Research Project Title: Uncovering a legacy: transmission of the Hawkins Technique

Student Presenter: Marissa Ajamian

Faculty Mentor: Karen Eliot

Faculty Mentor Department: Department of Dance

Research Abstract: After World War II, Americans wanted to return to a traditional life. While many dance artists pushed against this normative culture, Erick Hawkins (1909-1994), a modern dance choreographer and pedagogist, rarely did. Through the creation of the Hawkins technique, Hawkins upheld the normalcy policies of the Cold War era using his ideals of beauty and "natural," kinesthetically correct, dance. This tenet of finding beauty in moving the body with efficiency, ease, and Hawkins' perception of kinesthetically correct movement created a distinct movement quality. This movement quality rejects the extreme tension that is required to execute movement in the Graham technique, the dance technique created by Hawkins' teacher, Martha Graham. By rejecting effort and tension as expressive modes, Hawkins' went against the beliefs of the modern dance canon.

The purpose of this project is to historically contextualize Hawkins' pedagogy while also showcasing how the Hawkins technique has been disseminated by current Hawkins' teachers. To facilitate this project, I completed historical secondary research on Hawkins and completed an advanced course on Dance Modernism. I also interviewed current teachers of the Hawkins technique. These interviews showcased how current artists are making choices and changing the Hawkins technique or leaving it untouched. With the intersections of historical research and the beliefs of current Hawkins instructors, I have found that the anatomical and philosophical theories, not specific exercises, are the most important aspects of the Hawkins training. Current Hawkins teachers uphold Hawkins' dance philosophies; some more strictly maintain the Hawkins exercises, while others approach the technique with new somatic influences. Nevertheless, the throughlines of Hawkins' philosophies remain at the core of the artists' teaching practices. While Hawkins has been minimized in the modern dance canon, his influence and impact are significant to understanding the trend towards somatic and anatomical approaches in dance training. His work also showcases the importance of the dissemination of pedagogical philosophies, not just the exercises used in dance technique classes. This project highlights the importance of examining the transmission of dance teachers' legacies as well as, the significance of the study of dance pedagogy.
Research Project Title: Progressing the image to the word: a critical study of the cut-ups

Student Presenter: Zachary Botkins

Faculty Mentor: Jolie Braun

Faculty Mentor Department: Special Collections and Area Std

Research Abstract: In this study, I examine the intentions, the misperceptions, and the practicality of Burroughs' cut-ups. By first exploring the origins of the cut-ups and then their methodology, I contextualize the argument presented within the paper. I attempt to capture the overlooked essence of the cut-ups: reunification of word and image. The context of the argument comes from Burroughs' own words, pulled directly from the CCNY class transcripts and lecture notes made available to me through the RBML. The purpose is to study the literary merit of the cut-up technique as a method of breaking Aristotelian thought patterns. Even further, it highlights the cut-ups as a study of the relation between the signifier and the signified, and the abuse of this relationship, within major news publications. I began by studying Burroughs' affinity with Egyptian hieroglyphics and his understanding of their relation to the process of signification. I began to pinpoint the arguments with lecture notes and class transcripts. By studying the origins of the cut-ups and their progressively changing methodology, I was able to create a historical trajectory of their place within Burroughs' life. I became interested in studying how Burroughs taught students, and what he taught them about the use of the cut-ups in the literary field. I was also fortunate to get to interview James Grauerholz, Burroughs' editor, and close friend. I discovered that the cut-up technique enables readers to break the Aristotelian thought patterns and the physical act of cutting and rearranging text allows readers to examine the implications of words chosen for headlines, and how the layout of a page directly determines the placing of those words, especially in the case of "Yellow Journalism." Further, the various alternative methods of the cut-ups offer previously unseen insight into Burroughs' desire for an actual relationship between an idea and a word. Through a study of the character "identikits" found in the CMS collection, alongside Burroughs' obsession with hieroglyphics language, the paper discovers Burroughs' intention with the cut-ups: to transcend the word to reach a language composed of images that offer no misinterpretations, and therefore, no mass confusion and propaganda.
Research Project Title: Biblio-archaeology: a codicological inventory, condition survey and preservation needs assessment of pre-modern codices and incunabula in the rare books and manuscripts collection of the OSU Libraries

Student Presenter: Danielle Demmerle

Faculty Mentor: Eric Johnson

Faculty Mentor Department: OSUL Rare Books and Manuscripts Library

Research Abstract: For the Undergraduate Summer Library Research Fellowship, I conducted condition surveys, a codicological inventory and preservation needs assessment of 48 pre-modern codices and 98 incunabula in the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library (RBML) of the OSU Libraries. In my proposal I planned to assess all physical features, general condition and the preservation needs of each item under the supervision and guidance of OSU Libraries’ Book and Paper Conservator, Harry Campbell and the OSUL RBML Curator, Eric Johnson (my supervisors). I researched the fundamentals of building and operating a condition survey by reaching out to those who have had years of experience in conservation. I quickly became accustomed with the subject matter and created a reference document of descriptive elements that guided me through each evaluation which I adapted into my condition survey design.

Upon the completion of the condition surveys I created a catalogue that would help organize 146 bound items from the RBML and guide faculty and students through the data. While it is designed to provide concise information, the individual condition surveys of each item can provide greater (or additional) detail.

Condition work for special collections often go overlooked, but I was able to create a strong foundation for the recorded conditions of bound medieval manuscripts and incunabula in the RBML. I look forward to the hands-on conservation work that Harry Campbell has pre-approved for the manuscripts and incunabula that are in need of attention as part of my job as a student assistant technician in the Conservation Unit. I am hopeful that the condition and needs assessment survey I designed specifically for the RBML will become standard practice, and continue to be used to record physical aspects for future acquisitions, as well as provide an informative source for augmenting item records in the OSUL online catalog.
Research Project Title: Changes in diet and dental health in the San Pedro de Atacama Oases

Student Presenter: Bronte Cunningham

Faculty Mentor: Mark Hubbe

Faculty Mentor Department: Anthropology

Research Abstract: Introduction: The Atacama oases, in Northern Chile, have been occupied by agropastoralist societies from 2500 BP until the arrival of the Spaniards in the 16th century. Between 400 and 1000 AD, the oases were under the influence of the Tiwanaku State, which exerted political and economic influence in much of the South-Central Andes. Several studies have explored the impact that Tiwanaku had on the Atacameño life-style. Methods: The present study complements this research line by analyzing aspects of oral health from four archaeological sites from the Atacama oases: Coyo 3, Quitor 6, Solcor 3 Non-Elite, and Solcor 3 Elite. The prevalence of dental caries, abscesses, antemortem tooth loss, and average tooth wear were calculated separately for males and females, and total for different parts of the dental arcade (anterior, posterior, superior, inferior, right, and left), to test if there are significant differences in oral health, and therefore in dietary practices, between the sites. Prevalence differences were tested using Chi-Square test and Analysis of Variance. Results: The results show significant difference in total presence of dental pathological conditions throughout the entire dental arcade between males and females at all sites, suggesting differential access to food between the sexes. In addition, all sites had significant differences between the posterior and anterior sections of the dental arcade and two sites, Coyo 3 and Quitor 6, had significant differences between the superior and inferior sections of the dental arcade. Conclusion: These results suggest that the populations represented in these sites had significantly different diets and/or food preparation habits.
Research Project Title: American anarchisms: a content analysis of English-language American anarchist periodicals leading up to the first Red Scare

Student Presenter: Eli Guidry

Faculty Mentor: Andrew Martin

Faculty Mentor Department: Sociology

Research Abstract: Intro.

Previous social movement scholars have noted the inadequacy of traditional sociological models for explaining the activity of radical social movement organizations. Some have suggested that researchers should examine the motivations and actions of RSMO’s through the frames that activists themselves provide. Towards that end, as well as to study fine-grained schisms within radical social movements more broadly, this project examines three prominent English-language periodicals from the American anarchist movement of the early 20th century, specifically in the span of 1914-1917. 1917 saw the stifling of America’s burgeoning anarchist movement due, in part, to the legal persecution and eventual exile of two of its most important figures, Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman, both of whom maintained publications (“Mother Earth” and ”The Blast” respectively, both of which, alongside Hippolyte Havel’s ”Revolt” are examined in this project) which were unable to survive without them.

Anarchism, among radical leftist movements, is especially useful for those studying political framing due to the propensity of anarchist movements to spawn a relatively large breadth of ideological thought (and, with it, numerous political frames).

Methods/Results/Conc.

By analyzing issues of the three aforementioned periodicals (including the entirety of ”Revolt” and ”The Blast”, as they both started and ended within the time period for this analysis), I show that, while all three agree on basic questions of political theory (opposition to the state and capitalism, anti-militarism, a privileging of the lower-class, working individual as the central political subject), they nevertheless varied in tone and focus, as well as on certain subtle ideological issues.

The formation of these differences was not an entirely unconscious process, as the primary editors of all three periodicals kept in close contact with one another. Both Berkman and Havel spent time working on Mother Earth’s editorial staff, in fact. Additionally, the periodicals shared certain contributing authors between them. The differences in ideological framing between periodicals, then, reflect not only the personal beliefs of the staff involved (most notably the editor), but an intuitive effort to fill a certain cultural role (in terms of tone, focus of content, audience, etc.) within the American anarchist milieu that others periodicals were not.
Research Project Title: The Columbus, Delaware and Marion interurban- challenges and opportunities associated with legacy infrastructure on urban form today

Student Presenter: Javier Melendez-Galinsky

Faculty Mentor: Amber McNair

Faculty Mentor Department: City and Regional Planning

Research Abstract: Columbus was once a city where railroads, streetcars and interurban rail lines traversed the city extensively, connecting urban neighborhoods, suburbs and cities in the regional periphery. At their peak in Central Ohio during the early 20th century, there were nine interurban lines that connected Columbus with its satellite cities to the North, South, East and West. As personal automobiles became the norm for American transportation, these interurban lines were decommissioned and occasionally replaced with roadways. The goal of this research is to understand the roadway design challenges and opportunities that persist today on streetscapes that were once interurban rail lines.

My research focuses on one interurban line, the Columbus, Delaware and Marion Interurban (CD&M), which operated from 1903 until 1933. The methodology includes an historical inventory and analysis to accurately map the CD&M line over the course of its operational service life. Then, I use spatial analysis to overlay current maps of the area, comparing the street networks of today with the historical rail network. With this map, I choose a sample of locations and design a field assessment survey to collect key data about the streetscape. Finally, I analyze the collected data to characterize whether features of streetscapes that were once interurban rail differ from streetscapes that were not.

At the conclusion of this study, it is expected that results will identify features of today’s streetscape that can be attributed to the legacy of former interurban infrastructure. These lasting effects may include unusually wide turnouts, more public right-of-way on street corners, or more frequent status as an arterial or collector roadway. With knowledge gained from this research we might be better equipped to plan for complete streets design, bike lanes, transit initiatives, or emerging smart city technologies on Columbus’ former interurban streetscapes.
Research Project Title: Pork Chop Hill

Student Presenter: Avery Kaminski

Faculty Mentor: Zachary Matusheski

Faculty Mentor Department: History

Research Abstract: My research is on Pork Chop Hill. Pork Chop was one of the final battles of the Korean War. Pork Chop was the final offensive that was launched by the Chinese Military in July 1953. Pork Chop Hill was a military outpost that was located in front of the US main line of resistance. When the initial Chinese assault started, only one Company defended the outpost. By the end of the battle, five battalions of US forces were deployed to the outpost in order to counter attack an entire Chinese division that was trying to take it. The battle resulted in the Chinese forces taking the hill and the US military withdrew and abandoned the position. In the chaos of battle, hundreds of Americans went missing. My research will compare this battle to those fought during World War I. This comparison will help educate scholars on the scale of the attack. My poster will also help contribute to the ongoing search effort for troops that are still missing in action. The location of the battle was controlled by the Chinese after the US withdraw and is currently in the demilitarized zone. Through my research, I have identified last known locations of companies and personal that defended the outpost.
Research Project Title: Age, place of residence, education and perceived sources of success in life in Poland, 1988 - 2013

Student Presenter: Alexandra Richey

Faculty Mentor: Kazimierz Slomczynski

Faculty Mentor Department: Sociology

Research Abstract: In stratification research, even that conducted in Eastern Europe, most examine objective determinants of privileged structural position, or what could be called, “success in life.” There is comparably little social psychological research in Eastern Europe on the determinants of what people believe are the factors that influence success in life—such as ambition, hard work, luck, or knowing the right people. This research is meaningful in the context of the huge ideological change from Communism to democratic capitalism that has occurred since 1989. I examine 25 years of the Polish Panel Survey (POLPAN 1988 to 2013) to investigate the effects of age, place of residence, and education on the perceptions people have about the sources of success. Using confirmatory factor analysis, I grouped sources of success into the categories of meritocracy which includes respondents’ evaluations of the importance of ambition, hard work, a good education, and talent and friends/family which includes evaluations of knowing the right people, political connections, coming from a rich family, and luck. My hypothesis is that support for meritocracy would increase with years of education and would be stronger among both urban residents and the young. Support for the friends/family dimension will be strongest among the old. I employed multivariate regression analysis and found that Poles living in urban areas perceive friends/family as less important for success. Support for friends/family decreased and meritocracy increased as years of education increased. Contrary to my hypotheses, older Poles perceive meritocracy as a more important source of success in life.
Research Project Title: Second World competition in Vietnam: analyzing the implications of the Vietnam War on Sino-Soviet relations

Student Presenter: Jonathan Schulman

Faculty Mentor: Nicholas Breyfogle

Faculty Mentor Department: History

Research Abstract: This project examines how the Soviet Union and China competed with each other during the Vietnam War, despite both backing the communist North Vietnam. The goal of this thesis is to discuss the ideological split between the USSR and China leading into the Vietnam War, with a subsequent analysis on how this rift manifested itself in each country’s involvement in Vietnam. This research predominantly draws upon primary source documents, including meeting notes, memorandums, and international communications, from a variety of historical and national security archives. This project argues that China sought to use the Vietnam War to turn their militantly anti-imperialist agenda from rhetoric to action, which conflicted with the Soviet Union’s less aggressive stance of “peaceful coexistence.” These competing viewpoints, from the countries the North Vietnamese referred to as their “two big brothers,” played not only an important role in North Vietnam’s war strategy, but also in the Soviet Union and China’s policies and attitudes toward each other. This project examines the Vietnam War’s effects on Sino-Soviet relations both during and after the war, from the polemical attacks between the two to the creation of Interkit, a Soviet-established organization created to constrain China’s international influence. Through an analysis of Sino-Soviet competition in Vietnam, this project will contribute new knowledge on how the three superpowers—the United States, the Soviet Union, and China—intersected in Vietnam, transforming Sino-Soviet relations.
Research Project Title: Civil war violence and inter-generational trauma: a case study of Sri Lanka

Student Presenter: Julia Shakesprere

Faculty Mentor:

Faculty Mentor Department:

Research Abstract:
Research Project Title: Statement or history: spatiotemporal distribution of confederate monuments in the Deep South

Student Presenter: Brigid Ogden

Faculty Mentor: Julie Field

Faculty Mentor Department: Anthropology

Research Abstract: The recent political movement to remove icons of the Confederate States of America from public areas in the United States has sparked an interest in the patterns of their location and dedication. This interest strongly centers on the debate of whether these icons represent a neutral regional heritage or the perpetuation of racism and revisionist history. This paper aims to explore whether or not the location of Confederate monuments in deep South states correlates with other population demographics in the same area, specifically race and age. In addition to population demographics, the correlation between Confederate monument density and the number of lynchings and racial hate crimes in the same county was also examined using ArcGIS hotspot analysis. In analyzing these patterns, light can be shed on where these monuments are being built, which kinds of communities are building them, and what kinds of behaviors and actions surround them. It is the hope of this project that the results obtained will be used to take an objective eye to the types of monuments we create in our country, and how they affect the communities where they are present.
Research Project Title: Recent trends in the fight against organized crime in Mexico: Continuity and change

Student Presenter: Sidney Tobias

Faculty Mentor: Sara Schatz

Faculty Mentor Department: International Studies

Research Abstract: Since President Calderón launched the Mexican Drug War in 2006, the country has been engulfed in levels of violence comparable to contemporary war zones in the Middle East. A variety of strategies aimed at countering organized crime have been undertaken by the Mexican government, however they have met with little success. The purpose of this study is to analyze the dynamics of organized criminal violence and the state's attempts to respond and bring the situation under control. Evaluating the progression of reforms undertaken by the Mexican government, we find that a lack of institutional capacity continues to undermine such efforts and contributes to high levels of impunity and disparity in firepower between the state and organized crime. The impact of these factors is amplified by counter-productive security policies, including kingpin targeting, rural neglect, and the uneven deployment of the military in a law enforcement capacity. Finally, high levels of corruption and infiltration of state institutions by organized crime hinder efforts to meaningfully bolster institutional capacity. This analysis of the dynamics underlying violent organized crime and its relationship with the state illuminates why Mexico continues to face record levels of violence and how policy to combat this epidemic must evolve if it is to be successful.
Research Project Title: Planting perthes: agriculture & mechanical loading in a pre-contact female

Student Presenter: Devon Reich

Faculty Mentor: Melissa Clark

Faculty Mentor Department: Anthropology

Research Abstract: Seventeenth century pre-contact Ohio witnessed the intensification of agriculture and dietary transition to less nutritious foods. Meanwhile, fairly rudimentary tools, such as hatchets and shovels made from stone and animal bone, increased individuals’ vulnerability to workload-related injuries. One such Native American population found at the Grantham cemetery site in Northeastern Ohio along the southern shore of Lake Erie, dated circa 1650 AD, had nearly transitioned fully to sedentism. The purpose of this study was to diagnose a pathological condition of the right femoral epiphysis exhibited in an individual and interpret this condition within the context of agricultural intensification in pre-historic Ohio. Sex was assessed according to Buikstra & Ubelaker 1944, and the auricular surfaces of the ilium and pubic symphseal surfaces were examined to estimate age. Stature was estimated according to Scuilli et al., 1990. The individual was estimated to be a middle-aged female with a height ranging between 142.9 cm (4'8”) and 151.6 cm (5'0”) with noted femoral asymmetry. The right femur showed a shortened femoral neck, “mushrooming” of the femoral head, and a necrotic lesion on the epiphysis. The maximum width of the left femoral head was 8.8 mm greater than that of the right. These are indicative of Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease, unique in both females and non-European populations. Perthes disease occurs as the result of an occluded blood supply to the femoral head, resulting in avascular necrosis of the bone and eventual fracture. An immature skeleton would likely be unable to bear the loads applied to it, thus susceptible to occlusion of the blood supply and trauma. The transition to agriculture characteristic of this individual’s population resulted in both less nutritious diets, a leading cause of skeletal immaturity, and increased work load. Perthes is also consistent with other observations that support heavy agricultural work loads such as increased robusticity and joint damage. The northern latitude of the Grantham population and climate served as higher risk factors for this individual.
Research Project Title: Polycarp of Smyrna: historical enigma and literary legacies

Student Presenter: Michelle Sdao

Faculty Mentor: David Brakke

Faculty Mentor Department: History

Research Abstract: Saint Polycarp of Smyrna, a second-century Christian bishop and martyr, is a historical enigma. Although he is a crucial link between Christians of the first and second centuries, the extant documents surrounding Polycarp give only a few opaque insights into this historical figure. The problem is that scholars no longer see Polycarp as the mystery which the texts present. They have grabbed at any information they can in order to fledge out his biography, without taking into account the possible legendary nature of certain accounts, and without considering the possibility of multiple independent traditions concerning Polycarp. The texts surrounding Polycarp can be broken into two categories. Ignatius’s Letter to the Magnesians, Letter to the Ephesians, Letter to Polycarp, and Letter to Smyrna, Polycarp’s Letter to the Philippians, fragments of Papias, and Irenaeus’s Letter to Victor have reliable information for the historical Polycarp. The remaining texts are historically unreliable for Polycarp’s biography because they represent several independent, non-historical traditions that seek to capture Polycarp’s legacy. These texts include the Martyrdom of Polycarp, Irenaeus’s Adversus Haereses and Letter to Florinus, the Harris Fragments, and the Vita Polycarpi. I analyze the reliable texts and then the unreliable ones in order to demonstrate that the historical Polycarp differs from the legendary Polycarp. The unreliable texts represent two different, independent legendary traditions, namely a Johannine and a non-Johannine Polycarp, with different motives and functions of portraying Polycarp in their own way. While the unreliability of the legendary accounts and their function in using Polycarp to support the authors’ own religious agendas indicate that they should not be used to flesh out Polycarp’s historical biography, these accounts do present significant functions, implications, and historical data for the time periods and communities in which they were written, which I trace in my paper. Several significant conclusions can be drawn from this critical methodology: the historical apostolic link between Polycarp and John the apostle is false, scholars must cease from attempts to date the Martyrdom of Polycarp precisely, and there was at least one tradition among Christians which had no knowledge of a connection between Polycarp and John.
Research Project Title: The consequences of neoliberal globalization on Mapuche women's land rights

Student Presenter: Kirsten Sippola

Faculty Mentor: Ana Del Sarto

Faculty Mentor Department: Spanish

Research Abstract: I. Introduction/Background

In 1973, Chile’s socialist government was overthrown by a coup led by the military. Authoritarian and right wing, the new president, Augusto Pinochet, quickly implemented neoliberal reforms to the economy. Intending to make the country a world power, Pinochet began a period of intense globalization, seizing resources to be sold on the international market. This included the seizure of land from the indigenous Mapuche people, which was divided and sold to both private companies and the Mapuche themselves, who suffered immense economic and social losses. Due to this very globalization, however, the Mapuche movement was suddenly visible on an international scale, garnering support from other indigenous movements. Mapuche women were very active in the fight to restore land rights to indigenous communities, even though their own rights to land have long been contested: since the conquest of the Mapuche in the late 1800s, land has traditionally been passed down from father to son or brother to brother.

My research question is: How has the globalization of the Chilean economy, beginning with neoliberal economic reforms under Pinochet and institutionalized during the Concertación (1990s), affected the Mapuche women’s land rights movement from 1973 to the current day?

II. Methods

Up to and through Spring 2018, I have used discourse analysis as my primary methodology. By studying both published testimonials of Mapuche women themselves, as well as academic articles produced by Mapuche scholars, non-Mapuche Chilean scholars, and scholars from outside of Chile, I have been exposed to a wide variety of perspectives that have informed my thesis. During the Summer 2018 term, I plan to conduct field research in Santiago, Chile.

III. Results

I am currently working on my analysis, and as such do not have any conclusive results.

IV. Conclusions

This project will demonstrate the importance of looking at any socio-political event, such as globalization, through the perspective of ethnically and sexually marginalized groups “in this case, Mapuche women. It will explore the connection between the indigenous land rights movement of Chile, the Mapuche women’s movement, and international movements to recognize indigenous and gender/women’s rights.
Research Project Title: "The Jewish question" in a Soviet context

Student Presenter: Rebecca Slavik

Faculty Mentor: Jennifer Suchland

Faculty Mentor Department: Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures

Research Abstract: Russia has a long symbolic history with many of its ethnic populations and through this context, the peculiarity of their relationship to the Jewish people is of interesting note. Though bloodied and complicated, Russia, and namely the Soviet Union, is one of the few countries within written history to have entertained the notion of Jewish sovereignty. This nuanced and multi-faceted relationship between two groups of people who have long struggled with defining their identities within the world context is a strangely unique phenomenon. The following seeks to resolve the implications of the internal Jewish question within the Soviet space. With the early 20th century boasting the grand new-age ideas of socialism and zionism, intellectuals across eastern Europe gathered to determine the direction of the new world order. Shedding the yoke of the long-held imperial Russian sphere of power and disrupting the concept of a historic Jewish diaspora, the bridging of both a symbiotic relationship and internal identity discussion led to the creation of the first free Jewish state in the modern era. Through primary sources and personal debates amongst the politically-tied communist and Jewish elite, the core of the eventual failure of Russia’s attempted reconciliation with their Jewish populations is evaluated. Essentially, the lack of a consistent Jewish narrative amongst Russian-Jews in addition to the mixed messages and prerogatives of the early communist party in Soviet Russia, the notion of a free Jewish state was never able to fully manifest into what it hoped to symbolically mean without the direct agency of all Jewish voices being members of its creation.
Research Project Title: Biodistance analysis of north and south american populations

Student Presenter: Julianne Stamer

Faculty Mentor: Mark Hubbe

Faculty Mentor Department: Anthropology

Research Abstract: Archaeological evidence suggests that humans were already present in both North and South America by 12.5-11.5 kyr BP. However, the number of waves and routes from Asia are much debated, and the evidence of early settlements (~12 kya) across South America have been challenging previous ideas about how humans occupied the American continents in the past. Given the debate surrounding this topic, it is important to understand the genetic diversity in North and South American populations in the past. In this project, we used biodistance analysis to explore the cranial morphological variation observed in the New World, and infer how this variation is structured in the two American continents. Human craniometrics data from previous studies (Hanihara, 1996; Herrera, et al., 2017; Hubbe, et al., 2014; Hubbe, et al., 2015; Neves et al., 2013) were used to create a detailed understanding of the biological variation of the region. This data covers populations in North America (USA and Mexico) and South America (Brazil, Colombia, and Peru), as well as comparative series from Asia and Australo-Melanesia. Craniometric data was analyzed using multivariate techniques adapted from population genetics. Results show that Atlantic South America exhibits the highest diversity between groups (Fst = 0.15) of all groups analyzed. Andean (Fst = 0.068), North Americans (Fst = 0.07), and East Asian (Fst = 0.077) populations, on the other hand, have the lowest Fst values. This shows the high genetic diversity of South American groups and calls into question the validity of combining North and South Americans as a single population in genetic studies.
Research Project Title: #themfirst: black female slavery and the legacy of an American rape culture

Student Presenter: Chris Newman

Faculty Mentor: Ousman Kobo

Faculty Mentor Department: History

Research Abstract: This research examines the historical legacy of America's rape culture. Drawing upon sources such as slave narratives and slaveholder memoirs, this research investigates the development of an American culture of sexual violence influenced deeply by the American slave experience. Through viewing the collaborative efforts made by the powerful and influential, this research identifies the establishment of a patriarchal society which was deeply rooted in American idealism. This research further notes a contemporary negligence in correctly acknowledging the problematic history of sexual misconduct in America. Within this process, a concise appraisal of the #metoo Movement is conducted in order to address several questions of significant importance:

What measures were taken to silence Black female slaves from speaking against their offender? Does victim-shaming originate with the raping of Black women? Is there a concerted effort to racialize the #metoo Movement? If so, what negative connotations might befall Black women?

This research asserts that sexual violence against women is indeed nothing new, yet is deeply entrenched in a society which often is concealed, excused, or supported. The social, political and economic consequences of the #metoo Movement should not be ignored, nor should the stories of those victims from the slave experience. Moreover, this paper concludes that without recognition of America's traumatic past, true lessons will not be learned and the American rape culture will, tragically continue.
Research Project Title: From TORCH to Tunisia: the development of allied force headquarters and its general staff officers, from August 1942 - May 1943

Student Presenter: Thomas Wisbith

Faculty Mentor: Peter Mansoor

Faculty Mentor Department: History

Research Abstract: My thesis explores the joint Anglo-American command, Allied Force Headquarters (AFHQ), and a select group of its General Staff officers within the context of the North Africa Campaign in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations from August of 1942 to May of 1943. It was during these months that AFHQ was created, tested, and subsequently altered, while its officers worked side-by-side with one another. My research began with reading the official history of AFHQ in order to understand how the command was structured and changed, and to find the names of the officers in question. It was then necessary to consult archives, both here in the United States and in England, in order to discover how the officers of AFHQ interacted. I was able to locate information on a number of these men, although not all, and what was available has proven to be enlightening. My findings have shown that while the common narrative of intense debate and animosity among allied officers still holds true, it was not wholesale and in fact the relationships of these men were much more complex than commonly believed.

My research has shown that during the North Africa Campaign the officers of AFHQ, by and large, understood the necessity of cooperation within the headquarters. This is not to downplay the animosities that existed. In fact, one American officer was relieved of duty as a result of his inability to work with his British counterpart. His replacement, however, was the exact opposite. Alternatively, the British officer who oversaw all administrative duties appeared to be more at odds with officers in the British 1st Army over supply issues than with any of the American officers at AFHQ. While these disputes doubtlessly kept AFHQ from operating at peak efficiency, it must also be taken into consideration that the command structure itself was not perfect, as seen in the sweeping changes and its expansion in 1943. However, the success of the allied forces under AFHQ in Northwest Africa is a testament to the ability of these officers to work toward a common goal and ensure Allied victory.
Research Abstract: During the 1930s, as part of the W.P.A. Federal Writer’s project, over 2,000 interviews of former slaves were completed. These interviews were transcribed and compiled into a grand collection of first-person accounts of all the former slaves who could be located at the time. Within many of these narratives, hundreds of accounts detail folktales the slaves grew up hearing in their communities. The development of these folk stories, which seem unique to African American slaves in their specifics if not in their generalities, reflect aspects of the larger development of African American culture that arose due to forced migration from Africa and, for some, their movement from the upper-South to the Lower South and Southwest as slavery expanded in the United States. Thus, these stories, along with other aspects of African American culture, arose in part as a product of the intersection of traditional African folklore and new circumstance. This research seeks to explore these stories, determining their origin and tracing their development and their dispersal. This will not only contribute to the current studies of the African Diaspora, but it will also contribute greatly to studies of the inter- and intrastate migrations of slaves that never delve into the culture of slaves and to the cultural studies of slavery that don’t pay much attention to the migrations of slaves. It is my hope through the course of this research to arrive at a more complete understanding of both the significance of African American folklore and the factors, including migration, that shaped it.
Research Project Title: Vernacular illusionism in a 16th century book of hours

Student Presenter: Erin Riddiford

Faculty Mentor: Karl Whittington

Faculty Mentor Department: History of Art

Research Abstract: The Ohio State University’s Special Collections Library houses a manuscript Book of Hours (MS.MR.10) that on paper appears conventional. The picture cycle it holds follows the life of Christ and the Virgin, as is common, and it features a calendar and the typical prayers to the Virgin, the Penitential Psalms, and the Office of the Dead. It is not until one has access to MS.MR.10’s imagery and its provenance that one realizes the codex is not wholly standard; while its subject matter is typical, its style is intriguing. Conspicuous shadows back divine figures and some subtly interact with their frames in its miniatures. But these attempts at illusionism are contradicted by the rudimentary nature in which the figures and scenes have been painted. Dated to 1540, MS.MR.10 is quite late for a manuscript Book of Hours, especially one that contains a mixture of medievalizing elements and more modern illusionistic techniques. In this thesis, I argue that the codex’s imagery, particularly a miniature of the Madonna and Child, presents a kind of ‘vernacular illusionism,’ where elite illuminating styles have been imitated by a less-skilled practitioner, creating an interesting mix of ambitious visual strategies with rough execution. After briefly describing the manuscript’s material condition and contents, I will explore this unique blend through an examination of its most interesting image and the visual culture that produced it.
Research Project Title: Nationality before nationalism: ethnic politics, geopolitics, and the sustainability of the medieval Hungarian Kingdom in the east

Student Presenter: George Andrei

Faculty Mentor: Nicholas Breyfogle

Faculty Mentor Department: History

Research Abstract: Introduction:

The medieval kingdom of Hungary, founded by St. Stephan, was a patchwork of many ethnicities--Germans, Hungarians, Vlachs, Szekelys, and many others--sedentary and nomadic, Catholic and Orthodox. It was also situated on the very eastern border of Western Christendom; as such, its defense was of vital importance not solely to the local rulers, but for Rome as well.

One group--itself multiethnic in nature--was made up of German colonists to southeastern Transylvania. First arriving in the middle of the XII century, the Saxons, as they were known collectively, settled near several Vlach “countries”: simple confederations of Vlach villages which held significant sway over their domains. The Vlachs, predecessors of modern Romanians and other populations in the Balkans, had presences in modern Romania and Serbia, and spoke Latin-based dialects.

Methods:

Using a plethora of contemporary medieval sources, mostly decrees and land grants, as well as modern analyses and archaeological findings, I have analyzed the impact of the German migrations of the XII and XIII centuries into Transylvania. All research regarding medieval material was conducted in German, Latin, or Romanian. In addition, German and Romanian secondary (works completed by historians) sources consulted were widely used; however, English languages sources were also thoroughly utilized.

Results/Conclusions:

My research explores how the Vlachs and Saxons would later come to play vital roles in maintaining the Hungarian Kingdom’s domains in the east. I argue that the Saxons were, from the beginning of their colonization, used as a tool by the Hungarian Crown and other authority figures in the region to expand, stabilize, and dominate the area: drawing in, after the Mongol invasions, desperately needed manpower, taxes, and support from the local populations.
Research Project Title: A mask for every occasion: how the face mask connects medicine, fashion, and politics in Chinese narratives

Student Presenter: Harrison Fillmore

Faculty Mentor: Susan Lawrence

Faculty Mentor Department: History

Research Abstract: Introduction:

The habit of mask wearing, which is now recognized internationally as a predominantly East Asian (especially Chinese) practice (although reputedly Chinese in origin), was grounded in Western medical ideology. Nowadays, people who wear masks in East Asia and travelers from East Asia who wear masks abroad wear them for many reasons, including but not limited to: to avoid infecting others with an illness the mask-wearer suffers from, to avoid being infected with an illness from those around them, to protect from smog, sandstorms, or other harmful airborne particulate matter, to avoid breathing in cold air, to cover a breakout of acne, or to be cute or fashionable.

Instead of just reporting a list of the many reasons why people in China choose to wear face masks, this paper seeks to trace how the mask changed throughout several different historical contexts, how it came to be used for several different purposes, and how it became entangled in several different public connotations.

Methods:

By drawing upon facts and figures from history, anthropological theory, and narrative analyses of interviews with Chinese citizens, I explore the use of face masks, their history, and their influence.

Results:

All at once, the mask is a medical device, a fashion statement, a visible narrative, and a cultural symbol. It may have influenced the generally accepted definition of disease, cultural opinions on hygiene and the environment, and the modern state of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Conclusions:

The history and impact of the mask illustrate the power of cultural narrative, and show how a simple device can facilitate the development and mutual influence of ideas.
Research Project Title: Guatemala, rebuilding a country in the aftermath of violence

Student Presenter: Hannah Tomaszewski

Faculty Mentor: Hollie Nyseth Brehm

Faculty Mentor Department: Sociology

Research Abstract: From the 1960s to 1996, Guatemala endured a violent and conflicting civil war. After an indigenous group of Mayans decided to overthrow the elites that had been ruling Guatemala for over a century, the government worked with the Guatemalan army to exaggerate the threat against the country and start a brutal protest against all indigenous Guatemalans that lasted 40 years. Over these forty years, the army forced indigenous Guatemalans to kill each other in order to save their families, murdered over 200,000 Guatemalans and displaced another 1.5 million Guatemalans.

The Guatemalan government and the indigenous Guatemalans signed a peace agreement in 1996, but true resolution still has not been reached in Guatemala. Even though scholars have studied and deemed the conflict both a civil war and genocide due to the atrocities inflicted by the Guatemalan government and army, the perpetrators of the war have not been brought to justice.

This research project seeks to assess the collective memory of this violence, or how indigenous Guatemalans narrate what happened. In order to study collective memories in Guatemala today, I spent 6 weeks in the Guatemalan highlands. During this time, I engaged in numerous informal conversations as well as 10 in-depth interviews with indigenous Guatemalans. These interviews included questions about their personal experiences, including why the violence occurred and their experiences during and afterward.

While each interview was different, certain themes kept appearing, and this research project will analyze similarities and differences in their collective memories. As I continue to assess how people remember the genocide in Guatemala, I will also analyze how individuals’ experiences in and exposure to the war shape their thoughts about their country and the war in the aftermath of the conflict. After explaining how memory affects people’s perceptions of the present, I will conclude by discussing how individuals and communities in Guatemala are creating social change by trusting one another and becoming social entrepreneurs.
Research Project Title: The battling Buckeyes of the 37th Infantry Division

Student Presenter: Tyler Webb

Faculty Mentor: Peter Mansoor

Faculty Mentor Department: History

Research Abstract: The 37th Infantry Division that was forged during the fires of World War I was again called upon by its nation after December 7th, 1941. These men not only fought for the United States, but also for Ohio. The 37th Infantry Division’s original constituents were Ohio National Guard units, leading to its nickname, “the Buckeye Division.” The soldiers’ bond to Ohio was an integral part of the division spirit, as the division history recalls it was generally assumed that Ohio men belonged to the 37th Division and that the 37th Division belonged to Ohio. The Buckeye soldiers carried their banner across the Pacific for nearly four years, fighting against the Imperial Japanese Army on various islands starting with defense preparations in Fiji, where approximately 40 percent of the division consisted of Ohioans. Their battles included the invasions of New Georgia, Bougainville, and the Philippines. The 37th proved to be an effective fighting force under the leadership of their exceptional commander, Major General Robert S. Beightler, from Marysville, Ohio. His leadership was best exemplified by the fact that he was only one of two National Guard division commanders not relieved of command throughout the war. This thesis investigates the leadership of Beightler, the role of the 37th in its battles, and furthers analysis of the lesser known battles on New Georgia and Bougainville. This study also provides insight into the once tense relationship between the Regular Army and the National Guard. However, perhaps the most important result of this research will be a better appreciation of the heroes who were the Battling Buckeyes.