

Hanna Holborn Gray Undergraduate Research Fellows

Summer 2013

Daniele Arad-Neeman '13

History

The Voice of Activism in the Congo Free State: E.D. Morel and Conflict Resources

This project examined activism relating to rubber mining in the Congo Free State, focusing primarily on E.D. Morel as a primary source, to consider the implications of consumption at this time and in history. This presentation will also include a discussion of the research process and the challenges and rewards it offers.

Ingrid Asplund '13

History of Art

Beyond the Stitch: Yarnbombing and Artistic Lineage

Agata Oleksiak (street name Olek) is a street artist working in New York. Under the cover of night in December 2010, Olek covered Arturo di Modica's Charging Bull sculpture on Wall Street in crocheted pink-and-purple yarn. This piece is charged with gendered connotations and references to hot-button political issues, especially considering its Wall Street context. This work was part of a broader movement commonly referred to as "yarnbombing". In my research, I hope to map Olek within an artistic context, which would include gathering a history of the yarnbombing movement as well as exploring the other artistic movements Olek may have borrowed from, including street art, guerilla art, feminist fiber art, Interventionist art, public art, and feminist performance art, and unpacking how Olek's work might be similar or different from these movements. I also hope to discover what other movements and artists Olek could be identified with.

Kathryn Azizo '14

English and Classical Studies

Crossing Uncross-able Boundaries: Horrific Necromancy in Ancient Rome

The treatment of necromancy in Ancient texts is very different from its treatment in the modern era. Instead of being purely a trope of horror, in Ancient Greece and Rome necromancy was portrayed in multiple lights. In Homer's *Odyssey*, for example, Odysseus invokes spirits in what is portrayed as a heroic act, but in Herodotus' *Histories* an act of necromancy is attributed to the tyrant Periander to show just how corrupt he is. Most significantly to my research, however, is a trend in Ancient Roman literature that casts necromancy in a very negative, even horrific light. What this project strives to do is explore this phenomenon, and such questions as: What can necromantic texts say about concepts of death and the afterlife in the Ancient Greco-Roman world? What is it about necromancy that allows it to be so horrifying, or so awe inspiring in turn? In what ways might specific societal anxieties and fears be expressed in necromantic literature, and why?

Isabella Bartenstein '13

Growth and Structure of Cities

Cordoba and Bogota: Searching, Discovering and Interacting with Spanish Colonial Architecture

This project started by trying to answer the following question; how and with what criteria does UNESCO (United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture) pick sites to add to their World Heritage List (WHL)? The proposed field of study was narrowed down by singling out two sites, one with UNESCO "protection", and one without. These two sites were selected without ever having been on site, therefore selection of sites was based on the history of each site available online by each institution. The first site selected was La Universidad Nacional de Cordoba (UNC), located in Cordoba, Argentina. The second site was the Universidad Santo Tomas in Bogota (UST), Colombia. As a result of selecting these two colonial universities, the main question started to evolve to why is UNC protected by UNESCO and UST not? It turns out that the answer to this question was quite simple. The first site, Universidad Nacional de Cordoba still features some colonial architecture, although modified through adaptive re-use. Therefore, UNC was able to present these structures to UNESCO as definitive proof of their "world heritage" relevance. On the other hand, Universidad Santo Tomas lost what was left of their colonial buildings dating from 1580-1861 in 1940. As a result, when UST lost these buildings, the University could no longer provide structural evidence for UNESCO to examine, therefore explaining why UST has no spot on UNESCO's WHL. This paper recounts the experience of traveling to these two sites in South America, what was actually present at both sites, and how those experiences then altered the author's senior thesis topic.

Ani Chen '13

Political Science

"To Find Some Other Anchorage": Duty between the nation and region in Siegfried Lenz's *Deutschstunde*

This paper examines Hamburg-based author Siegfried Lenz's novel *Deutschstunde*, with an eye to his treatment of the 1946 Neuengamme War Trials. It connects the failure of the British authorities to de-Nazify the Rugbüll police chief Jens Ole Jepsen to the broader conversation in the 1960s German public sphere about the reconstruction of the individual, Jepsen's son Sigg, in the immediate post-WWII period. This paper concludes at the double ethical bind facing Germans at the time: whether one's source of duty should be the nation-state or regional kinship networks, particularly when both result in the same destructive consequences.

Esther Chiang '13

Growth and Structure of Cities

Travel through space and time: The transportation and segregation in Cape Town, South Africa

Because of the history of Apartheid in South Africa, each city has had its own individual history of institutional racism that still pervades everyday systems. In terms of infrastructure, urban planners, who were in support of Apartheid, designed highways to create boundaries to buffer between different, classified races. Unfortunately, these systems such as the highways have not changed since Apartheid and continue to perpetuate inequality in Cape Town. How does a country that has overcome a racist government through social protest become so complacent to the system of transportation that continues to exploit people? From doing surveys and interviews in Cape Town, I have found a plethora of opinions and attitudes towards the different modes of transportation in Cape Town as well as received papers and documents from a 1991 transportation study that will help to answer this question.

Madeleine French '13

Growth and Structure of Cities

Food Systems from National to Local: Sustainable solutions for Healthier Urban Populations

The American food system has grown exponentially over the past century to meet the demands of a rapidly growing population, which is increasingly urbanizing. Through research on the national food system, with an emphasis on industrial agriculture, food distribution methods, and Federal food policies, I sought to draw conclusions on food access issues on an urban level, in the context of Philadelphia. Through a top down methodology to the Philadelphia food system,

I used a policy-based approach to understand accessibility to healthy foods in low-income communities of Philadelphia. My later research and continuing work on my senior thesis will focus more specifically on urban agriculture in Philadelphia and its viability to increase access and affordability to healthy food for food insecure communities in the city.

Mikayla Holland '14

Comparative Literature and Russian

Scenes of Violence in the Works of Flannery O'Connor and Mikhail Bulgakov

Through the close analysis of the works of Flannery O'Connor and Mikhail Bulgakov, I hope to explore connections between the literatures of Russia and the American South. I will focus on depictions of violence in *Wise Blood* and *The Master and Margarita* in order to investigate the role of violence within the texts. I propose to answer two related questions. What purpose does graphic imagery serve in the texts? What can we learn about the environments in which the two authors wrote, the Jim Crow South and Stalinist Russia, through the comparison of their works? Comparing the two texts will allow me to contrast differing approaches to portraying violence and gain insight into commonalities and disparities between Russia and the South.

Egina Manachova '13

History of Art

The Politics of a Name Change: The Ideological and Political Implications of the New Gallery Name for the Islamic Art Department at The Metropolitan Museum of Art

On November 1, 2011, the department of Islamic Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art opened their remodeled galleries to the public after a heavily publicized change of name. The galleries were re-titled from The Galleries of Islamic Art to The Art of the Arab Lands, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia and Later South Asia. However, the Museum did not re-name the actual department. This presentation is concerned with the questions: Why the museum only re-named the galleries? What does this public act signify and imply? I will argue that this gesture is a smoke screen for institutional practices at the Met that still maintain an Orientalist approach, administratively, politically and economically, though not in name.

Haley Martin '13

Philosophy

Interpretation and the Effects of Art

As a Hanna Holborn Gray Fellow, my research focused on how imagination plays an integral role in interpretation and how imaginative interpretation of art objects affects how we understand and live our lives. Next, I looked at Hegel and Nietzsche and explored the differing ways in which these two philosophers understand art's impact on the individual and society. I concluded that art enriches our lives by creating both a sense of individuality and a sense of community.

Monica Quinones-Rivera '14

Classical Figures and Agency in Shakespeare's Plays

Shakespeare's plays and characters are often influenced by core Classical texts and figures. This project will focus on Shakespeare's adaptations of Classical female figures by exploring three of his female characters: Lavinia from *Titus Andronicus*, Miranda from *The Tempest* and Hermione from *The Winter's Tale*. Often Shakespeare draws upon multiple Classical figures to influence one of his characters. In addition, through his adaptations Shakespeare sometimes gives agency and voice to these female characters, breaking the wall of silence that has often separated these Classical female characters from their male counterparts. In this research project I will explore how he uses Classical figures to influence his own characters and how he grants agency to his female characters.

Hema Surendranathan '13

English

Citation Practices in Digital Publishing

The foundational purpose of my project is to investigate the relationship between spreadable, owned media and the circulation of profit. The goal of this research is to understand how technology creates profit, particularly in terms of literary digital publishing on social media sites. Moreover, the interdisciplinary analysis (literary close readings, social statistical aggregation and economic interpretations) of this project speaks to collaborative efforts in contemporary scholarship. I intend to produce a 30 page presentation paper which can be used as a platform for my senior essay. From interacting with case studies and the text websites, I hope to comment on literary copyright in America today. Through the theoretical lens of cultural studies, I intend to historicize and evaluate digital literary publications as allegorical sites that reconstruct or undermine ownership practices.

Linh Tong '13

Growth and Structure of Cities

The Hidden Planners: Street Vendors and the Production of Social Space in Hanoi, Vietnam

Henri Lefebvre, in his influential work “The production of space” (1974), introduced the concept of social space as one with use value that is “lived” and “appropriated to serve human needs” to contrast with “abstract space” created by political ideology, power and domination of the capitalist states and planners. In Hanoi, Vietnam, the existence of street vendors in public space through an enduring history of the city, and the more recent negative view of street vendors within the neo-liberal transformation of the Hanoi, represents an everyday life situation in which the contradiction between “abstract” and “social” space emerges. This research reflects on the central question concerning the role of street vendors in urban public space, by looking into the history of vendors in Hanoi and ethnography of today’s typical vendor market. Built upon the framework of Lefebvre’s theory, this research shows that street vendors in Hanoi have managed to create “social space” through an organic temporal and spatial adaptive strategy. The case study is a living example of the confrontations between social space and ideological space, in which street vendors, as the hidden planners, can transform natural space in a way that multiple functions can all be served, implying a reconciliation of social space and political ideology. The findings also carry planning implications by emphasizing the importance of social and temporal elements in creating socially functional public space.

Yue Xie ‘13

History of Art

Chinese Art and Artists in Displacement

My summer research is about a generation of Chinese artists, who were born around the 1950s in Mainland China. Growing up through the turmoil of the ten-year Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) as both victims and witnesses, these people started making art during or immediately after the Revolution and their works of art became a direct response to the experience they went through. My initial curiosity lies in the narratives of their own stories, and how they searched for different artistic paths to express their thinking and emotion, to escape from the cruelty and absurdity of reality, or to pose questions to their personal lives and the larger society. As most of these artists went overseas during the 1980s and some returned to China in the 1990s or 2000s, I also wonder what part of their lives and arts were changed and what has remained since then. I started my research first by collecting existing resources (including historical documents, catalogues, interviews and etc.) and followed by visiting particular artists and interviewing them.