

AZ Undergrad History Research Symposium

"Prospecting the Past"

April 25-26, 2025
University of Arizona

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM (Abstracts)

Friday, April 25

Location: Bear Down Gymnasium
Participants/Invited Attendees Only

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

"Adventures in the Archives—and Beyond"

Speaker: Dr. Megan Kate Nelson, 2024–2025 Rogers Distinguished Fellow in 19th-Century American History at the Huntington Library (San Marino, CA)

7:00-9:00 PM: Game Night

Saturday, April 26

Location: Main Library, 2nd Floor
Open to the Public

8:30-9:00 AM: Breakfast

9:00 AM-5:00 PM: UA Press Book Exhibit

9:00-10:30 AM: Session 1

1. From Banquets to Biodiversity: Culinary Connections to Identity, Class, and Colonial Legacies

Room B201

"Getting Boozy: Alcohol and Booze in the Global Middle Ages"

Naomi Heit, History

"Getting Boozy: Alcohol and Booze in the Global Middle Ages" presents research on the role of alcohol in medieval societies across diverse regions including Europe, the Middle East, China, and Africa. Beyond recreation it held deep significance in ceremonial contexts, religious practices, and economic activities. This project will also explore the nuanced relationships of societies with alcohol including attitudes surrounding overconsumption and drunkenness.

Using primary written and physical sources such as medieval brewing recipes, religious texts, and archaeological evidence, this project will examine how alcohol played a crucial role in shaping cultures across the medieval world. Key factors for production such as European monastic brewing traditions and references to alcoholic beer recipes in Syrian cookbooks highlight the ways in which alcohol was integrated into numerous sectors of life.

Additionally, the project will explore the role of alcohol in the global medieval trade economy, showcasing its influence beyond local consumption.

By analyzing the four overarching topics; ceremonial contexts, religious practices, economic activities, and attitudes towards drunkenness, the project will explain how these topics are all interconnected and provide a global perspective on alcohol's significance in the Middle Ages and how its uses blended across cultures.

"Roman Food and the People: The Opulent and The Common"

Milan Riha, Engineering

Different subgroups of people within a culture may relate to food differently due to social and economic status, disparities in access, life priorities, and food symbolisms. Roman civilization is illustrative of this categorical differentiation within food cultures. During the late Republic and Imperial eras of Rome, distinct gastronomical groups emerged. There is abundant evidence describing the luxurious food culture of banquets, exotic foods, and overindulgence connected to the Roman elite. There are limited sources available dedicated to describing the eating practices and beliefs of the common Roman majority. Through an investigation of predominantly primary sources, this research paper presents evidence that the different culinary beliefs, wealth, and experiences of the Romans resulted in two groups: select elites who created advancements in gastronomic practices and culinary arts, and the Roman majority who practiced and appreciated the simplistic food traditions of Rome. By presenting focused evidence on the creativity and innovations of ancient Roman gastronomy, as well as analyzing rare examples of the simplistic eating and food practices of most common Romans, this research is intended to contribute to the available scholarly library on Roman food culture.

"Bread: An Exploration of Ingredients, Technology, and Techniques in the Global Middle Ages"

Lauren Redman, Information Science & eSociety

Bread is one of the most significant and ubiquitous inventions in human history. Breadmaking transcends the basic acts of hunting and preparing meat over a fire and is one of the foundations upon which the art of cooking evolved. This project examines the historical development of three essential elements of bread—ingredients, technology, and techniques—across five regions of the world from 500 to 1500 CE. The scholarship on the history of bread is extensive, supporting the universality of breadmaking in history. This project seeks to investigate the interconnectedness of culture, ingredients, technology, and techniques, and how each aspect contributed to the evolution of the others on a global scale during the Middle Ages. Innovations in baking were not isolated events; they emerged as a result of interactions between cultures. This research is presented as an online cookery website using Adobe Express, featuring recipes that illustrate the effects of the cross-cultural influence and growth during this period.

"The Remaking of Corn"

Daniel Herrera, Latin American Studies

Differences in England's and Spain's colonial projects in contemporary U.S. and Mexico have led to differences in the cultivation, uses, and abuses of Corn. The English settler-colonial project emphasized land as property and sought to remove and extinguish the people already living here. The Spanish emphasized extraction while leaving Indigenous communities mostly intact, endeavoring to convert and subjugate. The English claimed a right to dispossess Indigenous peoples of their land because, in their view, the land was being wasted when not used to maximize crop yield. The Spanish required a tribute of labor or food, or in religious missions or *reducciones*, forced assimilation to European ways of working and living.

In the U.S., corn is grown with genetic modification in a profit-driven mono-culture model and is converted into fuel and harmful food sweeteners. In Mexico, the dietary relationship to corn has shifted toward that of the "American" diet, including the physiological effects of consuming processed foods, particularly since the implementation of NAFTA. Before the U.S.-mandated prioritization of high yield and profit, the Mexican market could accommodate more small farmers and traditional methods of farming, involving relationships with plants and greater biodiversity rather than industrial mono-culture.

Chair: Dr. Benjamin Lawrance

2. I Saw Lizzie Proctor Speaking with the Devil!: Exploring Social History Through Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*

Room B252

"The Contagious Curse: Mass Hysteria's Place in History and the Modern Day"

Abigail Marsters, Psychological Sciences

In a remote location with little access to education, a teenage girl begins acting abnormally. She complains of pain that has no visible origin, falls to the ground, and becomes blind to the world as she wails at things no one else can see. The unknown sickness spreads like wildfire, but inexplicably it only affects other young girls. Everyone in the concerned community agrees that the malady cannot be earthly in nature, but is rather the work of dark spirits. There is no other understandable cause.

This unsettling story is one that occurs multiple times in history, from the Salem Witch trials in 1692 to instances in rural Nepalese schools as recent as 2018. What is this mysterious sickness that bridges continents and centuries? Mass hysteria is a psychological phenomenon trademarked by a closely connected group of people in a stressful environment spreading symptoms with no immediately tangible or treatable cause. It has been known to lead to the upheaval of society, widespread panic, and the persecution of scapegoats. By combining a historical and psychological perspective, this presentation seeks to unearth what mass hysteria is, its mark upon history, and how its effect can be mitigated in the modern day.

"The Witch's Curse: Unraveling Gendered Power and Social Control in Historical Witch Hunts"

Mina Khatibi Noori, Political Science

The parallels between the Salem Witch Hunt and the #MeToo Movement highlight the struggles of women's agency, the historical repression of female power, and how society continues to grapple with controlling and defining women's roles. This project aims to explore the intersection between these events concerning gender, power, and societal norms. Through a multi-part analysis, we will investigate how hysteria has evolved, focusing on its treatment through the Medieval and Renaissance periods and its contemporary relevance. We will examine the Puritan culture and historical context of the Salem Witch Trials to understand the Puritan perspective on gender and power, analyzing how women's emotional lives were policed and used to justify their punishment. Moving forward, we will break down the origins, growth, and culture of the #MeToo Movement and draw comparisons to the Salem Witch Trials. Particularly examining how both movements are framed as "witch hunts" and assessing whether this comparison holds. To further our understanding of these events, we will explore the works of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* and Kimberly Belflower's *John Proctor is the Villian*, exploring how the characters, particularly Abigail and Shelby, represent the tension between societal control and female empowerment.

"Fear And Power: Examining the Crucible and Mao's China"

Reese Wick, Pharmaceutical Sciences

In this presentation, I will investigate how tyrannical authority emerges when there is widespread uncertainty, seeds of mistrust spread throughout the community, and imbalances of power by taking a closer look two historical examples: the emergence of Mao's regime and the Salem Witch trials through the lens of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. In analyzing the witch trials, I will take a closer look at how shared goals can become muddled and quickly transpire into the horrific abuse of power. In Mao's China, I will investigate the various methods utilized in order for him to obtain supreme power. In addition, I will investigate the political instability that preceded Mao's China and the Salem Witch trials, which may have facilitated the emergence of tyrannical power. In comparing the political climates at the time these events unfolded, I can determine to what extent instability provided the opportunity for the emergence of an authoritarian leader. Ultimately, I will determine to what extent themes of fear, authority, ideology, public persecution and the role of political instability led to the emergence of tyrannical authority in Mao's China and the American Salem Witch trials.

Chair: Dr. Patrick Baliani

3. Trans-Atlantic Strategies of Resistance from Congo to California

Room B254

"Six Days of Spring: The 1992 Los Angeles Uprising as America's 'First Multiethnic Riot'"

Daniel Cervantes, History

On April 29th, 1992, the heavily anticipated verdict for the trial of four Los Angeles Police Department officers charged with using excessive force in the arrest of Rodney King was delivered. The year before, the footage of King being beaten by the four officers on a San Fernando Valley street shocked the city and the nation. Following years of systemic oppression at the hands of the Los Angeles Police Department, the African American community felt they finally had a victory that would vindicate their claims. Instead, the straw that broke the camel's back was found as the Simi Valley jury acquitted all four police officers, sparking a violent release of tensions. I argue that the riots of 1992 were the result of repeated failures to redress the core struggles of urban poverty and police brutality in South Central Los Angeles that were exposed in the Watts riots of 1965. Alongside this, I argue that the narrativization by the national media, politicians, and law enforcement officials during and after the riots overly simplified the realities faced by those in the urban core of Los Angeles, allowing blame to be deflected away from the fundamental problems at hand leading into the riots.

"Mentha Morrison, Her Pleas, and the U.S. President"

Stacy Lewis, History

In October 1901, a Black woman in Georgia, Mentha Morrison, wrote a letter to President Theodore Roosevelt begging him to intercede and rescue her husband from "slavery" at the Smithonia Plantation in Smithonia, Georgia. Her missive was forwarded to the Department of Justice, wherein an investigation was carried out against Smithonia's owner, Colonel James Monroe Smith. A fabulously wealthy man, even by 1901 standards, Smith openly relied upon convict leasing to expand his enormous estate, and Mentha claimed that her husband, Jackson, was entrapped in peonage well after his debt to Smith was paid. This paper seeks to establish the journey of Mentha and her family as well as to briefly address how Smith has escaped critical scrutiny even though his plantation spanned, at the height of its operation, 125 square miles. It reviews the DOJ investigation, including letters from other individuals confirming the abuses occurring on the Smithonia Plantation. This research will also encompass the fate of the Morrison family as constructed through the analysis of censuses

and other governmental records that illustrate a brave woman who stood up for the rights of her husband and family during the era of Jim Crow.

"The Pro-Leopoldian Narrative"

Matthew Lee, History

Around 1876, King Leopold II established a Pro-Leopoldian narrative to justify proprietorship of the Congo region in West Africa. This narrative was largely based on three claims of opening up free trade, uplifting the native population, and ending slavery. To accomplish this, Leopold garnered support by allowing outsiders to travel to the region who eventually exposed abuses of the Leopold Administration. The Pro-Leopoldian narrative then became a means to combat this exposure. The lived experiences of outsiders helped to give voice to the enslaved and abused native Congo population and contradict the narrative pushed by the Leopold Administration. This paper explores the voices of the enslaved and abused within the Pro-Leopoldian narrative context and primarily asks the salient question, can these voices be located? It covers the establishment of the narrative and why it was necessary, the African American and European outsiders who exposed the abuse, and the use of Pro-Leopoldian apologists to mark the shift in the narrative. A variety of primary sources are utilized and secondary sources round out the context of the existing scholarly work on the subject. Conclusory remarks and suggestions for further research are given at the end.

Chair: Dr. Katie Hemphill

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

4. Canvas, Carvings, Quills, and Queens: History Through European Art and Literature

Room B201

"Gérôme's Cleopatra: A Study in Historical Accuracy"

Isabella Warfield, History

For centuries, Cleopatra VII of the Ptolemaic Dynasty of Egypt has been the center of popular culture depictions. Many of these depictions, whether those in film, literature, or in art, feature the Queen as a tempting symbol of sexual power. Scholars will recognize that this persisting ideal of the Queen comes from Roman depictions that intended to tarnish her legacy. However, one artist, Jean -Leon Gérôme took great care when depicting Cleopatra in his 1866 painting "Cleopatra Before Caesar." My thesis argues that Gérôme and his painting emphasize the importance of proper historical understanding in contemporary depictions of historical figures through his specific depiction of Cleopatra, rather than furthering the idea that she was simply a powerful seductress of men. Utilizing scholarship about Cleopatra VII, Ptolemaic depictions and writing, Gérôme's catalogue of paintings and personal history, and the artwork of his peers, I argue that Gérôme purposely and powerfully depicted Cleopatra with great historical understanding.

"Performed Labour: Tracing Wifehood through Hendrick Goltzius"

Grace Waldrip, Art History & Creative Writing (Classics minor)

This presentation and its research are centered around engravings done by the Dutch artist Hendrick Goltzius (1558-1617) titled "Portrait of Josina Hamels" and "Jacques de la Faille," which were commissioned in celebration of their wedding in 1580. They speak to the Dutch Spanish relationship at the end of the 16th century in addition to strong messaging surrounding marriage. Fascinatingly, Jacques de la Faille was both a merchant and the Colonel of the Civil Guard in Antwerp. The pair would flee to Haarlem in 1584 after the

Spanish gained control of the city. Additionally, the influence of Calvinism and its rise within the Dutch Republic are evident through symbolism and imagery within the works.

This presentation is arguing that what Goltzius, and thus Hamels and de la Faille, were displaying through the pendant pair is not only representative of the political and religious climate of the Netherlands in the later part of the 16th century but displaying the relationship between the socioeconomic positions of marriage and wifehood and their religious positioning in the Dutch Republic. It focuses primarily upon the portrait of Hamels, with the portrait of de la Faille primarily in providing historical context and being discussed alongside his wife's.

"The Magic Chessboard Adventure: A Journey Through Chess in the Middle Ages"

Liora Wilkins, Mechanical Engineering

The Magic Chessboard Adventure is an interactive online text-based game in which players explore chess in Medieval Europe. In the game, players experience different aspects of medieval society in the role of a magical flying chess board. This chess board is inspired by the flying chessboard in the *Roman van Walewein*, a Medieval Dutch poem detailing the adventures of Perceval, a knight of King Arthur's court. As the magic chess board, players encounter people of different roles in Medieval European society. With each new person, players are given the opportunity to read more about the roles chess played in the lives of people of their background and profession. Each person then challenges the player to a "game of chess" in which they learn more about the history of a specific chess piece. The game draws from a wide range of sources, including Medieval texts on chess, Arthurian legends, modern books and essays on chess history, and images of Medieval chess pieces from museum collections. Ultimately, the game aims to give players a broad overview of many facets of the history of chess in Medieval Europe, and to inspire players to further explore the vast and fascinating history of chess.

Chair: Dr. Ute Lotz-Heumann

5. Negotiating Identity through Music and Art in the 20th Century

Room B250

"From Jazz, Gospel, and Rhythm and Blues to Rock and Roll: How African American Music Was Fundamental to Rock and Roll"

Will Martin, Anthropology & History

Compared to other genres, rock and roll is a young music genre, first emerging in the 1950s, with its fundamental roots stemming from jazz, R&B, gospel, and blues. African American musicians from these genres innovated lyrical styles and musical techniques on the electric guitar, electric bass guitar, and drums that would be appropriated by white rock and roll musicians. Techniques like the use of power chords, distortion, double kick, and call-and-response lyrics can first be seen in jazz, R&B, gospel, or blues before rock musicians started to incorporate them into rock. African American artists like Chuck Berry, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, and Little Richard were trailblazers in genres like jazz, R&B, and gospel but were also influential to rock and roll during its infancy and the ensuing decades. However, for years African American musicians did not get the credit they were due for these influences due to the segregation present in the music and radio industry during the mid-20th century. Instead, many Caucasian artists in America, such as Elvis Presley and Creedence Clearwater Revival, would gain momentum as rock musicians. Similarly, bands like The Who and The Beatles would gain international acclaim during the British Invasion.

"Changing Gender Dynamics in Mexican Popular Music"

Alison Kafton, Arts in Music

The perception and acceptance of female Mexican singers has changed in the 20th and 21st centuries. Through the comparison of Lydia Mendoza (1916) and Natalia Lafourcade (1984), we can trace the evolving role of women in the music industry. Mendoza rose to fame in an era when women in Mexican society were seen as homemakers. Through her memoir, we learn that Mendoza rejected societal expectations. Her success as a solo Tejano musician in a male-dominated genre established her as a symbol of female empowerment. Although Lafourcade's rise to fame came in a time of greater gender equality, industry pressure and barriers remained. Lafourcade distinguished herself by prioritizing the depth and sincerity of her lyrics over industry-engrained beauty standards. Her music touches on complex themes, presenting a more authentic and multifaceted artist. Finally, a musical analysis comparing the themes of Mendoza and Lafourcade's songs demonstrates the differences in the cultural landscape for Mexican women artists; exploring the differences in acceptance and challenges, while also shedding light on the continuing similarities in the struggles Mexican women face in the music industry.

Including Panel Chair Remarks on Personal Scholarship

Dr. Liliana Toledo Guzman will share comments from her work on Mexican female musicians in the 20th century, particularly in the classical music scene. In her work, she has analyzed how being devoted to classical music aligned with two fundamental ideas: modernizing Mexico through the incorporation of Western European culture, including classical music for the masses, and, at the same time, women entering the job market by performing music, a profession that did not disrupt feminine attributes. The "possible work for women" was a debate that took place within the context of Mexican suffragist movements and women's labor movements in factories, simultaneous to a political moment in post-Revolutionary Mexico, where a new notion of Mexican-ness was constructed based on the combined education and investigation of traditional Mexican and Western culture

Chair: Dr. Liliana Toledo Guzman

6. Imperial Symbols, Cultural Memory, and Gendered Narratives in East Asian History

Room B252

"Chigo, Entertainment, and Government in Edo Japan"

Elizabeth Watson, Interdisciplinary Studies

In Edo Japan, the strong patriarchal society led to gender roles of men and women being somewhat heteronormative by modern society standards. When looking at young men in Edo society, the lines are blurred in certain aspects of the culture. Young men who served in Buddhist temples, *chigo*, and the young male actors, *wakashu*, were completely regarded as males but performed sexually as females. Amongst Edo society, the terms "homosexual" and "heterosexual" did not fit or encompass the sexualities of the time. The sexual pairings are stated as male-female or male-male love. How these young men of the temples and the theater were treated have interesting implications for religion, entertainment, and government in the Edo period. The sexualization, commodification, and objectification of young men and children create a dichotomy of a celibate religious group who is deeply intertwined with the shogunate and the many tales of male-male love.

"A Study on Intergenerational Trauma and History: Korean Han"

Cymone Van Marter, Film and Television & East Asian Studies

I am studying the intricate cultural aspects of the Korean concept of Han, an intergenerational trauma brought on by various historical events such as Japanese Occupation, World War 2, the Korean War, and military dictatorships all over the course of 100 years. By interviewing 5 Korean women at, or previously at, the University of Arizona, I am exploring these topics in the eyes of those who have studied and experienced it. Although I reached out to several men, none of them responded, and so I will be doing a particular analysis on the gendered-ness of Han in Korean society, and outside of it. All of this I will present in the form of a documentary that is broken into three sections; history, the scholarly definition of Han, and the emotional connection of Han to Koreans over the generations. I hope to implement this into the EAS curriculum in the future for students to watch in classes.

"Kibyōshi: Crafting the Cultural Memory of Edo"

Fiona Edwards, Linguistics & East Asian Studies

This project details the cultural impact and subject matter of "kibyōshi", a genre of literature which was massively popular with commoners in Tokugawa-era Japan. It explores the elements which made it unique within the realm of Edo literature, as well as the historical significance in analyzing this type of media. Additionally, this project draws comparisons to modern Japanese pop culture to recontextualize it through the lens of "kibyōshi" and the potential influence it has on the current literary landscape.

"'Emperor-ism' in Bakumatsu Japan"

Alexander Pena, History & Computer Science

In Japan's Bakumatsu period (1853-1868), a movement led by dissident samurai rapidly arose which advocated the establishment of imperial rule after more than 500 years since the Emperor had last wielded real political authority. Both opponents and supporters of the shogunate competed for the Emperor's favor, resulting in the rapid growth of his political influence and culminating in the Meiji Restoration of 1868. Why did opponents of the shogunate rally around the Emperor as a symbol of opposition? Why did the shogunate increasingly seek the Emperor's support for their rule? Why did serious political players support the establishment of imperial rule to replace the existing order? This project will argue that we can view the Emperor's rise to political prominence in the Bakumatsu period primarily as the result of the imperial institution's value to both the shogunate and its opponents as a legitimizing symbol that could accommodate a variety of visions, set against the background of the development of nativist thought stressing the Emperor in the centuries preceding the era.

Chair: Dr. Fabio Lanza

7. Contagion, Curiosity, and Cruelty: Exploring Human Experiences through the History of Medicine

Room B254

"Interacting with Disease in Tokugawa Japan"

Cymbeline Hale, East Asian Studies & Mechanical Engineering

In modern society, getting sick is often just a minor inconvenience, with medicines readily available for many illnesses and recovery often requiring little more than rest. More serious contagious disease outbreaks are contained thanks to vaccination, sanitation, and quarantine practices.

However, this wasn't always the case, as seen in Tokugawa Japan (1603 – 1868), where diseases were as feared as earthquakes and tsunamis. With limited understanding of disease's causes and prevention, people turned to whatever means possible to help them and their loved ones avoid getting sick and survive being sick.

In my presentation, I aim to explore common interactions with and interpretations of disease throughout the Tokugawa Period by analyzing depictions of smallpox, leprosy, and cholera in printed media from the period. I also aim to examine the cultural impacts of illness and epidemics on Tokugawa Japan. Much in the same way popular culture and modern society have been irrevocably changed in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, Tokugawa Japan was influenced by the presence of these diseases, and perceptions of diseases were influenced by changes in Tokugawa Japanese society. With this presentation, I wish to explore how illness shaped, and was shaped by, pre-modern Japanese society.

"Mortal Memories"

Madeline Boose, History & Global Studies

"Mortal Memories" is a study into how motives behind exhumation transformed in the 19th century. From the rise of medicine arose a need for dissection material, or corpses. Attention then turned to graves and robbing the dead in the name of research, and by the 19th century, entertainment. New interests emerged to collect or look at human remains and create morbid souvenirs such as bones, hair, and clothing. The rise of Gothic sensationalism partnered with the rise in medical acceptance of autopsy provided an ample springboard for an industry of postmortem entertainment. Bodies as entertainment grew in popularity throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. In churches, skeletons were revered as saints and in national and natural history museums different cultures were depicted as curiosities or as evidence of scientific achievements in human capabilities. Museum exhibits in the 20th and 21st centuries began to be designed around the body and death itself, such as the popular Bodies exhibits around the world and displays of Egyptian mummies. Through this presentation, I examine the ways memories of death have been changed and used throughout modernity.

"Beyond the Battlefield: The Dark Legacy of Nazi Medical Experiments During the Holocaust"

Hannah Redman, History & Pre-Medicine

While the horrors of World War 2 and the Holocaust have been widely discussed and taught, less widely known are the medical experiments performed by the Nazi scientists in the concentration camps. These include experiments such as the testing of the effects of uninhabitable conditions on Jewish prisoners, the testing of drugs and unexplored treatments on prisoners, as well as experimentation that attempted to prove and rationalize Nazi racial and ideological goals. One of the most famous examples of these were the experiments conducted on twins of varying identities by Josef Mengele at Auschwitz. The goal of this experiment was, ultimately, to prove the idea of eugenics, and allow for further justification of discrimination against those

viewed as having “undesirable” genetic traits by the Nazis. These medical experiments mutilated the prisoners, if they remained alive by the end, leaving them horrifically scarred, both physically and mentally. Medical experimentation during the Holocaust was highly secretive and brutal, but they played a key part in the racial and eugenic arguments acting as a driving force for the Nazi party.

"Historical Evolution of Mental Illness: Sherwood Anderson's Pioneering Exploration of Loneliness"

Lilyana Elaine Sabo, Psychological Sciences & Criminal Justice Studies

What happens when our conscious mind unravels, torn between rampant emotional pinnacles and volatile physical disruption? In Sherwood Anderson’s *Loneliness*, the character Enoch Robinson embodies this very struggle, as his erratic emotions and scarily disjointed behaviors suggest a complex blend of both psychiatric and neurological disorders. At the time of Anderson’s publication of *Loneliness* in the late 1910’s, mental illness was poorly misunderstood and the symbiosis of these disorders was not fully recognized. Anderson’s exploration of Enoch’s psychological fragmentation anticipates modern medical frameworks that now fully acknowledge comorbidity. This research project argues that Anderson’s depiction of mental illness not only reflects a sense of holistic pioneering of the comprehension of mental anguish but also highlights how literature has long been a tool for exploring and humanizing complex medical phenomena. Anderson’s work challenges the stigmatization of mental illness and contributes to the broader discussion about the need for early medical intervention while providing a historical lens through which we can better understand contemporary mental health discussions. This realization underscores the power of literature to bridge the past and present, helping us recognize that while medical advancements continue to evolve, the core human experience of struggling with mental illness remains strikingly familiar.

Chair: Dr. Ryan Kashanipour

12:30-1:30 PM: Lunch

1:30-3:00 PM: Session 3

8. Democracy vs. Authoritarianism on the World Stage: From Individual Resistance to Institutional Complacency

Room B201

"A Silent Rogue Elephant: The Church Committee and Secret NSA Operations 1960-1976"

James Christensen, History

The United States National Security Agency (NSA) has become infamous for its role in legally and morally questionable surveillance programs, the mass metadata collection program unearthed by contractor Edward Snowden being the most notorious. However, it is not the first scandal to rock the NSA. In 1976, the United States Select Committee on Intelligence disclosed multiple NSA signals surveillance operations that strongly resembled blatant political repression of progressive grassroots movements, initiating a series of judicial and legislative reforms that endure today. What was gained from the findings of the Church Committee? What was overlooked? Why? And what traces of the modern surveillance state took root in the NSA practices of the late 1960s?

"Clientelism & Corruption: Barriers to Women's Political Advancement in Autocratic Regimes"

Hannah Kempen, Political Science & Physics

Why don't we see any women autocrats in the modern age? Historically, political power has been largely concentrated into the hands of men, posing the question: are institutional constraints, social norms, or other factors responsible? This project investigates the representation of women in high-prestige political positions within both democracies and autocracies. It highlights how the roles of clientelism, corruption, and gendered power structures shape the promotion of women in autocracies, where loyalty, secrecy, and patronage drive power consolidation. In contrast, democracies, with their more merit-based systems, appear to offer more opportunities for female political advancement. By comparing these two systems, this research sheds light on how the dynamics that encourage male dominance in autocratic regimes create barriers for women's access to leadership roles. This study aims to understand how the intersection of clientelism and corruption contribute to the underrepresentation of women in positions of authority in autocratic systems, offering insights into the broader patterns of gender inequality in gaining political power.

"Strategic Interests: NATO and The Russo-Georgian War of 2008"

Braden Hoffman Diaz, History & Psychology

The Russo-Georgian War of 2008 was a multifaceted international conflict that was indicative of tension between the dominant global powers in a post-Soviet Europe. Although Georgia entered the American consciousness around 2008, the United States was no stranger to Georgian politicians nor ignorant to the strategic power and financial interests that lay in Georgia. Following the outbreak of war between Georgia and Russia in 2008, George W. Bush made several speeches regarding his support of Georgia and his disdain for "unprovoked Russian violence." This paper aims at providing a contrary depiction of the war and the United States' intentions in Georgia through research that explores Georgia's political past, the tumultuous relationship between Russia and the United States, NATO encirclement, and the strong case for Georgian aggression in 2008. Although the conflict has been painted in a myriad of ways that point the blame in varying directions, the movements, behaviors, and flaunting of American politicians, businessmen, and foreign interest groups can hardly be ignored in relation to this conflict. This paper intends to analyze the potential motives of major players like the United States that were involved in the Russo-Georgian war in an attempt to further their own strategic interests.

"Stories of Resilience from the Battle of the Bulge"

Elena Parker, History

The project will center on bottom-up narratives from individual soldiers who served in the Ardennes Campaign and subsequent Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 to January 1945, via oral histories hosted by the Library of Congress. It will utilize and compare these narratives in order to discuss the importance of personal acts of resilience and the impact these acts had on the overall outcome on the Battle of the Bulge. Potential focus points include the impact on esprit de corps, continued perseverance, and interpersonal connections as a result of acts of resilience in the field by United States Army personnel.

Chair: Dr. David Gibbs

9. American Social and Political Transformations from Antebellum to Reconstruction

Room B250

"The Civil War and Reconstruction: A Foundation for Women's Rights"

Amy Filippone, History

The Civil War and Reconstruction era of American History were pivotal in shaping the United States, but also in the rights and roles of women. This era of history is often defined by the bloody battles, civil rights, slavery, and division, however, this time was a foundation for the advancement of women's rights. The Civil War created the opportunity for women to engage in public life, challenging traditional gender roles, while the Reconstruction era highlighted the racial tension in the United States, which helped lead to the rise of the Women's Movement. The Civil War was only the start of the Women's Movement, and this topic is important now more than ever.

"Coverage of the Sectional Crisis in Richmond Newspapers, 1860-1861"

Nathan Davis, Education Leadership

The media has played a central role in shaping political discourse from the United States' conception a quarter millennia ago. Our society currently faces deep partisan divides and growing distrust in the government. Similar dynamics played out during the crisis following the 1860 election. This study examines the coverage of the 1860-1861 secession crisis in two of Richmond's leading newspapers – the Enquirer and the Whig – revealing how partisan reporting reflected the intensification of sectional tensions.

The Enquirer, a staunchly Democratic publication, framed the Republican's electoral success as a direct assault on Southern rights and soon advocated for secession. Conversely, the Whig, aligned with conservative Unionists, called for restraint and compromise through a national convention. As the crisis escalated, both papers played a role in shaping public sentiment with the Enquirer amplifying pro-secessionist rhetoric and the Whig urging measured responses even as hope for a peaceful resolution dimmed.

By examining how the editors of the Enquirer and the Whig framed the political crisis, this research highlights the power of the press in shaping the narrative surrounding national divisions, thereby illuminating the importance of similar challenges facing society today.

"The Complex Legacy of Leland Stanford"

William Babbitt, Political Science Major (History minor)

This paper is on Leland Stanford's activities and contributions to America following the Civil War.

Chair: Dr. Katherine Morrissey

10. All Creatures Great and Small: Environmental and Animal History in Medieval Europe

Room B252

"Rivers, Lakes and Streams: The Waterways of Medieval People's Backyards"

Matthew Lee, History

Oceanographers and maritime navigators of the medieval world have supplied historians with ample evidence for discovering the customs, culture, and mythos related to large bodies of water that surround the continents. But what about the smaller waterways of medieval people's backyards? Did these tracts of water supply the same sort of evidence as their larger cousins? This project serves to answer these dynamic questions and more.

Using evidence in the form of manuscripts, texts, chronicles, artwork, and constructions; this proposal seeks to provide an ample playground in which the dynamic questions about smaller waterways can be answered or not. Because the majority of historical study of these water systems relates to the geographical placement of settlements, urban management, and relation to industry; the focus of this proposal is to seek out new evidence that illuminates the cultural significance of rivers, lakes and streams. A geographical survey around the globe provides a rounded perspective and relates claims between different cultures as well as providing grounds for contrasting discoveries. The research is presented in a digital "cabinet of curiosities" modality which links the medieval world to the contemporary era and illustrates new ways to engage with historical research.

"Here Be Monsters: An Exploration of People and Water from 700-1600 A.D."

Kat Moore, Anthropology & History

On a practical level, people living during the European Middle Ages understood and managed their complex relationships with nature. Crop rotation, woodland management, and maintaining animal populations is some of the most important evidence scholars have of the (working class) medieval populace's understanding of the natural world. Water systems were manipulated to ensure sustainability, without the knowledge of this resource, other attempts to manage the natural world would be difficult, if not impossible. From irrigation canals, to hydraulic grow-beds, to a village well, the ability to manipulate water was, and remains, essential for the survival of crops, animals, and people. In Fall 2024, I constructed a miniature cabinet of curiosity to showcase snapshots of the global medieval world through material means. The goal of the project was not only to demonstrate the diverse relationships that medieval communities had with bodies of water but to also explore the importance and effectiveness of engaging in material-driven historical research.

"The Breeds Behind the Hunt"

Rylie Hatcher, History

Hunting was an integral part of Medieval Europe, used as a means of acquiring food and as a sport for aristocrats. Literature focusing on the act of the hunt often overlooks the dogs that work together with the hunters to pursue, capture, and retrieve the prey being hunted. Throughout Europe, dozens of breeds are utilized, including sighthounds, scenthounds, mastiffs, and retrievers, each with their own distinct purpose and role that differentiates them from each other. Understanding the variety of breeds and purposes highlights the intricacies of hunting and society during Medieval Europe. The process of going through a hunt will be demonstrated through an interactive game created with Twine that pulls evidence from various primary and secondary sources, including illuminated manuscripts, artwork, and articles. This project seeks to explore the canines behind the hunt in an interactive way that illustrates the significance of the hunt.

Chair: Dr. Beth Plummer

11. Violence, Ritual, and Civic Life in Classical Antiquity

Room B254

"Vitriol in Northern Italy: Gallic Conflicts from 390-61 B.C.E."

Ehren Morrissey, History

In this paper, I make the claim that initial conflicts between the Romans and the Gauls of northern Italy spiraled into a generational hatred between the two. This is shown by the opportunistic wars waged by the Gauls, by which they took any chance they could of fighting against Roman dominion, which they never could have escaped.

"The Fanum Voltumnae"

Amelia Thomas, Classics & Economics

The Fanum Voltumnae, a pivotal religious and political site of the Etruscan civilization, was integral to the cohesion of the Etruscan League. Serving as both a temple to the highest deity, Voltumna, and a central meeting place for leaders of the twelve city-states, it represents a unique intersection of religion and politics in Etruscan society. Though the site's precise location was long uncertain, recent excavations at Campo Della Fiera in Orvieto, Italy, identified it as the Fanum Voltumnae, with key evidence such as inscriptions and architectural features linking it to the deity Voltumna. This paper examines the significance of the Fanum Voltumnae within the broader context of Etruscan religious practices, politics, and societal organization. The discovery of Temple A and its associated roads, altars, and artifacts underscores the sanctuary's central role in uniting the Etruscan League. Additionally, the continued use of the site into the Roman period, evidenced by a Roman bathhouse and votive offerings, illustrates the enduring legacy of Etruscan religious practices. Through this analysis, the Fanum Voltumnae emerges not just as a physical space, but as a cornerstone of Etruscan identity and intercity cooperation.

"Three's a Crowd: Third Places in the Roman Empire During Imperial Rome"

Gemmalee DyerMok, Classics & Anthropology

The modern term "third place," coined by sociologist Ray Oldenburg, is a key feature to successful urban centers. This research paper analyzes the physical concepts of ancient Rome's urban layout and city planning through the contemporary lens of Oldenburg's definition of what constitutes a third place. Through analyzing the infrastructure of Imperial Rome and exploring how the quality of life during that era was in turn expressed in several primary literary accounts, this paper will prove how the ancient Roman infrastructure that nurtured and facilitated the growth of several third places, such as its forums and baths, is an exemplary model fulfilling Oldenburg's third place theories. Primary sources used to explain the links between urban planning and the quality of life are *De Architectura* by Vitruvius, *Tristia* by Ovid, and *Epigrams* by Martial. The results of this research potentially expand the influence of antiquity, as it demonstrates ancient Rome as a valuable model to study in tandem with emphasizing the necessities of third places in modern society. Given that Rome is already appreciated for its gladiators, military, and triumphant war accounts, Rome's important urban qualities deserve a chance to usher in a revival of more third places in urban areas.

Chair: Dr. John Bauschatz

3:15-4:45: Session 4

12. Roll the Dice, Check the King, and Loose the Hounds: Medieval Recreation Reimagined through Maker Projects

Room B201

"Medieval Chess Game"

Elizabeth liams, PPEL

This project is about chess in medieval Europe and how it differed from modern chess, in the form of a text-based chess game. It takes the players through an actual game while still teaching them about medieval chess and society, beginning with the Ruy López opening, which dates back to 16th century Spain. The game covers

the origins of chess and the different rules found in the medieval version, such as the varied movements of the Queen. Furthermore, my game examines the role of queens in chess and how it relates to the role of women in society. The game uses both primary and secondary sources, such as the *Libro de Acadrex, Dados et Tablos* by Alfonso X, and uses many images from the book to illustrate how a game would look, as well as images of chess pieces to give the player a clear idea of the game they are playing. My game allows players to make various moves, each leading to a different outcome. The goal of my game is to be not only fun, but to teach about medieval chess in a way that is informative and accessible even to people who don't know how to play chess.

"Gambling with Fate: Researching Historical Contingencies by Choosing Your Own Adventure"

ILY Guy, Molecular and Cellular Biology

My game was created using written and visual primary sources while also engaging with the relevant historiography to create historical fiction. These sources provided a realistic touch to the game that teaches others about the culture of medieval Europe. Using key pieces of *De Lusoribus [Of Gamblers]* that introduced the concept of gamblers being fools who are chained to games, continuing to play them all day and night. While in Engraving, the artwork depicts the several characteristics of fortune, where the creators of this piece thought fortune to be blind, an inconstant variable, and a wheel of chance. In finding ways to implement these aspects, outcomes of the game differed in accordance with information gathered and knowledge gained depending upon certain decisions. By the end, I wanted to expound that every choice has a consequence whether that be positive or negative while teaching players about games in medieval times.

"The Importance of Hunting in Medieval English Aristocracy"

Quinn Kiesow, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

This research project looks into the historical relevance of hunting as a game and pastime in medieval English aristocracy. Through my research I developed a Twine game called, "The Hunt," a choose your own adventure game set in medieval England. The game takes players through the life of Baron Hastings during his first hunt, examining the cultural and societal importance of hunting for a young man in Medieval English aristocracy. The game follows a traditional hunting party equipped with weapons, dogs, and horses to track and take down a beast with a heavy emphasis on animal symbolism. Primary sources used to build my game include *The Master of Game* by Edward of Norwich and JSTOR images of medieval hunting relics. Secondary sources that analyze the importance of the courtly hunt, like Trever Dodman's article, "Hunting to Teach: Class, Pedagogy, and Maleness in the Master of Game and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight" and works on breaking deer in Medieval English literature by Ryan Judkins further establish the context of my research. Kings and nobles were able to develop relationships, establish power roles, and maintain traditions through hunting, an area of history I decided to expand on through my game.

"Playing with Gender Dynamics in the Medieval Hunt"

Clara Leach, History

My research, presented as a choose-your-own-adventure game, considers the role women played in the practice of medieval European hunting. Through the synthesis of primary medieval sources as well as secondary scholarship on medieval hunting and the gendered dynamics of the pastime, I showcase how involved an aristocratic medieval woman could be in hunting, an activity most associated with men throughout history. In my game, you play as Eleanor of Castile, a real queen of England from the 13th century who is known to have enjoyed hunting during her reign. You are able to choose between two different popular hunting practices in medieval times, falconry or á force hunting, and through each path I incorporate my research to present the gender dynamics within the two types of hunting a medieval woman would have faced. I also present an

overview of falconry and á force hunting, allowing the player to gain an understanding of both the gender dynamics as well as a more general comparison between two popular hunting forms. The pathways allow for a dynamic, interesting approach to my research through the gameplay where you can make multiple choices that emphasize the different aspects of hunting to the medieval woman.

Chair: Dr. Paul Milliman

13. Land, Identity, and Colonialism in North America

Room B250

"NAGPRA's Legacy: Repatriation in the Era of Decolonization"

Aurora Levy, History

Museums have evolved over the few thousand years that they have existed (in one form or another). They include specialties such as art, science, technology, history, anthropology. But in the United States of America, history museums have a dark past, stemming from the colonization by European settlers beginning in the 16th century. There are literal skeletons in the closet of many massive, beloved institutions. Human remains, specifically those of indigenous people, are in custody of many museums. The 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act sought to remedy this, but it has been a long and difficult road thus far. NAGPRA has had a massive change in how museums are run, processes they must follow, and items they have to return. Repatriating human remains and objects becomes more difficult the longer they are separated from their heritage. Progress is being made, despite challenges and pushback.

"More is More: The Process of Blending Disciplines and Knowing When to Evolve"

Alyssa Wood, History

John Dewey once said, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." As such, knowledge cannot simply exist as an ore to be extracted, polished, and used in production. Rather, knowledge is a seed to be watered, grown in relationship with others, and allowed to change from season to season. Putting this concept into practice, this paper will outline the potential for an educational program that incorporates a multimodal and multidisciplinary perspective on the topics of indigenous and environmental history for upper-division high school students. However, in keeping with this theme, it will also detail the reasonings for why this initial plan was left unfinished as this project took on a more reflective approach.

"Resilience and Nationalism: The Republic of Haiti"

Chrys Walton, History & French

Over the course of its history, the Haitian Republic and its preceding colony have been subjected to a series of social injustices, environmental disasters, and political conflicts that contributed towards its current status as a nation. These include colonization, enslavement, foreign occupation, and natural disaster events, the last of which are projected to persist into the country's future due to its unique geographic location and environmental conditions. This project will highlight the role of Haitian resilience in shaping the Haitian Republic, asserting that disaster was a fundamental catalyst in establishing an independent Haitian state, as well as the nationalist sentiments which led to and followed the Haitian Revolution. It will touch briefly on race and ethnicity, culture, and language in Haiti, and how the development of these social conditions established the nation's individuality from associated powers such as the French Empire and the remainder of the island of Hispaniola.

Chair: Dr. Katherine Morrissey

14. Contested Crossings: Policy Debates in 21st Century U.S. Immigration Law

Room B252

"The Criminalization of Migrant Aid Groups"

Tillie Douglas, Global Studies

This presentation will be on the topic of the criminalization of migrant aid groups in Arizona. I plan to present my research thus far for my honors thesis with a focus on the history of migrant aid groups in Arizona, their criminalization, and the legality around the work that they do. My thesis aims to fill an academic gap of a lack of cumulative literature on the nature of migrant aid groups and their continued criminalization and decriminalization as has been seen for the last 60 years. This presentation will give the audience a deeper understanding of the legal limbo migrant aid groups exist in, and how/why they operate.

Migration will continue to happen regardless of criminalization efforts put forth by vigilant groups, and the government, making the work of these groups essential. Tucson has a long history of migrant aid work, so I will seek to present an evaluation of this work while simultaneously looking at the shifting legality of the work these groups do and how laws around migrant aid groups can be changed to ensure the safety of more people.

"Is TPS in Danger with New Government Officials in Office"

Angela Valencia Durazo, Mexican American Studies

The programs that are centered in immigration and help immigrants can be in danger with the new administration going into office - more specifically, Temporary Protected Status (TPS). The fear is that these programs (TPS) could get terminated, put on hold, lose funding, or pause efficiency. This new administration had stated online about their plans for these programs, and it is not hopeful. The argument is that as a government and people, we need to make a policy or an idea where we can prolong these programs or/and a long-term solution where programs aren't in danger of being terminated and have a clear future. This topic does explain the history behind these programs, other administrations with this program, and the current administration's history with this program as well.

"Detained Dreams: Immigration Detention and Policy under the Bush, Obama, and Trump Administrations"

Louise Catherine Taylor, Political Science & German studies

Immigration is one of the most contested topics in U.S. politics today. Particularly with the re-introduction of President Donald Trump and his stricter-than-ever-before migration policies, a comprehensive review of American attitudes surrounding immigration throughout its recent history is necessary. The world of immigration policy in the United States was forever changed after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. It grew stricter and more detention-centric while U.S. politicians pushed the concept of immigration detention as a means for national security and manipulated it into a nationalist narrative. The three presidential administrations between 2000-2016, the Bush, Obama, and Trump administrations, each had similar methods of doing this. In all of these administrations, neglect and abuse occurred. Much of which was purposeful on behalf of these administrations, and some of which resulted from plain incompetence and unpreparedness. A comparison of all three administrations was conducted by the researcher in order to highlight the pros and cons of each immigration policy plan. Critiques of the human rights abuses and legal complications that occurred as a result of each of their policies and the continuation of such critiques are crucial to prevent continuations of these violations in future administrations.

Chair: Dr. Erika Perez

15. All History is Local: Community Organizing, Corporate Interests, and Campus Culture in Arizona

Room B254

"Understanding Urban Renewal: A History of Sears, Segregation, and the American City"

Lucy Parsons, History

This research will interrogate Tucson's mid-century Urban Renewal project, which bulldozed century-old neighborhoods (and the *Tucsonense* central business district and downtown) to make room for modern developments like the Tucson Convention Center, a police and fire station, parking lots, government buildings, and shopping centers. The project displaced thousands of people from Barrio Libre, which was at the time Arizona's most densely populated eighty acres. The cultural, social, and economic impacts on Tucson's geography and politics was profound – shifting dynamics in favor of the relatively new Anglo population and erasing the presence and history of the long withstanding Mexican population. I seek to connect corporate interests with the national trend of urban renewal and apply these findings to Tucson's own history. A 1957 Sears, Roebuck, & Co. publication inspired this project: "ABC's of Urban Renewal" outlines not only where and how to carry out urban renewal, but also how company executives can personally profit from these projects. By examining Sears' shareholders, executives, city planners, and project board members, as well as grants, funding, and letters of interest, I intend to identify a profit motive for urban renewal from corporations in a way that the literature is yet to address.

"Collegiate Aspirations and the Significance of Cultural Heritage in the University of Arizona APASA Space"

Kieran Lee, East Asian Studies

This research is in the University of Arizona's Asian Pacific American Student Affairs (APASA) space, where I have done an ethnographic study of Asian American students within the various cultural organizations under APASA's umbrella. Such organizations include the Filipino American Students Association (FASA), Asian American Cultural Association (AACA), Asian Pacific American Pre-Med Students Association (APAMSA), and even Greek societies such as Alpha Phi Gamma (APHIG). Through the Asian American students under these organizations, I seek to understand the reasons why students join these organizations, their aspirations for college and beyond college, and more specifically how their cultural background influenced their decision making. By "cultural background" I explore what cultures they themselves find they were raised in, including geographical location, class status, and familial ties. Through my research, I explore the Asian American experience at the University of Arizona, exploring issues of segregation at the school, and how spaces like APASA can help Asian American students navigate both college and the rest of their life, or perhaps discover real harms that Asian Americans experience while at the university.

"The Women of Arizona's Fight for Equality"

Sabrina Bates, History & Literacy Leadership and Innovation

As long as the world has been circling, women's bodies have always been a topic of discussion, especially when it comes to body autonomy. The U.S government has developed legislation, propaganda and social normalcy that has ultimately placed strain on women being independent. However, this has not stopped the women of southern Arizona from fighting back against these policies. They have developed foundations, political organizations and uplifted women in governmental positions to bring attention to women's rights. Paving the way for equality among women and men. This, however, did not come easy as the women of southern Arizona chose to face their challenges through building community in unity. Creating opportunities for organizations like the "Arizona Women's Political Caucus" to be created. Which not only brought attention to women's issues in Arizona but also helped pro-choice women reach government positions. Pursuing change through awareness and policy. The project will explore not only the impacts of the "Arizona Women's political Caucus" organization,

but the several ways the organization chose to fight back against misogyny and the U.S government's control over body autonomy. This project will also identify the backlash the organization experienced and how they navigated around such tense and unpredictable conditions.

"River Left: Competing Claims to Recreation Management in Western Grand Canyon"

Jonathan Goodman, Geography

The northern boundary of the Hualapai Reservation, within the most remote reach of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, has long been in contention. While the National Park Service (NPS) manages recreation on the Colorado River and both its banks, the Hualapai Nation claims the division to be the river's centerline (Ingram, 2011). Recently, Hualapai Game and Fish have begun to enforce a camping permitting system on the contested southern bank of the Colorado River, deploying rangers to otherwise inaccessible campsites by helicopter and jetboat, to the chagrin of NPS administrators. In this paper, I combine policy discourse analysis and autoethnography from my experience working as an expedition guide in the Grand Canyon to trace the legal and political history of the border dispute and contextualize it within development geographies (Smith 1984) and the history of the Hualapai Nation (McMillen 2007). By contrasting recent turns in the dispute with official NPS co-management programs, I flesh out tensions between state-sanctioned co-management and Indigenous sovereignty claims. Further, I argue the Hualapai Nation's competing claim to recreation management legitimacy is controversial precisely because it deviates from traditional ethnohistories central to Indigenous politics.

Chair: Dr. Michelle Berry

4:45-5:00 PM: Raffle & Symposium Close

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