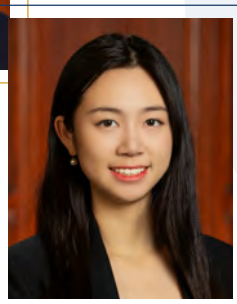
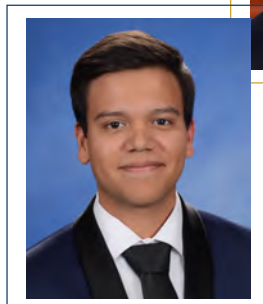
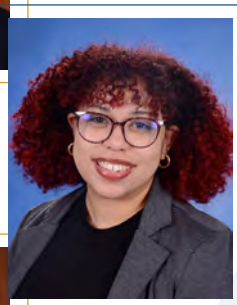
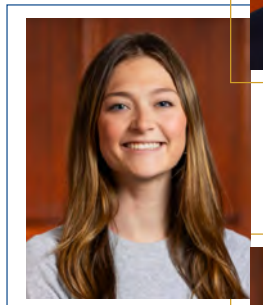
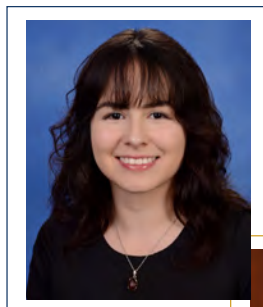




UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

ARTS & LETTERS



2025

SENIOR THESIS PROJECTS

Study everything. Do anything.SM

**Sophia Buonavolonta**

Hometown: Mendham, New Jersey

- Majors: English, Spanish, and Anthropology
- Advisor: Christopher Ball

A Sign of Solidarity: An Examination of the Role of Language Ideologies and Indexicality on the Construction of Chilean Identity

This paper explores the language ideologies, or the common-sense ideas people have about language, that Chileans hold about el chileno, their distinct variant of Spanish. It is a widespread idea among Chileans that el chileno is “bad” or “improper.” At the same time, they are proud of their variant, as it is unique and acts as a sign of trust among those who speak it. I use semiotics and interview data I collected while abroad in Santiago to analyze the role that ideology and indexicality play in the creation of a Chilean identity.



**Charlotte Cardarella**

Hometown: Ladera Ranch, California

- Majors: Arabic and Anthropology
- Advisor: Mark Schurr

Beneath the Shell: Climate Reconstruction of the Little Ice Age at Middle Grant Creek and Collier Lodge

The Little Ice Age is defined as a time between the 15th and 19th centuries when global temperatures were lower than the modern global average. The impact this period had on the Midwest's climate can be analyzed through stable oxygen and carbon isotope ratios from freshwater mussel shells such as *Actinonaias ligamentina*. These reconstructions are beneficial to finding temperature and precipitation records within a specific geographical location. This project uses evidence from shell isotope proxies to reconstruct climates from Middle Grant Creek and Collier Lodge in order to explore the seasonality of shell harvesting with regard to climate change.



**Lilyann Gardner**

Hometown: St. Joseph, Missouri

- Major: Film, Television, and Theatre
- Minors: Anthropology and Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
- Advisors: William Donaruma and Ian Kuijt

Following Fionn

Following Fionn is a short documentary centered on the preservation of folklore and the maintenance of historical sites within Celtic nations. Utilizing the legend of Fionn mac Cumhaill as a guide, this film examines the physical and cultural connections between the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland and Fingal's Cave on Staffa, an island within Scotland's Inner Hebrides. Patterns of migration, transmission of oral history, and acts of conservation are highlighted to demonstrate how the past creates the rich cultural landscapes of today.



**Jacob Harris**

Hometown: Murfreesboro, Tennessee

- Major: Anthropology
(Concentration in Biomedical Anthropology)
- Minor: Health, Humanities, and Society
- Advisor: Aidan Seale-Feldman

States of Crisis: Possibilities of Work and Care in the American Mental Health Crisis

In recent years, perceptions of an American mental health crisis have grown significantly. This crisis affects Americans not as a collective whole but through the particularized and individual experience of being in crisis. In what ways can crisis be responded to? How does crisis shift between personal experience and collective event? Through ethnographic fieldwork in a mental health crisis center, I trace how crisis is mobilized to allow certain forms of care even as staff struggle to fully resolve crises. Ultimately, I argue that staff find ways to hold crisis when possible resolutions are otherwise foreclosed.



**Madeleine Kohl**

Hometown: Nashville, Tennessee

- Majors: Theology and Anthropology
- Advisor: Meredith Chesson

Dead Sea Tea Party: An Analysis of Variation in Early Bronze Age IV Mortuary Practices in Bâb adh-Dhra ` , Jordan

My project explores mortuary practices in the Early Bronze Age IV (EB IV; 2400–2000 BCE) cemetery at Bâb adh-Dhra ` , Jordan, through the analysis of legacy collections from 1970s excavations. We analyzed tombs at Bâb adh-Dhra ` to examine variation in how EB IV people treated their dead. The expansive collection of grave goods offers EBA researchers the opportunity to further understand mortuary practices and compare them to other EB IV cemeteries in the region. We argue that the range of practices, particularly the presence and absence of teapots and lamps, indicates participation in rituals that preserve a sense of community and personhood.



**Chiara Lorico-Rappa**

Hometown: Las Vegas, Nevada

- Majors: Psychology and Anthropology
- Minor: Sociology
- Advisor: Susan Blum

Educational Paths in Higher Education: Influences and Choices

I interviewed adults to analyze the major factors that influence one's academic path.



Study everything. Do anything.™

**Gráinne Malone**

Hometown: Coolfin, Banagher, Co.
Offaly Ireland

- Major: Anthropology
- Minors: Peace Studies and Civil and Human Rights
- Advisor: Eric Haanstad

The Paradox of the University of Notre Dame's Catholic Social Teaching Mission and Investment Practices

As a leading Catholic institution, the University Notre Dame is deeply committed to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) both within academia and the broader global community. However, a stark paradox lies between this rhetoric of justice and faith and Notre Dame's investments in industries like fossil fuels, private prisons, and military contractors. This thesis examines this moral tension, exploring how Notre Dame's investments contradict the University's CST values and undermine its mission to be a force for good in the world, and proposes an action plan to begin divestment from morally compromising industries.



**Alyssa Miulli**

Hometown: West Chicago, Illinois

- Majors: History and Anthropology
- Advisor: Emiliano Aguilar

Cases and Conversations of Jasper, Indiana: The Role of Heritage and Living Memory in Midwestern Identity Formation

This paper explores the relationship between European immigration and its lasting effects on the cultural makeup of the American Midwest. Despite historical narratives of erasure and decline, the town of Jasper, Indiana, serves as a contemporary testament to the role of cultural heritage in placemaking. The unique balance of rural isolation, economic opportunity, and generational investment created a successful framework for Jasper to thrive in the modern age. As a case study, Jasper offers valuable insight into the role of culture in the foundations of small town America.



**Ellie Sullivan**

Hometown: Redondo Beach,
California

- Majors: Chinese and Anthropology
- Advisor: Eric Haanstad

Coffee Culture and the City: A Comparative Study of Dublin and Los Angeles

Drawing on interviews conducted with baristas and cafe customers as well as personal experience methods, this study explores how coffee culture is caught up in webs of meaning in Dublin and Los Angeles. Despite their different histories, geographies, and demographics, this study finds that in both cities, coffee's meaning and usage oscillate between a series of binaries, which include speeding up and slowing down, globalization and localization, exportation and exploitation, inclusion and exclusion, and the individual and the social. Analysis of these binaries and comparison with other cities reveal coffee culture's role in creating meaning and identity.



**Margaret Winter**

Hometown: Chesapeake, Virginia

- Major: Anthropology
- Minor: Data Science
- Advisor: Donna Glowacki

Understanding Paints and Slips of Coyote Village PII Pottery through Micro-XRF and PAM Clustering Analysis

This analysis builds on the Coyote Village Pottery Project, which aims to document the extensive pottery assemblage from Coyote Village (5MV820). Five sherds each of the Kiatuthlanna, Red Mesa, Dogoszhi, and Sosi styles were selected from both Kiva D and Room #23 (n=40). Their elemental compositions were determined through micro-XRF analysis. Partitioning Around Medoids clustering identified four compositional groups within the paint samples and two within the slip samples, along with several outliers. These findings contribute to the understanding of Coyote Village's social and economic patterns and underscore the importance of design types in Southwestern ceramic analysis.

