



# AZ Undergrad History Research Symposium 2026

**"Prospecting the Past"**

## **Panel Presentations**

Saturday, April 25th  
9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
UA Libraries, 2nd floor  
(CATalyst Studios)

### **Panels Include:**

- Their Eyes Were Watching God: Race, Gender, and Religion in the Harlem Renaissance
- Legacy, Remembrance, and Historical Amnesia: History of Memory from Early Modern England to 20th Century Guatemala
- Notes from the Past: Counterculture, Race, and Identity in the U.S. through Music History
- *Did Somebody Call for a Doctor?:* Histories of Medicine, Pestilence, and (Mis?)treatment
- Confronting Jim Crow: Civil Rights, Racial and Environmental Justice in the United States
- Well Behaved Women Seldom Make History: Cultural Histories of Gender in the 20th Century
- The Game is Afoot: Medieval Maker Projects

*...and more!*



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

History

## AZ Undergrad History Research Symposium

### “Prospecting the Past”

April 24-25, 2026

University of Arizona

## SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

### Friday, April 24

*Location: Bear Down Gymnasium*

*Participants/Invited Attendees Only*

5:00-6:30 PM: **Keynote Dinner**

"Taking it to the Streets: History in Unexpected Places"

**Speaker: Dr. Cherstin Lyon**, Professor of History and Honors College Director at Southern Oregon University

7:00-9:00 PM: **Game Night!**

### Saturday, April 25

*Location: Main Library, 2nd Floor*

*Open to the Public*

8:30-9:00 AM: **Breakfast**

**9:00-10:30 AM: Session 1**

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1. **Mediterranean Worlds: Material Culture, Memory, and Oration from the Classical Period to Late Antiquity**

*Room B250*

"Illuminating Influence"

**Caroline Keller**, Anthropology and History

The Elymians founded Segesta during the 6th century BCE. Later, the city came under Greek and Roman influence, then during the Medieval period, Islamic and Norman influence. Segesta had close ties to the Greek world and lots of monumental Greek architecture. It also frequently traded with Carthage and Rome. After the Roman Empire fell, Islamic influence took hold, peaking with the construction of the city's 12th century mosque. A century of excavations at Segesta uncovered material culture dating to these periods. Today, Dr. Robert Schon and Dr. Emma Blake direct the Arizona Sicily Project's excavation in Segesta's residential district. Archaeological remains from the excavation illuminate interactions between the people of Segesta and these cultures. My work focuses on a set of ceramic oil lamps recovered by the project. This study examines how the lamps reflect the adoption of outside cultures by the people

of Segesta into their daily lives. These lamps could be used as a proxy to measure connectivity between the people of Segesta and Greek, Roman, and Muslim cultures. Lamps vary in decoration and form, depending on the time and location of their construction. In addition to periodic style changes, lamp frequency in the assemblages varies by period.

"A Cultural History of Death and Dying: Ancient Roman Death Masks Versus 19th Century European Post-Mortem Photography"

**Hannah Redman**, History

Death is a topic that has always existed, intertwining permanently within society and the culture it creates. Throughout this project, I would like to explore how death and memory were expressed in ancient Roman society through the use of death masks, compared to nineteenth-century European post-mortem photography. By looking at these two markedly different moments in time, I would like to explore how memory shapes, as well as is shaped by, societal attitudes toward death. Practices surrounding death, such as visual representations and commemorative objects, are integral to how societies remember both individuals and shared values. In ancient Rome, death was highly visible through practices such as the creation and display of death masks, which preserved the likeness of the deceased and reinforced ideas of lineage and ancestry. These practices served to connect the living with the past and to emphasize continuity within elite Roman families. In comparison, nineteenth-century European society engaged with death through post-mortem photography, a practice that both documented loss and shaped how the dead were remembered within the private sphere. This key difference emphasizes how memory is culturally constructed and varies between societies and eras, particularly in how death is made visible, mediated, or preserved.

"Greek Oratory: The Nature of Legal Defense Speeches in Classical Athens"

**Zane Reif**, History

"Greek Oratory: The Nature of Legal Defense Speeches in Classical Athens" examines the corpus of apologia, or ancient Greek legal defense speeches, that have survived from Classical Athens. These speeches primarily include the works of the "ten Attic orators," chiefly those of Demosthenes and Lysias, as well as the Apology of Socrates as written by Plato and Xenophon.

This project first seeks to establish the nature of a typical Athenian apologia by analyzing various tactics that were featured prominently across numerous defense speeches. It then evaluates how the defendant's identity and status influenced their priorities and strategies in persuading the jury. It analyzes how the defense speeches of average Athenian citizens compare to the defenses of more prominent individuals, such as Socrates in "The Apology" and Demosthenes in "On the Crown." This research argues that while certain strategies appear to have been commonplace for both groups of people, we can see a clear discrepancy in how high-ranking individuals wished to portray and defend themselves when compared to the average citizen.

**Chair: Dr. John Bauschatz**

## **2. Their Eyes Were Watching God: Race, Gender, and Religion in the Harlem Renaissance** *Room B252*

"*Passing*: The Burdensome Weight of Societal Expectations"

**Lauren Anderson**, History

Set in Harlem, New York, Nella Larsen's *Passing* is shaped and formed by the flourishing of African American culture in the area. The events of the Harlem Renaissance provided various opportunities for African Americans through music, art, and literature, and built African American pride and culture through the New Negro movement. However, even hundreds of miles away from the strict enforcement of Jim Crow laws upheld in the South, racial tensions mounted in Harlem for Irene Redfield and Clare Kendry. Fueled by the need to escape her social conformity, Clare Kendry abandons her culture and authentic identity and "passes" as White to fulfill her dreams, but now must resolve the physiologically taxing nature of balancing her secret past life. Unable to part with her new fragile racial identity as a White woman for fear of being harshly punished or even killed if discovered, Clare must manage her longing for Irene's comfortable life based in the heart of the Harlem Renaissance, something that Clare can no longer return to because of her choice to pass. Conversely, Irene becomes unhealthily obsessed with the idea of Clare's passing and jealous of her reckless freedom, revealing cracks in her own fragile racial identity. Instead of the Harlem Renaissance bringing cultural revival and unity to Irene and Clare, it only alienated them from one another as a result of underlying racial tensions.

"Searching Amongst the Shards"

**Carly Kaplan**, Philosophy, Politics, Economics, and Law

This paper examines the reconstruction of Black female identity through loss, as depicted in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *Passing*, and *Beloved*, viewing these narratives through the cultural and intellectual lens of the Harlem Renaissance.

While Toni Morrison writes beyond the movement, her work extends its central concern: reclaiming Black identity from histories of enslavement and racial oppression. Through Janie Crawford, Clare Kendry, and Sethe, identity emerges not through an organic reflection, but through the imposed roles that women were restricted to. Wife, mother, racial construct—the only identities black women could have.

Drawing on the Harlem Renaissance's emphasis on self-definition, Zora Neale Hurston and Nella Larsen, authors of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *Passing*, respectively, challenge dominant narratives of Black womanhood. Janie's autonomy reflects the movement's celebration of individual voice, while Clare's instability reveals the psychological cost of racial passing. Sethe embodies the enduring trauma the movement sought to reinterpret.

Ultimately, each woman must "shatter" her reflection to claim an authentic self, echoing the Harlem Renaissance's project of redefining Black identity.

"Racial Identity during the Harlem Renaissance, the Artists' Perspective"

**Katherine Sundman**, Physiology

The 1920s Harlem Renaissance was a time of revival for African American art and the struggle to define a cultural identity. This can be seen in the contemporaneous art of Zora Neale Hurston, and Countee Cullen. Much of their work seems to stand in diametric opposition. There's a profound weight in Cullen's work, a portrayal of the pain of discrimination and othering. His poetry puts words to the pain of grappling with identity. It explores a societally inflicted sense of racial shame, expresses frustration at living in a racist reality, and appeals to a God he hopes is sympathetic. Meanwhile Hurston's work has a perspective rooted in the rejection of the tortured

view of race expected by African Americans during the Harlem Renaissance. Side by side, Hurston's and Cullen's work display the complexity of self-perception and identity through childhood, societal influence, and belief systems. This paper explores the conflicting ideas of what it meant to be black and American during the Harlem Renaissance as expressed in the art of Cullen and Hurston.

**Chair: Dr. Patrick Baliani**

### **3. Performing Gender in East Asia: An Exploration through Literature, Film, and Law**

*Room B254*

"Non-Normative Gaze in The Tale of Genji"

**Claire De Leon**

The Tale of Genji lets us question our expectations of normative gender and sexuality in the text's representation of the Heian court. By examining both direct voyeurism and, by extension, non-visual forms of "looking" at other characters, such as through dreams, I will illustrate how The Tale of Genji complicates its expected depictions of gender and sexuality especially among female characters in terms of relationships between characters. These complications of gender and sexuality include the aggressiveness of feminine figures in the Yūgao chapter, as well as the homoerotic gaze and special access granted to ladies-in-waiting in the "Bloom Tree" chapter.

"Language, Power and Gender: The Enduring Influence of History on Chinese Feminist Scholarship"

**Joseph Heiman**

This paper examines the historical development of gender constructs in China from their Confucian origins through the early decades of Chinese Communist Party rule. While the CCP portrayed the 1949 revolution as the decisive liberation of women from a deeply oppressive past, this study argues that such claims obscure a more complex historical reality. Confucian doctrines established rigid gender hierarchies that relegated women to subordinate roles. Yet, the social and environmental crises of the late Qing and Republican periods thrust many rural women into new economic and social responsibilities, increasing their mobility and participation in society.

Drawing on Confucian texts, Republican-era intellectual writings, oral histories of rural women and modern historical scholarship, this paper demonstrates that women's roles were repeatedly reshaped by necessity, ideology, and state priorities as opposed to a sustained commitment to gender equality by the state. Although the CCP introduced gender-equality reforms, such as the 1950 Marriage Law, and mobilized women into collective labor, these policies often reproduced and reinforced existing patriarchal assumptions. By situating Communist-era reforms within China's historical trajectory, this study challenges the narrative of revolutionary liberation and highlights the enduring influence of gender frameworks on Chinese feminist discourse.

"The 'Performative Feminine' in Modern and Contemporary Japan"

**Christopher Ketterer**

This project serves as a graduate-level alternative to one of my current course's final project research options. It serves as a "hypothetical" history course where I research and create a

syllabus to which I would instruct towards a "hypothetical" undergraduate student body the ethnographic perspectives in studying gender performativity (specifically feminine) in modern to present day Japan. The objective is to formulate a theoretical understanding in both gender performance and gender identity as it emerges around the socio-cultural, -economic, and -political spheres within a first world emerging/existent society. And, to formulate a critical understanding in bridging visual/performed art between visual/performed femininity. My argument for this project is: The "Performative Feminine" emerges around external factors of anxieties and traumas, and in "performing" the feminine aesthetics surveyed, stability is achieved as an effort to reduce the prominence of the aforementioned externally-pressured anxieties or trauma.

"Costume, Colonization, and the Complexity of Korean Identity in the Film *Assassination*"

**Sidra Tanriover**

In colonial Korea, clothing functioned as both a marker of social identity and a site where tensions among modernity, colonial power, and gender were visibly expressed. This paper examines how costume operates as a visual language of identity in Choi Dong-hoon's film "Assassination" (2015), set in 1930s colonial Korea. Although the film centers on political resistance against Japanese rule, its use of clothing provides a lens for understanding the social and cultural tensions of the period. Focusing on the costume switch between twin sisters Ahn Okyun, a sniper in the Korean Independence Army, and Mitsuko, a Westernized "Modern Girl" raised within colonial elite society, this paper argues that their transformation of dress reflects the fluid and unstable nature of Korean identity under colonial rule. By examining ideas from scholarship on cultural hegemony, colonial modernity, and gendered modernity, the analysis demonstrates how clothing carried layered political meanings, as Western attire came to signify modernity, colonial influence, and social status, as well as how gender shaped the ways in which modernity was experienced and represented. Ultimately, the costume switch between the sisters reveals how Korean colonial identity was not fixed, but continually reshaped by overlapping political and gendered pressures expressed through dress.

**Chair: Dr. Joshua Schlachet**

## 10:45 AM-12:15 PM: Session 2

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### 1. Rogue Actors on the World Stage: Human Rights, Conflict, and Diplomacy in the 20th and 21st Centuries

*Room B201*

"The New Normal: An Analysis of Canada and the United States' Relationship Post-September 11"

**Oscar Chou**, International Relations

Canada has historically framed its immigration system as a pillar of multiculturalism and humanitarianism. However, the aftermath of September 11, 2001, marked a significant shift toward security-driven governance increasingly shaped by United States priorities. Expanded vetting procedures and intensified intelligence-sharing agreements illustrate how American security concerns influenced Canadian policy, not as simple compliance, but as strategic adaptation within structural constraints that narrowed Canada's realistic range of choices. Before

9/11, immigration and refugee policy in Canada was largely understood through social, economic, and ethical lenses rather than through the framework of national security. My research argues that Canada's post-9/11 policy shifts reflected calculated decision-making within an asymmetric relationship in which economic stability and diplomatic trust remain closely tied to American perceptions of Canadian security. By examining legislative reforms, institutional cooperation such as the Preclearance Act 2016, and evolving political discourse, this study demonstrates how immigration governance became embedded within a broader continental security framework. Situating recent political tensions within this historical trajectory reveals that questions of sovereignty, dependence, and strategic alignment have consistently structured Canada–United States relations, highlighting the practical limits within which sovereignty operates in unequal international partnerships.

"Image over Influence: Cultural Diplomacy and Unintended Consequences in U.S. Cold War Policy through David Nalle"

**Juan Giron**, Philosophy, Politics, Economics, and Law

This presentation examines the contradictions of American Cold War diplomacy in the Middle East through the career of U.S. Information Agency Official, David Nalle. In the post World War II era, the United States sought to expand its influence in the region while presenting itself as an anti-imperial alternative to European powers. Nalle's work in the Middle East illustrates how this strategy operated on the ground through cultural diplomacy and educational exchange.

Focusing on Nalle's leadership of U.S. programs, this project argues that American efforts to promote ideals of freedom often produced unintended consequences. Programs designed to generate pro-American sentiment instead created spaces for student dissent and criticism of U.S.-backed regimes, exposing tensions between American rhetoric and political realities. Nalle's unorthodox approach illustrates both his effectiveness but also these broader diplomatic contradictions.

Situating Nalle within broader Cold War strategy, this study draws on Henry Kissinger's analysis of divisions between the United States and its European allies during the Suez Crisis to argue that the U.S. emphasis on ideological image negatively affected both everyday diplomatic practice and high-level policy. Ultimately, Nalle's career reveals how this emphasis hindered the effectiveness of the United States' Cold War objectives in the Middle East.

"From Langley to Leopoldville: The United States Role in the Assassination of Lumumba"

**Jacob Piroosko**, History & Global Studies

My project presents my undergraduate honors thesis examining U.S. involvement in the assassination of Patrice Lumumba during the "Congo Crisis" of the early 1960s. It draws primarily on declassified U.S. intelligence documents, including the Foreign Relations of the United States Series, CIA records, and findings from the 1975 Church Committee. My project examines how American policymakers approached Lumumba's removal within the broader scope of Cold War strategy. While I use secondary sources to situate my argument within its historical context, my project is grounded in a close analysis of primary sources to reassess the nature and extent of U.S. responsibility.

My thesis argues that U.S. primary sources reveal a deliberate strategy of plausible deniability. While they did not directly carry out Lumumba's assassination, official documents reveal that

covert operations were used, as well as reliance on proxy actors, particularly Belgian authorities and Congolese political rivals. This allowed the United States to influence the outcome of colonial regime change in the Congo, while minimizing the risk of international backlash. I hope to focus on the gap between intent and execution, and look at whether the United States bears direct or indirect responsibility in the assassination of Lumumba.

"Gaza: Promises, Revolution, and Repression"

**Robert Slonaker**, History

My project is a written research paper that investigates the development of the state and security apparatus in Gaza and the both gradual and rapid deterioration that occurred, starting from a point of hope for development in the 20th century, and transforming into the violent and untenable situation that existed even before the present war. My research focuses on a key period in Gaza, the early twenty-first century, where events such as the Second Intifada, legislative elections, and the "Gaza Civil War" left the region in a raw and scarred state and too, blockaded and restricted from the rest of the world. The project also requires me to include both context within the region prior to this period, such as key events, international policies, and the development of political groups, and an analysis of the means in which Gaza has attempted to contend with providing the services of a state while under constant international criticism. The argument of my paper will revolve around the role of international players in Gaza and the knowing incompetence that the region was treated with. Players who never stepped foot in Gaza made decisions that relegated the historic area to a glorified ghetto.

**Chair: Dr. David Gibbs**

## **2. Legacy, Remembrance, and Historical Amnesia: History of Memory from Early Modern England to 20th Century Guatemala**

*Room B250*

"How the Narrative of the Princes In the Tower Has Changed Through History"

**Alexandra Pearl Carpenter**, History

This project examines the disappearance of Edward V and his younger brother, Richard, Duke of York, commonly known as the Princes in the Tower, during the political upheaval of 1483. Rather than trying to determine who was responsible for their fate, this project focuses on how both contemporary and later sources shaped the story of the princes, particularly in relation to power, legitimacy, and memory in late medieval England. The Princes in the Tower are a compelling subject because they sit at the intersection of dynastic politics, the vulnerability of children, and historical uncertainty. This project is interested in how political motives contributed to the way the princes were remembered, rather than treating their fate as a mystery that can be definitively solved. Methodologically, this project draws on a range of primary written sources, including contemporary chronicles and early sixteenth-century historical accounts, alongside visual and material sources. These sources will be considered alongside modern secondary scholarship in order to trace how interpretations of the princes developed over time. Particular attention will be paid to bias, silence, and moral framing in both textual and visual evidence.

"The Life of Sarah Winchester and the Afterlife of Her Crumpled Legacy"

**Isaac Soterwood**, History

In my presentation, I will attempt to refute the current legacy of Sarah Winchester, architect of the Winchester Mystery House in San Jose, California. As a former tour guide of the house, I bring a unique point of view in presenting how the public views Sarah Winchester, especially on what we do incorrectly. Even when our tours present a slightly more realistic version of her life, we are still not presenting the full picture. Instead of her being remembered as an architect, real estate developer and devoted family member, pop culture and false advertisements about the house have portrayed her as a paranoid heiress who left behind a haunted maze when she died. I will argue how Sarah Winchester's legacy was reduced to what it is today, and how she should truly be remembered, using primary source advertisements and newspaper articles from the time the house was being constructed, and secondary source articles and books detailing different ways Sarah Winchester lived her life than what is constantly being presented.

"American-Made Displacement: Transitioning U.S. Migration Policy from Post-9/11 Security to a Focus on Corrective Justice"

**Fabiana Sovero**, Political Science and Pre-Law

Irregular migration from Guatemala is a big and pivotal problem for the United States and the rest of the region. However, most conversations in the United States about this irregular migration refer to it as a new crisis caused by crime, poverty, or corruption, rather than considering it as something that has been building up over time due to US actions in the region. This lack of understanding reveals what scholars call US "historical amnesia," which revolves around "the habit of omitting past actions that have led to today's problems from policy discussions". These ongoing problems lead to the following question I will examine in this paper, which is: How can acknowledging the U.S involvement in Guatemala's 1954 coup lead to more effective migration policies? I believe that today's US migration policy still uses a narrow, post- 9/11 security approach because it does not consider the real reason why Guatemalans leave their country. Recognizing this history is not just a symbolic act; it is a pivotal step toward making policies that consider the causes of migration, respect Guatemala's sovereignty, and provide legal pathways for these migrants.

**Chair: Dr. Susan Crane**

3. **Notes from the Past: Counterculture, Race, and Identity in the U.S. through Music History**  
*Room B252*

"Embracing the Strange: How P-Funk Subverts Social Constraints in Favor of Self-Expression"  
**Claire Alexander**, History

The 1970s was a period of social and political readjustment for American society, and the music reflected that shift. Artists across the Western world during this period were pushing the boundaries of genre and performance to create something new, an embrace of the unexpected or strange. We see this perhaps most clearly in the arrival of the gender-bending, futuristic, and excitingly new sounds of funk and glam-rock. Parliament-Funkadelic, or "P-Funk", a music collective led by George Clinton, was in many ways at the forefront of this innovation of the funk scene. They were known for their tendency to play with gender expression, sexuality, and futurism as a form of escape. I intend to analyze the ways that P-Funk's groovy aesthetic and sound called for a space of free self-expression within the black community, why their aesthetic was such a break from previously existing themes within American music, and how the band was received by black and white audiences at the time, while using the audience reception of white

artists such as David Bowie, who also broke with his community's notions of masculinity, as a point of comparison.

"The Bellville Three & the Inception of Techno"

**Juliana Hakman**, History

This essay brings to light the colorful history of techno, arguing that the electronic genre is a deeply expressive and historically grounded genre born out of the socio-economic decline of post-industrial Detroit. As the city's automotive industry collapsed in the mid-20th century, widespread unemployment, white flight, and systemic neglect created an atmosphere of abandonment, particularly within Black communities. In this context, techno emerged as both a creative outlet and a form of resistance amongst Detroit's youth. Pioneered by Juan Atkins, Derrick May, and Kevin Saunderson---famously known as the Belleville Three---blended influences from European electronic music, funk, soul, and Afro-futurist thought to produce what Atkins termed "alternative soul," or rather techno. Unlike Detroit's musical predecessor, Motown, Techno rejected traditional structures, responding to the desolate nature of Detroit while also envisioning a future that was free from race and oppressive social constraints. Underground party spaces became key places for experimentation and community building where many influential tracks would see their first audience. The earliest techno tracks---Cybotron's "Clear" and Derrick May's "Strings of Life"---exemplified techno's emotional depth and global impact, taking electronic music by storm. This essay examines various structural inequalities while simultaneously positioning techno as a powerful response to these injustices.

"Joe Gump"

**Joseph Morrison**, Political Science

Outlaw country, born from corporate discontent, spurred on the modern country movement. In this examination of the past, the research conducted focuses primarily on the influence black blues artists like Lightnin' Hopkins and Booker White had on influential outlaw singer/songwriters like Townes Van Zandt and Willie Nelson. The topics discussed within outlaw songs like "Rainbow Stew" and Townes Van Zandt's 1969 live performance of "Ira Hayes" displayed the broader class and racial issues outlaw country looked to tackle. The bleed over of folk artists into the outlaw scene is not ignored in this research, with the influence of folk artists like Bob Dylan contributing to a lot of outlaw country's progressivism. Beyond just folk influences, outlaw artists also brought forth their own forms of liberalism (e.g., marijuana legalization, nature preservation, etc.) that expanded outlaw country's "tent". Research uncovered outlaw artists associating with plenty of racially diverse artists as well (e.g., Willie Nelson's duet with Ray Charles in "Seven Spanish Angels"), which deconstructed preconceived notions of outlaw country. Despite outlaw country often being portrayed as a monolithic, conservative outcropping of country music, research reveals outlaw country was multiculturally influenced --and in turn--espoused fundamental elements of progressivism and liberalism.

"Mexican-American Identity and Youth Culture and the Icons that Shaped It"

**Darlene Paralta**, History

Excluded from mainstream music venues and radio during the late twentieth century, Mexican-American artists developed distinct musicking practices that blended regional Mexican traditions with American popular music. By the 1960s through the 1980s, Tejano and cumbia music became central to connecting Mexican-American youth to their cultural heritage while maintaining

an American identity. This project argues that Tejano music fostered a hybrid Mexican-American youth identity shaped by both cultural pride and structural exclusion within the music industry. Selena Quintanilla exemplifies this duality. Although not fluent in Spanish early in her career, Selena performed Spanish-language music with her family in Texas dance halls, blending pop, rock, cumbia, and Tejano sounds. Her performances reflected the experiences of Mexican-American youth who sought both cultural recognition and mainstream acceptance. Drawing on musical analysis, interviews, recordings, and performances by Selena and the Kumbia Kings, this project examines how artists navigated racially segregated music markets by first establishing themselves in “cultural” genres before attempting English-language crossover. Ultimately, Tejano music functioned as a site of resistance, adaptation, and cultural affirmation within a segregated American music industry. Through music and dance, Mexican-American youth collectively expressed resilience, hybridity, creativity, and belonging.

**Chair: Dr. Tyina Steptoe**

4. **Did Somebody Call for a Doctor? Histories of Medicine, Pestilence, and (Mis?)treatment**  
**Room B254**

"Coprophenomena as a feature of comorbid Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder"

**Hope Carney**, Anthropology

Coprolalia, the involuntary articulation of obscenities, is perhaps the most well-known symptom of Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome (GTS) to the general public. Simultaneously, it is the least understood symptom, and is arguably the most stigmatized symptom of GTS. Vocal tics are generally considered arbitrary in meaning, as is the nature of the disordered neurological activity that underlies tics in GTS. Though any tic can be interpreted by the audience as having meaning, such as an arbitrary throat-clearing tic during a conversation being interpreted as meaningful, coprophenic tics are particularly relevant to the social context and audience in which they occur, carrying complex social meanings and subsequent social implications and consequences. Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) is among the most common conditions that occur comorbidly with GTS. Using historical, modern, and contemporary GTS examples and case studies, this paper proposes a rudimentary typology of coprophenomena, and a hypothesis of how coprophenomena occurs as a feature of comorbid GTS and OCD.

"Third Plague Pandemic in Japan"

**Carmina Garia-Armenta**, History

When most people think about the Black Plague pandemic; their minds think of a devastating, isolated event that happened in the Middle Ages. They remember the infamous, pointy plague mask, the image of poor medieval farmers wandering around with oozing bubos dotting their bodies, the morbid Danse Macabre art that emerged. This disease, in actuality, came in waves and continued to devastate the world for centuries. One country in particular found itself in its destructive path, Japan. Despite centuries of isolation, the country of Japan found the plague at their doorstep. The Black Plague was a completely new virus in the country; Usually when a new disease is introduced to a population that has no natural immunity, it would cause widespread devastation and death. But miraculously Japan not only made it out with minimal deaths but

managed to come out of it stronger. What happened? What measures were done to prevent further spread? Which key figures were influential in helping minimize the devastation? And were there any lasting cultural effects from the Third Plague Pandemic that continues in the country today?

**The Black Death in England: Influences on Local Economics, Law, and Labor Relations"**  
**Alexsandr Hickey**, History

The Black Death of 1348-1350 was a strong contributor to the changing economic conditions of fourteenth-century England, although it was not the sole factor that invited a shift of labor relations and economic character. The agricultural-manorial economy of England was sharply and negatively impacted by the labor shortage from the sheer extent of plague mortality, and provoked reactions across both state and religious spheres that attempted to grapple with the changing social and economic circumstances. From wage regulations and sumptuary laws to augmented clerical stipends, the English world's attempts to react to the plague crisis were arguably instrumental in the progressive decline of fourteenth-century serfdom and England's eventual transition into a rent-based economy across the succeeding century. Plague reactive legislation, such as the 1351 Statute of Laborers and its accompanying 1349 Ordinance, led to a more centralized, "national" system of judicial enforcement that - while attempting to grapple with the economic consequences of plague mortality - served as an inflection point where already-existing social divides were exacerbated in ultimate contribution to the Great Rising of 1381.

**"The Medicalization of Childbirth: How American Obstetrics Replaced the Midwife"**  
**Elissa Press**, History and Classical Studies

My presentation investigates the transformation of childbirth from a woman-centered, communal practice to a medically controlled institution by tracing the marginalization of midwives and the rise of obstetrics. It focuses on how female midwives, particularly enslaved women, are pushed out in early American medical practices by male physicians. I examine childbirth practices from prehistoric societies through antiquity, the medieval and early modern periods, and into the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in America. I am exploring how the American systems specifically changed previous practices of childbirth from those that came before them, as childbirth was previously a woman's matter. The paper discusses broader themes of social structures such as the patriarchy, slavery, the standardization of medicine, and state regulation. Primary sources include numerous medical treatises, such as those by the Roman physician Soranus, midwife Elizabeth Nihell, and botanist Nicholas Culpeper, as well as archaeological and visual depictions of birth from the prehistoric to medieval ages. I argue that American obstetrics developed not primarily through scientific progress but through gendered exclusion and racial exploitation, particularly the erasure of midwives and the abuse of enslaved women.

**Chair: Johanne Harrigan**

**12:30-1:00 PM: Lunch**

**1:15-2:45 PM: Session 3**

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1. **Confronting Jim Crow: Civil Rights, Racial and Environmental Justice in the United States**  
*Room B250*

"Drawing the Line: The Evolution of Voter Suppression in the United States"

**Mina Khatbi Noori**, Political Science

In recent years, many Americans have expressed growing skepticism about whether their individual vote truly matters. This project aims to explore the evolution of voter suppression and its impact on democratic participation, focusing on how political actors have shaped access to the ballot across time. Through a multi-part analysis, we will investigate key moments in the history of voter suppression, including the Grandfather Clause following Reconstruction, the expansion of suffrage through the 19th Amendment, and the Civil Rights Movement's fight against racial disenfranchisement. Further, we will explore and understand the importance of gerrymandering through the lens of Supreme Court cases *Rucho v. Common Cause*, *Allen v. Milligan*, and *Abbott v. League of United Latin American Citizens*. In this context, these cases are not abstract legal questions; they are central to the health of American democracy itself. By connecting historical and contemporary strategies of voter suppression, this project highlights how barriers to voting have evolved from overt exclusion to more subtle forms of influence, such as district manipulation. Understanding these challenges emphasizes the importance of continued civic engagement in order to protect voting rights.

"Sidney Poitier: Actor and Activist"

**Lily Rothweiler**, History

This paper examines how Sidney Poitier's life and career illuminate the interconnected struggles of the American Civil Rights Movement and global decolonization in the 1960s. It asks: How did Poitier's transnational experiences shape his understanding of race, activism, and representation? I argue that Poitier's upbringing in the Bahamas, where he did not experience rigid racial segregation, profoundly shaped his later response to Jim Crow America. His shock upon encountering segregation in the United States informed both his refusal to accept demeaning film roles and his commitment to dignified self-representation. Through films Poitier crafted characters that challenged racial stereotypes and modeled morals through composure and intelligence. At the same time, his prominence exposed tensions and complexities within the Civil Rights Movement. While he supported nonviolent protests and participated in major events such as the 1963 March on Washington and Freedom Summer, critics associated with Black Power movements accused Poitier of embodying docile roles to create an image that would appeal to white liberal audiences. By placing Poitier alongside global debates about decolonization and resistance, this proposal argues that representation and dignity could themselves be forms of resistance during the sixties, highlighting both the unity and divisions within movements for racial justice.

"The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927: The Red Cross, Refugee Camps, and Sharecropping"

**Samantha Sockness**

The Mississippi River flooded an area twice the size of Maryland beginning in April 1927. While both white and Black residents were displaced, many Black residents were forced into refugee camps by The Red Cross who promised food, clothing and shelter. Once in these camps, Black refugees were often forced to work, either without pay or for very little, and were met with violence if they resisted. The Red Cross response was heavily influenced by local white planters

who were afraid of losing their Black sharecroppers, and supplies were often withheld from Black residents if they refused to enter the camps. Once in the camps, some Black residents were "tagged" with markers indicating which plantation they worked at, and were not allowed to leave the camps without a pass or the permission of a white person. The conditions in which Black refugees were held were akin to slavery, conditions leading to multitudes of Blacks leaving the South as part of the Great Migration of the early 20th Century.

**Chair: Dr. Elizabeth Hearne**

**2. Well Behaved Women Seldom Make History: Cultural Histories of Gender in the 20th Century**

*Room B252*

"Fabricating a Story: Aran Women Knitters in the mid-20th Century and Their Contributions to International Tourism"

**Jacey Demaree**, History

Ireland, both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, experienced a drastic increase in tourism during the 1950s to the 1970s. During these decades, the Aran sweater emerged as one of the most recognizable symbols of "authentic" Irish culture. Tourism agencies, magazines, and commercial advertisers promoted the sweater as an ancient craft embedded with Celtic symbolism, while photographs of women wearing Irish knitwear in windswept landscapes circulated widely in promotional materials. These narratives of rural womanhood and the romanticization of their labor as knitters largely contributed to the expansion of Irish tourism. My research will examine how tourism media constructed the Aran sweater as a timeless cultural artifact, specifically the impact of women knitters' labor on Ireland's international tourism. There is a distinct lack of scholarship on the social and labor realities experienced by these women knitters in Ireland. My project will connect scholarly research on the mythmaking of the Aran sweater to the promotional images, pattern books, and advertisements that circulated during Ireland's tourism boom, revealing how mythmaking and romanticization of Aran knitwear commercialized women's labor even as their contributions remained largely invisible and unrecognized by the state.

"Aural Pleasure: The Debut of the Female Orgasm in American Pop Music"

**Daphne Graham**, Psychology and Human Development & Family Science

This paper examines the rise of aural representations of the female orgasm in the American pop music genre during the 1960s-1970s, in particular Serge Gainsbourg and Jane Birkin's "Je T'aime...Moi Non Plus" (1969), Marvin Gaye's "You Sure Love to Ball" (1973), and most central to the paper, Donna Summer's "Love to Love You Baby" (1975). This paper first analyzes the changes in American attitudes towards sex and women's sexual roles in the decades that preceded the Sexual Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s, including the role that scientific discoveries in the field of sex research played in sparking these changes. This paper argues that the widely publicized research of American sexologists in the 1950s-1960s (notably Alfred Kinsey, and sex research team Masters and Johnson) opened the gates for greater public discussion of female sexual pleasure during the Sexual Revolution of the 1960s-1970s and gave direct rise to the debut of the female orgasm in American popular music.

"Let Her Cook: Chineseness in the 1950s Middle Class White Kitchen"

**Edward Peng, History**

The 1950s and 1960s saw a great shift in mainstream perceptions of Asian Americans - when Asian Americans went from being understood as an unassimilable threat to White American society to being an assimilated model for other non-white groups. Through examining newspaper articles and magazine advertisements from the 1950s, I argue that Chinese American home cooking was part of this process of shifting perceptions for Asian Americans. Specifically, my analysis shows two things, firstly that mainstream depictions of Chinese American home cooking tied into perceptions of Chinese American women aligning with White conservative gender norms, and secondly that the boom in canned and frozen Chinese food put Chinese home cooking in the White suburban home and allowed Chineseness to become familiar to White women but at the same time allowed them to define what Chineseness meant.

**Chair: Dr. Michelle Berry**

**3. Transatlantic Indigeneity: Food, Language, and Mythos**

*Room B254*

"Food and Environment in Indigenous Communities of the Andes"

**Natalie Anderson**, Hispanic Linguistics

From pre-Inca groups to the Quechua and other present-day indigenous peoples, civilizations have prospered in the challenging landscape of the Andes Mountains. Given this unique terrain and the persistence of various people groups, I have chosen to investigate the indigenous food traditions in relation to the natural environment of the Andes. I will explore three subtopics: the role of ecospirituality, the cultivation of foods, and traditions within the changing environment. I seek to answer the following questions: How were these indigenous food traditions established in harmony with the environment? How did these indigenous food traditions develop with dependence upon the environment? How are these food traditions conserved in the midst of changing climate and social circumstances?

"Supporting Coeur d'Alene through AI"

**Mark Cruz**, Mathematics

Coeur d'Alene is the indigenous language spoken by the Coeur d'Alene people in Idaho. Despite having been once part of everyday culture and exchange, the language has become endangered due to the history involving the surrounding language ecosystem, politics, among other factors. A way to preserve and maintain the language for future generations is through the digitization of physical texts with the use of AI, particularly, Optical Character Recognition (OCR). As AI itself is a rapidly changing technology, we present on the digitization of Coeur d'Alene through two different OCR frameworks - Tesseract and PaddlePaddleOCR.

"Constructing Authority and Shaping Perception: Captain John Smith's A True Relation and the Early English Colonial Narrative"

**Naomi Heit**, History

This senior capstone project conducts a close textual examination of Captain John Smith's A True Relation of Such Occurrences and Accidents of Note as Hath Happened in Virginia, to explore the ways in which Smith constructed his authority and shaped English perceptions of the

New World. By analyzing his accounts of encounters with Native peoples, geographic exploration, and interactions with other colonists, this research investigates how Smith mediated cultural and political dynamics between the English settlers and Indigenous communities. Particular attention is given to how his writing functions simultaneously as historical record, personal narrative, and promotional literature intended for English audiences. The project situates Smith within the broader literary and historical context of early seventeenth-century English exploration, drawing on scholarship that examines both his performative self-fashioning and the colonial ideology embedded in his narratives. Through close reading, this paper interrogates Smith's narrative strategies, including his depiction of heroism, presentation of Indigenous peoples, and framing of his own role in shaping Jamestown's survival and legacy. As a work in progress, this research will continue to refine its focus on Smith's cultural assumptions, the interplay of power in his accounts, and the broader implications of his narrative for interpreting early colonial history.

"The Intertwining of Natural History, Mythology, and Religion"

**Harmony Trask**, History

In my presentation, I will be analyzing the concept of natural history in the Middle Ages, as it did not exist the way it does today. People simply did not get the opportunity to go to school and study nature as a separate, respected subject. Instead, religion and myths were utilized to explain the world around them. This presentation argues that across different regions of the world—from Europe and Asia to Africa and the Americas—nature and spirituality were combined into one. People observed animals and weather not just to see how they worked, but also to understand a deeper religious meaning behind them. I will go on to show how these different cultures used "monsters," such as dragons and serpents, to explain things they could not see or feel. For example, in Europe, the concept of a "dragon" started as a simple snake but eventually evolved into the fire-breathing demonic beast we all know today. However, in East Asia, dragons were more respected; they were considered higher beings that controlled the rain. In Africa, rainbows were believed to be large serpents because people did not yet understand how light and water work together.

**Chair: Dr. Ryan Kashanipour**

### 3:00-4:30 PM: Session 4

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1. **History as Art, Art as History: Architecture, Photography, and Painting**

*Room B201*

"Earthrise: The Paradox of a Cold War Image of One World"

**Marshall Brennan**, History

Iconic photographs are images that transcend the moment that they are taken to change perception and create new emotions in society. The many iconic images from the 1960s condensed the period's immense upheavals and ambitions into unforgettable moments, frozen in time, converting historical events into symbols of transformation and new identities. The Space Race produced many timeless scenes too. One of these is of a blue sphere rising over the gray lunar landscape, a photograph known as Earthrise. The Earthrise photograph embodied the paradox of the Space Race: a product of Cold War rivalry that inspired a sense of unity and

connection to the planet. Taken by Apollo 8 astronaut William Anders on December 24, 1968, Earthrise shows our planet floating in the black void of space over the lunar horizon. The first color image capturing the entire planet in one shot and is one of the most important images ever created to help promote environmental consciousness and causes as it shows how beautiful and fragile the world we share is. In examining how and why Anders was there to take the picture, we can learn about the planet he was looking on.

"Raymond E. Reed- A Vernacular History"

**Clare Jones**, History

Dr. Raymond E. Reed, a trailblazing veterinarian pathologist at the University of Arizona, was also an avid hobby photographer. Upon his death in 2002, his massive collection of Kodachrome slides was discovered at a Tucson Goodwill store. My multi-media thesis project, which is based around Reed's photos, blends research and skills from my history and studio arts majors. Reed's photography chronicled important family milestones alongside the rapid development of Tucson over several decades. While traditional historiography on post-war Tucson relies on stylized, government-sanctioned images, my thesis uses Reed's vernacular photography to present an intimate view of the dynamic nature of life in Tucson. My research evaluates five major components of the postwar period: urban renewal, tourism expansion, family structures, economic development, and ecological impacts. For each theme, I analyze primary sources including government reports and contemporary scholarship and secondary historical research to contextualize the photos and use them as windows into local history. By synthesizing these sources with Reed's private 35mm archive, I emphasize the importance of personal photography as a historical record.

The final stage of my project involves my own artistic work as I revisit Reed's original locations and re-photograph them to explore change over time.

"Surrealism and Opposition to Conformity"

**Nitya Miyyapuram**, Medicine

Surrealism and politics intertwine with one another in ways that might not be apparent to the naked eye. Art is a blatant expression of identity, with politics often playing a significant role in this demonstration. Artists such as Salvador Dali, André Breton, Max Ernst, and René Magritte served as vessels for the leftist, anti-fascist, and anti-colonial movement that accompanied the surrealist movement. Surrealism was a 20th century movement, gaining traction in Paris in 1924. The experimental nature and unconscious focus of Surrealists' art act as a representation of their radical political views and their push for social reform. Surrealism aimed to liberate society from oppression. During the time of its emergence, unique artistic techniques, activism, and alternative worldviews of surrealism acted as a political weapon against conformity and control under dictatorships. The rise of fascism in the 1930s and 1940s further invigorated Surrealists' ideals of creativity, freedom, and individualism. Collaboration on art projects and participation in protests were among the ways in which surrealists advocated for the quest for a new reality by breaking down barriers between art and life. The intersection of art and politics within Surrealism demonstrates the power Surrealists had in influencing broader social and political reform.

"Towards a Humanist Materialism: Lina Bo Bardi's Modernity, Revisited"

**Mila Tomizuka**, Art History

My research centers on architect Lina Bo Bardi, contributing to recent international interest. I argue against readings which frame her structures as hybridizing the universal modern and Brazilian vernacular. Instead, she understood modernism as a universal methodology of addressing particular material conditions of industrial capitalism at the scale of everyday life. I focus on her residency in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil from 1957-1964, where she encountered an impoverished region impacted by industrialization. She recognized that the process by which Bahians produced objects from discarded consumer goods exemplified modernity's true ethos. She locates there the potential for an autochthonous Brazilian culture to emerge from the twofold violence of European colonialism and American neocolonialism, an imperative visible throughout her architectural projects such as the SESC Pompeia.

Manfredo Tafuri writes that "to work with leftover materials, with the garbage and throwaways of our daily and commonplace existence, is an integral aspect of the tradition of modern art"; Bo Bardi foreshadowed this emancipatory version of modernism. I propose the concept of "humanist materialism," articulating her theories of a "historical present" and a "technical humanism" through a historical materialist lens, to radicalize her legacy and the ethical contributions of modern architecture in addressing human needs.

**Chair: Dr. Katherine Morrissey**

## **2. If at First You Don't Secede...: New Perspectives on the U.S. Civil War**

*Room B250*

"The Union Leagues of America: A Patriotic Movement"

**Timothy Burke**, History

The Union Leagues of America were civilian organizations that dedicated themselves to garnering support for the Union during the Civil War. During the early years of the Civil War, citizens in the Union began to grow weary of the war and support for the war effort was fading. Loyalists across the north began forming organizations to gain support for the war effort through a variety of ways. This movement took on a fundamentally different character between the Northeast and the Midwestern Union states. These fundamentally different characteristics broadly aligned with the cultural boundaries of the regions. However, regardless of the differences in practice between the two regions, the Union Leagues of America were a universally patriotic movement. Through this movement, patriotism in America adopted a more complex nature than prior to the Civil War. It became a more nationalistic and active ideology that set the foundation for patriotism in the modern-day United States.

"New Mexico During the Civil War Era: Diverse Populations, Perspectives, and Levels of Analysis"

**Addysen Ferrari-Boognl**, History and Political Science

Though the territory of New Mexico sat hundreds of miles away from the American Civil War's most remembered battles, it was not left unaffected or unchanged by the war. Confederate officials saw New Mexico as the key to California, making it a strategically important region they aimed to conquer. As the Union army fought to stop the Confederate invasion of New Mexico, local actors impacted the outcome of the conflict, and in turn, the conflict permanently altered life in the territory. Literature centered on local New Mexican issues highlights how and why the events of the Civil War in the region happened the way they did- the articles discussed in this

paper examine unique instances of violence, racial dynamics, the process of raising militias, and separatist movements. They analyze and explain the different perspectives of New Mexico's diverse population, demonstrating how the territory became a unique focal point of the Civil War.

"President Ulysses S. Grant"

**Samuel Norton**, History

President Ulysses S. Grant is more than just the Union General that ended the Civil War; he was also the president that was left to clean up the mess that was Reconstruction under President Johnson. The life of Grant is a tale of putting faith in the wrong people while still standing up for what is right. His leadership during the Civil war and his dedication to protecting the Union as she reformed herself is what makes Grant special. While not a perfect man he set up systems that still exist today to help protect Americans and lead the nation through the dawn of a new era of American history. President Grant needs to be remembered not just for his follies and worst moments but as a man who helped advance the United States out of a Civil War and set up systems and protection for Black Americans through his work as the General of the Union army and as President of the United States of America.

**Chair: Dr. Courtenay Lonquist Forward**

3. **Divine Encounters: Tales of Conversion, Coexistence, and Martyrdom from the Iberian Peninsula to Japan**

*Room B252*

"The Gospel of John for a Greco-Roman Audience"

**Caitlin Campos**, Accounting

My thesis research is focused on how the Gospel of John utilizes Greek mythology to share the story of Christ with a Greco-Roman audience. I first review key stories in John— including the miracle of wine at the wedding in Cana, the woman at the well, and the feeding of the five thousand— as well as analyze the signature "I am" statements, and then compare the primary ideas, themes, and story structures to those of well known Greco-Roman gods and their mythologies. The two gods that I am primarily focusing my research of comparison on are Dionysus and Hermes. The unique stories included within the Gospel of John present a connection with prevalent Greco-Roman mythologies, which are utilized by the Gospel writer to instill faith in Jesus, the true (and greater) God over the Greco-Roman pantheon. The way in which Jesus is presented as divine, abundant, and life-giving also provides a philosophical and spiritual basis for comparison to the Greco-Roman pantheon that paves the way for faith in Christ from an audience with a pagan foundation for understanding the nature of God.

"Tudela as a Lens on Benjamin's Representation of Interfaith Exchange in 12th Century Cosmopolitan Centers"

**Emmie Hampson**, History

My research, which is ongoing, is on "The Itinerary of Benjamin of Tudela" and the historical settlement of Tudela in the Kingdom of Navarre during the 12th century AD. In my presentation, I will use the local history of Tudela as a lens for understanding the way Benjamin represents interfaith relationships in major cosmopolitan centers, such as Rome, Constantinople, the Crusader States, and Baghdad. "The Itinerary" was composed between the mid 1150s and the

mid 1070s, during the period where Sancho VI was King of Navarre. Sancho granted the Jews of Tudela special charter to dwell inside the city walls alongside the Christians. My working hypothesis is that as a result of this special status, this Jewish community understood their interfaith inclusion as exceptional and unusual, but Benjamin's travels challenged this understanding of the world which motivated him to compose his work to demonstrate to Jewish audiences that interfaith collaboration was happening in a number of world class cities across the known world.

"Catholic Moral Transformation Through the Nagasaki Martyrs"

**Leah Lancaster**, Library and Information Science

It is well established that tensions began to rise between the Japanese and Christian missionaries throughout the sixteenth century, culminating in multiple mass executions of countless Christians. The ramifications of the deaths of these martyrs would transcend national and cultural boundaries, not only affecting the lives of Japanese Kirishitans for centuries, but also establishing new ideas of what a canonized figure in the Catholic denominations may look like. This project seeks to provide a comprehensive overview of not only how Japanese converts understood the deaths of the 26 Martyrs of Nagasaki, but how the incident was received by Catholic communities in Mexico and Europe, among both lay and clergy members. A vital part of understanding the circumstances of martyrdom in Japan is by focusing on how martyrs had been commended for their sacrifices for centuries, and that these ideals would lead to complex and nuanced ways of understanding martyrdom. With the development of cults from the Nagasaki martyrs in and outside of Japan, shifting methods of execution, and decades of discourse within the Church, the deaths of the 26 Martyrs was a pivotal incident across the world.

"Islamic and Catholic Governance in Medieval Iberia: Hierarchical Inclusion, Coercive Uniformity, and Religious Hybridity"

**Jade Price**, History and Religious Studies

This project examines the contrasting governance of religious minorities in medieval Iberia under Islamic and Catholic rule, focusing on the period from the Islamic conquest in 711 to the expulsions in the 15th and 17th centuries. By utilizing primary documents like the Pact of Umar, the Chronicle of 754, and records from the Inquisition, along with insights from secondary scholarship and theorists like Homi Bhabha and Edward Said, I analyze how religion serves as an instrument of political power and cultural structure. Under Islamic governance, the dhimma system established a form of hierarchical pluralism, granting Christians and Jews a degree of communal autonomy while upholding Muslim dominance, fostering coexistence and cultural blending. Conversely, the Catholic monarchies sought to enforce coercive uniformity through mechanisms such as the Inquisition and blood purity laws, intertwining religious, genealogical, and political identities into a system that limited diversity. This project explores how religious networks, legal frameworks, and cultural practices shaped minority identities and affected hybridity, influencing global religious processes. The Iberian context exemplifies the intricate relationship between power, religion, and identity, showcasing how different governance structures yield varied cultural and social outcomes across distinct systems, their legal practices, and repercussions for Jewish and Muslim communities.

**Dr. Beth Plummer**

#### 4. **The Game is Afoot: Medieval Maker Projects**

*Room B254*

"The Scent of History: Perfume in the Global Middle Ages"

**Melissa Hamann**, Interdisciplinary Studies

This project explores perfume in the medieval era in an effort to understand the role perfume has played throughout history. This exploration begins with the Middle East and ends with the Americas and will explore elements of perfume, including ingredients, as well as formats of fragrance, such as oils, sachets, and incense. Many of the traditions of perfumery began in the Middle East and expanded into Europe through trade, though it is interesting to note that every world region used similar ingredients, especially musk, and also connected the sacred with pleasant fragrance. The items in this cabinet of curiosity will include the flora and fauna of perfume, as well as instruments in the perfume making process, and perfume carrying objects, such as bottles and incense holders. By connecting these elements, this project looks to understand early modern perfumes and how early modern humanity connected with the fragrant world around them.

"The Art of Archery"

**Sophia Reetz**, Sports & Society

Archery was one of the prominent forms of defense and hunting in medieval England. Using Roger Ascham's *Toxophilus*, this project analyzes each aspect of archery including governance, the bow itself, and the people that practiced it. Ultimately, the bow was incredibly important in medieval Europe for a multitude of reasons until it was replaced by firearms in the 16th and 17th centuries. We can learn many of social norms simply by looking into the sport of archery.

"A Poacher's Game: Studying Poaching after the Norman Conquest through Game Development"

**Julia Smith**, Creative Writing

This project is a Twine game meant to walk the player through the experience of a peasant poacher under new Norman forest law in 11th century England. The game uses historiographical research to create an interactive narrative of historical fiction which demonstrates the process of trapping, tracking, and dressing a deer, as well as avoiding capture by local foresters. The game seeks not only to educate about the process of poaching, but to show the player the severity of Norman forest law, the ways in which a poacher might interact with enforcers of that law, and the reflection of class struggle between the peasantry and aristocracy embedded in those interactions.

Primary sources such as William Twiti's *The Art of Hunting*, Edward of York's *Master of Game*, and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* are used to construct the process, contemporary vocabulary, and provide context for the research on the hunt itself. Secondary sources such as Jean Birrell's "Peasant Deer Poachers in the Medieval Forest" and a chapter from Barbara Hanawalt's *Of Good and Ill Repute* provide details of the peasant's experience in poaching and the elements of class struggle and competition it entails.

"The Importance of Games: Medieval Europe to Modern Day"

**Julie Smith**, History

My project is a text-based medieval inspired game that I created for a history class I am in. It is focused on the social culture of games in medieval France, and it is meant to be educational and informative to players while still being engaging and fun. I am interested in education, so I created something that can make learning history more interesting to students. The game itself makes an argument about the extent of the social significance of games in a time that was broadly seen as devoid of culture. To me, the broader argument of the project is that reading textbooks is intimidating to most young students, which gives history as a subject a "boring" reputation and therefore discourages future scholars from studying the humanities. By innovating the ways we teach history to be more entertaining, we foster an environment where future historians feel motivated and excited to learn.

**Chair: Olivia Kane**

**4:30-5:00 PM: Raffle & Symposium Close**

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