



ARTS AND LETTERS



# 2019

## SENIOR THESIS PROJECTS

Study everything. Do anything.<sup>SM</sup>

**Rachel Fisher**

- Major: Anthropology
- Minor: Studio Art
- Adviser: Eric Haanstad

***Alternate American Girls***

The American Girl Company creates doll characters that appeal to the wealthy mother of young girls, making all the historical doll characters revolve around materialism, privilege, and simple models of girlhood. In this project, I strive to create my own doll characters that challenge the traditional mold of American Girl dolls by exploring alternate interpretations of patriotism, girlhood, diversity, and quality of life. I am a doll collector and have always enjoyed creating stories and scenery for my dolls. As an adult, I started to become frustrated with the company's lack of representation in their products and wanted to use my studio art background to explore possibilities in expanding the narratives told through a doll.

***Received funding from the Department of Anthropology.***

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**Grace Garvey**

- Major: Anthropology
- Minors: Peace Studies and Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisers: Korey Garibaldi and Eric Haanstad

***Midtown Global Market as a Microcosm of Immigrant Integration in Minnesota***

My thesis examines the Midtown Global Market, a vibrant, multicultural, indoor public market as a space of integration in Minneapolis. I examine the history of immigration to Minnesota and previous integration attempts in the state, and I connect the shift in post-1990s immigration to Minnesota with this broader context. The Midtown Global Market is representative of this shift and attempts at integration. I chose this topic because I grew up working in the neighborhoods where the market was located, and I always noticed there was something important happening in this space. I am very interested in integration and the connections between community, policy, and lived experience, and I hope to work with immigrants in Minnesota in my career.

***Traveled to Minneapolis, Minnesota, with funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.***

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**Alexis Green**

- Major: Anthropology
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Minor: Poverty Studies
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Heidi Beidinger

***A Phenomenological Study of Women's Experiences of Fetal and Infant Mortality in St. Joseph County, Indiana***

My poverty studies capstone project involved interviewing 10 women about their personal fetal or infant loss in an effort to better understand the factors that impact how women experience such loss. The purpose of my project was to humanize the quantitative data surrounding fetal and infant mortality by examining themes in women's experiences of the common phenomenon. There is a lack of focus on fetal and infant mortality research and intervention on women's lives leading up to and following their loss. Ultimately, I hope that this narrative approach will help health care professionals better understand their patients who experience fetal or infant loss and guide policy toward a more robust concern for mothers.

***Received funding from the Eck Institute for Global Health.***

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**Sarah Leonard**

- Majors: Anthropology and Sociology
- Adviser: Susan Blum

***Collegiate Embodiment, Identity, Culture, and Practice***

I investigated and analyzed Notre Dame students' identity construction, typical behavior, and everyday choices with anthropological methods — including ethnography, interviews, and a survey — and a multifaceted theoretical framework. The purpose of my project was to try to understand how individuals embody the collegiate identity and navigate the complex and sometimes disparate expectations associated with this social category. I chose this topic because I'm particularly interested in social and cultural anthropology, identity construction, intersectionality, and gender and embodiment theory. I also think college students constitute a rather anomalous social demographic and merit more research regarding their wellbeing.

**Julia Mackessy**

- Major: Anthropology
- Adviser: Eric Haanstad

***The Benefit of Doula-Supported Labor in the U.S.***

I conducted a literature review of the benefit of doula-supported labor in the U.S. The use of a doula has been proven to be instrumental in better birth outcomes and fewer medical interventions during labor and birth. I chose this topic because I aspire to be a midwife, and I am currently working to become certified as a labor doula through DONA International. I am also passionate about mothers and babies and want to work towards safer birth experiences in the United States.



## **Cristian Magdaleno**

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Anthropology
- Adviser: Eric Haanstad

## ***Minimalist Consumerism***

My thesis explores the growth and development of minimalism in mainstream production and whether the rise in minimalism is the result of millennial preferences towards product selection. I chose this topic because I am fascinated with material and consumer cultures, especially among young people, and I wanted to understand why people choose their products, beyond mere marketing tactics.



### **Sarah Seaberg**

- Major: Anthropology
- Minor: Sustainability
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Ian Kuijt

### ***The Development of a Culture of Sustainability in Connemara***

My thesis investigates the development of sustainable environmental practices in western Connemara, Ireland, through local engagement with the landscape as part of the region's culture. The role of a "sustainable culture" in this region is informed by the historical relationship with the land. I analyze the processes through which the landscape has become a symbol of Connemara and demonstrate that contemporary sustainable development benefits from an interdependent relationship with local culture. I developed this thesis due to my dual interests in environmental and cultural studies. This project allowed me to further develop my understanding of the relationships between societies and their environment.

***Traveled to Connemara, Ireland, with funding from the Nanovic Institute for European Studies and the Sustainability Program.***



**Erin Vaughan**

- Major: Psychology
- Minor: Anthropology
- Adviser: Kristin Valentino

***Maternal Sensitivity, Race, and Effects on Child Internalizing and Externalizing Behaviors: A Moderation Study***

Maternal sensitivity refers to a mother's ability to respond appropriately to her child's signals and her acceptance of the child's autonomy. My project investigates maternal sensitivity and its outcomes in a diverse, high-risk sample, particularly how its connection with child internalizing and externalizing behaviors differs between African-American and Caucasian families. Through years of experience in Kristin Valentino's lab, I have studied the concept of maternal sensitivity and wished to investigate some of the established outcomes of this protective influence. I am particularly interested in how culture and race can influence the effects of parenting, as the same patterns are not always evident in all families.

***Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.***

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