

## College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



### **Emily Beaudoin**

- Major: Gender Studies
- Minors: International Development Studies and Peace Studies
- Adviser: Terence McDonnell

### ***Empowerment in Context: An Examination of Global Mamas***

My capstone project uses data collected in Cape Coast, Ghana, at a fair-trade women's economic empowerment NGO called Global Mamas. My findings suggest that empowerment at Global Mamas is comprised of skills, an enhanced knowledge set, a sense of achievement, and the agency to speak one's mind. Further, empowerment is sustainable but also constrained by factors beyond the control of the organization's leaders. "Women's empowerment" has become a buzzword in international development discourse, a silver bullet to a better global future. I seek to move away from this broad usage toward a deeper understanding of what empowerment means to women in an individual organization.

*Traveled to Cape Coast, Ghana, with funding from the Kellogg Institute.*

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### **Celanire Flagg**

- Majors: Gender Studies and Management Consulting
- Adviser: Pamela Butler

### ***The Politics of Incarceration and its Effect on Motherhood***

I look at how incarceration and the policies associated with it affect a woman's ability to be a mother. My paper follows mothers' journeys from their lives pre-incarceration to mothering while incarcerated and upon release. The prison system is separating more and more families and putting more children in the foster care system. But for what? The majority of women — two-thirds of those incarcerated — are in prison for nonviolent offenses. I raise the question of whether the current system is really the most efficient way of punishing some people.

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### **Moira Horn**

- Major: Gender Studies
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Vania Smith-Oka

### ***Los Niños Cuestan Mucho: Maternal Identity and Wellbeing in the Sierra Madre of Chiapas, Mexico***

My thesis looks at the impact of social welfare and health care policies on maternal health and identity construction in the Sierra Madre mountain region of Chiapas, Mexico. The narratives of young mothers illuminate the impacts of the body politic of the state, obstetric violence, and gendered constructions of motherhood on individual mothers' identities and wellbeing. During a semester abroad in Puebla, Mexico, I shadowed physicians in obstetrics and gynecology. This ignited my interest in how socially constructed norms of motherhood and womanhood in Mexico manifest in the doctor-patient relationship and the care women receive.

*Traveled to Chiapas, Mexico, with funding from the Kellogg Institute and the Gender Studies Program.*

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### **Gabrielle Marzke**

- Major: Gender Studies
- Advisers: Vania Smith-Oka and Connie Snyder Mick

### ***Rhetorics of Motherhood and Reproduction in the Context of Indiana Social Services***

My research explores the relationship between welfare policy and perceptions of female welfare recipients' maternity and fertility. I seek to deconstruct the rhetoric of Indiana's Family and Social Services Agency and its affiliates and to situate it in the larger context of welfare discourse. In doing so, I demonstrate the ways in which the state's institutional language surrounding motherhood and reproduction reflects and departs from political rhetoric and public opinion. My passion for reproductive justice informed my decision to pursue this project, and I believe my home state of Indiana makes a fascinating case study.

## College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



### **Grace Nickels**

- Major: American Studies
- Minors: Business Economics and Gender Studies
- Adviser: Perin Gurel

### ***Movements for Change: Dance as a Political Platform for Indigenous Peoples in the United States and Australia***

My thesis investigates how the art of native dance in two white settler colonies, the United States and Australia, impacts the politics of recognition for indigenous peoples. Although native dance is vulnerable to commodification and misappropriation by outsiders, I argue that indigenous communities have also used dance as a tool to promote change in both nations in recent years. While studying abroad in Australia, I spent a week with an indigenous community in an isolated coastal region and was fortunate enough to learn about Aboriginal culture firsthand.

*Traveled to Sydney, Australia, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, Multicultural Student Programs and Services, and the Department of American Studies.*

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### **Arielle Sims**

- Major: Gender Studies
- Minor: Classical Civilization
- Advisers: Pamela Wojcik and Perin Gurel

### ***Real Recognize Real? South Korean Music Culture as Appropriation or Exchange***

With the rise of economic and political globalization, cultural entities enter into new discursive relationships where exchange and adoption occur. Often, this leads both individuals and groups into ideological traps, including appropriation and assimilation. My objective is to chart how the rise of modern globalization has affected South Korean and Black American popular music and youth culture. I became highly invested in Korean culture and in understanding and negotiating cultural capital through friends and musical artists.

*Traveled to Seoul, South Korea, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program and a Genevieve D. Willis Gender Studies Senior Research Grant.*