2012 Senior Thesis Projects
Gender Studies Program
College of Arts and Letters
“Influence of Power and Attractiveness of Athletes on Perceptions of Sexual Harassment”

In a survey study, eight situations of sexual harassment were presented to participants in which the variables of the harasser’s athlete status, location of the harassment, and nature of the harassment were manipulated. I wanted to discover if students gave athletes preferential treatment by examining how their reactions to harassment varied when the perpetrator was an athlete as opposed to just a male student.
“Queerying Communities: Examining the Relationship Between the Gay Community and Well Being”

I studied different areas of involvement in the gay community—social, political organizations, outreach groups, and consumption of gay media—to determine which leads to the highest levels of well being among LGBT men and women, including factors such as self-esteem, life satisfaction, attitudes toward homosexuality, and lowest levels of depression.