



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

**ALL-COLLEGE
SYMPOSIUM**

2021 Abstracts

Presented by seniors at the
All College Symposium,
November 4, 2021

AMMERMAN - SYMPOSIUM 2021 ABSTRACTS

Campbell Coughlin

Comfort in Chaos: Understanding Comfort in the Digital Age

This presentation is meant to explain my Ammerman project, show my work from the past two years, and lay out my future plans for my Senior Integrated Project.

Ryan DeAngelis

The Window: A Life or Death Exploration

My project will be a video installation which will be played on an LCD TV screen that is outfitted with a window frame, which sits in front of the screen as a sort of frame. The video will switch between various images and clips regarding my personal struggle/life with depression, anxiety, and suicidality, using my mental images, experiences, and art-making as sources. An accompanying audio track will also be present, with sources taken from internal monologues, past projects, as well as my own poetry.

Ellie Ebby

Animated Interactions

Building interaction within the Connecticut College community through animated portraits.

Madison Ford

Unblocked

"Unblocked" is a shared interactive experience meant to connect people together through a question and answer game. Using projection mapping, game/app development, and a physical structure, "unblocked" pushes the limits of media and form and engages the users to open-up, be vulnerable, and experience the uncomfortable with strangers.

Bri Goolsby

emPOWER Through Animation

This project is meant to empower youth of color through animated media as a counter piece to how POC have been portrayed in animated media. The project will be an interactive website aimed at youth of color prefaced by an animated interview featuring artists of color. The videos will be animated using rotoscope animation. The interview will focus on something that empowers them followed by an excerpt of the artists showcases their talents. The video will end with each artist's answer to the question: "What's your advice to young artists of color?"

Adam Khan

The Body and Music

Exploring the relationship between motion and music through technology.

Jake Leone

Constant Dismorphia in Constructed Realities

Fabricating a dysmorphic reaction to our constructed environments focusing in ceramic sculpture, crochet in ranging materials, 3D printed models, and generated sound scapes from collected audios from the natural and built environments, continuing a conversation of the limiting stereotypes constructed in regards to both gender and sexuality while refusing and confusing the representation and history of these identities both from my personal experience and queer theory.

Althusa Lin

We Exist in Between

With digital design, video editing, projection mapping skills and augmented reality tools, I plan to complete a series of plant-related installations for my CAT (The Center for Arts and Technology) project We Exist in Between, which aims to explore the relationship between nature and humans through technologies. The idea is to visualize environmental pollution as images, sounds, videos and texts and to make them in the form of AR on campus.

Alexis Lynch

My A(DHD)ctivated Journal

I am exploring the intersection of art, technology, and storytelling through a forthcoming journal combined with augmented reality. The topic I am exploring in my journal is my neurodiverse identity (specifically ADHD). I am hoping to showcase hidden realities and barriers of neurodiversity through the use of technology (augmented reality) and traditional art forms (collage, sketch, free writing).

Ezra Norris

FEED

This project aims to teach people how to cook through the lens of community. It will include both an app that will serve as a personal tool and a subscription-based recipe box program that will include recipes from local communities and use local and seasonal ingredients.

Jack Roser

A Look into Cancer and its Physical Form

In students, professionals, and in the academic system, we are all lacking something critical when considering any problem. The ability to use both sides of our brains and actually picture the physical and spacial interactions happening. Art is science and science is art! Only just recently in our history have we started to build walls around ways of thought. And I hope to show people, scientist or not, how amazing and miraculous the processes that are happening in your body at this very moment really are. And what it means to have those processes plagued with cancer.

Julia Rossiter

No Blank Canvas

My project addresses the use of multiplayer video games as a means for inciting creativity.

Hatim Siddique

Dreamscape

"Dreamscapes" uses virtual reality and audiovisual content to tell an immersive story of a girl who uses dreams to escape her morbid reality inside the matrix. The user experiences this journey from the first-person perspective of the girl. "Dreamscapes" is divided into 3 sections; The matrix: a grey, monotonous reality projected on a screen and walls of the exhibition room. Dreamscape Lobby: accessed by users when they put on the VR headset in the room. The lobby is a platform that leads to all dreamscapes. The Dreamscapes: all self-contained environments with their own theme, music and narrative significance.

Emma-Sofia Wipper

The Architecture of Detention

The way we interact with space allows us to perceive and shift the ways in which we see ourselves as well as the world around us. The concept I will be exploring is how spaces of confinement shift our perspectives and experience through the lens of both architecture and sociology. The spaces of confinement that have an element of social structure include migrant detention centers and holding facilities. I will be looking at how these spaces can be redesigned in a sustainable way to help the experience of those present.

CISLA - SYMPOSIUM 2021 ABSTRACTS

Iyad Ait Hou

Beyond Connectivity: The Role of EdTech in Expanding Access to Education

Growing up in Morocco, I have witnessed discrepancies in access to educational opportunities. My project will investigate how digital strategies are being used to reduce educational inequalities. What other types of challenges do students face in the digital environment, aside from connectivity barriers? Is it true that different cultural and social norms influence different EdTech approaches, and if so, how? I plan to explore how we can make technology tools accessible to individuals and organizations for an equitable access to education. I plan to develop a deeper understanding of the social barriers associated with Educational Technology.

Aquib Akhtar

Media and the Perception of Mass Migration in Germany

My research focuses on media perception of two migration events in Germany: the Turkish Guest worker program that ran in the 1970's and the Refugee Crisis of 2015-2017 by analysing media before digital media arrived. After conducting summer research on Refugees. I concluded that news outlets and media perception became more polarised through digital media and the shift to online engagement. I drew this theory by comparing the way these individuals were represented in old print media that was circulating in the late 70s and 80s to the representation in modern online news outlets.

Aayush Aryal

Saving, Investment and Capital markets in developing countries: Comparing Nepal and Tanzania

The dynamic of saving and investment in the growth of an economy is of interest to countries of all different developmental stages. The rich and developed countries have a capital market that facilitates the system well but the developing countries face a number of challenges including institutional as well as cultural when it comes to the maturity of the capital markets which is a topic I researched over the summer. The SIP explores the saving pattern as well as the institutional problems developing countries face. A mathematical model will be used to explain the dynamics using Optimal Control Theory.

Michelle Chavez

Effects of Malnutrition in Children's Mental health in Central America

Central America is home to some of the smallest and poorest countries whose populations suffer from malnutrition. Malnutrition affects the development of both children's physical and mental health. Therefore, access to adequate amounts of quality nutrition is a basic human right

and necessary for the development of a child. Through my SIP, I hope to demonstrate the impact malnutrition has on children's developing mental health in Central America, more specifically in El Salvador. This is important to note considering the ways ongoing social conflict in El Salvador continues to limit access to adequate resources thus, impacting quality nutrition.

Norah Deming

Deterrence and Inhospitability: Obstacles Faced By Unaccompanied Minor Migrants in France

France is a signatory of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, but fails to adequately protect unaccompanied minors entering the country. My research builds on my internship with Soul Food Paris, a non-profit that introduces migrant youth to cultural events and professional development opportunities to facilitate positive integration experiences. In my symposium presentation, I will highlight shortcomings of the French administration's management of youth migrants by examining the obstacles faced by unaccompanied children and adolescents. Specifically, I will touch on pushbacks, the age of recognition process, education, homelessness, food insecurity, and the ongoing pandemic.

Tristan Filiato

The Macroeconomic Effects of Labor and Industrial Policy in Italy

The Italian labor movement has historically played a large role in shaping the nation's politics and economy. Have major unions in Italy played a role in helping or hindering the economic growth and prospects of Italy? Have they promoted fair labor practices or created inefficient bureaucracies? In the long run, has a militant labor movement been good for the people of Italy? My research will seek to answer these questions, and help to clarify the difference between a healthy economy and a protected labor force.

Billy Fleurima

COVID-19's Impact on Financial Markets in Spain

Late December 2019, emerged what would be recognized as the world's worst global pandemic since the Spanish Flu. In a 21 month period, roughly 4 million people have died. Surprisingly, markets in the United States flourished, dominated by a relatively new trend: Special Purpose Acquisition Companies or SPAC. This past summer, I spent 10 weeks at UBS, learning more about the products and services offered by various financial institutions. Through this internship, I plan on integrating that experience into constructing an independent study exploring the effects COVID-19 had on financial markets in Spain.

Eric Freeman

Modern Sephardic Identity and Repatriation

In 2015, the Spanish government passed a law that allows people of Sephardic descent who could prove that their ancestors lost their citizenship during the Spanish Inquisition to regain Spanish Citizenship. This law created a myriad of questions for Sephardic Jews around the

world, spanning from logistical questions about eligibility to questions about identity. My project, which will be completed in the spring semester, will investigate how this law has affected Sephardic identity and the relationship between Spain and Jewry.

Tihut Getabicha

Comparative study on Transfer Pricing Strategies in the UAE.

Transfer pricing is the price used for internal sales of goods and services between profit centers within the same firm (Anthony and Govindarajan, 1998). Compared with domestic business, pricing considerations for multinationals involved in international business are far more complicated (Tang, 1982, Ghosh and Crain, 1993). The purpose of this study is to compare the similarities and differences of international transfer pricing (ITP) strategies between the vastly growing multinational companies in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The study will be based on data from an already existing questionnaire survey conducted with over 300 Dubai subsidiaries.

Em Greenslit

Breaching WEIRD Psychology: Brujería as Mental Health Treatment

Although psychology is directly relevant to everyone, it has long been dominated by Western, educated, industrial, rich, and democratic (WEIRD) ideology, which is representative of only a small portion of the world's population. Through my SIP, I hope to draw attention to less common and underrepresented mental health treatments, focusing specifically on Latinx brujería. Brujería provides healing and empowerment for many in the Latinx community, and its impact should be acknowledged and validated. Every person deserves to have access to the most effective and relevant treatment possible, further highlighting the need to decolonize the field of psychology.

Jordan Groff

The Appeal of Populism and Right-Wing Extremism in Former East Germany

The Alternative for Germany (AfD) is a right-wing populist party founded in 2013 and is known for its harsh anti-immigrant policies. It is especially successful in former East Germany, where it continues to be one of the strongest parties in states such as Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt. This thesis will attempt to understand the motivations of AfD voters, and it will address the disproportionate success of the AfD in eastern Germany. It will analyze the cultural differences between Eastern and Western views of collective guilt, as well as the social and economic impact of reunification on East Germany.

Samirah Jaigirdar

When Theory Fails: US Foreign Policy in the MENA

International relations theory stipulates that a combination of structure and rationality is essential to discern enduring patterns of international politics. Thus, they can establish parameters to speculate about the future. However, mainstream IR theories, such as realism

and liberalism, are challenged when taken into the context of the Obama-Trump era. Through a comparative case study, this project will evaluate the effectiveness of these two dominant international relations theories in the US to explain American foreign policy and diplomacy in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Holly James

France's Past and Present: Collective Memory and Foreign Policy

The purpose of my independent study is to explore the relationship between collective memory and foreign policy in France. The discourse of politicians provides us with insight into a country's notion of self and the way in which collective memory is constructed. Through a comparative analysis of speeches performed by French presidents, I will explore the construction of collective memory and how this can be linked to foreign policy-making. This study will show that French politicians often attempt to shape foreign policy in pursuit of their international agendas.

Diana Kim

Media Portrayal and Public Awareness of Air Pollution in LA and Seoul

Seoul, South Korea, and Los Angeles, California—two cities with notoriously bad air quality. Considering the consequences of air pollution exposure on both human and environmental health, my SIP aims to compare the media portrayal of the issue in the two cities and the capability of the general public to educate themselves on the topic, at least through exposure to it via common media sources. How accessible is reliable information on air pollution to the public and how frequently is it brought to attention?

Katharine Liell

The Modern Far-Right within France and the United States

This SIP works towards understanding how the far right has evolved and gained power in France and the United States, with a particular look at its foothold within the working class as well as the impact of French-originating Replacement Theory. How has the extreme right been incorporated into mainstream political action and rhetoric? To bolster this project, I will use the experience gained in my research internship at Sciences-Po, where I studied the voting patterns of ethnic minorities throughout Western Europe and the United States as well as the rise of the far right within the working class.

Olivia Maduro

Effect of Ecotourism on Marine Environments in Costa Rica & the Galápagos

Growing up in Aruba, I was exposed to a life that involved a fundamental connection with marine ecosystems. My Caribbean heritage has only continued to spark my passion for the preservation of marine environments. My Senior Integrative Project will explore the role ecotourism plays in the biodiverse locations of Costa Rica and the Galápagos Islands. I plan to explore the benefits ecotourism has on local marine ecosystems and its species. My project will analyze how ecotourism methods are set in practice in these locations, and explore why Costa Rica is one of the world's leaders in promoting ecotourism.

Luci McGlynn

Marginalized Communities Within the Chinese Economy

My research aims to highlight the asymmetrical relationship between marginalized communities and the economic goals of the Chinese government. China's economic prowess came at the expense of its most vulnerable members; using them to achieve high outputs or excluding them from the workforce altogether. Through my summer internship with a nonprofit organization, I've witnessed how challenging advocacy work can be due to the highly sensitized nature of the CCP. In my presentation, I will summarize the questions that I've begun to answer and ones that I hope to answer in my CISLA SIP during spring 2022.

Madelyn McKenna

The Role of Political Activism in Morocco's Hybrid Regime

The February 20th movement broke out in response to calls for reform to the Moroccan political system. Catalyzed by the Arab Spring, the F20 movement attracted Moroccans from a myriad of demographics and combined traditional and digital methods of activism. Despite protests achieving constitutional reforms, the new constitution has yet to yield tangible political changes. My research investigates how the seemingly stagnant political atmosphere in Morocco has influenced protesters to seek different methods of organization. I plan to analyze how these methods of activism are affected by and adapted to Morocco's characterization as a hybrid regime.

Sohan Mewada

When Conversations Fail: The Devolution of Civil Discourse into Extremist Violence

We often fail to see ourselves as susceptible to polarization and violent extremism while living in a democracy, especially one with the prestige of the United States. This is not the reality that we are living in. On January 6, 2021, the United States witnessed the worst that a polarized society had to offer; an act of domestic terror. Through my lived past and summer research experience delving into polarized societies around the world, I will highlight my progress in attempting to answer the question of why we often fail to have conversations on crucial human issues.

Jacob Nozaki

Technology's Effects on Society: Investigating innovation, education, and legislation

This project aims to investigate the effects that technology has on society by investigating the ways that technology can be used to improve education and job opportunities, as well as the potential harmful effects of technology. Building off of two semesters of interdisciplinary computer science and psychology research as well as my summer internship at SAP where I researched human factor security, this research covers legislation and regulations like the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as well as technological and

educational innovations that are aiming to make technology more accessible, effective, and human.

Charley Nyzio

Mental Health in Italy: Systems, Stigma, and Impact of COVID-19

In 1978, Italy became the first European nation to radically reform its mental healthcare system, yet mental illness stigma persists. For my summer internship, I researched the psychological impact of COVID-19 among primary care physicians in Verona, Italy. My internship experience expanded my question to include the impact of COVID-19 on Italian mental health. For my SIP, I seek to evaluate the historical progression of reform as well as the effectiveness of the current system of mental healthcare in Italy and assess recent literature on the Italian response to the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of mental healthcare.

Eilis Reardon

A 4E Perspective on Medical Education

Over the summer, I was lucky enough to have an internship in Chile conducting research with a neuroscientist. My research studied the novel idea called the “4E Approach to Cognition,” which is a more holistic approach to cognition than other models. We applied this approach to the idea of patient care and medical education of future physicians, which is something that is often more reductionist. The 4E approach makes sure that all parts of a patient are taken into consideration when treating them, including the social, psychological, environmental, and cultural aspects in addition to the biological.

Kimberly Rivas

Immigration from Latin America to Spain

The purpose of my research is to explore immigration from Latin America to Spain. Since U.S. policies have changed, there has been a shift and Spain has become the new destination for many Latin Americans. In recent years, more Latin Americans have been leaving their countries because they continue to be plagued with gangs and violence, making it difficult or even impossible for them to live there. I will conclude by sharing how my personal experience as an immigrant and my CISLA internship has influenced my research and have inspired me to advocate for those who are often forgotten.

Leslie Ruddy

Economic Impacts of Immigration in France

Economic opportunity is one of the primary drivers behind immigration and in turn, immigration has a major impact on the economy. With one of the highest immigrant populations in Europe, immigration remains a highly debated subject in France. Immigration’s impact on domestic wages and unemployment levels are two of the most important areas of concern. However,

much of the existing research shows that immigrants do not negatively affect the domestic population and overall economy. For my study, I will survey the existing literature on the economic impacts of immigration in France.

Bella Sorrenti

Visual Culture of Lucretia: Exploring Assault in Art through Myth

I intend to create a virtual exhibition of different visual depictions of the story of Lucretia and educational programming to accompany it. Lucretia's story is one of assault and violence and ends with Lucretia taking her own life and subsequently being praised for this action. I seek to examine why this story was often depicted in Renaissance art. What does this say about Renaissance culture or today's culture? My work this summer translating archeological documents for the University of Bologna prepared me further for my research this year.
Content Warning: Sexual Assault and Suicide

Long Ta

A study into Singapore Migrant Workers under COVID-19 Lockdown

This summer, I interned with the Asian American National Committee, a non-profit organization that focuses on the wellbeing of Asians around the world. With my experience at the AANC, I study the lives and well being of immigrants in Singapore. Making up to approximately 20% of the population, migrant workers in Singapore work in laborious low-paying jobs and face severe impacts from the lockdown. My research highlights these workers' livelihoods and the current and future government policies on migrant workers' wellbeing.

Ketsitseng Tsolo

Nigeria and ECOWAS: Investigating the prospect of a West African Monetary Union

Using literature on European monetary integration, the International Monetary Fund developed a theoretical model to simulate the effects of the proposed ECOWAS Monetary Union on the different West African member states. The model estimates that most members of WAEMU would gain from a monetary union relative to an independent monetary system while most would lose from an ECOWAS monetary union that includes Nigeria. My SIP will investigate the reasons for this and the policies that Nigeria would need to implement to positively impact the rest of ECOWAS.

Daniel Varela

What challenges facing migrants in Italy within narratives in film and literature?

The purpose of this honors thesis research will be to unpack the trials of displaced people from Africa and into Italy. The migration crisis is a byproduct of our complicated international system riddled with wars, poverty, and persecution of marginalized groups.

This study will focus on intersectional identities to facilitate a demand advocating for a group of people who are stripped of their autonomy and visibility. Some key questions to be answered in

this study are: What challenges facing migrants in Italy within narratives in film and literature? How does positionality and locality play a role in migrant narratives?

Ben Vazquez

China's "Wolf Warrior" Diplomacy: A New Kind of American Exceptionalism?

China's recent aggressive foreign policy has earned Chinese diplomats the title of "wolf warriors." These attitudes have been partly excused due to China's successful response to many recent global crises as compared to Western states. How will China balance its newfound confidence with enduring insecurities? If one thing stands out about China's rise to global prominence, it has been the ability of the Chinese to adapt to systems, to learn from their mistakes, and to innovate and reform. While this has been true for the economic field, why aren't we seeing it in the diplomatic field?

Jordan Westlake

Authoritarianism in Jordan: Constructing National Identity and Hashemite Regime Survival

The authoritarian Hashemite regime, although not native to Jordan, enjoys strong support from indigenous tribal elites. Over the summer, I was a research assistant at a think tank in Jordan and worked on projects about the impact of COVID-19 on Jordanian education and business as well as political participation and civil society. In my SIP, I will explore the following questions: How has this authoritarian regime survived since 1921? How do these survival strategies and the construction of a Jordanian national identity include or exclude Jordan's Palestinian population, which composes over half of Jordan's population?

CREATIVITY - SYMPOSIUM 2021 ABSTRACTS

Alexa Beckstein

How do creative spaces benefit LGBTQ+ communities?

Through taking the Queer Theory and Activism course last fall, I recognized the multiplicity of ways which the LGBTQ+ community was marginalized. I learned about the function of creativity in the lives of these individuals, and how it benefited them to have ways to express themselves. This summer, I interned for the publication Bi Women Quarterly under prominent bisexual activist Robyn Ochs. The magazine is a creative, safe, and nurturing space for bi+ women+, and I was able to witness the importance of the magazine for the community and the support which such a publication offered for underrepresented individuals.

John Blackwell

Creative Approaches to Coaching and Development in Young Athletes

Through coaching lacrosse to children from ages 6-18, I was able to utilize different methods of coaching to establish which methods yielded the best results in terms of knowledge of sport, athletic ability, and listening skills & behavior. Methods of coaching utilized consisted of incorporating games, harsh criticism, and positive feedback.

Piper Burke

Ethics in Clinical Trials and its Effect on Legislation

Over the past two years, I have examined how ethics have been thought of in relation to clinical trials in the United States from 1970 to 2010. I looked at how these trials, which I critically determined to be unethical, were dealt with in the legal system in the US. Examining ethics through clinical trials as well as the law has combined not only my majors but my interests as well.

Jon-Robert Corasanti

JR's Communication Theory

Effectively communicating with other people is supremely important in creativity and in life. With my ultra-logical mind, I have identified the key variables that must be present for good communication to exist. This theory will help you communicate with people throughout your life.

Carly Denora

Brand Inclusivity Through Creative Marketing

Marketing dictates how people think, whether it is intentional or not. There seems to be little responsibility from corporations to make history, art, or statements, but a lot of responsibility to make money. These advertisements are not educating people about the world they really live in,

but rather negatively affecting those who are not pictured. Instead, communication from businesses must be told about real people for the purpose of elevating real stories. Marketing teams must be social teachers who shape cultural beliefs to include everyone and create positive change through the images and language they produce.

Adam Dutton

Climate Change for Today's Climate

Climate change is a problem that has, continues to, and will forever effect the entire world's population. The only way we will see further improved results will be through properly communicating the needs and timeline we have been dealt with. Simple vocabulary will lead to simple results as well as inspiring younger generations to get involved.

Ava Ernst

Art and the Climate Crisis

Why art is important in combating the climate crisis and dealing with and processing mental illness; all of which have complex and intricate connections with one another.

Emma Gould

Making sense of transitional moments and the physical world through creativity

Over the course of my three+ years at Connecticut College my passion for writing and creating has grown and transformed across the breadth of my studies and ancillary creative pursuits. For my Symposium presentation I plan to discuss my exploration of the malleability of the physical world and physical spaces through the transformative power of playwriting, photography, and environmental studies. Synthesizing my recent international long-term travel and my ability to expose and transmute notions surrounding the constructions and intersections of cultural identity and physical space through writing, I feel well equipped to take on this investigation.

Nicolas Holmgren

How do we interact with the world around us?

An exploration of creativity and how we interact with the world around us. I want to examine creativity in a structured scenario i.e. school system, creativity in an unstructured scenario and how mental health and creativity tie into each other.

Samuel Kasem-Beg

Songwriting and Community

Music has been an important factor in my personal development. I grew up playing instruments and listening to everything I could. So upon enrolling in college, there was nothing else I wanted to commit to. Though, I struggled with finding my artistic voice for the longest time. My talk will

be about how artists find their distinct style, and how that style connects them to the world around them whether it be through their listeners, the media, or even someone unfamiliar with their work. I believe it's this connection and the quality of it that makes an artist influential.

India Robert

Existing Through Color and Passion

My question has not only stayed the same throughout my research, but my interest in the topic has also deepened. Through my work, I've realized how vital thinking out of the box and being original is for people who are struggling to survive. If your small business is going under, and you need money, as a shop-owner it is sometimes life or death to come up with a new way to market and attract customers.

Owen Sagerman

Art as a Window into Identity, Experience, and Culture

Within the past few years of my life, I have had a huge shift in identity. Being an artist, my art has reflected this shift and helped me understand myself, my goals, my identity, and the culture I am a part of. Through education, active feminism, personal experience, and research I have changed my ideas on the art world, what it means to be an artist, and what I can do as someone with privilege. My work documents this change and encourages discussion of identity, toxic masculinity, and more. My hope is that it will do the same for others.

Sam Siewertsen

Mind, Body, Spirit: A Multidimensional Approach to Wellness

Mind, Body, Spirit: A Multidimensional Approach to Wellness- Holistic wellness considers the whole person (mind, body, and spirit) in the healing process. The mind, body, spirit connection refers to the connection between an individual's mental, physical, and emotional/spiritual health. Through my courses at Conn, as well as my summer internship at Jade Integrated Health, I've been able to explore how various healing practices consider multiple parts of an individual within the healing process. This talk will cover various modalities including physical therapy, acupuncture, biomedicine, dance, meditation, and more!

Emily Siegel

Music: The Natural Power of Healing

The relationship between music, instrumental, choral and speech, and health has always fascinated me. Music controls human thought and reaction, without there even knowing how the brain received such sounds. The power of music controlled human thoughts and behavior. This level of power over the brain allows humans to benefit from sounds, musical and otherwise. Historically, across all religions and races, people have turned to choral prayers to heal the sick. However, history simply paved the way for science to prove that music medically benefits health.

Gaby Sukmono

Indonesian Diaspora: I Am Because I Dance

Dance has been an integral part of Indonesian culture as it acts as a sacred process, cultural preservation process, and a strong mode of cultural identity. Dance practiced in Indonesia has had a historically strong connection with the natural world. I will explore how this relationship changes as people move and become part of the Indonesian diaspora in America and how different dances are practiced.

Max Toscano

Leaving My Mark

My presentation is about my animating question, and how it colors my studies. My goal is to make some form of mark on the world, to make it so that the world is impacted in some positive way by my existence. This is, in my view, the purpose of every human being.

Joseph Willen

How is capitalism affected by creativity, specifically in pop culture?

I want to explore creativity and what it has become in capitalism today. I specifically want to look at television and movies and how it can amplify or minimize the voices of people of color.

DATA, INFORMATION & SOCIETY - SYMPOSIUM 2021 ABSTRACTS

Jacob Bernstein

How is Data Used to Better Understand Human Attention?

This past summer, I had the pleasure of being a research assistant in Professor Moher's cognitive psychology lab. As a neuroscience major and applied statistics minor, this opportunity was perfect for my pathway experience, and it gave me some new insight into a potential career path. My animating question, "How can data be used to better understand human attention?" is essentially the culmination of all of my coursework here at Connecticut College, as well as my recent experiences with conducting research. After collecting data and performing statistical analyses, I have some findings to report at the all-college symposium.

Nicole Genimatas

Big Data's Effect on Decision Making Within the Insurance Industry

Through the animating question "How has decision-making been influenced through big data within the insurance industry?" I aim to explore the intersection between data and decision-making, specifically within insurance. I completed an internship at AIG this past summer where I learned how data is used on an everyday basis and greatly influences the decisions underwriters make. A number of big data techniques are used within the industry including data mining, statistical modeling, machine learning, and even narrow artificial intelligence. Insurers use data to more accurately underwrite, price risk, incentivize risk reduction, and reduce fraud through better identification techniques.

Eric Huber

How does machine bias produce systemically prejudiced results?

Machine learning bias is a phenomenon that produces systematically prejudiced results as a result of faulty assumptions, biased data, or inherent biases coded into an algorithm. Machine learning is currently being used to automate choices and assist humans within job recruiting, banking, and judicial decision-making, so it is crucially important that the results being produced are nondiscriminatory and fair. I will examine known examples of machine learning bias, discuss prior research that has been done on the causes of this bias, and propose solutions to mitigate this type of bias going forward.

Harleen Kaur

Data & Discrimination in the Workplace

Data is used within hiring practices in several ways. From the use of algorithms to scan resumes, to identifying top talent for recruitment, the use of data is efficient, yet leaves lots of room for bias. In many ways, the use of data perpetuates historical and systemic bias that already exists within the workplace. Through a mix of psychology, math, and computer science

courses, as well as a talent acquisition internship with Johnson & Johnson, I explore the question, “How does the use of data perpetuate unconscious bias among hiring and recruiting practices?”

Marisa Marshall

The True Cost of a Targeted Advertisement

My animating question, which asks how successful targeted advertisements are, was created as a culmination of a topic we covered in the thematic inquiry course, my academic coursework in economics, psychology, and sociology, and my global local engagement experience. In my internship, the bulk of my work consisted of monitoring and creating a report on the performance of digital media advertisements. I was able to see some of what goes on behind the scenes in a digital advertisement. I discuss both the data behind targeted advertisement’s successes, and also the more subjective side of how people think of them.

Abby Murphy

The relationship between medical ethics and Big Data across health care systems

Everyday, healthcare workers are faced with challenging decisions that are potentially life or death. These decisions may be ethically driven, or fact driven. Often, to support the difficult ethical decisions, professionals utilize information that has come from data sources, specifically Big Data. Utilizing big data to make these decisions poses a major threat to patient privacy. I take an approach based on a medical ethics framework to analyze the benefits and challenges of using Big Data in this way. I also pull from my abroad experiences to compare the use of Big Data across health-care systems.

Sneh Shah

How can data be used to cure epilepsy?

For my global/local engagement, I completed a research internship at the Rutgers Department of Neurosurgery in the Boison Lab studying an enzyme, adenosine kinase, that regulates the levels of adenosine, the body’s endogenous neuroprotectant. Adenosine kinase has important implications in epilepsy, cancer, and traumatic brain injury. For my internship, I studied both isoforms of adenosine kinase (S and L) and characterizing their roles using the controlled cortical impact (CCI) model. My presentation will highlight how my interests and experiences emerged into a pursuit to solving my research questions.

Charlie Spreda

How has Covid-19 impacted Special Education?

Through the pursuit of my animating question, I have learned about the field of special education and the difficulty of ensuring that individual needs are properly addressed, especially at a time dominated by remote instruction and technological barriers. This presentation centers around my global local engagement internship as well as an overview of my academic journey.

My participation within the Data, Information, and Society pathway and my data-informed exploration of the field of education will greatly assist me on my journey of becoming a future educator and I look forward to sharing my Pathway experience with the campus community.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP - SYMPOSIUM 2021 ABSTRACTS

Melissa Alexander

Affordable Sports

Insurance companies make money by investing the money they get from policyholders in safe assets. Taking this idea, if a club sports team has an upfront cost of \$2000, investing 100 or so of that into safe assets will allow money to be raised for the cost of players who can't afford it, or for the equipment they need to play.

Shumail Aziz

ECOSTOP (Startup): How can food startups in Pakistan help in reducing environmental externalities?

ECOSTOP is a sustainable cart food business that will provide customers discounts based on the amount of non-biodegradable discards they bring in. My main aim is to emphasize how small businesses could contribute towards a better environment in Pakistan. My project will inculcate a sense of awareness among small local food chains as to how their business models could find ways to eliminate non-biodegradable materials.

Morgan Baughman

Sustainable Work Practices

The goal of my animating question is to analyze different work environments to determine what cultures, architectures, and infrastructures promote healthy work habits and efficiency within a business. Over the course of the last three years, I've interned and worked in a variety of environments along with taking classes to expand my knowledge of team culture and economics that drives workplace behavior. My poster will connect these real-world experiences with ideology from class to explain my own workplace philosophy.

Leah Dershaye

How can we increase the number of high school graduates, and boost?

As someone who is Ethiopian and has family there, I wanted to tackle this global issue of poverty. There is a dangerous cycle of poverty in Ethiopia that is affecting the inhabitants, but more of the natives in the rural regions due to the lack of access/opportunities. Although Ethiopia has made massive strides in tackling this issue and has one of the most-fastest growing economies in the world, poverty is still one of the largest issues that has lead to starvation, poor nutrition/health, lack of educational and employment opportunities, and in the worst cases death.

Mackenzie Healy

Treating Mental Health with Creativity

I have been exploring various avenues of creativity through my courses at Conn and individual research. This project is a collection of information as well as a proposed solution to my animating question.

Santiago Kling

Reducing Food Waste In The New London Community

I have been working on a way in which Conn can reduce their impact on food waste. My idea was to take the excess food generated at Harris and donate it to local people in need. By doing this we can partner with the New London Community to reduce food insecurity.

Dareios Linss

Economic Growth and Influential Technology

During the Covid-19 pandemic, small businesses have been directly impacted on a multitude of levels. Throughout my experience working in custom technology design, factors such as tripling the price of stock supplies, prolonged back orders, and development roadblocks have all been elements that have raised challenges for Advanced Home Audio INC. AHA designs and installs cutting-edge technology to enhance your home experience through outdoor landscape technology, indoor smart home technology, and home movie theaters. Covid has significantly increased the demand for smart home technology due to high-profile clients' needs for comfortable and accessible living during the pandemic.

Colin McCabe

Is there a solution to the small uncomfortable school beds?

My animating question was to figure out how to make the school-provided beds more spacious and comfortable while also looking at whether a bigger and more comfortable bed would improve sleep, leading to better health and performance. Lastly, I looked at whether the price of an upgraded bed is worth the benefit.

Audrey McCarron

Increasing the knowledge and understanding of fast fashion? Effect on environment?

During the summer of 2021, I had an internship that had led me to change my question. I have been working on looking into different brands, their marketing and target audience to help understand what they are targeting and who. Fast fashion has a detrimental impact on the environment and increasing the knowledge on this, especially to college-aged students, will, in turn, help the environment.

Xavier McCormack

How can I help artists develop career and brand recognition toward success?

I am planning to provide a platform for artists to establish themselves through both the creative and financial sides of art production and dealing by opening an art gallery co-op, the "creatorX co-operative".

Katelyn McGrail

How do entrepreneurial paths differ for women compared to men?

As I studied economics, I realized I had interest in what it's like to be in the business world as a woman and how this differs from men. Especially in today's world where the pay gap for women compared to men is 18.5%. What creates these differences? Things such as the motherhood penalty, tenure, marriage, education, and poverty to name a few. After taking this pathway class I took many Econ courses that looked at differences in pay gap, ethnic differences, job differentials by race, etc. My three itinerary courses are: PSY 100, STA 107, ECO 248.

Khadija Gohar

Women in Pakistan's Economy

Pakistan has one of the lowest GDP growth rates in South Asia yet the highest inflation rate, which puts it in a tough spot. Women make up 48% of the population, however, are often excluded from the formal economy due to multiple reasons. This project looks at how women strive for financial independence by running small home run businesses and ultimately contribute to the economy. During the pandemic there was a rise of food delivery businesses by women, so my project looks at the effects of COVID on it and how their role can be expanded.

Simon Moreira

Handling Excesses/Shortages Both Globally/Locally and Understanding Resource Sustainability

My first idea to answer this question was to create a website to help people who want to learn more about sustainable and efficient ways of living. This website would provide them with multiple options to improve sustainability for their home or business.

Isaac Moskowitz

Communicating the Importance of Sleep to Connecticut College Students

Sleep is a vital component of our physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Yet, a startling number of college students don't meet the necessary 8-hour requirement for getting enough rest at night. I decided to design my animating question around that concern. In order to investigate what I can do to increase students' awareness of why they should sleep, I decided to make a presentation to a group I know value their physical health: athletes. For my engagement project, in October I will present a 5-10 minute presentation to the Conn cross country teams.

Alyssa Pietz

Gender Inequality in the Workplace

Although primarily male fields have moved towards hiring more women in recent years to create diversity, this change is not fit for the times and there needs to be more progress. There is still so much inequality in the workplace between men and women and this is a problem that I feel needs to be addressed. My animating question explores what we can do as a society to create equality in the workplace for women.

Lindsay Salvati

Obtaining Safe, Nutritious, and Sufficient Food that is Affordable and Easily Accessible

My presentation is on urban areas where residents' access to affordable, healthy food options (especially fresh fruits and vegetables) is restricted or nonexistent due to the absence of grocery stores within convenient traveling distance; these are typically called food deserts. This summer, I surveyed residents of Bridgeport, CT that came to a food pantry at the Thomas Merton Center. In my poster presentation, I will discuss the findings of my own research and the survey combined. There is a great need for more accessible and affordable nutritious food both in this area and other areas like it.

Peter Scheschareg

Investing to Promote Sustainability

I want to learn how financial intermediaries determine what and how to invest in companies and what is the best form of investment that will help the global economy as a whole. ESG (Environment and Social Governance) investments are a great place to start. They are basically a sustainability practice as viewed through the company's business model. What percentage of investments are allocated to ESG and how aware are the companies of impacts that they may have on sustaining the economy? How many companies are targeting ESG investments and whether or not they are on an incline or decline?

Aramis Steininger

The Power of Connection

My question is based on the question, how can I promote overall student engagement on various events on campus. In addition, how could I branch this idea out to include a more general demographic?

Samuel Stone

Why is everyone in the US not insured?

Why are about 27.5 million Americans uninsured when the administration has gone out of its way trying to make insurance available and affordable for everyone? After the affordable care act, also known as Obamacare, the number of uninsured has decreased, yet millions of people

that don't have it, need it. I worked in the insurance field this summer and struggled desperately to find people who don't have insurance a plan that works for them. I have already applied for a job looking to supply insurance and retirement planning for teachers in the local Connecticut school systems.

Thuan Tran

Sustainable Development of Cities in Developing Countries

In developing countries, urbanization is at a rate that is heavily impactful on the environment. Sustainable development is much needed.

Lucas Verrilli

How can technology help the environment?

I wanted to know if there are ways that we can use computers and technology to help the environment in some way. I had an idea when working at my summer internship to help automate the production of trees via a subscription-based service.

Elisabeth Wales

Entrepreneurship as a Dance Making Tool

Often, performing arts and entrepreneurship are separated from one another, but I have found that they are actually very connected. Throughout my time in this pathway, I have realized how similar the process of creating a pitch for a product and creating a dance is. This finding has led me to explore the topic of professionalism and dance more broadly.

EYE OF THE MIND - SYMPOSIUM 2021 ABSTRACTS

Maddie Comer

MONUMENTal Controversies

The United States is undergoing a fundamental shift in its approach to memorialization as it confronts past injustices. Events like the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville and the Black Lives Matter movement have questioned who and what should be memorialized. Nevertheless, the use of controversial objects - like monuments - as tools of power to celebrate oppressive values and advance political agenda is not a new concept. At Conn, I discovered that Classics is a discipline that deals with many of these issues. This makes it challenging to determine what should and should not be safeguarded as visual culture.

Veronique Dhont

Exploring the Impacts of Capitalism Reliance on the Exploitation of Migrant Workers

American capitalism has forced immigrants to come to the United States in search of social and economic opportunities due to destabilization in their own home countries. Relying on the fact that immigrants are often attempting to escape a hostile environment, capitalism pushes the narrative that anyone can achieve upward mobility. Yet, they very infrequently are able to achieve upward mobility due to institutionalized systems of oppression that limit their access to public resources. This drives the question, how does this capitalistic reliance on the exploitation of migrant workers affect their quality of life, specifically their access to public financial resources?

Patrick O'Reilly

Finding Humane Solutions to the Migration Crisis through Community Organizing

How can we create a society that is more welcoming and tolerant of immigrants, at the macro and micro levels? Micro refers to individual opinions and actions with migrants, and macro refers to government policies towards the treatment of migrants. What solutions can be implemented on a community level to increase the tolerance of migrants in said community? Additionally, how can communities organize to achieve substantive change at the governmental, or intergovernmental level? This refers to political solutions to migration crises and the different available avenues to achieve change.

GLOBAL CAPITALISM - SYMPOSIUM 2021 ABSTRACTS

Emma Atlas

China & Global Capitalism

This presentation will focus on my time in the global capitalism pathway and my journey in answering my animating question. I will discuss how the classes I have taken have impacted my study of this issue. I will also go over my summer internship with professor Queen and how the work I did on ancient Chinese documents impacted my study of modern China.

Leo Do

On-Demand E-Commerce and The Rise of Sustainable Retail

In the context of globalization and an increasingly digital economy, commerce has seen a huge shift to the Internet ecosystem - this trend has increased in pace during the pandemic. Not only do the major technological eCommerce platforms such as Amazon and eBay benefit from the digitalization of economic activities, but also independent entrepreneurs. The eCommerce industry has also given rise to novel, "light" business models that are less resource-intensive and more sustainable.

Julia Hartheimer

Indigenous Resistance and Environmental Justice

Why is environmental justice rooted in anti-colonialism and how is it an inherent function of Indigenous resistance? I would like to understand how capitalism and colonialism are inherently intertwined, as well as how capitalism is a vital factor in mainstream American culture. This would allow me to see how American culture, driven by capitalism, has not only caused the destruction of the environment, but how the environment is used as a colonial tool to disenfranchise indigenous communities. Then I would like to explore specific instances of indigenous resistance and how environmental justice is inseparable to that resistance.

Neal Mahoney

The Fourth World: Financial Access in Underprivileged American Communities

One of the key hallmarks of an underdeveloped economy is a lack of access to credit which prevents people from growing wealth and improving their quality of life. What I have learned over my studies, however, is that contrary to popular opinion this dynamic is not isolated to Third-World or Global Southern countries. Underprivileged American communities struggle from these same issues regarding wealth accumulation and quality of life in a remarkably similar way; a topic which has led me to wonder to what extent credit markets in these communities compare to those in underdeveloped states.

Adam Mullen

Politics and Cybersecurity

With the rise of Political Polarization around the world, cybersecurity has become an increasingly more vulnerable target for political parties. Whether that be through Data Breaches, Ransomware, SQL injections, Election fraud, or unauthorized targeted advertising. I have looked into the correlation between far-leaning political polarization and acts of cybercrime. I will discuss my findings from both an academic viewpoint as well as from my hands-on experiences as both a cybersecurity analyst and technology risk consultant. In these roles, I helped mitigate vulnerabilities through assessing/documenting both foreign and domestic risks, and implementing solutions preventing these risks from arising.

Rachel Powell

What Promotes or Hinders Cooperation?

My current animating question is "Do capitalist practices help foster our cooperative social tendencies, or do they hinder them?" Within this question, I'll be explaining some of the social tendencies that we as humans have that foster cooperation, such as reciprocity and trust, and then exploring how those tendencies fit into capitalist systems. I'll explore this question through the lens of economic games and research, my curricular itinerary classes, and my global/local engagement experience.

Tether Preston

How Consumer Demand Plays a Role in the Sustainable Production of Fashion

Sustainable fashion is becoming popular as consumers realize the decomposition life of plastic-lined threads, cotton, and cheaper materials. The market for sustainable goods is evolving as technology and new materials are discovered. Larger companies can afford changing technology and production to incorporate sustainable materials. New brands are finding success by entering the market with a clear base of having sustainable products. Through my internship, I was working with an environmental consulting company. I gained insight into regulations of electronic and packaging waste in Europe and the US. It gave me a look into environmentally conscious policies around the globe.

GOODWIN NIERING - SYMPOSIUM 2021 ABSTRACTS

Alice Ball

The Physiological Effects of Microplastics on the Northern Star Coral, *Astrangia Poculata*

Ocean microplastics are a growing threat to marine invertebrates, and their effects on coral health are relatively understudied. Given the vulnerability of reef-building corals, understanding the specific effects of pollutants like microplastics is key to promoting coral restoration and conservation. This project aims to address these effects in a series of experiments focused on a local New England coral, *Astrangia poculata*.

Milo Becker

Realizing Net-Zero Design: Connecticut College Responds to the Climate Crisis

The built environment must adapt to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis. Energy consumption is an integral part of architecture, and balancing energy use and production is necessary for a sustainable future. My project uses the Connecticut College campus as a case study to assess the feasibility of renewable energy projects, and how they are incorporated in the built environment. I will investigate the net zero plans of similar schools, examine the practical and social constraints such plans must overcome, and design a plan for the college including a strategy for adoption of the plan by the college stakeholders.

Katherine Davis

Place Centric Obligations to Future People

Individuals connect to natural spaces in a plethora of ways that enhance and even define our experience on Earth. Climate change will threaten the ability of future generations to connect with these areas. I argue that we have an obligation to future generations to protect natural areas so that they may have these meaningful place associations.

Bridget Hilgendorff

Coastal Wetland Conservation Amidst Climate Change

An individual study will be completed in Spring 2022 involving the analysis of both research conducted over the summer and existing literature, in order to determine how coastal and estuarine ecosystems in the New England region have been altered, in addition to how the management of these ecosystems has been modified, as a result of climate change. The information derived from this literature review and comparison will culminate in a final product that presents the ways in which the management and conservation of estuarine ecosystems in the New England region must adapt as the climate continues to change.

Leah Kosovsky

The Chemical Characterization of Microplastic Polymers from Various Littoral Environments

I am working on the chemical characterization of microplastic polymers and additives. For my project, I collected plastic samples from various littoral environments along the shores of Cape Cod, MA. I ran these samples in a pyrolysis-gas chromatography-mass spectrometry instrument, and analyzed the resulting spectra to determine their polymer composition. This research is important because microplastics can absorb toxic chemical contaminants, so it is necessary to raise awareness about the dangers of plastic consumption and pollution.

Lauren Moonan

Understanding the Save the Whales Movement and the Science that Informs It

Through my research this summer, I gained an understanding of the Save the Whales movement and how the policies it brought about were not based in conservation science. With the belief that these policies should be based in science, through my SIP, I will seek to understand why it is difficult for science to inform whale conservation policy by investigating the data collection and analysis models used in this field of science. I also will seek to suggest ways for science to better inform policy.

Jackie Mountford

How Climate Change Effects the Mass Balances of Glaciers

For my SIP, I will be looking at how glaciers are affected by climate change, most specifically completing a comparative study of the mass balances of glaciers in two places. The mass balance of glaciers can be found by looking at the mass added to and taken from a glacier over a certain period of time. Although my research will primarily focus on the natural sciences behind glaciers and how they are reacting to climate change in different places, I also hope to explore the socio-economic impacts of the reduced water supply on the communities nearby.

Payton Mulvehill

Inequalities in Environmental Activism in Minnesota

Environmental Activism is happening in many forms across the globe. Currently two stand out in Minnesota, activism against a pipeline proposal referred to as line 3 and campaigning against mining proposals outside the Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness. One of the biggest difference between these two movements are the demographics being affected. Line 3 is cutting through indigenous territories and violating treaty rights, the BWCA protection however is made up far more of white people given the areas requirements of permits, costly gear, and existing inequalities within the outdoors. I will be exploring how this difference affects these movements.

Amelia Packard

An Analysis of Hydrokinetic Devices: Harnessing Energy From Moving Water

This summer I worked with The Stone House Group, a sustainable consulting company currently working with Connecticut College, remotely and on-site in Bethlehem, PA. I gathered

lighting information to help compile a spreadsheet of the different fixtures on campus including location, wattages, and hourly usage. I also helped compile an energy database from the college's gas and electric utility bills to better understand energy use on campus. This internship helped to ground my interests in marine energy as a renewable energy option and will put my research into marine energy systems this semester into perspective.

Katie Warren

No-Till Farming for Carbon Sequestration

My center interest revolves around no-till farming and how no-till practices can be used to increase soil carbon sequestration. My SIP will explore how healthy soil sequesters carbon, differences between tilling versus no-till or minimum tillage and why no-till farming should be used instead of traditional tilling for soil cultivation.

HOLLERAN CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ACTION (PICA) - SYMPOSIUM 2021 ABSTRACTS

Mia Barbuto

The Case for Positive Sex Education, and its Impact on LGBTQ Individuals

Topics of sexual education are often times avoided in our society, relying instead on cis-heteronormative structures telling youth who to be instead of allowing them to figure that out on their own terms. My area of interest focuses on gender-based outcomes due to sexual health disparities. More particularly I examine how affirming sex education can help change the inclusivity of our environments, creating nonjudgmental communities where all are able to authentically exist. My SIP will be presented in a film about how internal homophobia manifests in young adults who are not given this freedom as they grow up.

Anna Bianchi

Hunger Amidst Plenty: Undocumented Migrants and Food Insecurity in Southeastern Connecticut

As the United States navigates the COVID-19 pandemic, undocumented migrants struggle to gain stability as one of the most vulnerable populations. Under the Trump Administration, Congressional representatives excluded undocumented migrants and their families from COVID-19 relief packages, leaving migrant communities scrambling to procure necessary resources. Although many undocumented migrants labor as farmworkers and food industry workers, they cannot access the food they are producing. My research examines the experiences of undocumented migrants as they interact with local food systems and community-based agriculture in Southeastern Connecticut to gain resources for themselves and their families.

Francesca Bifulco

The Failures of FEMA: Environmental Injustice and The Climate Crisis

Of the 4.8 million aid registrations submitted by disaster survivors to FEMA from 2014-2018, the poorest renters were 23% less likely than higher-income renters to receive assistance. Moreover, a 2019 study found that survivors of Hurricane Harvey were less likely to secure aid if they lived in more racially diverse neighborhoods. This semester I will be centering my research on the following questions: how has the U.S failed to provide adaptation and recovery aid to communities that are suffering due to adverse weather events? More specifically, what environmental injustices exist in the current climate mitigation framework?

Lorenzo Bocchetti

The Racial Inequalities Embedded Within the Collegiate Sports System

A popular dialogue surrounding collegiate sports is that it provides opportunity for the less privileged. This storyline is particularly prominent in men's basketball and football and glorifies the collegiate athletics system as a savior. My SIP research will examine public discourse about opportunity in athletics and the problematic stereotypes and ideologies such discourse supports. It will also examine the reality of racial inequities in collegiate athletics as well as current activism from BIPOC student athletes to change a system that is falling far short of the NCAA vision for diversity, equity and inclusion.

Melissa Chow

Deconstructing Conventions: Critical Education Within the Asian American Experience and Disability Discourse

We are socialized to perceive Asian Americans through the lens of the model minority myth. This myth leaves little room for authentic consideration of disability within the Asian American community. Thus, disability in the Asian American community is unacknowledged and mainstream disability discourse ignores how racism interacts with the experience of disability, disability culture, and affirming care. Through various lenses (culture, socialization, class) I will deconstruct conventions and answer the questions "How can critical education that centers the intersectionality between race and disability advance disability discourse?" and "How can it better support Asian American people with disabilities and their families?"

Samuel Crockford

Data and Narrative Storytelling: Visualizing the Impacts of Suicide and Addiction

For the past few years, I have been using mortality statistics to create visualizations of so-called "deaths of despair." These are deaths resulting from suicide and addiction. The visualizations helped show where and when these deaths were happening which allowed me to investigate potential reasons why some areas bore more than others. Now, I am adding a narrative approach to expand the project beyond just data. The project will culminate in an online experience that seeks to impart the weight of the crisis succinctly and powerfully.

Samantha Crone

Fast-forward to Injustice: Children's Criminal Justice Odyssey

Every year, more than 200,000 children in the United States are tried as adults. Bypassing juvenile court, these adolescents are sent straight to criminal court. In adult criminal court, they are excluded from the rehabilitative efforts in juvenile court, and are met with harsher sentences. Children tried and imprisoned as adults are thirty-four times more likely to recidivate than their counterparts in the juvenile system, and thirty-six times more likely to commit suicide. My research centralizes these juvenile justice statistics as key indicators to the injustices of the larger criminal justice system as a whole.

Marlyn Desire

Addressing The Harm of Exclusionary Discipline

Within recent decades exclusionary policies (such as suspensions and expulsions) have been disproportionately used as a form of punitive discipline against students of color and those with special needs. Exclusionary policies do little to reform disruptive behavior or repair any harm that a student may have caused. Instead, it removes students from their education which increases dropout rates, harms self-perception, and increases the probability of future encounters with the law. My presentation focuses on the full extent of harm within these policies while highlighting alternative disciplinary actions with a restorative approach rather than a punitive one.

Jitu Dribssa

Transitional Justice for Victim Children of Armed Conflict

Children are disproportionately impacted by conflicts and human rights violations. My research focuses on how education is used as a Transitional Justice tool for victim children of armed conflict. Transitional justice refers to legal, moral, and socio-political ways used to tackle legacies of past abuses by countries emerging from conflict. I use a macro-comparative analysis of educational policies between Sierra Leone and South Africa in the aftermath of wars. My SIP will examine how post-conflict reconstruction in these two countries included reconstruction of educational facilities; interventions to increase educational access; curriculum reform and (re)training of educational personnel.

Autumn Galindo

21st Century "People Power": The Power of Historical Resistance in Filipino Activism

"Never Again to Martial Law!" appears among Filipino activists in social media posts, protests, and political rallies. Activists use this phrase to evoke memories of the Marcos era in the Philippines when President Ferdinand Marcos utilized violence and implemented Martial Law to silence dissent and enforce the complicity of Filipinos. Despite ousting Marcos in 1986, there are echoes of that past in the present under President Rodrigo Duterte. My history research investigates the years 1946 to 2021 and how Filipino American activists use memory and history as a tool to shape their narratives to resist imperialism.

Hailey Gilson

Mental Health Treatment Access and Equity: A Call to Action to Therapists

Over 51 million Americans struggle with mental health. Marginalized groups including the BIPOC and LGBTQ communities are at particular risk due to conditions of oppression, but often struggle to access high quality therapy that is affirming of their identity and background. My SIP research examines current efforts in the mental health field to address these issues including multicultural competency and LGBTQ affirming care in counseling. I argue that mental health

providers need to go beyond learning about these concepts and need to actively take a stand against systems of oppression that marginalize their clients both in and outside of therapy.

Anna Hackett

Sowing Seeds for Justice: Community Led Solutions to Food Insecurity

Urban agriculture and community gardening have emerged as community led solutions to combat food insecurity. In my presentation, I will explore how investing in urban agriculture can uplift communities, support biodiversity, mitigate the effects of climate change and provide communities with access to fresh food. To ground this research, I will discuss my work in the local New London community and my summer internship with a community development and environmental non-profit. My aim is to explore these solutions through uplifting narratives from the community, connecting with local farmers, and getting my hands in the soil on and off campus.

Alyss Humphrey

The Science of Science

Dark matter, cells, and inertia. These are all science, right? But why? Who and what determines science is science? As a Biochemistry major, I have never come across these questions. This presentation will journey through how power, race, sex, and gender all work together to shape our ideas of science. I will discuss why science is considered “cool” and why we as a society put science on a pedestal. I will explore why some people hold the belief that science should be exclusive; why we believe scientists “look” a certain way or have a certain background.

Xiao Jiang

Mental Health Perceptions Among Younger and Older Chinese Americans

Asian Americans are three times less likely to seek mental health services than Whites. In a recent year, only 8.6 percent of Asian Americans sought any type of mental health services compared to nearly 18 percent of the general population nationwide. With the current pandemic, Asian Americans have an increased chance of suffering from depression and social anxiety. To understand more about Asian Americans’ perceptions of mental health and barriers to treatment seeking through intergenerational perspective, culture, and traditions, my research focuses on understanding mental health perceptions among two generations with a focus on Chinese Americans and all Americans.

Lydia Klein

Against the Epistemic & Economic Violence of World Bank: A Digital Scholarship Project

The narratives in which we talk about poverty in Africa misunderstands that wealth accumulation in the Global North is a direct source and product of poverty in the Global South. The economic policies of the World Bank and IMF (international financial institutions that claim to eradicate poverty and promote development) have been disastrous for countries of the Global South:

forced market liberalization has meant that countries of the global south have had to cut financial protections from poverty. My senior project aims to make accessible the hegemony and violence of these institutions and counter the myths of development and neoliberalism.

Ricardo Lombera

Intersecting Oppressions: Immigration & Labor Laws Against Undocumented Immigrants

As seen through multiple presidential administrations, immigration policy has been highly debated, yet rarely advanced to affirm and legitimize the large immigrant labor force our capitalist society invites and mistreats. Labor laws that make legal documentation required interact with immigration policy and lead to socio-economic oppression. The uncertainty of being able to stay in the United States even when doing essential work and the stress of being unable to find work when labor laws are enforced creates multiple risks for wellbeing and mental health. In this presentation, I will discuss how these two policies intersect.

Elizabeth Lopez

Reaching the Finish Line: Access to education for BIPOC Youth

Existing flaws within the public education system disenfranchise the same communities it claims to serve. A large portion of BIPOC and immigrant communities rely on public education to provide their children with the necessary tools and education. Yet, systemic barriers such as classism, racism, and ableism undermine limit future possibilities. In my SIP, I seek to explore how these public education failures influence access to higher education. Drawing from my internship experience, I also explore different forms of cultural and financial knowledge that are not being prioritized in the current education system, further perpetuating the opportunity gap for BIPOC communities.

Naomi Miller

Zoning and Defacto Segregation: A Case Study in American Urban Food Swamps

The overturning of the Separate But Equal doctrine in 1954, never stood a chance against White middle-class family ideals to keep the undesirables out their neighborhoods. Hysterical implications of a threatening cultural and economic shift made the perceived cost of co-existing with Black and immigrant communities too high. The solution? De-facto zoning ordinances that could legally justify discriminatory land-use policies. This presentation aims to observe how modern zoning practices intentionally restrict access to healthy produce in lower-income neighborhoods through food swamps.

Grace Rathburn

Campus Activism: Bridging the Gap Between Dissatisfaction and Action

It is clear that many Conn students want to see institutional changes on our campus. However, there is also a lack of collective student organizing to pressure the college to implement these desired improvements. I will examine the social dynamics that contribute to this deficit and the

institutional barriers that may discourage or limit the efficacy of student activism. I will consult literature on campus activism, explore Conn's history, engage in dialogue with peers, faculty, and staff, and ultimately work to create a feminist student organization dedicated to intersectional campus organizing.

Madison Taylor

The History of Aid Organizations' Response to Housing Inequality in New London

My research examines the ways in which local aid organizations' methods to mitigate housing inequality in New London evolved between 1910 and 1950 due to the racialization of poverty and the professionalization of aid organizations. I use an intersectional lens to understand the ways displacement of Black women as leaders of aid organizations and a growth of New London's Black population during the Great Migration affected measurable facets of quality of life; housing conditions and the effectiveness of aid organizations.

Megan Tracy

Rethinking Justice: Transformative Justice and Sexual Violence

The prevailing strategy of seeking justice through Anglo-American law does not address sexual violence's root causes and the cycle of violence. This research uses an intersectional lens to consider the following questions: What are evidence-based theories of the root causes of sexual violence in contemporary United States society? What are the possibilities and limitations of a criminal legal approach to addressing sexual violence as a social problem? How do identity-based disparities in the criminal legal system affect access to justice? This study considers how transformative justice can be utilized in the anti-sexual violence movement for the benefit of our society.

MEDIA RHETORIC & COMMUNICATION - SYMPOSIUM 2021

ABSTRACTS

Abi Balkin

Language for Justice: Rhetoric and the Social Construction of Disability

When did you first learn about disability? From whom? What impression did that conversation leave? This presentation aims to shed light on the relationship between rhetoric, power, and existing societal-level narratives about disability. Integrating experiences as an intern at the Cromwell Center for Disabilities Awareness with media and communications studies at Connecticut College, I explore the ways in which rhetoric can be harnessed in the realm of disability advocacy.

Joslen Beslity

Analyzing Political Rhetoric

Who are our politicians speaking to and why? Are they actually speaking to us or are they performing? I will reflect on how the pathway has shaped my education at Conn and the ways in which my local engagement at a non-profit in central New Jersey and my Government seminar have broadened my understanding of how political information is communicated to and digested by various demographics.

Eli Christopher

How can you "sell" people ideas and products they are initially against?

Those who need to "sell" something, whether it be a product, a strategy or an idea must convince the unfamiliar, or even the uncomfortable to engage with what they're trying to give them. I'm analyzing what rhetorical devices and strategies can be used to "sell" people on a product, an idea or a narrative that they may have initially been unfamiliar with or even against, whether it's hard seltzer, a new movie or a war crime. How do those who utilize rhetoric or media to push their products and ideas, leap over uncertainty to achieve their goals?

Marta Denny

Manipulation of Disaster for Profit

My personal understanding of the forces involved in media, climate activism media in particular, has benefited greatly from the MRC pathway and the courses and discussions I was able to participate in because of it. From a basic concept of the importance of climate education, I flourished into a more full bodied perception of the economic and political rhetoric used by actors in positions of global power to appear as if they are making environmentally ethical choices while instead continuing to reinforce prevailing unsustainable systems and institutions.

Allison Falvey

Social Media Marketing: A Gateway to Skewed Reality

As Social Media continues to dominate how society communicates, a narrative of ignorance has evolved through the development of skewed realities. As a social media marketing management intern I was provided a glimpse into the inner workings of the world of social media in a society that monetizes “likes” and “comments” and places social media marketing on a pedestal. As I reflected on my experiences in social media management, I contemplated how the power of words, and images sheds a larger light on the ability for politicians and major organizations to alter the online reality of social media users.

Logan Kilfoyle

How does cinema exist as a communicator of rhetoric?

Although cinema is often regarded as simply a storytelling medium, it is, in fact, a method of power over our ideology and influences our conceptions of contemporary culture. Currently, a very small number of conglomerate studios control a massive amount of the onscreen content consumed by spectators. The wealth and power in the film industry have direct effects on the cinematic spectator, lending complexity to the spectator’s position as a vessel for messages controlled by wealthy studios. In my presentation, I will demonstrate the ways in which profit driven studios have ideological influence on the modern day spectator.

Colleen Raftery

Technology's Influence on Communication

Media sources influence how we communicate with others in many realms of our lives. Whether through youth exposure to television shows or websites influencing our development, or using technology mediums like Zoom to stay connected throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, it constantly plays a role in communicating. Technology has made communication through media platforms a constant in everyone’s lives. Throughout my experience in courses at Connecticut College and interning at a software company, I have learned about how various forms of media platforms affect our communication. This presentation focuses on our communication through technology and how it affects us.

Caroline Ruggiano

Exclusion or Inclusion : Systems of Power in Film and Literature

The purpose of this project is to unpack how systems of power influence the stories that are told and canonized in film and literature mediums. I will explore how these respective canons advance hegemonic ideologies, and how these advancements uphold the interests of certain institutions and groups of people. Adversely, I will explore the interests that are effaced by such advancements, analyzing the potential dangers canonized media can pose on minoritized groups. I hope my audiences consider an institution's power in projecting tropes in popularized films and novels, as well as the victims of consumer complacency.

Matthew Sambor

The Dangers of Sustainability Marketing

Through the use of media, rhetoric, and communication, corporations seek to exploit consumer morals. Sustainability marketing utilizes decorative rhetoric and deceptive certifications. Through my summer internship at Voiz, I studied and researched how to get past the surface-level marketing and uncover the truth. In a capitalist society, corporations capitalize on morals and trends to increase revenue. Environmental and social sustainability are more prominent than ever and consumers are increasingly showing support with their dollars. My education at Conn and at Voiz has allowed me to analyze the manipulation of sustainability marketing, consider its implications, and identify possible solutions.

Amanda Sanders

Technology and Media: Blindness By Choice or Deception of the Masses

How do the technologies available to us circumscribe/deepen our thinking? How do they create niches of like minded people? Not only do we make conscious choices when choosing what media to see but how do these niche groups encourage deception via tools such as targeted advertising? How can we expose the significance of the things that we mindlessly consume? Through my classwork as well as through my work as the Editor-in-Chief of the student newspaper The College Voice and a marketing internship, I'll examine the power that technology holds over knowledge and deceptions in cultural events.

Jenna Whelan

Has media created the stigma surrounding the mental health of athletes?

The way information is shared, the platforms it's shared on, and the people it's shared with all affect the mindsets of the public. By consciously consuming different forms of media, people unconsciously believe that information. The unattainable expectations of athletes at all levels are structures created by different forms of media. By applying my education and experiences at Conn and my Social Media Management and coaching internship with the New Jersey Panthers, I aim to invite conversation about the ways that media portrays athletes with mental illness, how that portrayal subconsciously applied, and inspire awareness as media consumers.

MIGRANTS - SYMPOSIUM 2021 ABSTRACTS

Patrick O'Reilly

Finding Humane Solutions to the Migration Crisis through Community Organizing

How can we create a society that is more welcoming and tolerant of immigrants, at the macro and micro levels? Micro refers to individual opinions and actions with migrants, and macro refers to government policies towards the treatment of migrants. What solutions can be implemented on a community level to increase the tolerance of migrants in said community? Additionally, how can communities organize to achieve substantive change at the governmental, or intergovernmental level. This refers to political solutions to migration crises and the different available avenues to achieve change.

MUSEUM STUDIES - SYMPOSIUM 2021 ABSTRACTS

Alice Bates

Visual Bias in Medical Education: Dermatology

Medicine is an incredibly visual discipline- it relies on the careful observation of clinicians and their thorough actions to diagnose and treat patients with a wide range of symptoms and presentations. However, implicit and learned biases can play a significant role in how providers approach different patients and impact their overall treatment plans. It is possible to trace this history of bias back to medical education and the use of visual tools used to train future clinicians. This project will explore the effects of bias visual culture in medical training and the impact it has on patient health outcomes.

Jennifer Browne

Transparency in Museum Curation: (Mis)representation of Minorities and American Legacies

Traces of racism and colonialism linger in contemporary museum displays of minority groups and legacy figures. To explore these dynamics, I analyze the portrayal of Indigenous North American communities and Theodore Roosevelt at the American Museum of Natural History and detail the primary elements necessary to create effective exhibits. By deciphering curatorial mistakes and associated corrections at this institution, I demonstrate the misperceptions in exhibits of the past and how museums either make adjustments or miss the mark.

Bella Sorrenti

Visual Culture of Lucretia: Exploring Assault in Art through Myth

I intend to create a virtual exhibition of different visual depictions of the story of Lucretia and educational programming to accompany it. Lucretia's story is one of assault and violence and ends with Lucretia taking her own life and subsequently being praised for this action. I seek to examine why this story was often depicted in Renaissance art. What does this say about Renaissance culture or today's culture? My work this summer translating archeological documents for the University of Bologna prepared me further for my research this year.

PEACE & CONFLICT - SYMPOSIUM 2021 ABSTRACTS

Sebastian Cox

Are Conservative Politics and Economics Inherently Detrimental to Human Advancement?

Given how the US's political parties are both leaning to the right on a global scale, I aim to determine whether or not conservative policies can be beneficial to the wellbeing of humanity or if they are inherently detrimental to human kind.

Zack Garvin

Exploring Indoctrination: The Internet and the Alt-Right

The rise of the Internet has profoundly impacted how we interact with politics. I examine how the internet has become a vehicle for the radicalization of individuals to Alt-Right agendas and beliefs. Specifically, I investigate the indoctrination process, from gateway media onto echo chambers that move the individual deeper and deeper into an extremist worldview.

Benjamin Meyer

Nations, Nationalism, Conflict, and Development in the Global South

In this presentation, I tell the story of my academic career at Connecticut College through the evolution of my intellectual interests. My first-year courses on International Politics and Political Sociology imbued me with an enduring interest in nations, nationalism, the social construction of ethnicity, and the conflicts which stem from the collision of traditional and modern forms of mobilization. My time at Oxford and my travel during the Summer of 2021 have enhanced my academic and cultural understanding of the issues I study, inspiring an ongoing senior thesis and post-Conn plans to pursue graduate study in international development.

Matthew Timoney

Reckless Endangerment: Failures of International Policy and the Effect on Migratory Birds

This presentation explores how failure to come to consensus on international policy contributes to a decline in the biodiversity of migratory birds. Differences in classification on the endangered status throughout the range leads to gaps in protection of endangered species. The presentation describes challenges to creating effective instruments for the protection of migratory birds and other policy challenges they face.

Jake Upton

How are appeals to US national narratives used to perpetuate our wars?

Through studying US involvement in foreign wars I shall demonstrate the ways national narratives are constructed and appealed to justify US involvement. This will shed light on how

the US public comes to support foreign wars and highlight how our national narratives can be better understood and told in order to promote peace.

John Walsh

Constructing Legitimacy Under Neoliberalism: Non-State Actors In The Middle East

At Conn, I have examined the international community through the lens of Middle Eastern Politics, Sociology, Human Rights, and Political Theory. In examination of Non-State Actors, I will combine these disciplines, utilizing sociological, discursive, and quantitative analysis in order to document political realities within the Middle East. This summer I spent time doing grassroots political organizing, and will incorporate that experience as well. This presentation examines a relevant topic within my field of study, and serves as a personal narrative, showcasing the various skills and methodologies that I was able to obtain while at Conn.

POWER & KNOWLEDGE - SYMPOSIUM 2021 ABSTRACTS

Kat Carrion

Fictional Crime-Based Dramas and the Relationship Between Violence and Mental Illness

This project explores the media's influence on public understanding of violence and mental illness by measuring attitudes to crime dramas. Especially now with increased coverage of violent events, quick-paced news cycles about the troubled past of violent offenders often overlook the full picture, stigmatizing mental health. These attitudes go unchecked by our fictional favorites, which verify the perceived causal relationship between mental illness and violence. In order to understand how to mediate this, I will also be assessing reactions to corrective information to determine the most effective way to combat stereotypes spread by inaccurate or sensationalized media portrayals.

Evelyn Houseman

Who does Psychology Serve?

My animating question is linked to my curiosity around the gaps that are in the field of psychology. There is a large gap in not only diagnosis and classification, but also gaps within psychological researchers, which is still very male dominated. 'How can the race, culture, and sex differences in the diagnosis and classifications in Psychology and mental illness awareness be improved? Essentially, how do we make psychology no longer just about and written by white men?

Cameryn Lesko-Jelley

How do neoliberal states and institutions promote the oppression of marginalized peoples?

In my presentation I explore the question "How do neoliberal states and institutions promote the oppression of marginalized peoples and structural inequality?" I describe how my global local engagement with an anti-human trafficking organization, my sophomore summer research through connections, and my current independent study has helped me get closer to answering this question.

Chloe Littell

When Feminism and Capitalism Intersect

In my time at Connecticut College, I have dedicated my education to the study of philosophy as well as the study of Gender, Sexuality, and Intersectionality. Through classes such as Feminist Philosophy, Feminist Theory, Globalization of Urban Poverty, and Queer Theory and Activism, as well as the Thematic Inquiry class, Power, Knowledge, and Practice, I am able to apply a critical intersectional lens towards institutional power structures. These classes, along with my Global/Local Engagement have allowed me to ask the question, "How is activism impacted by societal power structures?".

Julissa Roldan

The Power of Art: accessibility and agency in healthcare

My internship this summer in the public health sector allowed me to be involved in a new perspective. I was incredibly interested in learning more about the power dynamics between the community and the hospitals/ insurers. The idea of power and agency of the community members informed my interest in my thesis for my art major. I am looking at making art as a form of self care/healthcare in underserved communities.

Brendan Stiltner

The Production of Knowledge in Psychology as an Exercise of Power

My presentation will discuss the methods by which knowledge is produced in psychology and psychiatry and how these specific methods exercise power in society. The way in which knowledge is prioritized and reproduced leads psychology and psychiatry to pursue certain areas of knowledge while not investigating others as deeply. As such, we understand the serotonin system far better than we understand how detention affects migrant's mental health. This influences the therapeutic outcomes for marginalized, oppressed populations and impedes understanding of intersectional issues in psychology, reinforcing power dynamics in society.

Elizabeth Zaccaro

Why Are Reproductive Rights Constantly Re Adjudicated?

My animating question investigates what influences cause reproductive rights to be re adjudicated constantly. I chose four main influences to focus on: when life begins, white supremacy, partisanship, and voter suppression. These influences do not necessarily answer the question but affect when and how the laws of reproductive rights are altered.

PUBLIC HEALTH - SYMPOSIUM 2021 ABSTRACTS

Eslam AbouSamra

Evaluation of Epidemic Estimates and Public Health Interventions

Epidemics and emergencies lead to an extreme depletion of resources. Therefore, understanding limitations and estimating epidemics can prove useful in evaluating interventions. In this project I looked into different aspects of epidemic assessment through work in different research projects. The objective is to understand where issues could come from in the different steps of analyses and data collection.

Elyce Afrifa

Colonization and Dying like the Rich: Analysis of Developing Countries' Public Health

After my experience working in Ghana virtually, the difference in the types of public health issues developed and developing countries face became of interest. This presentation will investigate the role of colonization on these differences and the sudden rise of noncommunicable diseases in developing countries.

Zoe Bertone

A Survivor's Trajectory: Examining Sexual Violence Through the Ecological Model

Sexual violence is an extensive, far-reaching public health crisis in the United States and around the world. I will be investigating the impacts of sexual violence through the ecological model to look at the effects on the individual, interpersonal, community, and societal domains. I will then consider preventative models, such as bystander intervention classes, through this same lens to investigate the best ways to prevent sexual violence on college campuses.

Jaimeson Bjorklund

Disparities in Maternal Healthcare Seen in America

America sees some of the worst maternal health disparities between racial groups compared to other wealthy countries, and some of the highest overall maternal mortality and morbidity rates. Research involved reviewing existing data surrounding the state of maternal health in America seen to disproportionately affect minority groups and identifying aspects of maternal health with severe disparities such as mortality and morbidity rates, prevalence of different psychological conditions, quality of care, and more. My goal is to raise awareness of the injustices seen in maternal healthcare in hopes to start the process of achieving a more equitable and just system.

Sonya Chung

Addressing Mental Health from a Public Health Perspective

My project is focused on how we can decrease the rates of mental health problems on a population level by addressing social issues and public health concerns. Currently, there are not enough mental health providers to help everyone who needs treatment. There are significant disparities in access to mental health care and social issues are contributing to the rise in mental health problems. Addressing mental health problems from the standpoint of public health could lessen the burden on medical professionals and lower the rates of mental illness.

AnaLucia Clarkson

HPV: from a biological, human development, and public health standpoint

HPV is the most common STD and the CDC predicts that 80% of all people will get HPV in their lives. HPV causes over 35,000 cancer cases a year, 90% of which could be prevented with the HPV vaccine. So why are more people not getting the vaccine? My presentation will examine HPV and why it needs to be looked at through an interdisciplinary lens to help prevent HPV cases and HPV caused cancer cases.

Maggie Curtis-Hardy

Environmental Justice in the Transition to a Green Economy

My project will highlight the relationship between environmental justice and public health in the transition to a green economy. The green economy transition must consider potential environmental justice and public health implications to ensure that vulnerable communities will not be disproportionately affected. Continued mining is necessary in developing green technologies to support the transition to a green economy, and mines need to be held accountable to ensure materials are sourced in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. I look forward to presenting my pathway experience at the All-Campus Symposium!

Gianna Ferrara

The Role Socioeconomic Status Plays in Surviving the COVID-19 Pandemic

Socioeconomic status consists of multiple factors. Factors such as race, household income, education and living arrangement all play a crucial role in one's well being. Since March 2020, the world has watched the COVID-19 Pandemic unfold. The disproportionate effect COVID-19 has had on different communities is apparent. Minority groups, those making below the average national income, with limited access to proper education and people living in subsidized housing, are focus groups that were impacted the most throughout the current pandemic. By taking different socioeconomic factors into consideration, survival rate and disease spread was looked at and discussed.

Erin Fitzpatrick

How was the prevalence of eating disorders affected by the COVID19 pandemic?

Eating disorders are currently the most deadly mental illnesses, not only due to malnutrition but also due to suicide. In my animating question I examine the aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic that led to a large increase in eating disorders and discuss ways to get patients treatment despite month-long wait times. During my time working in a physical therapy clinic I learned firsthand the positive impact light exercise can have on mental health and therefore I will look into ways light exercise under the supervision of a physical therapist may be helpful in treating eating disorders.

Benjamin Fort

The Impact of Isolation on Wellbeing

During the Covid-19 pandemic, individuals found themselves in isolation and living a life that involved significantly fewer social interactions. As a result, their daily activity levels dramatically declined as well. The degree of this decline varied among the population, but it was clear that the population most affected was the elderly community, specifically those ages 65+. This deconditioning led to many health problems, especially new physical strength barriers that people found themselves needing to overcome. Fortunately, the field of physical therapy specializes in a wide range of rehabilitation therapies including techniques helpful to those affected by this muscular deconditioning.

Jordan Galloway

How creative expression can improve children's mental health

Creative expression plays an important role in holistic health care. Despite its growing popularity and many benefits, there are many challenges in putting creative therapy interventions into schools and hospitals. In this presentation, I will speak on what I learned about creative expression and mental health through my classes at Connecticut College and my time volunteering as a unit head at Camp Rainbow, a camp for kids with cancer and other blood-related diseases and their families. I will also speak about how Camp Rainbow and other creative art therapies changed as a result of Covid-19.

Kate Hollister

Aiding Children Through Adverse Childhood Experiences

This presentation discusses adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), such as experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect. Due to childhood being a critical period of development, negative experiences or disruptions that occur during this time can cause long-term impacts on one's mental health. This presentation explores the best ways to support those who have faced ACEs, in order to provide them with the ability to overcome obstacles and ensure success in the future. Specific attention will be given to ways in which individuals can support children on personal, community, and policy levels.

Kaylee Houlahan

How Changing Behavior Plans Helps Families and Caregivers of Children with Autism

I am focusing on how constantly changing a child with autism spectrum disorder's behavior plan can help not only them but also their family and caregivers. I will be doing this by tying in my global-local engagement along with my knowledge of both psychology and human development to grow a deeper understanding of how behavior plays a vital role in helping children and their families for their future.

Alexis Howard

The Role of Midwives in Improving Maternal-Fetal Healthcare in Tanzania

For thousands of years women's health has been overlooked due to inherent misogyny in medicine. This has furthered the lack of education, awareness and emphasis on women's reproductive health and education. In western medicine, midwives are often overlooked as a medical professional, and are deemed lesser than doctors and nurses. In Tanzania, however, midwives fill a prominent role in the education and wellbeing of women and children. The use of midwives, as both educators and medical professionals, increases favorable birth outcomes, maternal health and reproductive education.

Samantha Hunt

How Common are Mental Illnesses Within The Population of Female Collegiate Athletes?

Mental illnesses are very common on college campuses specifically within the population of female collegiate athletes. The factors that contribute to mental health problems are endless and can be influenced by many different stimuli. This group faces a heightened level of stress yet also faces a social norm associated with mental illnesses. The need for more resources and trained professionals is evident. The removal of the stigma associated with mental illnesses is crucial not only on college campuses but in general. Collectively, we can and will change the stigma which starts with open conversations and open minds.

Jessalyn Jianos

Primary Prevention for Childhood/Adolescent Mental Health

My presentation will focus on primary prevention programs for childhood/adolescent mental health. I plan to begin my presentation by analyzing current intervention/prevention plans and what the impact of these measures have had on child/adolescent mental health. I then will discuss the studies that I have gathered and their ideas and plans for primary prevention and its benefits. Through my presentation, I hope to continue the conversation regarding mental health and bring light to the appearance of it specifically in childhood/adolescents.

Jackson Johnson

How Green Spaces Improve the Public's Health

By incorporating public green spaces where they may have been lacking before, having this space for the public will greatly improve mental health. This project will focus on how these spaces will vastly improve people's moods, habits, and everyday lives.

Rachel Kantor

Evaluating the Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder

This presentation will delve into the current methods by which Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is currently being diagnosed and question what the most efficient means might be. Through my global-local engagement with the CDC's program "Learn the Signs, Act Early," I worked towards improving early identification of developmental disabilities in the state of Massachusetts.

Throughout this experience, I questioned whether the CDC's recommendations/processes were truly the most effective strategies for early diagnosis. This process led me to my animating question: What is the most efficient way to diagnose ASD?

Quinn Kilmartin

Understanding Reproductive Justice in a Post-Roe World

The purpose of my presentation is to analyze how the narrative surrounding reproductive healthcare has evolved since the decision in Roe V. Wade was passed down in 1973. I will discuss how priorities in reproductive healthcare advocacy movements have shifted from access to healthcare, to obtaining legal rights, to the current framework of reproductive justice. I will discuss what reproductive justice means in the current social, legislative, and judicial contexts and how it is tied to racial and gender justice. I will discuss the future of Roe V. Wade and analyze the current reproductive justice landscape in America.

Kaaren Liston

How Can We Create a More Inclusive Healthcare System?

This presentation discusses creating a more inclusive healthcare system for those who have physical and mental disabilities. After completing my GLE, I realized that helping those with disabilities receive equitable care is a topic that needs to be addressed. Since developing my question, "How can communities provide a more inclusive healthcare system for individuals with existing physical or intellectual disabilities?", I have taken classes that have guided me to hypothesize a way we can combat this public health issue. We should provide education to providers to teach them that they have inherent bias and advocate for those with disabilities.

Marissa Moreno

Addressing Disparities in Access to Mental Healthcare for Latino Youth

The topic that I want to address through my animating question and relevant themes include the prominence of the disparities between access to and the desire to access mental healthcare between hispanic and non-hispanic communities, and why these disparities exist in the first place, and specifically, I want to look at these trends and variables within the hispanic youth

populations. I want to build and expand upon what I already know from this topic from what I have learned from other classes and spread awareness for a topic that I feel very strongly towards.

Suzanna Newton

The Impact of COVID-19 on Black Americans: What's Next?

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Black Americans have seen greater rates of cases, hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19 compared to white Americans. This has been due to the social determinants of health that Black Americans face everyday. These determinants have stemmed from the systemic racism that is still prevalent in our country. In order to prevent this from happening again, health equity must be improved. By addressing the social determinants of health and systemic racism, this country will be able to move towards a more equitable, affordable and accessible healthcare system.

Veronica O'Rourke

Accessibility to Interventions Help Children with Disabilities Gain Access to Future Opportunities

In my presentation I will be discussing the importance of social and behavioral interventions for children with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities. Accessibility to these programs not only benefit children in the short term, but they also enhance future outcomes in regards to their education, health, social life, and their overall development as a future adult. I will also be discussing my global/local engagement this past summer, which incorporates how interventions within school systems can provide opportunities for children with disabilities to receive the necessary services they require to enhance their future opportunities within public health.

India Rivera

A Higher Quality Oral Health Status Should Be Attainable For All

For people with intellectual disabilities, many barriers stand in the way of obtaining a higher quality oral health status. My presentation aims to shed light on some of these barriers. I will relate my research, courses I have taken, as well as my Global Local Engagement to my integrative question, "What impacts the ability to obtain white teeth in our society for a person with intellectual disabilities?" Findings suggest that the oral health status of individuals with intellectual disabilities typically falls below that of the general public. I remain interested in understanding why this is the case.

Emmy Schoepke

How Native Hawaiian beliefs play a role in health practices

Several sources have reported on the past and current COVID-19 epidemic within the Native Hawaiian (NH) population. Data indicates that NH have relatively high hesitancy towards getting vaccinated. Traditional Hawaiian healing practices uphold naturistic values and the clean

mind-body-spirit perspective, so many refuse and distrust western medicine. NH are more likely to have serious health problems in general compared to the average US population correlated with economic status. This report aims to answer the following questions: How do cultural beliefs affect public health practices in Hawaii? What other factors contribute to the poor health of the population?

Emi Schwab

Addressing Disordered Eating in Female Collegiate-Athletes

This presentation will analyze the prevalence of eating disorders and disordered eating behaviors in female collegiate athletes. The stories of public collegiate female athletes, including Victoria Garrick will be shared. Additionally, the women's cross country team at Wesleyan will be highlighted to show the dangers of what happens when coaches and athletic departments do not support their athletes properly. Anonymous testimonials from Conn female student-athletes will also be included, as they share their experiences related to eating and body image, unrealistic beauty expectations, societal pressures to be "skinny" and worries for life outside of sports after graduation.

Brian Speers

LGBT: Let's Give Better Treatment - How Medical Education Impacts LGBTQ+ Health

How can medical education change to reduce disparities for LGBTQ+ patients? Members of the LGBTQ+ community endure high rates of chronic disease, mental health conditions, activity limitations, and poor physical health. The lack of access to quality care within the LGBTQ+ community is partially attributed to the prevalence of micro-aggressions and stigma created by healthcare providers. In order to break down the barriers to quality care, there must be changes in medical education curricula and efforts focused on educating current providers about the unique social determinants of health for members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Finn Tobias

The Effects of Restricted Access to Abortion on Women's Health

The goal of my presentation is to discuss the effects of restricted access to abortion on both women's physical and mental health and how socioeconomic factors play a role in who can or cannot receive a safe, legal abortion. I will look at specific barriers to accessing abortions such as stigmatization, travel-related barriers of logistical, navigation and financial issues, as well as limited and restrictive clinics. I will also discuss the specific consequences of these barriers such as negative mental health (anxiety, depression, suicidality) and physical health (self-induced abortions via unprescribed medications or blunt-force physical trauma).

Anna Warren

Providing Support can Improve Staggering Maternal Health Issues in the US

The US has some of the poorest maternal healthcare of all developed nations. With limited prenatal, labor or postnatal resources available to a lot of the population, the health outcomes of moms and babies are suffering. With the introduction of doulas to help with prenatal education and labor support, the physical and emotional benefits can be seen postnatally. With postpartum resources available levels of postpartum depression are decreased and reduces the risk of poor infant health outcomes.

Lovisa Werner

Usage of MindBody Skills for Mental Health and Stress Response During COVID-19

“Never judge a book by its cover.” This is a quote many of us have heard, but I would like to extend this idea to humans since we never know what someone might be going through. This past year has been tremendously abnormal and has taken a big toll on people, which has led to a spike in mental health struggles. In my presentation, I am going to explore the idea of alternative and individualized treatment, using Mind-Body skills, and how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted mental health.

SOCIAL JUSTICE & SUSTAINABILITY - SYMPOSIUM 2021

ABSTRACTS

Logan Bowdish

Heavy Metals, Soil Fungi, and Crop Safety in Urban Community Farms

Urban farming and community gardens initiatives have increased around the United States. Urban agriculture has the potential to increase food security, decrease reliance on industrial agriculture and empower communities to grow their own food. However, heavy metal soil contamination limits urban agriculture. Studies show that Mycorrhizal soil fungi take up heavy metal, but it is unclear if they make it more or less available. Soil Fungi could play a role in producing safe crops on contaminated soil. This study analyzes how these findings could enhance agency in reducing hunger, public health, and providing educational opportunities in the New London community.

Mary DiMaggio

How Food Justice Informs Education

Food justice is a passion of mine that I have developed as an educator and CSA participant at a community farm. I've loved connecting to our food system and inspiring kids to do the same. An introductory education class reinforced my interest in education, shifting the focus of my pathway to consider the education component more prominently. Components of food justice which inform meaningful and equitable education include encouraging individuals to investigate and pursue their unique interests, especially through hands-on experiences, recognizing differing positionalities and experiences, and working to meet the needs of each individual student.

Asha Meckel-Sam

Recognizing Disparate Impacts of Climate Change

Climate change is ultimately a racial justice issue. Due to systematic racism, there are inequalities in society. With the increase of larger weather related incidents, as well as the changing climate, marginalized communities face health consequences more disproportionately than those who are more privileged. When looking at climate change, it is important to use an intersectional approach to understand how these communities are impacted specifically, and how different groups and individuals relate to climate change. This presentation will explain the inequality of climate change, and my personal journey recognizing it.

Emily O'Sullivan

Creating Sustainable Immigration Reform Through a Social Justice Lens

The US immigration system, as a result of ongoing inequities and growing inaccessibility, is in dire need of reform. Two internships have shown me multiple perspectives of the immigration process, creating a better understanding of the flaws within the current system. Now, using an

interdisciplinary approach, I will examine how to best create sustainable immigration reform, in a way that is a long-term solution to the social justice inequities that exist within the current system. Within this, my focus will be exploring how to reform the process to expand resources and make it more accessible to communities in need.

Zoe Pellegrino

Access and Excess: Exploring the Social and Environmental Impacts of Food Waste

On a global scale, about 1/3 of all food produced for consumption each year is lost or wasted across the supply chain, intensifying global food insecurity, wasting limited vital resources, and producing excess emissions. The act of wasting food is largely motivated by the proliferation of a capitalist-driven throwaway culture that unconsciously instructs those with food access to take it for granted. As such, increasing education, awareness, and empathy, and implementing solutions to reduce food waste at its sources, is absolutely integral to working towards a more socially equitable and environmentally sound future.

Alexandra Wagner

Impact of Meat-Alternative Foods on Marginalized Communities and the Environment

From the beginning of my journey in the Social Justice and Sustainability Pathway, I knew that I wanted to look critically at my own dietary habits. While the issue with meat production is based on energy consumption - 70% of the energy consumed during meat production is either lost or consumed during animal body growth and development - the issue with plant-based meat alternatives is the financial barrier and perceptions rather than facts. Meat-alternatives have grown as pieces of fad diets for people who hope to connect to the earth but are these products actually doing more harm than good?