Development of Filipinos through a Colonial Lens

My research examines the colonial history in the Philippines and explores how the American and Spanish racial hierarchies shape the identity development of Filipino Americans. By conducting a psychological qualitative study, I will interview Filipino American college students to determine if the colonial history from Spain and the United States influences how the students see themselves and conceptualize their race and ethnicity.

### **Adina Smith**

A Media Analysis of Institutional Failures in Antwone Fisher

This intersectional media analysis of the film Antwone Fisher highlights the ways the criminal justice and foster care systems fail to protect Black youth. In my project, I analyze how systemic racism and toxic masculinity perpetuate the stigma towards mental health conditions and care among Black men. Furthermore, the film's exploration of themes such as intergenerational trauma, colorism, and symbolic citizenship underscores the connections between Antwone's traumatic childhood experiences and the challenges he faces in the Navy and his personal life.

# **CISLA**

## **(Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and Liberal Arts)**

### **SYMPOSIUM 2023 ABSTRACTS**

#### **Samuel Boehm**

Catalyzing Healthcare with Intercultural Competence: The Intersection of Indigenous and Western Medicine

The current SIP presentation will explore the world of indigenous medicine in light of the dominant Western medicinal practices, specifically focusing on the Mapuche Nation in Chile. Study abroad and internship experience in Santiago, Chile will be integrated into this investigation, as questions around the advantages of distinct healing practices, and health access inequalities, will be addressed. The ultimate goal of this presentation in conjunction with intensive literature review and field research aims to illuminate the dynamics in the patient-practitioner relationship with respect to intercultural competence.

#### **Samadhi Dissanayake**

The Effects Deforestation has on Medicinal plants in Madre de Dios

In many regions of South America herbal medicine has stayed as a prominent practice. One of the most notable areas where herbal medicine flourishes is the Amazon Rainforest. The communities that live there, hailing from 8 different countries, have cultivated a large knowledge on the properties of the plants that reside within. However, with deforestation, many of these resources have started to dwindle. While in Peru I was able to see first hand the effects deforestation had on the vegetation of the forest as well as the many different ways that the resources were being stripped from the land.

#### **Ichiro Kubozono**

How do Economics and Politics Influence Immigration Policies: Italy vs US?

In Italy and the United States, politicians have used nativists' political arguments and political psychology to frame immigration as a threat to economic growth and wages for native workers. As an immigrant, I want to understand why the public often disregards the economic research that counters these arguments. I will study the history of immigration policies and examine how economic realities and political expediency have interplayed in shaping immigration policies and the public's opinion on immigration across the two countries.

#### **Eric Lu**

The Hidden Social Costs in the Peruvian Mining Industry

My project focuses on the social and environmental impacts of the Peruvian mining industry, particularly involving Chinese companies' Foreign Direct Investment. The lack of sufficient legislation is a roadblock to ethical and sustainable resource extraction. Protests by local communities often lead to prolonged standoffs due to the absence of comprehensive federal guidelines addressing mining's externalities and social costs. I aim to provide evidence of significant social costs linked to mining in the Andean region via

detailed economic analysis. This underscores the need for enhanced legislation to promote equitable and sustainable practices for both Chinese and other third-party FDI.

## **Benjamin Rothstein**

The Role of the Rokukoyō in Constructing and Obliterating Japanese Local Identities

In the Meiji period, the ancient production centers of the rokukoyō (six ancient kilns of Japan) were modernized and incorporated into the nation-building apparatus of the Meiji state. The unique local styles were supplanted by a new national aesthetic that aimed to represent the unity of Japaneseness at home and abroad. During my internship at a ceramics studio in Tamba, however, I observed that the rokukoyō today are symbols of regional identity and pride. My project aims to uncover how the six styles of pottery have historically interacted with identity and how their current status as regional symbols developed.

## **Izzy Sala**

Healing Immigration-Induced Trauma through West-African Traditional Medicine and Ancestral Knowledge

The Central Mediterranean route is one of the deadliest and most congested migratory routes in contemporary history. To combat the growing rates of chronic mental illness and migration induced trauma, access to adequate healthcare is imperative for migrants. Given the resistance to integrate healthcare provisions across frontier European countries, NGOs are looking beyond Western healthcare for culturally sensitive and integrative therapeutic approaches for healing migration induced trauma patients. This project explores the cultural, spiritual, and homeopathic implications of traditional West African medicine and its potential to fill the gap in culturally sensitive healthcare for forcibly displaced migrants from West Africa.

## **Evan Strouse**

Noting Experience: Music Education in Central Spain Told Through Personal Narratives

This SIP showcases the experiences of music educators in central Spain through their stories, musical journeys and personal reflections, to help readers better understand the nature of music education in Spain and its importance to Spanish society. I also examine children's access to music education and music culture in Spain today. The project is based on first-hand data I have collected through recorded, one-on-one interviews with music educators in the communities of Madrid and Toledo. The SIP underscores the importance of music education and the essential necessity to keep it alive in our schools.

## **Lorena Tenorio**

Profit or Purpose: Exploring Employee/Volunteer Motivation in Different Organizational Landscapes

In the United States and in most places you must work to survive. However, as human beings how can we function without motivation? I will explore motivation in relation to for-profit work vs. non-profit work. I will focus on the impact management styles have on employee/volunteer retention. This will be done with a cross-cultural analysis of personal experiences working in a for-profit institution in the U.S. vs. working with an NGO in Barcelona, Spain. The idea is to engage with diverse philosophies and identify best practices in management styles for a business or NGO.

## **Yasmine Tohme**

Who Gets to Tell the Migrant's Story?

The 21st century continues to be marked by the movement of people across the planet, with millions fleeing wars, oppression, poverty, and natural disasters. I will argue that art and foreign films are the best remedy to the dehumanization of displaced people. They can help reclaim the narrative of the migrants and trigger important conversations around the global refugee crisis and the rising tide of xenophobia. I will weave into my presentation my internship experience in Rome in documentary filmmaking. I hope to supplement my written project with an archival short film to promote intercultural understanding.

## **Arrayán Vanegas-Farrara**

Harmony and Discord: Exploring Roots of Faith, Language, and Tolerance in Cameroon

In "Harmony and Discord: Exploring Colonial Roots of Faith, Language, and Tolerance in Cameroon," I embark on a comprehensive journey into the intricate relationship between religion and local languages within Cameroon's diverse cultural landscape. My research seeks to understand the historical origins of contemporary challenges, notably the Anglophone crisis. My exploration addresses pressing questions: How did colonial legacies shape the religious and linguistic dynamics? What implications do these historical influences have for fostering tolerance and conflict resolution in multicultural societies? By unraveling the past, I aim to contribute to harmonious coexistence within Cameroon and provide insights applicable globally.

## **Christine Vuu**

Taiwan's Semiconductor Industry and Economic growth

My research will focus on the intricate relationship between Taiwan's semiconductor industry, a key sector of the developmental state, and the implications for economic growth and inequality within the country. By analyzing historical and contemporary data to uncover the industry's impact on wealth distribution and opportunity disparity, my analysis considers factors such as skills, regional dynamics, and government policies. The findings of this study offers insights into strategies and policies that can have the potential to inform policymakers and stakeholders on how to leverage Taiwan's semiconductor industry as a catalyst for societal inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

## **Chloe Walsh**

Forced Migration to France: the LGBTQIA+ Community in Limbo

For my Honors Thesis, I am researching the experiences of people who have been forced to migrate to France due to their sexual or gender identity. In some African countries, there exist anti-queer laws and practices; I will investigate to what extent these ideas are actually a result of colonization. Those who immigrate to France seeking acceptance then struggle to be granted asylum and are left in limbo. The project will research whether aid is primarily provided by the government or non-governmental organizations, and scrutinize how LGBTQIA+ identity is treated in the realm of international and migration law.

## **Meghan Webb**

The Image of Schizophrenia in Spain's Healthcare System

Government officials have immense power over every societal aspect, including the healthcare system. They are able to determine which disorders have priority, and these opinions are reflected in the number of available resources and their quality, which helps to generate stigma toward a specific disorder. Inspired by my internship assisting in research related to schizophrenia in Sant Boi de Llobregat, Spain, I will examine the ways that the country has addressed the disorder from the second half of the 20th century to the modern era and how these two images connect to stigma.

## **Ava Yassari**

Loopholes of the EU's National Security Policies and influence on immigrants

My presentation will discuss my research on the national security, public and reception policies set by the EU and European governments meant to maintain security and cooperation amidst the refugee crises. In examining organizations like the OSCE, I will look at ways these policies negatively influence migrants coming and passing through Europe, specifically looking at France and Switzerland. With the help of a few NGOs, located in Northern France, I will be able to get hands-on experience of those helping refugees reach their goals. In comparing and contrasting these countries, I will see how they handle the migrant pathway.

## **Gicel Zuniga**

The Effects of Migration on Latinx Individuals and their Families

The transition that migrants experience when uprooting to a different country, adjusting to norms and a new or different culture, is ever present. These are enhanced when they are faced with discrimination, racism, and systems that are not built to support them upon arrival. Basics of daily life: housing, employment, establishing oneself in a community are riddled with obstacles for migrants. How can the views of others towards migrants among systematic factors negatively impact arrival, adjustment, and consequently the life they are able to form in their new country of residence?



# **CREATIVITY PATHWAY SYMPOSIUM 2023 ABSTRACTS**

## **Luke Acton**

Music Doesn't Have a Price

Creativity and profit often have a tenuous relationship. By looking at how a large, regional corporate radio station operates as opposed to how a non-profit, free form station runs, I will demonstrate how the creativity of an individual is suppressed in order to maximize profits within an industry that is disseminating art. This is contrasted with the creative expression DJ's are allowed within an organization where profit is irrelevant.

## **Lucie Bernheim**

Colors & Chords

I have been writing songs for over a decade, and my inspirations and creative processes have changed since attending Conn. As I have become more in touch with myself, my synesthesia, and taken challenging classes and traveled, my music has changed. Here, I will talk about all of that.

## **Alexa Booker**

Childlike Wonder as a Prescription for Realizing Joy

Today, humans' hyperconsumption and endless, global access to negative media, alongside chronically worsening mental health, make realizing and sustaining joy feel unattainable to many. Differentiating joy from happiness as that deeper, restorative emotion more impacted by perspective than circumstances, I notice unhindered children often cultivate and heed this feeling effortlessly. Their propensity for curiosity, emotional vulnerability, awe, and play creates joy-conducive wonder. I aim to create pieces, spaces, and experiences for all ages that foster a return to this childlike state, rediscovery of what sparks personal joy, and development of sustainable cognitive-behavioral habits to incite joy frequently everyday.

## **Olivia Caron**

Videos Can Change The World Of Learning

This presentation discusses the usage of videos in academic settings and how they can be beneficial to neurodiverse and neurotypical students.

## **Lola Dorsogna**

How are Songwriting and Poetry Useful in Therapeutic Practice?

Songwriting, poetry and mental health have all become integral parts of my existence. Songwriting and poetry are powerful tools for not only self-expression, but also for healing. Using my personal experience and learning at Connecticut College, I will observe the profound impact that songwriting and poetry have on understanding and healing one's mind.

## **Madeline Duval**

## The Active Mind While Performing Art

A scientific and artistic exploration of the human mind while performing and presenting art. Specifically, considering individual thought, focus, and attention during a performance. Where is your state of mind? How do external factors and personality traits affect it? How does it differ from others? How closely do our personal experiences align with scientific research?

### **Sophie George**

The Nature of Healing: How to Heal through Art

In this presentation I will illustrate how I have found ways to understand the process of healing in every area of my life. Through looking in nature, observing artists in my internships, my education minor, volunteering, and most recently my senior art thesis work, I have found valuable insights about how to grow, process difficult emotions, and move forward in life. In my pathway I have learned how to channel my creative energy into a force to heal and try to thrive in the world.

### **Mairead Hayes**

A Web of Stories: The Impact of Different Mediums of Storytelling

Anything can be a story, and this project explores how human society uses different mediums of storytelling impact others. We as a society communicate through stories of the past, present, and future, and even though stories of fiction. Stories told by humans come in many different formats: writing, music, visual arts, dance, poetry etc., and I had the opportunity to explore multiple of these formats throughout my time at Conn, at home, and even abroad in Europe. Through my pathway journey I have found ways that these stories impact myself as well as those people around me.

### **Miranda Ma**

My Music Journey at Connecticut College

My presentation will start with briefly introducing my passion for music and any music experience I have had before coming to Connecticut College. Then, I will go into detail about my musical journey over these past four years as a Music Studies major while including a plethora of pictures and videos to illustrate all the details of my journey including musical collaborations, performances, and accomplishments. I'll end with my animating question and how I have explored it within the creativity pathway and how I will continue to explore it as I pursue a career in music.

### **Beth Marsh**

Designing for Disability Justice: How Does Architecture Impact Mental and Physical Accessibility

Throughout my time as an Architectural Studies major, I have grappled with the concept of Universal Design in building accessible spaces. By studying Disability Justice, completing various art and architectural design projects focused on accessibility, engaging with disabled students, and living in Fanning during the occupation, I have gained insight into what makes a space accessible to both physical and mental disabilities. How can we start to address the issues of access all around us, and push our concept of accessibility beyond building codes and ADA?

## **Sophia Nadeau**

The Remedial Properties of Creativity; Physical, Emotional, and Mental Health

A critical exploration based on personal experience, learned knowledge, and practical application of neural pathways, cognitive processes, and behavioral mechanisms related to creativity in response to the animating question: how does creativity help us heal our physical, emotional, and mental health?

## **Sunshine Pugh**

Creating With the Next Generation

There is no doubt that the classroom can have a large role in shaping our personalities. Everything from the physical layout, curriculum, teaching strategies, support, resources, and even the unspoken can impact who we become and how we think about the world. I am interested in how I can use art, the art classroom, and creativity as a way to increase students self confidence through autonomy and foster intersectional coalition building in youths and lives.

## **Zoe Zitner**

How Dance Transcends Verbal Language and Embodies the Human Experience

As a non-French speaker, studying abroad in Paris, France for an intensive dance program led me to think about the power of dance as a language that transcends words, written or spoken. I began to ponder the following questions which my presentation explores: Can we communicate solely with our bodies? How does dance embody the human experience? How can storytelling through dance performance transcend language?

# DATA, INFORMATION AND SOCIETY PATHWAY SYMPOSIUM 2023 ABSTRACTS

## **Kendall Foley**

Examining Agent-Centered Deontological Approaches to Data Science

The field of data science is mathematical, thus often perceived as objective in nature. Approaches to ethics in data science often reflect this impersonality and lack regard for the agent – the data scientist – and how they can shape data analysis. However, agent-centered deontological ethics counter this by offering a lens through which we can examine the personal ethics of data scientists. Agent-centered deontological ethics focuses on agency and the personal nature of morality, as well as agents' distinct moral concerns and categorical obligation to keep their agency free of moral harm.

## **McKalynn Jacobsen**

Comparing Data Privacy Rights in the United States and United Kingdom

In an era marked by digital ubiquity and increasing concerns about personal data protection, this project undertakes a comparative examination of data privacy rights in the United States and the United Kingdom. The study delves into legal frameworks and cultural underpinnings that shape data privacy practices in these two nations. By analyzing data privacy laws, recent developments, and enforcement actions, I aim to uncover key distinctions and similarities. My findings will shed light on the implications of these disparities for individuals, businesses, and the digital realm, offering valuable insights for policymakers, businesses, and advocates in both countries.

## **Chi Pham**

From Theory to Impact: Integrating Economics and Data Science

My "Data, Information, and Society" pathway experience has provided me with a solid foundation for addressing data-driven questions. Rigorous coursework at Conn exposed me to economics theory, data science concepts and information management, while internships provided hands-on experience in workplace settings. Armed with this skill set, I'm well-prepared to tackle complex issues at the intersection of data and economics. This journey has equipped me with the confidence and know-how to bridge theory and practice, and to contribute meaningfully to the dynamic landscape of real-world challenges.

## **Sophia Ramirez**

Unlocking Insights from Historical Data: Enhancing Mental Health Strategies for Contemporary Challenges

This abstract emphasizes the importance of using data analysis to study the psychological effects of major historical events like wars, pandemics, and economic crises. Understanding and addressing the mental well-being of modern populations facing ongoing challenges is crucial. This project aims to gain insights into today's psychological landscape by examining historical events through a data science approach. It takes a multidisciplinary outlook, integrating my experiences in Madrid, coursework, psychological data, and current indicators. Prioritizing mental health through data science is a vital step in creating more resilient and empathetic societies in our complex world.

## **Chloe Stults**

### Data and Machine Learning to Promote Diversity and Equity in STEM

The world of big data is a controversial topic that is constantly expanding and evolving. With the present impact it has in our society, why not focus on utilizing it to make positive change. Women currently make up only 34% of the STEM workforce, and often make significantly less than their male counterparts [1]. This pathway project explores the ways we can use data to make pursuing a career in STEM possible for students of diverse backgrounds and genders all while taking into consideration the influence of social media, geographical location, and societal infrastructure.

## **Emma Wheeler**

### Inaccurate Representation of Women in the Labor Force

Sexist ideology, socialization, and confirmation bias intertwine to maintain an insidious assumption that women do not contribute equally to the labor market. We are increasingly drawing conclusions from scientific evidence, as seen during the recent Covid-19 pandemic. However, data isn't as concrete as we may believe because researchers are victims of their cultural worldviews, values, and assumptions. Gender norms have riddled research with biases and sexist ideology is used to justify conclusions drawn from such prejudiced data.

# **ENTREPRENEURSHIP PATHWAY SYMPOSIUM 2023 ABSTRACTS**

## **Lauren Anastos**

Design and Retail Exploration

This innovative startup specializes in iron-on logo apparel designed specifically for students, faculty, and alumni at Conn College. With a deep understanding of the college's culture and spirit, the brand offers a unique selection of iron-on logos and apparel, allowing the Conn College community to proudly display their affiliation and school pride. The ability to customize design options make it convenient for individuals to create personalized clothing. This venture aims to foster a strong sense of community, nostalgia, and connection among students, faculty, and alumni, and provide Conn apparel options that can not be found elsewhere.

## **Marietta Atkins**

Importance of Nutrition in Student Athletes

How can we better assist student-athletes in providing them with the proper nutrition they need to succeed in their sport?

## **Cecilia Bohan**

Increasing Sustainability in Sport: The Environmental Impacts of Sailing

With critical concerns of the environmental impact of sports, we are advocating for an eco-conscious future in the world of sailing. Although sailing leaves a much smaller carbon footprint in comparison to other sports, it is still present. Promoting sustainable practices in the sailing community emphasizes the importance of protecting the playing field we rely on. By implementing educational programming, more sustainable practices, and "Knotical Solutions" in the sport, we hope to ensure a more sustainable future.

## **Charles Bresnahan**

Perennial: Designing a Successful Business

Starting with the idea for a gym and diner and taking it virtual, throughout the past three years I have explored what it takes to design, create, and launch a successful business model. While Perennial is just a concept, I aim to show the barriers to entry and what I've learned.

## **Ashley Breyer**

Increasing Sustainability in Sport: The Environmental Impacts of Sailing

With critical concerns of the environmental impact of sports, we are advocating for an eco-conscious future in the world of sailing. Although sailing leaves a much smaller carbon footprint in comparison to other sports, it is still present. Promoting sustainable practices in the sailing community emphasizes the importance of protecting the playing field we rely on. By implementing educational programming, more sustainable practices, and "Knotical Solutions" in the sport, we hope to ensure a more sustainable future.

## **John Callahan**

### A Place For Brick-And-Mortar Banks

Banking in America has changed over the years to favor online banking for handling simple deposits and withdrawals. This has led to a decrease in traffic in brick and mortar banks along with an increase in their closing. In order to keep them open, it is necessary that they focus on specialization and handling complex tasks that a phone or ATM cannot compete with. This includes easy access consultation and advising that incentivizes people to return to banks.

## **Marco Cerezo**

### Are We Creating Entrepreneurs?

After having an evolution on my animating question I wanted to know what made entrepreneurs successful and how schools could support them. After studying the subject I selected some aspects I believe make schools good for entrepreneurs and how Conn relates to other schools. What aspects can we improve to help our future entrepreneurs?

## **Charmaine Chau**

### Promoting Social Entrepreneurship Through Art and Shared Spaces

I saw a lack of public 2-d art at conn. I started to brainstorm how to bring art that is meaningful, expressive, and representative of the Conn student body. Thus I thought of the question: How can mural art generate social entrepreneurship? Art was an outlet for me. I was able to paint some murals too, and being able to bring it to life is a full circle moment for me. Using the space at Unity house allows themes of social justices to be displayed. This mural will encourage ideas to form and discuss in this shared space.

## **Thalia Cohen**

### What are the challenges of expanding parking on campus?

Parking on campus has been an ongoing issue for faculty and staff on campus. I am focusing on ways to expand and improve it. I have interviewed students and faculty on campus and gained insight on the issues and others ideas surrounding parking. I am hoping to work with facilities at Conn to expand on this and work towards possible solutions.

## **Sydney Cresta**

### Design and Retail Exploration

This innovative startup specializes in iron-on logo apparel designed specifically for students, faculty, and alumni at Conn College. With a deep understanding of the college's culture and spirit, the brand offers a unique selection of iron-on logos and apparel, allowing the Conn College community to proudly display their affiliation and school pride. The ability to customize design options make it convenient for individuals to create personalized clothing. This venture aims to foster a strong sense of community, nostalgia, and connection among students, faculty, and alumni, and provide Conn apparel options that can not be found elsewhere.

## **Sophia DeFoe**

Redesign and Expansion of the ARC using Interior Design and Environmental Psychology

Using my experience with architecture, design and psychology I have created a new interior to the Academic Resource Center. As a student who is registered with Student Accessibility Services and utilities the ARC it is important that the ARC is a comfortable space for students to thrive academically. I have worked to create a flexible space where students can work together, alone and have a mix of social and individual spaces.

## **Sean Detloff**

Researching The Importance of Design and Branding for Institutional Identity

This research project will focus primarily on the importance of design and branding for institutional identity -- addressing a tangible, real world business expression and the costs associated with inconsistent execution and implementation...as having a clear, consistent brand identity increases desire, pride and profit.

## **Gavin Dowley**

How can Economic Practices Assist the World in Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions?

The environment is quickly changing around us accelerated by the emission of greenhouse gasses. These effects, sooner than we expect, will have a pronounced impact on all of our lives affecting where we live, how we live, and what we can experience. These changes are not set in stone, economics has a chance to help us reduce emissions slowing the changes to the world. To succeed, collaboration needs to take place on a global scale, incentives need to align to prevent further degradation.

## **Ayomide Fasunla**

Laundry Services

My presentation is about some research and findings I did in trying to figure out how to improve laundry services at Conn as it became a serious time drain for me.

## **Quinn Furgueson**

How Can Schools Streamline Academic Sites?

In this poster, I discuss how academic sites and resources can be made more intuitive and efficient to use. I go over what data and experiences that inspired me to go about this project, what my solution to the various issues are, and what direction I plan on going in the future. This is all done to improve student experience and raise productivity.

## **John Garvey**

Tech Solutions for Inclusive Learning

This poster explores technology's role in enhancing comprehension for individuals with learning disabilities in education. It discusses innovative solutions, including adaptive learning platforms and



personalized approaches, to bridge accessibility gaps. The poster highlights the importance of educators, institutions, and policymakers in effective implementation. Ultimately, it seeks to promote a more inclusive and equitable educational environment through technology.

## **Nathaniel Gilkey**

How does lack of financial literacy change generations ?

Lack of financial literacy hampers individuals' ability to manage money, save, and invest wisely, which has a ripple effect across generations. When one generation lacks financial knowledge, they are less likely to accumulate and pass down wealth, or educate subsequent generations on financial matters. Over time, this can exacerbate financial disparities, leaving each successive generation further behind economically, with fewer resources to break the cycle of financial illiteracy and poverty.

## **Zach Giugno**

Trade Regulations Impacts on the Growth of American Sports in the EU

The growth of American sports abroad, in particular within the EU, has been tremendous in recent years. I am interested in researching the trade aspects behind this and what has impacted the accessibility of certain sports abroad.

## **Rylie Griffith**

Design and Retail Exploration

This innovative startup specializes in iron-on logo apparel designed specifically for students, faculty, and alumni at Conn College. With a deep understanding of the college's culture and spirit, the brand offers a unique selection of iron-on logos and apparel, allowing the Conn College community to proudly display their affiliation and school pride. The ability to customize design options make it convenient for individuals to create personalized clothing. This venture aims to foster a strong sense of community, nostalgia, and connection among students, faculty, and alumni, and provide Conn apparel options that can not be found elsewhere.

## **Nicholas Ingemi**

A Peek Into Real Estate Development

I was enlisted to become a Project Administrator in a scaling RE Dev Company. I was in charge of Collecting "Bids" for each property and sending them directly to the CEO for adjustment/approval. I was also in charge of a plethora of other Administrative Tasks such as reaching out to Building ISD (Inspectional Services Department) for each prospective property.

## **Liam Kaesgen**

Connecting Incoming Connecticut College Students with Resources: A Deep Dive Into Camelot

I (in conjunction with two of my peers) decided to develop a "checklist program" for first year students. This check list has a wide variety of items on it from joining a club to taking courses in three or more disciplines to engaging with resources at the career office. We designed this program in hopes of helping

students discover passions, meet their peers and get involved earlier with the Connecticut College community. This award and program is called “Camelot.”

## **Abby Krahmer**

Fueling Success: Enhancing Nutrition Choices at Oasis for Student-Athletes

This project centers on enriching the culinary offerings available to student-athletes, emphasizing nutritionally balanced meals. By collaborating with professionals, the initiative aims to revamp menu choices, ensuring they align with the unique dietary requirements the athletes need. We aspire to cultivate a health-conscious environment through engaging workshops and menu modifications, enabling student-athletes to make informed nutritional decisions. This endeavor ultimately promotes their well-being, fostering optimal performance and success on the campus grounds.

## **Nicholas Lorentzen**

SailRank

What’s the most effective way to communicate statistical information to a broad audience in a user-friendly format?

## **Will Martin**

Financial Literacy in Education

Wealth disparity between the wealthy and impoverished is one of the most pressing issues we face in the U.S. today. Wealth inequality has many factors, and primarily affects under-resourced communities. Financial literacy and education is one of the most important things individuals can do to increase their own wealth, regardless of income level. Financial education is a growing sub-genre of schools nationwide, and seems to have positive results in increasing wealth equality. This project focuses on the impact of financial literacy in education, particularly in teaching people while they are young, at the middle-high school age.

## **Jack Marvel**

Micro-financing in Ecuador

During my senior year of high school, I studied micro-financing and went on a two week trip to see its impacts first hand in Ecuador. Since then I have researched how the use of better technology could impact micro financing industry.

## **Brooke McKenna**

Artificial Intelligence and Innovation: The Future of Patent Law and Entrepreneurship

The analysis of how artificial intelligence can, and will, play a role in entrepreneurial innovation and patent law, and the pivotal court cases establishing new precedents for AI regulations.

## **Ryan Mckinney**

Perennial

Originally my aim was solving the lack of nutritious food options on campus. I was aiming to do so through partnering with local farms and creating catered meal prep/ meal delivery service. Now I have expanded my idea through collaborating with fellow classmates to combine a workout tutorial app with a curated meal plan.

## **Kristyn Moran**

Fueling Success: Enhancing Nutrition Choices at Oasis for Student-Athlete

Revamping campus dining halls for student athletes involves a comprehensive approach to enhance nutrition, convenience, and overall experience. We have consulted with the athletes to get a better understanding of dietary needs and preferences. How we can incorporate specialized meal options that give the students nutrient-rich foods to support training and recovery. Extend dining hall hours to accommodate athletes' busy schedules. Oasis the student "late-night" dining hall does not offer healthy options that provide the sufficient nutrients that athletes need. Our aim to adapt the current Oasis menu and provide fresh, not fixed options.

## **Andrew Powers**

Camel Furniture

Is there a way where I can take the pressure off the transition for graduating seniors and incoming freshmen? By creating a Facebook group, I have created a platform where Connecticut College Students have the chance to connect with their peers that want to buy or sell their used college dorm furniture. Graduating students every year don't want to bring their dorm furniture home because either they don't have the space or they're too lazy. This creates an opportunity for students, especially freshmen, to buy good quality furniture at a low cost.

## **Benjamin Rice**

Feeding the Future: Revitalizing Crozier-Williams

Connecticut College needs to take advantage of a great opportunity, which is opening up the campus to local restaurants to set up shop. Bringing in restaurants like NV Bakery and Muddy Waters will make Conn a more desirable place to attend. Many students enjoy going out to these restaurants but do not have the transportation to do so. Having them in Cro would be very convenient for students and faculty as well. This would also take a burden off of the dining staff at Conn as well.

## **Cameron Tedeschi**

How Can Lean Six Sigma Tools be Applied at Conn?

Lean Six Sigma is a set of methodologies and tools that are used for process improvement, and efficiency enhancement. Many colleges and universities have Lean Six Sigma certification programs, and I believe Conn should have some resources. My research will explain in detail the methodologies, principles, and benefits of Lean Six Sigma. It will also explain how and why Lean Six Sigma can be useful to Conn students.

## **Malachi Ward**

From Milan Streets to Sustainable Silhouettes: A Fashion Designer's Odyssey

This project traces a journey from a transformative Milan menswear internship to a vision of sustainable couture. Insights on next-gen designers reveal their potential to reshape the denim industry. A brand emerges, merging innovative denim designs with elegant couture. The goal: a curated boutique offering a personalized shopping experience. Emphasis on sustainability underscores the necessity for industry resilience. A practical approach to career sustainability encompasses financial planning, networking, and adaptability. This narrative envisions a future where innovation and sustainability converge in fashion design.

## **William Whelan**

Connecting Camels with Local Businesses

Connecticut College athletics have a great opportunity to connect with local businesses as well as improving their funds. Each athletic team can have a program with their roster and the roster of their opponent for that specific game. With these programs, local businesses can pay the athletic department to promote their businesses within the programs by buying either a quarter page, half page, or full page advertisement.

## **Shawnia Yon**

It's More Than A Dance Studio

Dance has always been an important factor in my life. When I was in 5th grade, for career day, I was asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, and my answer was a professional dancer. The answer has always been dancer; however, I often have a hard time saying it out loud because of societal pressure. I have put too much time, sacrifice, and love into dance to not make it my profession. Thus the idea of my animation question: allowing people to take a glimpse into my world, something I often don't do.

## **Caroline Zidik**

Student Engagement in Campus Projects

As a student majoring in architectural studies interested in being an architect, I want to find ways to engage in that field through the college I attend and have insight as a student liaison for the projects Connecticut College is undergoing. I contacted Rich Madonna during my sophomore year to make this possible. After a year, this was made possible by working for Kayla Moreno through facilities and being part of the projects team on campus.

# **FOOD PATHWAY SYMPOSIUM 2023 ABSTRACTS**

## **Anike Abegunde**

Lab Coat to Chef's Apron: Exploring Chemistry in Food Research & Development

Chemistry is essential in many different ways in Food Science. My internship at North Carolina State University Center for Marine Sciences and Technology (CMAST) was pivotal in my exploration of the necessity of this statement. During my internship, I formulated innovative aquafeed utilizing by-products for a food sustainability project. In addition, I actively participated in the possible development of a novel food product, for which my Chemistry background was necessary. My poster aims to share my insights into the dynamic interplay between chemistry and food research and development.

## **Elias Currier**

Obligations in the Farmers Market: Producers Place in Hunger Relief

A reflection on the impact and importance of local community interactions upon hunger relief. Resulting in the establishment and maintenance of a sustainable communication between producers and consumers. Using my experiences with Fresh New London and the Sprout Garden, we dive into the efforts in which many producers must undertake to distribute fresh produce. Centering upon the programs of community supported agriculture and community implemented farmers markets, I will lay bare that the movement of produce through New London demonstrates the abiding necessity for producers' place within their local communities.

## **Nicole Wright**

Cooking up Empowerment for Migrant Farmworkers in Vermont

Despite the dairy industry being one of the most emblematic features of Vermont, a few thousand migrant farmworkers are the ones that keep the industry afloat. At the hands of Vermonter farm owners, they face human rights abuses and violations of pay, working hours, and housing conditions. Throughout a summer with Migrant Justice, an advocacy group for these workers, I focused on the role of food in forming a community, and how the presence of foods from home at social events and rallies helps to create the strength needed to organize for better conditions.

# **GLOBAL CAPITALISM PATHWAY SYMPOSIUM 2023 ABSTRACTS**

## **Dillon Daoud**

The Creation of Wealth and Poverty

Throughout my experiences at Conn I've learned that wealth and poverty and not simply the natural state of things but are rather carefully manufactured. The status quo in which 10% of the population controls 90% of the wealth in the US must be constantly reinforced. I plan on focusing on several instances throughout history that have served to create wealth for the Western world while simultaneously draining countries in the Global South of their labor, resources and land.

## **Elizabeth Elsbree**

Patriarchy and Gendered Labor

How might democratic policy seek to ameliorate the patriarchal exploitation of gendered labor in a capitalist system? By using case studies from socialist countries, I will suggest ways this question might be addressed in the United States.

## **Peter Gattuso**

The Importance of Capital and Human Mobility in our Globalized Economy

GlobalCapitalism is driven by free movement—of people, goods, services, and information. When movement is restricted, then interactions become limited. The degree which people, goods, services, and information can pass hands and borders slows down, delaying access. When this occurs, economic growth falls short of its potential. Three restrictions in particular exemplify this problem: trade protectionism, immigration restrictions, and occupational licensure. Trade protectionism restricts the transfer of goods across borders. Immigration restricts people—and axiomatically, the goods, services, and ideas of those people—from crossing borders and achieving labor efficiency. Occupational licensure is a barrier for people to labor specialization.

## **Teagan O'Hara**

"Capitalocene's" Impact on Water Accessibility

How does one's positionality within a neo-capitalist society affect their access to clean water? I will respond to this question through an intersectional lens that I have learned to put into praxis through my major, Gender, Sexuality, and Intersectionality Studies. I will explore three case studies in the U.S. that are affected by inequitable access to clean water.

## **Eli Prybala**

Development Discourse In New London: Urban Renewal and Beyond

This project examines the use of Development Discourse in New London's history to explore how "progress" has typically acted to harm marginalized communities. I focus mainly on Urban Renewal in

New London, specifically in Winthrop Cove, but I also touch on New London during the great migration through the experiences of families living on Hempstead Street.

### **Seth Shimelfarb-Wells**

Black Artistic Collectives: Destabilizing Madness In The Face of Capital

Black artistic collectives, since the inception of what we now know to be blackness, have always found ways to refute, mock, and create alternative institutions in the face of capitalism and its logics. My work focuses on the movements of the LA film rebellion, particularly filmmakers Barbara McCullough and Julie Dash. My talk will also note the importance of Black Feminist literary collectives and their relationship to publishing and communality. Black Artists, during the long transition of emancipation, have been catalyzed to create world ending art in the face of exploitative capitalist logics.

### **Ethan Sweeney**

What Effect Will Cryptocurrency Have on the Global Economy?

Cryptocurrency experienced a surge in fame in 2020, and soon after quickly crashed in price and relevance about as fast as it had risen to prominence. Even now, though, Bitcoin stands at a price tag just below \$30k, quite a bit shy of its all time high of \$64,400 in late 2021, but also much higher than its pre-pandemic levels when it stood at just \$7,400 on January 3, 2020. Since cryptocurrency has shown it is sticking around, it is important to understand what it is and what role it could play in our future.

# **GOODWIN-NIERING CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENT SYMPOSIUM 2023 ABSTRACTS**

## **Lara Beckius**

Write Things Right: How to Communicate Most Effectively About Climate Change

What makes you hopeful in the face of climate change? The way we talk about the future of our planet, whether with hope or fear, science or stories, will sway the actions we may take to save it. This Economics Honors Thesis seeks to determine the most effective methods of communicating climate change to encourage personal investment in the mitigation of impacts. The study includes an analysis of currently-used methods, an examination of an innovative form of communication I designed this summer at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, and an original experiment that tests how language impacts spending choices.

## **Carine DeBenedittis**

Not-So-Concrete Jungles: Designing Urban Parks for Flood Resilient Cities

I interned with the Prospect Park Alliance in Brooklyn, NY this past summer and learned about invasive plant management, urban ecology, and how a wild park functions in the middle of a dense city environment. This experience has informed my SIP, in which I am examining case studies of urban parks around the world to compile a list of features that improve the hydrology and flood resiliency of parks and their surroundings. Using these case studies and literature review, I am implementing design features to create a flood resilient park in an urban site that experiences hydrological issues.

## **Madeleine Gassin**

Using Repeat Photography to Document Climate Change-Induced Glacial Changes in Iceland

This project explored using repeat photography as a way to document the effects of climate change on glaciers in Iceland. Through literary review I was able to determine different studied effects of climate change on Icelandic glaciers, including volume loss and contribution to sea level rise. For the repeat photography section, I was able to recreate photographs of Icelandic glaciers taken by my advisor in 2013. These two sections of my thesis complimented each other and allowed me to synthesize my findings from repeat photography in a way that is accessible for both the scientific community and the general public.

## **Hannah Grinnell**

Place-Based Resilience: How Food Justice Creates Stronger Communities

Through my project I hope to explore the ways in which a connection to place can build community resilience, particularly through food justice initiatives. In this way a sense of place can be utilized as a tool to empower people to regain control over their food systems and consequently their communities as a whole. Food and land are powerful shapers of identity and culture, and local agriculture is a medium through which people can connect both to the place they call home and their own communities.



## **Sarah Hall**

GIS Based Multi Criteria Decision Analysis for Marine Energy Siting Decisions

Site selection for renewable energy projects involves evaluating technical, economic, and environmental criteria to maximize energy output. It's crucial to also consider social and environmental justice data. GIS-based Multi Criteria Decision (MCDA) provides a way to integrate diverse types of data for improved site selection. This study uses case studies demonstrating different applications of GIS-based MCDA for marine energy siting projects. These case studies will show the value of GIS-based MCDA for site selection in the marine energy sector, emphasizing the ability to combine multiple data types for more informed decisions.

## **Winona Hunter**

Compromises in Offshore Wind and the New England Fishing Industry

In light of recent pushes for renewable energies, offshore wind is expanded in New England. This study aims to understand conflicts between opposing stakeholders in offshore wind developments and the gravity of compromise and collaboration. Are there successful compromises and collaboration between stakeholders? Do compromises form better relationships between stakeholders? How much are these compromises imposing on stakeholder goals?

## **Kerin Krasnoff**

Impact of Ash Tree Die-off on Greenhouse Gas Production in Wetlands

Wetlands play a key role in the global carbon cycle as a strong carbon sink and the largest natural source of methane. The Emerald Ash Borer is causing high ash tree mortality which has resulted in changes in vegetation and hydrology. To understand the extent of carbon gas production changes as a result, I collected soil from wetlands each with a section of living and dead ash trees. Anaerobic soil incubations were conducted to measure rates of potential greenhouse gas production rates. Moisture content was also measured to identify how changes in moisture and soil carbon impacts gas production rates.

## **Emma Lanahan**

Impacts of Ground-Mounted Solar Arrays: Connecticut College as a Case Study

The rapidly intensifying effects of anthropogenic climate change, has forced us to adapt and change the way we are thinking about our energy systems. Solar power has become a huge industry in the last decade and there has been a rapid increase in the number of large-scale ground mounted solar array installations. However, there is concern of potential environmental and hydrological impacts of these arrays. Utilizing the site where the college has proposed to install a 730 kW array, data will be collected to understand which location will have little to no negative impact on the landscape

## **David Neelappa**

Development of Efficient Means of Synthesizing Natural Product Frondosin D

The basis of my research revolves around exploring novel synthetic strategies to aid in the larger goal of generating Frondosin D, a naturally occurring compound with anti-inflammatory, anti-HIV, and tumor suppressant properties produced by the *Dysidea frondosa* sea sponge. As such, synthetic strategies

involving the Claisen Rearrangement as well as several alkyne-alkyne coupling reactions are being employed all in the aim of hopefully contributing to the greater discipline of natural products chemistry.

## **Grace Robinson**

The Global Algae Crisis

From the sugarcane runoff in Florida to the Australian Bush Fires of 2019, increases in phosphorus and nitrogen are causing unprecedented spikes of toxic algal blooms in fresh and saltwater alike. While much is known about the chemicals that kill algal blooms, not much is known about the ripple effect of those substances on the other organisms in the ecosystem. After working as a co-author on a toxic algae thesis at the University of Tasmania (Summer 2023), I am using my compiled information to run an experiment testing the impact of algicidal chemicals on other marine organisms.

## **Edin Sisson**

Plankton Adaptations in Response to Ocean Warming and Acidification

Ocean warming and acidification have widespread implications for current marine ecosystems. Planktonic organisms are responsible for larger-scale fluctuations in trophic systems due to their role as abundant prey. The common copepod, *Acartia tonsa*, shows changes in fitness (a measure of egg production, hatching rate, survival to maturity, sex ratios, and body size), genetic adaptations, and genetic trade-offs when adapted to warming and high CO<sub>2</sub> conditions over multiple years and many generations. Studying the carrying capacities of the phytoplankton *Tetraselmis* sp under varying experimental temperatures reveals additional changes in prey that are occurring on an even smaller scale.

## **Renee Smith**

Plants, and Proteins, and Pathogens, Oh My!

Like people, plants can get sick and have immune systems, too. Plant disease is one of the leading causes for yield loss in agriculture. Specifically, I worked on better understanding how specific proteins impact tomato plants infected with bacterial speck disease. My research focuses on the role that the loss of function of these proteins, called Pic proteins, have on overall plant immunity and how we can use our understanding of the plant immune system to develop more disease resistant plants.

## **Luke Sparreo**

Examining collection biases in the Connecticut College Herbarium

An herbarium is a collection of dried plant specimens used for scientific study, and our college is home to an herbarium with over 12,000 specimens. It is accepted that many herbaria overrepresent rare, useful, and "beautiful" plants while underrepresenting plants with small or no flowers and invasive species. How biased is Connecticut College's herbarium and how does that change the way we can use it and what it can tell us about the environment?

## **Aparajita Tyagi**

Effects of the Decline of Eastern Hemlocks on Avian and Plant Communities

Given the long-term continuity of the Bolleswood Breeding Bird census in the Arboretum, rich data on avian territories has been obtained. I intend to conduct a spatial analysis of the census data using Geographic Information Systems and discern the trends in bird species distribution, from the year 1980 to 2022. My research will focus on determining the underlying causes of variation in the territorial patterns of the bird species by overlaying the bird survey data on data collected from vegetation surveys, conducted in the arboretum. Specifically, I will study the changes in territories following the decline of Eastern Hemlocks.

# **HOLLERAN CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ACTION SYMPOSIUM 2023 ABSTRACTS**

## **Madison Andrews**

Representation in Health Care and the Impact on Patient Health and Wellbeing

This study aimed to identify whether representation in healthcare affects patient health and wellbeing. Disadvantages to minorities due to the lack of diversity of physicians include communication barriers, lack of trust, lesser rapport, and lower level of comfort with doctors non-representative of their demographic. I quantified the diversity of race, sex, and language spoken for a sample of physicians at two local hospitals. I interviewed Connecticut College alumni that hold positions within the healthcare system to evaluate their perspectives of diversity in healthcare. I utilized surveys of Connecticut College students to gain insight to patient's perspectives of healthcare.

## **Brielle Blood**

Found Empowerment through the Performing Arts

This paper examines how the performing arts can enhance the self-confidence and overall well-being of young individuals. The arts provide a platform for youth to discover and nurture their body and self as both individuals and members of their communities, and offer a safe and inclusive space for self-discovery and the exploration of identity. In addition to personal growth, the performing arts empower youth to become agents of positive change.

## **Jennifer Bloom**

A Reflective Approach to Well-Being Through Experiences and Evolving Narratives

As individuals grow over the course of their lifespan, they acquire new knowledge and develop into themselves on a deeper, more holistic level. Through this, they may encounter new experiences and they are able to expand their personal narratives – which is at the core of who we are as people. Narratives allow us to know ourselves and better understand the communities we live in. In my Capstone Course, entitled, "Language, Narrative, and Self" with the Human Development Department, I examine the value of experiences and narratives and their abilities to cultivate meaningful self-reflection and human connection.

## **Imogen Bohan**

Decriminalize Youth Mental Illness: Improving the Coordination Between Policy and Community Initiatives

The criminalization of youth mental illness is a nationally pervasive problem. Focusing specifically on Connecticut, this honors thesis examines how state policy and community action have helped to decriminalize youth mental illness, where they have been limited, and current policy windows or initiative opportunities. Through a comprehensive analysis of specific policies and initiatives, this honors thesis seeks to identify the existing relationship between policy and community action. Ultimately, it aims to provide solutions to improve their coordination and reduce juvenile justice system involvement for struggling youth on both a legislative and community level.

## **Amaya Fokuo**

Intentional Inclusion: Bringing a DEI approach to the workplace

This research project will explore the critical issue of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the workplace and the strategies that can be employed to achieve and sustain a diverse workforce. The research project is based on a comprehensive review of relevant literature, interviews and research used to give an intersectional take on the world of DEI and the framework and pillars within the topic. The goal of this project is to prove that there is such ability to create DEI within the workplace through various strategies that are implemented to create sustainable and systematic change within the workplace setting.

## **Tiernan Golnik**

Justice for Juveniles: Mental Health Access in The Juvenile Justice System

This project will focus on the sociological approach and psychological view of the access to mental health services in the criminal justice system for incarcerated youths. Research consists of a plethora of articles that either highlight mental health access in the criminal justice system for youths or fail to mention it. This project will focus on laws and policies that are currently in place but also discuss future laws and policies that should be implemented to achieve the rights that everyone (not just youths) in the criminal justice system have the necessary access to mental health services.

## **Brianny Gonzalez**

Restorative Discipline: A Trauma-informed Therapeutic Approach to Behavioral Correction in Schools

Trauma-informed therapy is an approach to care that seeks to emphasize the role of trauma and its impact on a patient's behavior and mental health. Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are traumatic events that occur before a child reaches the age of 18 and can have negative lasting socio-emotional, psychological, and behavioral impacts. ACEs play a significant role in the development and manifestation of behavioral problems seen in children while at school. This study aims to examine restorative discipline practices from the lens of a trauma-informed therapeutic approach in schooling to correct behavior and empower its students.

## **Lyndon Inglis**

Fashion as Politics: Unveiling the Criminalization, Empowerment and Political Dimensions of Clothing

When analyzing Black Power Fashion, the Zoot Suit riots, and the Black Panthers, how can we assess the role of clothing in political movements and the politics of clothes literature? To what extent does clothing function as a form of 'infrapolitics' as discussed by Robin D.G. Kelly? Moreover, what are the strengths and limitations of using clothing as a means of political expression? Finally, how can we use the Roots that Bind Fashion Show as a case study to further our understanding of how clothing has been used historically for empowerment, self-expression, and connection to cultural roots?

## **Stivenson Jean-Louis**

Intersectional Masculinity Intervention: MOCA Mentorship and The Boys & Girls Club

The purpose of the MOCA Mentorship and the Boys & Girls Club is to educate, connect, and provide a space where young men can learn about their gender identity by engaging in conversations with other

men. Some of these conversations include mental health, values, and emotional vulnerability. One of the main challenges of this mentorship is to allow young men to unlearn the unhealthy traditional ideas of masculinity and provide them with a space where they can redefine what it means to be a man. With this intervention, we are forging a path to manhood with guidance and care.

## **Iris Luce**

Exploring Fertility Health Care Through Legislative Action and Biological Model Systems

Fertility health care is widely inaccessible across the U.S. and on a larger global scale. Factors that impact access to this type of reproductive care include socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, and geographic disparities. My two-year internship with the nonprofit, Fertility Within Reach, allowed me to explore this issue from a legislative perspective. My SIP connects these experiences with an independent study in biology, focusing on how inadequate nutrition, related to low socioeconomic status, impacts reproductive health. I specifically examine how exposure to pesticides and nutritional deprivation affects reproductive health in an animal-based modeling system.

## **Birdy McDonnell**

Institutional Imperative: Picking Up Slack Where the Law Won't

What do you do when you've reached the minimum required by law? Do you go beyond that, and if so how far? While there are many legal protections provided for people with disabilities the minimum application of these mandates are often incredibly variable and even an institution where the minimum legal requirements of accessibility is met is often not fully accessible. What then is the moral imperative to go beyond what is legally required and strive to make an institution truly accessible, and how do you argue for what many see as unnecessary?

## **Jasity Mena**

Education as a Force for Change

Schools can be a source of reinforcement of marginal status, reproduction of the dominant inequitable culture, and disheartening of young people. There is a running list of issues within schools that are being widely spoken about and contested including, teacher-student hierarchy, ableist standards, suppression of critical inquiry and creativity, and so forth. While publicity of the issues within schooling has expanded, in many cases the tools for educators and youth workers working to foster just, empowering, thriving learning environments have not. This project explores how educators can teach for justice, nurturing students as change-makers.

## **Wendy Olivares**

Access & Equity in Higher-Education: The Significance of Mentoring BIPOC & FGLI Students

Admissions practices for higher education have been historically exclusionary for BIPOC and FGLI individuals. Social capital, extensive networking, private college prep, and rigorous class availability are some of the key factors that set students from affluent schools at an advantage. By the same token, students who are just as high-achieving as their affluent counterparts but come from underserved, low-income, and racially marginalized communities are often hindered by limitations in terms of social

capital and resources. My project will highlight the effects mentoring has on these marginalized students and their college experience.

### **Serena Prince**

Power in Grassroots Education Reform: Examining Modern Initiatives and Black Resistance Tradition

In the U.S., residential and educational inequity persist at alarming levels, which disproportionately affects BIPOC populations, and perpetuates cycles of segregation and poverty. My presentation delves into the importance of the Black freedom struggle by examining the initiatives African Americans used to reimagine education and intentional integration. I am inspired by my internship experiences with organizations like Teach For America. I have witnessed the successes and pitfalls of non-profit organizations in influencing policy creation and social change. I envision schools as a portion of a broader political program of structural change toward equity referencing Black political thought.

### **Emma Pyles**

Exploring Relationships Between Political Participation and Food Insecurity in the United States

This thesis explores the relationship between political participation and food insecurity rates in the United States. It begins with an examination of federal compliance with the National Voter Registration Act, which is an opt-in voter registration system. It then turns to a study of policy feedback between nutrition assistance, food insecurity, and political participation. More in-depth analysis in this area provides the opportunity to better understand which registration policy interventions were most effective at reaching food insecure citizens in the United States, and examines an under-explored area of policy feedback in American politics.

### **Margaret Richards**

Broadening Our Understanding of Environmental Justice Through the Lens of Green Gentrification

Environmental injustice is not just about the disproportionate targeting of poor and marginalized communities by hazardous industries and resource extraction, but also about the lack of environmental amenities in those communities. However, adding environmental amenities through community development or revitalization often results in gentrification. How can poor and marginalized communities develop or revitalize without forcing out the very residents that the development and revitalization is meant to benefit?

### **Bethany Smith**

Checking and Balancing: Designing an Adaptable Financial Literacy Curriculum for High Schoolers

Financial literacy is a topic rarely discussed in schools, and when it is, it is through the lens of the middle-upper class. I am designing a financial literacy curriculum where students of all backgrounds will be able to address their after-high-school options and their financial situations to understand why knowledge of these concepts is important.

### **Miranda Van Mooy**

Demystifying Immigration: An Analysis of U.S. Immigration Narratives Through Legislative Action

In a post-9/11 world, immigration policy does not exist in isolation, but within a complex web of national security, terrorism, and political agendas. Through the process of inductive coding, this project investigates the prevalent themes in proposed immigration legislation. This research will magnify the complexities of immigration policy to discover how American political rhetoric relates to U.S. congressional action. These conclusions will contribute to an official report for non-profit advocacy groups, depicting a historical analysis of U.S. immigration policy, and providing recommendations for how they can understand it and contribute to its reform.



# **MEDIA RHETORIC AND COMMUNICATION PATHWAY SYMPOSIUM 2023 ABSTRACTS**

## **Frederick Baldauf**

Billionaires, Fans, and Media's Influence on Sports Ownership

As Americans, we are used to a sports ownership model where teams are owned by one billionaire owner. It is an industry, and the fate of the team tends to be at the whim of these billionaires. What about sports leagues where this ownership model is not the case? Do fans owning teams lead to a better fan experience? Is the rhetoric coming from media outlets with regards to such an ownership model generally positive or negative about fan ownership? How does the media coverage affect the perception of fan ownership of fans of such teams?

## **Cecilia Bianchi**

A Theatrical Reckoning: The (Un)Changing American Theater Industry

Following the Covid-19 pandemic and the 2020 Black Lives Matter Movement, the American theater industry underwent a shift in traditional operating practices. Producers and leaders promised an understanding of and commitment to practices that promote diversity and inclusion. In the years following these promises, how do the communication practices—within theatrical companies and between company and audience—continue to uphold oppressive structures? In what ways has the industry advanced and how does its media and communication reflect these changes? How does the rhetoric both in productions and backstage continue to perpetuate harmful and exclusionary practices?

## **Ellie Damiecki**

Community, Care, Connections: The Integrative Power of Digital Media

To continue exploring effective communication styles, I generated digital content at my local childcare center to depict how special it is, or what I call their community's ethos. The Center serves low-income families on the East End of LI, striving to increase equity in a gentrified area. They provide affordable childcare services, enrichment programs, nutritious meals, and support to these families who are central to our area. My goal was to powerfully capture the unwavering kinship that's been cultivated here, challenging myself to utilize technology as an art expression given technology's impact on our modern society.

## **Erin Flanagan**

Watch What Happens: Theater as a Medium for Exploring Different Cultures

My desire to learn more about people and how they interact, using the medium of theater, has shaped my collegiate journey. I have gotten the incredible opportunity to study in and experience three different theatrical cultures. Throughout the duration of my time in each of these locations, I have been able to learn about and create theater, and notice how the nuances of each society lend themselves to their respective creations of theater; media, rhetoric, and communication work to enhance our understanding of theater in society. Each location had different priorities that resulted in different theater being created.

## **Meredith Harper**

It's Time to BeReal: The Cost of a Curated Feed

Cross referencing my time in the English and Human Development departments, I have learned a lot about people and how to write about people. I believe the stories we tell are the stories that define us. To share a narrative is to learn deeply about people. But what happens when these narratives get convoluted by public influence and misinformation? What's the cost of having the media curate your life for you? What is the limit of this curation and what power do I have as the consumer? How can I control my life and narrative with Big Brother watching?

## **Janet Howard**

Artificial Intelligence and the Marketing World

As Artificial Intelligence is rapidly evolving and improving, it's vital for Marketing firms to explore innovative approaches and understand how this technology is going to affect the business world in different ways. Through this investigation, I will analyze how marketing companies can strategically employ Artificial Intelligence to enhance their services, streamline operations, and foster business growth. I will include first-hand information derived from my marketing internship at a marketing consulting company in Connecticut. The findings will provide information for integrating Artificial Intelligence into the industry and how to deliver superior results in the data-driven world of marketing.

## **Jocelyn Lewis**

Rhetoric in action: How artistic rhetoric can transform truth across various climates

I have continued to return to the term "rhetoric" and the consequences this term and practice have on understanding truth. Just before my introduction to the pathway, the January 6th insurrection occurred. This is an event that has continued to horrify and fascinate me because of the dangerously powerful rhetoric that has transformed an entire portion of the population's understanding of truth. I have studied how dance is its own form of rhetoric that carries its own set of truths. My experience working at Jacob's Pillow this summer allowed me to question and undo some of these assumptions.

## **Connor Ryan**

Athletes on the Field, People Off it

Social media has been crucial to the rise of sports in recent history. It has helped athletes gain exposure unlike ever before, but this does come at a price. Athletes are some of the most focused people in the world and are constantly being judged for what they do in their sport. But, they are judged even more for what they do off the court. Whether it be who they date, what they do, or how they spend their off time, they're constantly judged. How has this rise impacted the lives of athletes and changed how we view them?

## **Jamie Scarpantonio**

The Dangers of our Digitally Advancing Society

Living in a generation where social media dictates many aspects of our lives, we unconsciously gravitate towards media during downtime. Spending approximately 3-5 hours a day on social media, we can start

to disconnect from the world and become less social human beings. Born with a strong capacity to form social groups, the advancing digital age has created a barrier between us and our natural instincts.

## **Sophie Zakin**

### Rhetorical Strategies in Fashion Campaigns

Rhetoric started as a speaking strategy, as a way to persuade. In contemporary society, we can now speak of other ways of rhetoric such as its use in writing or visual forms. Fashion is a visual industry, creating art and meaning through clothing. More and more, the fashion industry can be seen promoting different causes and social justice issues through the art of design. My project is thinking about rhetoric within the context of fashion and how brands and fashion houses can use rhetorical strategies to project a larger message to their audiences.

# MUSEUM STUDIES CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

## SYMPOSIUM 2023 ABSTRACTS

### **Lily Algeri**

Art Conservation: A Means to No End

Art conservation is a means of preserving our material culture for future generations. My goal is to explore the ethics of art conservation through the examination of three case studies: the preservation of Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper, Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel, and wall paintings in the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang. I plan to examine how Western morals may be influencing current practices in Art Conservation and how conservation methods may differ across the globe.

### **Miranda Dowie**

To Educate and Entertain: Targeting Audiences for Exhibitions and Events

When planning for exhibitions and events, how do museums and galleries differ to best fit the needs of their audiences? I will look at Hygienic Art Galleries and Lyman Allyn Art Museum, analyzing how their primary audience influences their events and exhibitions. My internship experiences with both organizations will offer me insight into the thought process behind targeting specific audiences. This information will then lead me to how to create an exhibition with a very specific audience in mind.

### **Catherine Gwinnett**

Guo Zhen's "Hot Slang": Label-Writing and the Ethics of Accessibility

When art contains elements of foreign languages, how do art museums in America ensure that all visitors will have an equal opportunity to engage with the exhibition? My project aims to interrogate this question by turning towards the practice of label-writing. Through my internship as curatorial assistant in the Chu Room, I helped curate the current exhibition, "Guo Zhen: What Is My Name?" One series in this exhibit, "Hot Slang", contains Chinese calligraphy. Since this is the first time this series has been displayed in the US, how do we ensure that they can be understood by American audiences?

# PEACE AND CONFLICT PATHWAY

## SYMPOSIUM 2023 ABSTRACTS

### **Wade Anthony**

Changing European Policies and Perspectives on Defense Spending

Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, turned global policies and perspectives on defense spending upside down. For the European continent which has not seen a conflict the like of this war on its soil since WW2, defense spending has suddenly reemerged as a top policy priority. As a collection of states that have actively worked to reduce defense spending and foster peace on the continent since WW2, this is a period of dramatic change for not only its governments but also its people.

### **Valentina Baehrle**

How can Russian Internal Struggle between Authoritarianism and Resistance be Understood Musically?

How can the Russian internal struggle between nationalistic authoritarianism and patriotic resistance be understood through music?" I argue that music is not simply a means of educating oneself on Russian internal dynamics but it is also an integral component of past Russian resistance. Under Stalin, Shostakovich's War Symphonies were an artful bash against the dictator, and later on, barred music was central to youth resistance. I explore the ways in which this information can not only better encapsulate the Russian psyche of the past, but also inspire Russians today under Vladimir Putin.

### **George Gould**

How do legislative and central banking decisions create hostility, mediation, and frustration within nations?

Today, the U.S. national debt exceeds \$33 trillion, and the debt is expected to rise to \$70 trillion by the end of the decade; additionally, debt is outpacing GDP- with a debt-to-GDP ratio at 120%. Given this revelation, as well as the rescission on the horizon, how should the FED and Congress act in order to mitigate this ensuing disaster?

### **Ella Griffiths**

Addressing Systemic Academic Inequalities Through Educational Activism

Countless students are subjected to the ramifications of underfunded school systems which have become a norm across the US. I will pull from my studies at Connecticut College and examine this question via my understanding of Ethnic Studies, multicultural education, CRT, and postcolonial studies as a way to decolonize education and fight against the ongoing erasure of varying groups of students. Much of this research will also stem from my past opportunities for "field work" completed in local New London schools as well as through my Global Local Engagement with a Bahamian non-profit special education organization.

### **Sarah Hennig**

Conflicts Between Political and Legal Institutions in America

I will be using my experiences- academic and internships- to explore both the political process and the legal process. Then I will explore how these processes work together and how they conflict with each other. I will elaborate on the conflicts between the law and politics and suggest how this can result in greater social justice, or hinder social justice. At the end, I will discuss how the pathway experience has led to personal and professional growth and has helped me orient myself for post-graduation.

## **Grace LaVigne**

Mental Health and Political Leadership

Through my experience in the Peace and Conflict Pathway I have been able to take an interdisciplinary approach to studying how peace and conflict are experienced in the world. I have learned a lot about larger scale conflict such as war, but my personal and academic experiences at Conn have guided me to question how these are experienced on a personal level and how that affects the larger picture in these situations. My question incorporates both my government major and personal interest of how mental health impacts political leadership.

## **Nodari Tsaava**

The role of state-sponsored nationalism in authoritarian regimes

State-sponsored nationalism has been utilized by authoritarian regimes as a political strategy to achieve various objectives like gaining legitimacy, twisting conflict narratives, and spreading influence overseas. A more in-depth study of this strategy is important in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine due to the role it played in garnering support. The main case study is on Russia's state-sponsored nationalism as it has played a crucial role in this conflict. In the contemporary world, addressing this question is relevant for understanding factors contributing to fragility in the post-Soviet/European political landscape and the world.

# **PUBLIC HEALTH PATHWAY SYMPOSIUM 2023 ABSTRACTS**

## **Sabrina Ahamed**

America's Negligence in Marginalized Communities: From Domestic Violence to Healthcare

The United States has been seen as the land of the free and having an abundance of opportunities. Unfortunately, throughout centuries, this has not been the case for marginalized communities such as BIPOC and/or Queer folks. Throughout my global-local engagement and my public health focused courses, I have developed a greater understand of how the United States has neglected their marginalized communities and bring forth ideas on ways to advocate for themselves without affecting these communities' wellbeing.

## **Alexia Balentine**

**Artificial Intelligence and Algorithms: How the World of Data is Affecting Healthcare**

A whole new world in the fields of data science and machine learning has emerged and has begun to influence our everyday lives. A recent and often undetected change is the development the Healthcare system is undertaking as it relies more on these new technologies. As hospitals, medical professionals, and health insurance providers increasingly depend on data-driven algorithms, patients, particularly patients in marginalized communities, may find themselves disproportionately affected and barred from appropriate medical care. These algorithms rely on limited data and biased statistics resulting in concern on whether these technologies can be trusted.

## **Ethan Bankowski**

Triple Nexus Approach: Improving International Aid Response Following Humanitarian Crises

The triple nexus approach in international aid work aims to combine the efforts of peacemaking efforts, humanitarian, and developmental aid in order to work towards common goals and build fragile countries into more stable and developed states following war or disaster. As a relatively new development in the field, the approach has garnered both praise, for its potential to deliver aid recipients away from reaffirming patterns of strife, and condemnation, for its clouding of the neutrality needed to execute aid missions in politically charged environments. With these flaws in mind, this project evaluates the effectiveness of the nexus approach.

## **Caitlin Boyd**

Food for Thought: How Food Access is Impacting Children's Mental Health

Nearly 30% of households with children have some level of food insecurity. There are clear connections showing how inadequate food access can impact physical health. However, we must also analyze the long-term mental health impact of experiencing food insecurity at a young age. Children who experience food insecurity have a higher rate of anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, hyperactivity, and aggression. This research analyzes who is most affected by this issue and how those populations can be supported.

By speaking openly about food insecurity and mental health, I seek to bring attention to this prevalent issue that heavily impacts development.

## **Ellie Brown**

Positive Impacts of the Open Prison System

The United States has the largest prison population in the world. However, despite our extremely high prison population, our crime rate has not decreased. Recidivism is very common. Many prisoners end up committing crimes after their release. In order to solve mass incarceration, the U.S. needs to implement more social reform measures. Open prisons are a system that focuses on reforming offenders rather than punishing them. Prisoners are under minimal supervision and attend school or work. Working models of the open prison system have been established in Scandinavia and have demonstrated success in preventing recidivism.

## **Camilla Chronister**

Healing through Art: Exploring the Impact of Art Therapy on Public Health

This presentation explores the impact of art therapy on improving public health, specifically through the lens of individuals battling dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Art therapy, a holistic approach that taps into the creative spirit, has shown results in enhancing the quality of life for patients with cognitive impairments. Through a combination of research findings and real-world examples from communities, I intend to explore how art therapy can stimulate cognitive function, reduce behavioral symptoms, and provide emotional solace to patients.

## **Giana De La Cruz**

Systems of Support; Integration Efforts for Immigrants US and UK

Immigrants are vital to any community, especially metropolitan cities recognized world-wide like New York and London. These cities are lively and high in tourism, partly due to their immigrant populations and cultural diversity. 29% of New York City's population is made up of immigrants. 36.7% of London's residents are immigrants. Systems of support for immigrants are highly overlooked. In my animating question I explore integration efforts for immigrants in the US and UK, comparing and contrasting how they support their large immigration communities and how this support or lack thereof affects immigrants mental-health.

## **Sofia Di Scipio**

Can Stem Cell Therapy Cure HIV?

HIV is an aggressive virus that has contributed to the deaths of about 40.4 million people since the beginning of the epidemic. HIV not only deleteriously impacts one's physical health but also negatively affects people psychologically and socially. While antiretrovirals (ART) have been used to treat HIV, no treatment can seemingly 'cure' HIV except in the case of stem cell therapy which has allowed 5 individuals to reach a state of long term remission without relying on antiretrovirals. The intricacies of



stem cell therapy along with ethical arguments surrounding this novel treatment will be explored in this project.

## **Olivia Healy**

Improving Patient Outcomes Through Education, Communication, and Technology

Upon discharge from a hospital, one's ability to access transitional care is increasingly viewed as a critical component in predicting successful and sustainable patient outcomes. Herein, many different factors ranging from pre and post discharge communications to the effective use of digital technologies play a role in determining the level of quality care and ultimately influence overall patient outcomes. When consistently utilized, research suggests that these tools and services can reduce the overall rate of readmission, increase patient satisfaction, and lower total costs for both payers and providers.

## **Cecily Hetzel**

Unpacking Gun Violence: A Public Health Perspective for Prevention and Community Resilience

Gun violence in the US is a critical public health issue, especially mass shootings. Addressing this requires considering societal, cultural, and psychological factors when crafting evidence-based policies. Emphasizing evidence-based decision-making and ongoing research is crucial. Recent shifts in society, like the desire for notoriety, have increased the frequency and deadliness of mass shootings. We must also explore the role of masculinity in promoting gun violence, recognizing the link between threats to masculinity and violent actions. Prevention and intervention approaches should be holistic, involving policy and institutional changes to mitigate gun violence's devastating impact on communities.

## **Patricia Hewitt**

Novel Method of Limb Amputation Improves the Quality of Life of Patients

In this project I will bring forth information about evolving methods of limb amputation, such as the AMI (Agonist-Antagonist Myoneural Interface), and the positive effects that these new methods have on their patients. These positive effects include increased proprioception in their limb, and decreased phantom limb pain which allows for better movement in a prosthesis. Overall, this has been found to improve mental health and a better overall quality of life within patients, and this is just the beginning.

## **Dalia Kaplan**

The Foster Care Crisis

The mental health of children and adolescents in the foster care system is often overlooked in the public health sphere. Without appropriate and accessible services, individuals in the foster care system will have a lower quality of life even after leaving the foster care system. In my local engagement, at Children of Bellevue, I oversaw foster care programs and mental health services.

## **Varnai Kesselly**

The Impact that the COVID-19 Pandemic has had on Healthcare Workers

My research is about how the COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted healthcare workers. The pandemic was a difficult time to live through for many individuals, and this presentation focuses on the healthcare workers who were dealing with the greatest exposure to COVID-19. It will investigate some of the major factors of COVID's impact, both physical and mental. Aside from articles, I will also include results from my surveys that asked healthcare workers to share their experiences with the Pandemic during the earlier and more recent years.

## **Virginia Kim**

Disparities in Vision Care

My animating question aims to understand vision care disparities in the United States. In my investigation, I will focus on diabetic retinopathy to understand how these barriers are detrimental to those with vision-threatening eye conditions and diseases.

## **Michael McCullom**

Addressing Mental Health Issues that Impact AYA Cancer Patients and Survivors

My presentation identifies mental health issues experienced by (AYA) adolescent, young adult cancer patients and survivors and ways to address these issues. I focus on AYA patients from marginalized communities and consider specific issues that need to be addressed for patients from marginalized communities. The classes I have taken cover topics that I apply to addressing issues within mental health and cancer care. My local engagement to Cancercon this summer also is how I saw firsthand the lasting mental health effects of cancer. I hope to provide insight for what steps should be taken next in AYA patient care.

## **Hope Melanson**

Breaking Barriers to Early Intervention Services for Children with Disabilities

This project defines the umbrella term of early intervention (EI), and how EI services are beneficial to children with developmental delays. EI services are critical for the long term growth and well being of children. I will be discussing how accessible these services are to families, as well as addressing barriers to them. I will also propose some ideas of how communities can help make these services more available to all.

## **Haley Michel**

Increasing Health Outcomes of Children with Autism through Task Analysis Intervention

Inspired by my Global-Local Engagement at a school for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, I hope to investigate the benefits of Task Analysis, an educational method for teaching multi-step skills. TAs are frequently used to teach Activities of Daily Living, and I hope to discover how developing independence in these skills through the use of TAs can increase the physical and mental health of children with ASD and their families.

## **Sapphire Moore**

The Importance Of Early Identification Research For Neurodegenerative Diseases

Neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's Disease (PD), and Huntington's disease (HD) are not well understood in their cause of onset, and as a result, there is no cure. Many of the drugs that patients take for these diseases only target symptoms. There have been increasing findings that there is a genetic component to many of these diseases, with many different genes identified as correlated to the onset of neurodegenerative disease. These findings show the usefulness and importance of early identification research for neurodegenerative diseases.

## **Ricardo Morales**

Feeding America's Crisis: Exploring Food Insecurity in the U.S.

Food insecurity, driven by the lack of nutritious and affordable options, results in malnutrition, chronic diseases, and financial strain. Soaring food prices, pandemic-related benefit cuts, and budget reductions in food assistance programs exacerbate the issue. Inflation has surged, leading to an 11% increase in food prices. Single-parent households are particularly vulnerable. To combat this crisis, policy changes are imperative, including increasing SNAP benefits, strengthening school meal programs, raising the minimum wage, and investing in nutrition education. Locals can contribute by volunteering, donating, or organizing fundraisers and food drives. Addressing food insecurity requires a multi-pronged, community-driven approach.

## **Rebecca Oberman-Levine**

Fostering Sense of Community: Impact of Social Support in Individuals with Schizophrenia

Pervasive mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia, impact the lives of millions of people everyday. Due to societal stigma and gaps within current treatment options, these individuals are at risk for reduced quality of life and overall poor well-being. In order for individuals with schizophrenia to have a chance at recovery, social and community support are essential. I will be connecting the research I have found with my own experiences during my global/local engagement this past summer, during which I worked at a group home for adults with severe mental illnesses.

## **Paula Prado**

Racial Disparities in Dermatology Education

Dermatology is the study of the skin. It is one of the hardest specialties to get into while in medical school. While there are many competitive dermatology programs, most of them lack a really important factor: representation of darker skin tones. Many clinical trials and educational materials focus on how skin disorders present on white skin, which make it so that future doctors are unable to identify them on other skin tones. This issue also involves primary care physicians, as they are often the first people to identify a skin condition and refer patients to dermatology clinics.

## **Emma Preston**

Benefits of Exercise for Children with Disabilities

I worked instructing swim lessons for children primarily with special needs, including both physical and mental disabilities. Swim with Heart is a program that teaches students of all abilities ranging in age from infants to high schoolers. Many children with special needs are left out of activities more accessible to other kids, which has a detrimental impact on their physical and mental health. It is important to create a more inclusive environment for children with disabilities within physical activities by expanding programming and increasing qualified staff. Promoting more inclusive programs can exponentially help children's mental and physical health.

## **Molly Reid**

Promoting Public Health through Sustainable Farming: Addressing Food Insecurity and Economic Empowerment

This research explores the link between sustainable, self-sufficient farming, and public health policy. I aim to uncover the health benefits and drawbacks of these methods, especially regarding food security and shaping effective public health policies. The study investigates strategies like Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and farm-to-table initiatives to understand their impact on health and local farming success. It also assesses their role in promoting a more just food system by highlighting the vital role of sustainable farming in improving public health and advancing equity.

## **Nicollette Roark**

The Benefits of Group Setting Mind Aerobics

After co-instructing a Mind Aerobics course at the Groton Senior Center here in Connecticut, I wanted to learn more about the positive impact that Mind Aerobics can have on older adults' cognitive functions and socialization. Mind Aerobics does indeed benefit both cognitive and social functions of older adults, and it has been found to delay dementia and other age-related cognitive delays. The best part of Mind Aerobics is that essentially anyone can do it anywhere!

## **Giana Solazzo**

Adolescents are Addicted: Opioid Use, Pharmaceutical Therapies, and Crisis Text Line Intervention

Adolescent opioid use disorder is widely understudied as a public health concern, although it accounts for an increasingly large amount of adolescent deaths each year. Studies suggest that misconceptions and stigmas surrounding opioid addiction prevent teens from being educated on opioid misuse and seeking help. A partial opioid receptor agonist, buprenorphine, has demonstrated promising results for teens undergoing withdrawal. Further evidence from my own study of an experimental drug, RAP-103, has indicated promising trends on adolescent rat models of oxycodone addiction. I will also discuss mental health resources like the Crisis Text Line, which can allow for early intervention.

## **Savannah Stevenson**

Making Healthcare More Accessible and Equitable for All with Community Based Approaches.

Community based approaches, such as trained community members, can be developed and implemented in the United States so that healthcare is more accessible and equitable for those that face various barriers. Whether those barriers are financial or geographical, the quality and accessibility of

healthcare can be improved by utilizing the strategies from other countries and private companies across the world. New perspectives and approaches can be established through gaining a better understanding of individual experiences as well as the systematic structuring of present healthcare.

## **Annabelle Tanger**

The Impact of Cochlear Implant Technology on the Childhood Development Process

Cochlear implant technology has evolved significantly since its initial introduction to the deaf community in the 1970s. Over 78% of children who are severely hearing impaired or deaf receive cochlear implants at a young age. This technology is widely used yet few people know about its connection to the childhood development process. This project aims to explore the current advancements in cochlear implant technology and how it impacts the childhood development process.

## **Trevor Vigeant**

Preventive Care: Accessibility, Cost, and Media Myths.

The United States is amid a health care epidemic. Hefty insurance costs, pharmaceutical monopolies, physician burnout, and lack of healthcare professionals have driven up the cost of receiving quality care. Preventive care, a popular buzzword in the healthcare media, is the newest “solution”. In a market economy, how financially accessible are the recommendations made by leading professionals?

## **Aleya Wesler**

Using Behavior Analysis in Public Health Intervention Plans: Early Childhood

Tackling public health issues can take many different approaches, but one in particular that has become more prominent is the application of applied behavioral analysis. Behavior analysis focuses on studying and analyzing human behavior within specific contexts, intending to improve individual and group outcomes. Both fit hand in hand when trying to improve healthy behaviors. Strategies towards encouraging behaviors are already used in everyday scenarios, beginning in early childhood. We can create improved public health policies and interventions through further development and research within behavioral science.

## **Hanna Zevon**

Navigating the Digital World: How are children and families affected?

Screens and digital media have become an integral part of everyday life. Children and adolescents are experiencing this shift as well. Unfortunately, things like social media or video games can have a major impact on the development of children. As we live in an increasingly digital world, parents too are unsure of the right decisions to make to help keep their children safe and healthy. Despite having many downfalls, in moderation screen time can be used safely by children and adolescents and have some positive effects for certain developmental domains.

# **SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY PATHWAY SYMPOSIUM 2023 ABSTRACTS**

## **Anita Dougan**

The Hidden Costs of Post-Colonial Conservation Policy on Indigenous Communities

In recent years, there have been many questions of how natural resources can be maintained in a sustainable way. The answer is often “hands-off” conservation, which restricts most use of land and resources. Through looking at the origins and structures of different policies, my presentation will analyze the direct relationship between hands-off conservation practices and the active targeting of Indigenous peoples throughout post-colonial countries. These policies often contribute to a loss of income, cultural practices, and even tribal federal recognition.

## **Banti Jaswal**

Crafting at the Crossroad: Fostering Queer Community and Education

In recent years body autonomy has become a highly contested topic with transgender and intersex people's rights and identities being publicly challenged. Fighting back legislatively is often highlighted but personal efforts of education and support are also crucial. Based on my time as an advocate and educator, I have learned how to incorporate both. My presentation aims to highlight the value of the local level and how it fits into resilience in social justice.

## **Ava Marchese**

The Achievement Gap & How Academic Structures Perpetuate Harm for Minoritized Students

The structure of the American education system puts people of different race, class, and location at a disadvantage that starts as early as childhood and can last for an individual's entire life. Another major factor that shapes the outcome for a student is the type of school they attend such as public, private, charter, or magnet schools. Through this project I am to explore how different types of schools and the funding that they receive either perpetuate or fight against the achievement gap that students of color in America face.

## **Emma Quilty**

Unfair Play: Exploring Inequalities and Discrimination in Sport

Participating in sports offers numerous benefits, including a 35% reduced risk of chronic disease, enhanced mental well-being through stress reduction, and improved cognitive function, social integration, and self-esteem. However, inequalities and discrimination hinder individuals' ability to take part in sports. Factors such as race, gender, socioeconomic status, and physical ability are barriers individuals face that limit the benefits of them. Through analyzing historical contexts, contemporary challenges, and their profound impact on sports culture, this research aims to shed light on the pressing need for inclusivity and equitable opportunities in sports around the world.

## **Ava Spitzer**

Our Relationship with Surroundings: Human and Natural Wellbeing

We live in a society that systematically separates humans from nature through economic, state, and social structures. This directly ties to our relationships with each other and the world around us. I have learned how the connection between the environment and humans is critical to the well-being of the natural world as well as ourselves. Through using multiple examples of my personal experiences as well as literary research, I attempt to provide a perspective on the potential relationship we have with our surroundings, and the importance of being grounded through a sense of place.