



UNIVERSITY OF  
NOTRE DAME

ARTS & LETTERS



# 2020

## SENIOR THESIS PROJECTS

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

**Patricia Alquiza**

- Majors: Spanish and Environmental Sciences
- Adviser: Vanesa Miseres

**La Cultura de la Vaca Argentina**

Using Esteban Echeverría's "El Matadero," I analyzed several contemporary art pieces that recognize the connection Argentinians have with the cow, whether that be proximal, symbolic, symbiotic, or even consumptive — and not just as means for nourishment but also to express self and communal identities. This further confirms the profound relationship each consumer has with food. It is not as ephemeral as a bite but remains influential always, from production to consumption to waste.

A perfect intersection of my majors and my general love for food, this thesis has allowed me to explore one nation's dynamic experience with the cow.

**Antonia Ambrose**

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies (PLS)
- Supplementary Major: Italian
- Minor: Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: Denis Robichaud

## Struggling for Equal Agency: Feminist Reinterpretation of Catholic Theology in Lucrezia Marinella, Moderata Fonte, and Arcangela Tarabotti

My thesis explores the feminisms of three 17th-century authors, Lucrezia Marinella, Moderata Fonte, and Arcangela Tarabotti. I researched women's status in Renaissance Italy and placed their writings in historical and philosophical context to illustrate their radical claims for female equality. Their reinterpretations of archetypes Eve and Mary reveal relations between theological misogyny and the subordination of married and religious women. Their efforts to reimagine women's equality within Catholicism anticipate and provide guidance to modern feminist efforts.

I was interested in the history of Italian feminism, building on my encounters with misogyny and female scholarship in the Program of Liberal Studies, Italian studies, and abroad. I discovered Lucrezia Marinella and wanted to study her feminism in contrast to her poetry and theology. At Venice's Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, I read an article highlighting the historical uniqueness of three feminist writers in 17th-century Venice, which led me to study Marinella's polemics alongside those of Moderata Fonte and Arcangela Tarabotti.

*Traveled to Tuscany and Venice, Italy, with funding from the Monteverdi Prize from the Program of Liberal Studies and the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.*

**Mary Grace Babbo**

- Majors: Program of Liberal Studies (PLS) and Music (Piano Performance)
- Supplementary Major: Italian Studies
- Adviser: Andrew Radde-Gallwitz

## Poetic Conversion and Transformation of Love in Dante's *Commedia*: A Journey to Salvation Through Music

My thesis explores Dante's journey in his *Commedia* in three sections. First, I explored the nature of sin as misguided self-determination through an analysis of the non-discursive, but chaotic anti-music of the *Inferno*. Then, I analyzed how the *Purgatorio* places secular and sacred song in a dialectic tension. Finally, in the *Paradiso*, I examined the nature of salvation through polyphony, where the non-discursiveness of music imitates the non-discursiveness of God's Word.

My thesis is at the intersection of my majors in the Program of Liberal Studies, music, and Italian. We read all three parts of Dante's *Commedia* in Seminar III in PLS, and I incorporated analysis of the Italian language of his epic poem through my work in my Italian courses. I also focused my research through the lens of music in the *Commedia*.

**Catherine Barra**

- Majors: English and Political Science
- Minor: Italian Studies
- Adviser: Yasmin Solomonescu

## The Revelatory Power of Grief and the Role of Literature in Coping with Loss in Mary Shelley's *Valperga* and *The Last Man*

My thesis takes a look at how different characters cope with loss in two of Mary Shelley's novels, *Valperga* and *The Last Man*. I ultimately argue that the characters who cope well are those who are greatly influenced by literature. The lessons they derive from literature allow them to channel their grief into selfless, productive contribution to society.

Mary Shelley is often observed in the context of her relationships to other famous people. As such, scholars are eager to observe how Shelley's own losses have influenced her writing. I wanted to go beyond the biographical context of her works to show that Shelley's meditations on loss go beyond self-reference. In depicting characters who use literature to cope with death, Shelley hopes to inform her readers of the healing power of reading and writing.



### Hugh Burke

- Major: Science Preprofessional Studies
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Adviser: Gerald Haeffel

## Generalizability of Hopelessness Theory Construct in Non-WEIRD Samples

Four independent studies tested the generalizability of the hopelessness theory of depression. Results showed that the distribution of cognitive vulnerability and depressive symptom scores in non-WEIRD (White, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, Democratic) samples — including original data I collected in Honduras and data from Prolific — was similar to that found in WEIRD samples from the U.S., Canada, and Western Europe. However, the severity of scores and their correlation differed.

I became interested in depressive studies early on when I joined associate professor of psychology Gerald Haeffel's Cognition & Emotion Lab in my sophomore year. He suggested that I think about a thesis project that combined my other areas of personal academic interest as well. With this project, I was able to bring in some of my knowledge and interests from my Spanish supplementary major to take a global look at depression in non-WEIRD samples.

*Traveled to Honduras with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.*

**Matthew Canonico**

- Majors: Mathematics and Italian
- Sorin Fellow
- Adviser: Christian Moevs

## Mathematics as a Linguistic Phenomenon: Tartaglia and the Need for Symbolic Notation

Symbolic notation in mathematics is a rather recent development. In my project, I study the solving of the cubic equation in Italy during the Renaissance and the language used to communicate the solution in order to underline the weakness of purely rhetorical mathematical communication and, ultimately, the necessity for symbolic notation.

This topic has allowed me to approach each of my majors simultaneously from a unique angle and to explore an immensely interesting bit of history that goes largely unmentioned. Further, I have realized that one main reason for my interest in mathematics is the qualities that it shares with language. To combine mathematics with Italian in my thesis and to consider the language of mathematical communication has been gratifying.



### Trevor Canty

- Major: Spanish (Honors)
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Juan Vitulli

## La Borgauchesca

My project is an investigation of the work of author Jorge Luis Borges and his connection to the gaucho literature of his native Argentina. I argue that Borges opts out of his own rewriting, instead allowing his characters — largely constructions of the gaucho canon itself — to enact the reinterpretation of the genre. In the second section of my thesis, “Réquiem para la Borgauchesca,” I explore the aftermath of this literary intervention.

After reading “El Sur” in a class in Spain my sophomore year, I was struck by how Borges, a famously cosmopolitan author, interacted with the literary traditions of his own country. Understanding the conversion from regionalism to universality in this literature is an important topic, especially in light of the rapid globalization of the 21st century.

**Matt Cyrs**

- Major: Spanish
- Supplementary Major: Chinese
- Adviser: Carlos Jáuregui

## 20th-Century Philosophy in Borges

My project traces the influence of notable philosophers such as Nietzsche, Sartre, Camus, and Schopenhauer through several short stories of the Argentinian author Jorge Luis Borges.

I have always been fascinated with philosophy, yet did not have the chance to take any philosophy classes beyond the two required at Notre Dame. Borges has always been my favorite Spanish-language author and is noted for the philosophical aspects of his work. I decided a thesis was the perfect way to bring these two interests together.

**Claire DiOrio**

- Majors: Italian and Applied Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Minor: Actuarial Science
- Adviser: Charles Leavitt

## The Contradictory Nature of Italian Fascist Gender Politics and Its Impact on Women

The Italian fascist government explicitly promoted traditional gender roles through repressive policy and rhetoric aimed at confining a woman's role to the home. However, my thesis aims to demonstrate that the fascist party's rhetoric and policies regarding women were often too contradictory and ineffective to substantially impact the treatment and advancement of women in society.

I was interested in analyzing this subject because the rise of fascism coincided with a rise in international interest to redefine or re-evaluate traditional gender roles. I wanted to examine whether the repressive fascist policies had a significant impact on women under its regime.

**Alex Engel**

- Major: International Economics (Spanish)
- Adviser: Forrest Spence

## Spanish Populism After the Financial Crisis of 2008

I researched Spanish populist parties after the financial crisis in order to determine whether they were more successful in regions that were affected more by the crisis. Through the use of regional mortgage data and election results, I could see how the people of various regions responded to economic issues.

Through various classes, I have enjoyed learning about the recent economic history of Spain, as well as general political movements in Europe. I felt that this topic was a good way to combine all of my coursework and pursue a question that interested me.

**Beatrice Hall**

- Major: Medieval Studies
- Supplementary Major: Italian Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Robin Jensen

## Constantine, the Church, and Constantine's Church: Studying the Lateran Basilica to Understand the People Who Made It

This project is a detailed study of the Lateran Basilica as it was built by the Roman emperor Constantine I. It uses the church's appearance, as well as what it would have signified to a 4th-century audience, as evidence to understand the early relationship of Constantine to the Christian community in the city of Rome.

I am fascinated by the relationship between Constantine and the Church. I want to understand what Constantine did for the Church, how the Church responded, how the Church changed (or did not change) as a result of Constantine's actions, and what it all means for understanding God's actions in history.

**Jessica Hannon**

- Majors: Sociology and Spanish
- Adviser: Joseph Parent

## Attribution and Responsibility: Why Great Powers Claim Assassinations

My project examines assassinations and assassination attempts conducted by great powers in the 21st century, specifically attacks carried out by the United States and Russia on international soil. I analyze which factors diminish the states' ability to establish plausible deniability in the wake of an attack, as well as the international norms that govern patterns of claiming and attributing responsibility for these assassinations.

I am very interested in the United States' central counterterrorism strategy of leadership decapitation. My thesis topic allowed me to research how this strategy is received in an international context, as well as great power relations and international signaling.

**Sarah Harper**

- Major: Art History
- Supplementary Major: French
- Minor: Theology
- CUSE Sorin Scholar
- Adviser: Elyse Speaks

**Kader Attia: The Museum of Emotion**

Kader Attia's exhibition "The Museum of Emotion" chronicles the entirety of his artistic career. A French Algerian artist, his work delves into French colonization. In particular, this exhibition demonstrates how there is a French control over former colonial populations. Attia is trying to demonstrate that relinquishing this control is necessary for the world to recover from the wounds of colonization.

Attia is becoming more important on the world stage, so I wanted to be ahead of the curve and write about the important work he is making. I also wanted to ensure that I used my French language skills in my thesis, so he was the perfect artist to study.

*Traveled to London and New York with funding from the Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement.*

**Holly Harris**

- Majors: Political Science and Spanish
- Minor: Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
- Adviser: Andy Gould

## Attitudes Towards External Pressures: Capital, Political Influence, and Xenophobia in the European Union, 2015-2020

Conventional wisdom and modern political rhetoric suggest that one of the best predictors of a European Union citizen's attitude toward the EU as an institution is their opinion on immigration into the EU and their perceived level of xenophobic sentiments. However, there is not a clear correlation between being pro-immigration and pro-EU, and vice versa, in many countries. In my thesis, I have hypothesized that there are four other factors that work together better to influence public opinion toward the EU.

Throughout my college career, I have had an interest in public opinion, how it is formed, and how it is measured. I also have a great interest in immigration as a political issue and the functionality of the EU as an institution. My project is the intersection of all three.

**Ciara Hopkinson**

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies (PLS)
- Minor: Italian
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Emma Planinc

## Achieving Virtu — Freedom and Necessity in Machiavelli's *The Prince* and *Discourses on Livy*

My senior thesis focuses on Machiavelli's conception of freedom in society. Largely based on a close reading analysis of *The Prince* and *Discourses on Livy*, my paper argues that the "virtu" needed to maintain a stable society is only possible with the freedom that comes from republican government. I chose this topic because I find Machiavelli fascinating to read, not least because he has in many ways shaped our modern conception of politics. His works are funny, intriguing, and more complex and nuanced the more one reads them.

**Hanna Kennedy**

- Majors: English and Spanish
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Declan Kiberd

## Love in the Time of Text Messaging: Sally Rooney and the Impact of Internet Language on Interpersonal Relationships

My thesis investigates how Sally Rooney's two novels, *Conversations with Friends* and *Normal People*, capture the ways in which technology-mediated communication deepens interpersonal relationships for her generation, as well as how it creates a generational divide between those who know the new rules of language and those who do not.

I chose this topic after multiple people recommended Rooney's books to me while I was studying abroad in Dublin. Her novels are set at Trinity College, where I was studying at the time, and really helped me to get to know the school and the city of Dublin.

**Hanna Kennedy**

- Majors: Spanish and English
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Ben Heller

## Exilio, Errancia, y lo Imaginario: La Escritura Como Relación en Cuentos Negros de Cuba

My thesis, written in Spanish, investigates the interplay of errantry and exile, themes outlined by Édouard Glissant in his *Poetics of Relation*, in the short stories of the Cuban author and ethnologist Lydia Cabrera. By looking at the publication history of *Cuentos Negros de Cuba*, I aim to demonstrate how translation both changes and spreads a cultural imaginary and that this has an impact on the culture's present identity.

I chose to write about Lydia Cabrera after taking two Spanish classes focused on the Caribbean. I loved learning the history of the place, but I was curious about why there were not very many female authors on either syllabus. One of my professors recommended I check out Cabrera.

**Abigail Kovar**

- Major: English
- Minor: Italian
- Adviser: Ernest Morrell

## Concepts of the American Voice in Toni Morrison and Henry David Thoreau

My project examines American identity through Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*. Both of these works are widely read and widely studied, but contribute very different perspectives and themes to the American literary canon. How do the authors create their unique sense of voice and why do they do this? Furthermore, what does this say about concepts of American identity?

While interning in South Africa last summer, I became fascinated by race relations and how people of different races share their stories. This prompted me to bring these thoughts to an American context — how have authors used their voices in different ways? I have always loved both of these authors and thought it would be productive to explore the texts within this framework.

*Completed a Summer Entrepreneurial Internship in South Africa with funding from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.*

**Rebecca Lam**

- Major: Design (Concentration in Visual Communication Design)
- Supplementary Major: French
- Minor: European Studies
- Adviser: Neeta Verma

**Personality and Academics: Can We Have the Best of Both Worlds?**

My project analyzes existing research in conjunction with feedback from students, professors, and wellness experts in order to see if a student's level of extroversion impacts their learning outcome, and if so, how we can best reduce this impact so that all students can truly flourish.

I'm personally invested in this topic because of the common phenomenon of introverts being pushed toward extroversion in academic settings. With societal pressures to be extroverted, I hope this thesis will not only give a voice to those who don't always speak up, but also bring awareness to these expectations so that our academic system provides opportunities for everyone to play to their strengths and improve on their weaknesses.

**Madeline Link**

- Majors: History and Theology
- Minor: Italian
- Adviser: Daniel Hobbins

## Rediscovering the Early Theological Thought on Joan of Arc

My research sheds fresh light on the earliest documents written about Joan of Arc by eminent theologians of her day. These works are often overlooked by scholars and artists intrigued by the drama of Joan's trial, but I believe the work of these theologians can reveal more about who Joan really was, because of both their position in the chronology of her story and their innate quest for objective truth.

This topic combines my interests in medieval history and theology, women in the Church, and the ways in which people and events are remembered and re-contextualized throughout history. This research has given me the chance to analyze theological documents that bear important historical significance, explore the life of one of the most famous and controversial women in the Church, and provide a way to reclaim the historical figure of Joan and her mission.

**Molly McGraw**

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies (PLS)
- Supplementary Major: Italian Studies
- Adviser: Christopher Chowrimootoo

## Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Lorenzo Da Ponte's *Don Giovanni* in the 21st Century: Repertoire Opera and the Importance of Contemporary Staging

My paper focuses on the importance of modernizing repertoire opera to reflect current societal topics and issues. I used Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Lorenzo Da Ponte's *Don Giovanni* as my case study and analyzed three 21st-century directors and their reinterpretations of the work: Claus Guth, Calixto Bieito, and Kasper Holten.

Through the Center for Italian Studies and the Program of Liberal Studies, I have been fortunate to attend several operas at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Additionally, in a Music and Culture course taught by my adviser, Christopher Chowrimootoo, I was struck by our study of *Don Giovanni* and the power of performative art and the transcendent nature of opera.

**Megan McLaughlin**

- Major: Sociology
- Supplementary Majors: Spanish and Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: David Gibson

## Caring for the Underinsured: The Structure of Healthcare Organizations in Indiana

In this project, I engaged with traditional organizational theory themes of leadership, boundaries, structures, and division of labor by using the participant observation method in two health care clinics. The Sister Maura Brannick Health Center in South Bend, Indiana, and the Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center in Plymouth, Indiana, both serve uninsured patients and granted me access to their sites.

Primarily, I chose this topic because it is my goal to work in the medical field. Additionally, I did a Summer Service Learning Program in 2018 at Sister Maura and maintained a relationship with that site, so I was motivated by a desire to compare it with other clinics that have the same goals. I absolutely loved the entire senior thesis experience and would recommend it to anyone who wants to deepen their understanding of an interest or passion. It has been one of the most fulfilling processes of my undergraduate career and something I am extremely proud of.

**Jack Meloro**

- Majors: History and International Economics (Spanish)
- Adviser: John Deak

**'The Stadium and the Street': The Cultural Impact of Spanish Soccer**

This project traces Spanish soccer's complex relationship with culture, politics, and society, from its inception through the present day. I focused specifically on its function as a form of resistance to the fascist Franco regime.

I chose this topic to combine my two passions, sports and history. I began my work almost two years ago when I wrote a history capstone on propaganda in the Spanish Civil War. That project gave me the platform I needed to dive deeply into the nature of the Franco regime and the people who lived under it.

*Traveled to Spain with funding from the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.*

**Kate Meyer**

- Major: Romance Languages (Spanish and French)
- Sorin Fellow
- Adviser: Pedro Aguilera-Mellado

## Bécquer, Benjamin, and Storytelling in the Romantic Response to Modernity

My thesis looks at the legends of Toledo by Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer through the looking glass of *The Storyteller* by Walter Benjamin. I explore how preserving the story is a Romantic response to modernity that shouts the value of the unquantifiable, of experience, and of mystery in a world of science and numbers.

I entered this project wanting to research the science of storytelling and realized that science is beside the point. And, thus, my true topic was born.

**Peter Molyneaux**

- Major: Arabic
- Minors: Linguistics, European Studies, and Portuguese
- Adviser: Hana Kang

## Linguistic Identity and Heritage Language Learners

This project looks at how heritage language learners view themselves and their heritage language in the context of an English language environment. Through surveys and interviews, I examined how their identities are tied to their heritage language in order to determine the influence of factors such as heritage language fluency or cultural connection.

As an avid language learner whose only language for 16 years was English, I have always been curious about how those who grew up in a multilingual environment viewed themselves.

**Maggie Moriarity Miltko**

- Major: International Economics (French)
- Supplementary Major: Peace Studies
- Advisers: Illenin Kondo and Denise Della Rossa

**Coffee, Cotton, and Politics: A History of Haitian Trade**

This historical and comparative analysis looks at trends in trade between Haiti and France and Haiti and the United States to explore Haiti's development between 1829 and 1986. I found that changing relations with France and the United States affected trade and that the early decolonization of Haiti made it an outlier from other countries in the Caribbean region.

I am extremely interested in post-colonial history and how that intersects with development and conflict. This project combines all my fields of study — French, economics, and peace studies.



**Thomas Naatz**

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Minor: Theology
- Adviser: Andy Gould

## 'Generalissimo Francisco Franco Is Still Dead' But His Legacy Reappears During Election Season: The Timing of Spain's Historical Memory Debates

I studied the three most important episodes in Spain's ongoing debate over historical memory, particularly their connection with Spanish elections and electoral campaigns.

I have always had an interest in Spain and the Spanish Civil War, and I studied abroad in Toledo, Spain, last spring. Both in my classes and my daily life there, I learned a lot about how the civil war and subsequent dictatorship of Francisco Franco continue to divide Spaniards, even 40 years after democracy was re-established. I also observed a general election campaign during my time in Spain and even accompanied my host father when he went to vote. While it was fascinating to watch an election campaign unfold in another country, I was particularly struck by how the past continues to influence Spain's present-day politics. I hope my thesis can contribute to this important area of research.

*Traveled to Toledo, Madrid, Seville, Valencia, Granada, and San Sebastian, Spain.*



### Mary Kate O'Leary

- Majors: Program of Liberal Studies (PLS) and Spanish
- Adviser: Joseph Rosenberg

## The Wall: Physical, Virtual, Real

My thesis uses President Donald Trump's proposed border wall to consider questions of existence and reality. I analyzed 20th-century critical theories alongside analysis of our current epoch, coined "surveillance capitalism." Ultimately, I argue that Trump's wall exists by merit of its digital life.

I began by considering how our existence now includes our digital lives. I wondered how our physical lives could be distorted and decided by our virtual ones, specifically within this world of big data. Trump's wall provided a case study and intersection of a variety of my interests.

**Jade Panlener**

- Major: International Economics (Spanish)
- Advisers: Forrest Spence and Kasey Buckles

## The Effect of the Great Recession's Unemployment on Drug Consumption in Spain

When the property bubble burst in Spain, unemployment skyrocketed to figures surpassed only by Greece. This problem is still persistent today. Economists have studied how unemployment is correlated to mental health or other health behaviors, so my project examines the impact on drug abuse in Spain during and after the recession.

It is important to understand how the business cycle may impact health behaviors and habits. Understanding these relationships can help policymakers plan for crises that may come as the result of an economic downturn.

**Morgan Peck**

- Major: Sociology
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Minor: Constitutional Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Kraig Beyerlein

## Considering Sanctuary: Religion's Role in Evaluating Oregon's Sanctuary Status

In 2018, Oregon voted down the repeal of its longstanding state sanctuary law. In my thesis, I explored how people used religion, both intentionally and subconsciously, as they generated ideas and made voting decisions about the sanctuary law question and how that fits into their general views of immigrant rights.

As a Catholic, I am personally interested in studying how political and religious beliefs interact and inform each other. As someone who plans to study law, I am particularly fascinated by how that belief structure reacts to specific policies, especially with policy around undocumented immigration and legal sanctuary.

*Received funding from the Templeton Religious Trust.*

**Peter Sabini**

- Majors: Spanish and Music
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Ben Heller

**The Poetry of Carmen Colón Pellot**

I translated and analyzed Carmen Colón Pellot's book of poetry, *Ambar Mulato*. Her poems deal predominantly with race but also with topics such as gender, nationalism, nature, and beauty. My project has a standard translator's introduction, an analysis of the major themes of her poems, and then the poems themselves, both in the original Spanish and my English translations.

Two years ago, I read a poem by Pellot for one of my Spanish literature classes, and then in a translation course with my adviser, Ben Heller, I continued to research Pellot for a smaller translation project. I felt quite captivated by her writing style and content, and when it came time to do a longer thesis project, I knew I had to keep working on Pellot's poems.

**Ana Sarmousakis**

- Major: Sociology
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Mim Thomas

**Presentation of Self in the Age of Instagram**

Unrealistic standards of female beauty are not a new phenomenon, but new apps like FaceTune and Airbrush allow users to alter their faces and bodies in photos before sharing them on social media, thereby heightening unrealistic standards. My project explores the prevalence, motivations, and effects of this practice among young women.

Growing up as social media sites like Instagram gained popularity, I've seen firsthand how the curated presentation of self has driven my peers' online behaviors, as well as my own. This project is a way of adapting classic sociological theories about impression management to explain contemporary social media behaviors and the increasing presence of altered photos.

**Sydney Schlager**

- Major: International Economics (Spanish)
- Supplementary Major: Peace Studies
- Advisers: Christopher Cronin and Denise Della Rossa

## Individual and Cultural Determinants of Female Labor Force Participation in Chile

Although the Chilean female labor force participation rate has increased since 1990, it remains one of the lowest rates in Latin America and among Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development member states. My paper explores the potential factors that contribute to this statistic and considers which of these factors may have changed since 1990.

After studying abroad in Santiago during the fall of my junior year, I was interested in exploring a topic related to the Chilean economy. My interest in women in the labor force grew from my experience volunteering at a daycare in Santiago and interacting with the mothers of the children.

**Laura Schoonmaker**

- Major: International Economics (Italian)
- Minor: Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: Christian Moevs

## How Does the Way Government Is Conducted in Italy and the U.S. Determine Its Susceptibility to Corruption?

My thesis compares Silvio Berlusconi, a former prime minister of Italy, and President Donald Trump and how their demonstrated corruption has affected the institutions meant to maintain government's integrity.

I chose this topic because I am extremely interested in politics, particularly the differences in how it is conducted across nations and how the leaders shape their governments and vice versa.

**Nicole Shumaker**

- Majors: Psychology and Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Adviser: David Watson

## Dark Triad Trait Insight: Exploring Self and Informant Perceptions by Gender

My study seeks to close the gap in understanding malevolent personality (as measured by the Short Dark Triad) by investigating gender differences among its constructs of psychopathy, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy, as well as the degree to which individuals of both genders have insight into their possession of these traits.

Measures of the dark personality constructs were primarily normed on men. Thus, the expression of these traits in females is not precisely understood. Indeed, research that has focused on gender differences of psychopathy has suggested that a complex configuration of diverse traits and behaviors exist in women compared to men. Moreover, the difference between self and informant reports on the expression of the dark triad in individuals has shown some discrepancies, specifically among females.

**Matthew Smith**

- Major: English
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Adviser: Steve Tomasula

***The City is Burning***

My thesis is the beginning of a novel. In it, a history professor whose son has died travels to Chile to conduct historical research concerning Pinochet's dictatorship. While there, however, protests break out over rising inequality. While the protagonist weaves through these protests seeing connection between the dictatorship and the protests (military in the street, for example), he tries to figure out how he will usher in a new way of looking at history.

I wanted to explore the concept of history, not just as events that happened in the past but as the making of a narrative. Why do people choose to view their past in a certain way, and what does this say about the present? I think this is interesting on a cultural level, as well as a personal level — hence, I explore the concept of history, or “stories we tell ourselves about our past.”

*Traveled to Santiago, Chile, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.*

**Claire Stanecki**

- Majors: Anthropology and Spanish
- Adviser: Karen Richman

## Two-Way Language Immersion in Schools: A South Bend Case Study

The goal of my thesis is to inform people about the benefits of bilingual education and to encourage parents to consider dual-immersion programs when enrolling their children in school. I examined the different paths of bilingual education, focusing on Holy Cross Grade School as a case study. Ultimately, I argued that dual-immersion programs give agency to both non-native English speakers and native English speakers alike and create more informed and understanding individuals.

I volunteered in an after-school reading program at Holy Cross Catholic School as part of a Spanish community based learning class I took. I loved my experience there and wrote a research brief about the dual-immersion program during the fall of my junior year, which became the foundation for my thesis. This topic allowed me to combine my majors and build upon previous knowledge and experience.

**Madelyn Steurer**

- Majors: Romance Languages (French and Italian) and Marketing
- CUSE Sorin Scholar
- Adviser: Christian Moevs

## Political and Religious Significance of the Marian Image in Siena, Italy

Siena, Italy, is often referred to as the “City of the Virgin,” a special devotion that began in the 13th century. My thesis analyzes two Renaissance Marian images, as well as the modern Palio festival, to explore how civil religion sustains Sieneese history and identity through symbols and ceremonies.

I received the Ravarino Grant from the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures to travel to Siena for language immersion. I was able to experience the Palio in person and soon realized that it is hard to think of Siena without its devotion to Mary, which manifests in this modern festival.

There is a point at which the city and the Virgin become inseparable, and I wanted explore this topic through my love of art history.

*Traveled to Siena, Italy to conduct research at the Archivio di Stato di Siena with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.*

**Benjamin Testani**

- Major: International Economics (Arabic)
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Advisers: Forrest Spence and Chloe Gibbs

## The Relationship Between Domestic Hate Crimes Against Muslims and Combat Deaths of American Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan

My research explored whether there is a correlation between the deaths of American armed forces in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and hate crimes committed domestically against Muslims. I used data from the FBI to track hate crimes and casualty logs to track combat deaths.

I decided on this topic because I thought it would be interesting to see if anger about military deaths leads to an increase in hate crimes against Muslims, similar to what happened after the terror attacks of September 11.

**Georgia Twersky**

- Major: International Economics (Spanish)
- Minor: Peace Studies
- Adviser: Forrest Spence

## The Effect of Air Pollution on Santiago's Housing Market

PM<sub>10</sub> is a measure of breathable particles of air pollution. Santiago, Chile, a city surrounded by mountainous regions and in the Santiago Basin, experiences high levels of PM<sub>10</sub>. Using housing price data from the Central Bank of Chile and PM<sub>10</sub> levels from another source, I found the economic cost of pollution, and how air quality affects where people choose to live in Santiago.

I chose this topic after my semester abroad in Santiago. The air pollution there was visible. Climate change and major weather events cause great mass movements, and I think my research can help policy makers see how much people value air quality and how low air quality causes higher levels of domestic migration (i.e., across neighborhoods).

*Traveled to Santiago, Chile.*

**Luis Urrea**

- Major: International Economics (Spanish)
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Advisers: Chris Cronin and Forrest Spence

**Soccer Club Performance's Impact on Re-election Rates**

I investigated the relationship between the performance of soccer clubs in a region and provincial governor reelection rates, giving governors an incentive to invest in local sports organizations in anticipation of their upcoming re-election.

Soccer has been an integral component of Argentine culture and remains a priority for many people in the country. I was interested in looking into the way it might have permeated into politics and its impact on provincial elections.