

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Margaret Collins

- Major: Anthropology
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Advisers: Agustín Fuentes and Katy Walter Lichon

Classroom Versus Cultural Education: The Impact of English Language on the Educational and Vocational Opportunities in Isla Mujeres, Mexico

My project focuses on Isla Mujeres, Mexico, over a period of six weeks and aims to define and discuss the nuances of cultural and traditional education. Through this analysis, I show how these different approaches can impact English-language acquisition and future vocational opportunities for Isleños. After doing fieldwork previously on Isla Mujeres and noticing the frequency of youths in the workforce, I wondered whether this had any relationship to the quality and necessity of education.

Received funding from the Department of Anthropology to travel to Isla Mujeres, Mexico.

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Emma Cooper

- Major: Biological Sciences
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Adviser: Rahul Oka

Autism Spectrum Disorder in Lao PDR: Determinants of Quality of Life Outcomes Post-Diagnosis

I conducted academic and field research in the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the factors that improve quality of life for families after their child has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. I have always been interested in and engaged with programs concerning intellectual and development disabilities. Additionally, I am interested in how health and disability services contribute to the development of countries, especially countries that have not historically defined or diagnosed disabilities.

Received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies to travel to Lao PDR.

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Kathleen Egan

- Major: Anthropology (Honors)
- Adviser: Vania Smith-Oka

The Diagnostic Journeys of Cluster Headache Sufferers

I analyze the diagnostic journeys of cluster-headache sufferers through a combination of interviews with patients and diagnostic case-study surveys sent to physicians. The themes in my thesis are the association of patient research with diagnostic accuracy, diagnostic delay based on sex differences, and the diagnostic accuracy of physicians through case studies versus real-life patient experiences. After experiencing a long diagnostic delay of cluster headaches myself, I hoped to find out why they are so often misdiagnosed. I presented my thesis this spring in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at the Society for Applied Anthropology meeting.

Received a grant from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program to travel to New Mexico to present her research at a conference.

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Alexa Fedynsky

- Majors: Anthropology, French, and Spanish
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Alison Rice

Expressions of Art after Violence

Looking at Ukraine following the Maidan Revolution and France after the attacks at *Charlie Hebdo* and in November 2015, I am comparing art left behind by survivors. Examining graffiti, slogans, songs, and hashtags, I analyze what trends appear in these artistic expressions following violent conflicts. Growing up Ukrainian-American and studying languages, I wanted to focus on an international topic. I also love examining the intersection of culture and politics.

Conducted research in Paris and Nice, France, with funding from the Nanovic Institute.

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Louise Gallagher

- Majors: Anthropology and Art History
- Advisers: Maurizio Albahari and Elyse Speaks

The Politics of Gender and Identity as Expressed in the Work of Shirin Neshat

My thesis focuses on Shirin Neshat, a contemporary multimedia artist and how she depicts the experience and identity of Muslim women. I analyze her first and last photographic series in order to determine how her conception and representation of Muslim women has evolved over time. I find Neshat's images and subject matter very provocative and engaging, yet somehow confusing, and I wanted to better understand the questions about gender and identity politics she poses in her work.

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Sarah Hennessy

- Major: Anthropology
- Adviser: Eric Haanstad

Trajectory of Marxist Anthropology

My thesis covers the historic development of Marxism in ethnography and broader anthropological analysis. I examine current scholarship at Notre Dame that uses dialectical and historical materialist approaches, along with projections of how and where these types of analyses could be applied with beneficial results. I have had an interest in Marxism for a few years, and more recently, I became invested in its application to ethnography and the unique perspectives it provides. Considering recent global and national developments, it was a pertinent topic to study.

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Moira Horn

- Major: Gender Studies
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Vania Smith-Oka

Los Niños Cuestan Mucho: Maternal Identity and Wellbeing in the Sierra Madre of Chiapas, Mexico

My thesis looks at the impact of social welfare and health care policies on maternal health and identity construction in the Sierra Madre mountain region of Chiapas, Mexico. The narratives of young mothers illuminate the impacts of the body politic of the state, obstetric violence, and gendered constructions of motherhood on individual mothers' identities and wellbeing. During a semester abroad in Puebla, Mexico, I shadowed physicians in obstetrics and gynecology. This ignited my interest in how socially constructed norms of motherhood and womanhood in Mexico manifest in the doctor-patient relationship and the care women receive.

Traveled to Chiapas, Mexico, with funding from the Kellogg Institute and the Gender Studies Program.

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Molly Iott

- Majors: Anthropology and History
- Adviser: Donna Glowacki

Pottery Production at Cowboy Wash Pueblo

I have been working under the guidance of Donna Glowacki on analyses of 800-year-old pottery excavated at Cowboy Wash Pueblo in Colorado. My thesis primarily draws upon the paint and design-element data collected. While working on the project, I became fascinated by the intricate artwork on the pottery, and I was inspired to explore it further.

Received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts and the Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement to travel to Vancouver, Canada, to present research at the Society of American Archeology annual meeting.

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Annie Kuse

- Majors: Anthropology and Political Science
- Adviser: Eric Haanstad

Political Engagement and Identity in Morocco

My thesis explores the changing political and social identities in Morocco after the adoption of a new constitution in 2011, with particular emphasis on the monarchy, public perception of politics, and the competing value systems visible in everyday life. Morocco is an amazing and complex place, and living and learning there was one of the best things I've ever done. Because Morocco is a Muslim-majority country that is moving toward democracy, this topic also has broader global implications, particularly in today's international order.

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Hannah Legatzke

- Majors: Anthropology and Environmental Sciences
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Lee Gettler

Language Preference and Physiological Effects of Language Anxiety in Spanish/English Bilingual Family Conversations

My thesis examines whether individuals in Spanish-English bilingual families have different language preferences. I look at whether language anxiety, as a potential psycho-social stressor, causes increases in cortisol levels during conversations between family members in both languages. I have been involved with a club on campus that teaches English to adults in South Bend. Working with English language learners made me curious about how language preferences affect family communication. Working with Professor Gettler on projects examining family interactions and their impact on health made me eager to address this question from a biological, socio-cultural, and linguistic anthropological standpoint.

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Gabriela Leskur

- Major: Design
- Concentration in Visual Communication Design
- Minor: Anthropology
- Adviser: Neeta Verma

Invisible Pain from Chronic Medical Conditions

About 96% of individuals with chronic medical conditions show no outward sign of their affliction. My project brings the pain of invisible illness to light through three performance art pieces. Through physical enactments of what invisible pain feels like, the external appearance of normalcy is shattered. I have experienced firsthand the stigma of having an invisible medical condition. Further, I have seen those with lupus and diabetes have their pain questioned. My goal is to help legitimize the suffering of those with invisible conditions and to raise awareness.

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Maya Lewis

- Majors: Anthropology and Music (Theory and History)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Susan Blum

Mushrooms, Seaweed, Abalone, and Elderberry: Foraging in the Four Kingdoms

My thesis explores the practice of gathering wild products from nature in the San Francisco Bay Area. I seek to determine why people forage even when it is not necessary for survival, and what impact foraging has on them, especially how foraging affects human-environment relationships and attitudes. I am interested in various ways that people interact with nature, especially in a society that is relatively disconnected from it.

Traveled to the San Francisco Bay Area with funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.

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Samuel Lucas

- Major: Science
Preprofessional Studies
- Minor: Anthropology
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Jaimie Bleck

Villager Status and Public Goods Access in Rural Southern Malawi

I analyze villagers' access to public goods and services, particularly health services, in the rural southern regions of Malawi, based on their status in local government, as well as their gender, religion, and other factors. I am interested in how access to public health services is mediated by the social behaviors of its recipients, as opposed to the practices of its providers.

Traveled to Zomba, Malawi, with a grant from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

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Gabrielle Marzke

- Major: Gender Studies
- Advisers: Vania Smith-Oka and Connie Snyder Mick

Rhetorics of Motherhood and Reproduction in the Context of Indiana Social Services

My research explores the relationship between welfare policy and perceptions of female welfare recipients' maternity and fertility. I seek to deconstruct the rhetoric of Indiana's Family and Social Services Agency and its affiliates and to situate it in the larger context of welfare discourse. In doing so, I demonstrate the ways in which the state's institutional language surrounding motherhood and reproduction reflects and departs from political rhetoric and public opinion. My passion for reproductive justice informed my decision to pursue this project, and I believe my home state of Indiana makes a fascinating case study.

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Eva Niklinska

- Major: Biological Sciences
- Minor: Anthropology
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Lee Gettler

A Biocultural Analysis of Talent, Competitive Dynamics, and Social Hierarchy on a University Fencing Team

Interactions between sports team members contribute to a perceived hierarchy based on talent and team involvement. The dynamics and the accompanying psychobiology have been explored in team sports, but less so in an individual sport with a mixed-gender team such as collegiate fencing. I evaluated team hierarchy and dynamics in fencing through ethnographic interviews, as well as the impact on physiological response and competition through salivary data. For my thesis, I wanted to combine my greatest passions — fencing, biology, and anthropology. The project developed my skills as a researcher and allowed me to leave a lasting impact on the Notre Dame fencing program.

Received an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program grant for her research.

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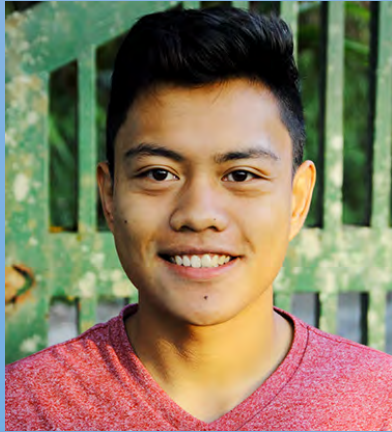
Ijeoma Ogbogu

- Major: Anthropology
- Adviser: Alex Chávez

African-American Humor and Digital Folklore

My thesis explores a dimension of African-American social humor that through digital space and the historical process of “blackness” creates a realm of ambiguity, discontinuity, and camaraderie within the virtual world. I touch on topics such as slavery, police violence, and systematic and prison oppression. I was curious about the ramifications of social media such as Black Twitter and Instagram, especially among African-Americans at Notre Dame. I was also curious about the rise of internet activism, such as #BlackLivesMatter.

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**Ricardo Daniel
Pagulayan**

- Majors: Anthropology and Arabic
- Adviser: Eric Haanstad

Exploring Philippine Indigeneity: Examining the Role of “Indigenous” Cultural Memories on Itawis Ethno-Linguistic Identity

The Philippine government considers the Itawis of Northern Luzon, Philippines, to be indigenous peoples. But my findings suggest that the Itawis do not see themselves as such. I seek to understand how the Itawis conceive of themselves in Filipino society, and how this relates to the broader, national definition of indigeneity and “Filipino-ness.” Filipino society is composed of more than 170 ethno-linguistic groups, some of which are considered minority or indigenous. Coming from one of the smaller ethno-linguistic groups myself, I wanted to explore the cultural systems that created the divide between “mainstream” and “indigene.”

Received funding from the Department of Anthropology to travel to the Philippines.

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Elizabeth Pagura

- Majors: Anthropology and Spanish
- Adviser: Karen Richman

Latino Immigrants and Developmental Disability in the Michiana Area

My thesis is an anthropological and cultural analysis of how disability affects family units and how individuals with disabilities interact with their caregivers. Research shows that disabled individuals usually have a higher quality of life if they are at home with family and integrated in a social network. My aim is to explore the family and social dynamic in the Latino immigrant population of Michiana. While this population is doubly marginalized by linguistic/cultural barriers and lack of disability services, I also want to demonstrate the advantages Latino immigrant families have when navigating life with developmental disabilities.

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Molly Stewart

- Major: English
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Minor: Anthropology
- Adviser: Johannes Göransson

#YOLO: A Study of Internet Poets Tao Lin and Steve Roggenbuck

I examine the way internet culture and poetry merge in the work of Tao Lin and Steve Roggenbuck. I argue that their work, while located within the tradition of carpe diem poetry, is transformed by the social media persona and the invisible nature of digital mediation. I was inspired to study these poets because they've been excluded from contemporary scholarly criticism — except when their work has been dismissed as “not real poetry” or “bad poetry.” I am fascinated by the internet as a growing source of literary and cultural production.