



Student Research and Ideas Fair

————— **2020** —————



St. Thomas
UNIVERSITY

Office of
Research Services

WELCOME

PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR
FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020

17TH ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH AND IDEAS FAIR



We are very proud to host our seventeenth annual Student Research and Ideas Fair.

As senior students, you know that our university is a vibrant and diverse community of people, each with a variety of aspirations and goals, each with a unique perspective. It is a place where we challenge you to meet our goals of a liberal education:

- An independent, inquiring mind;
- A breadth of knowledge and depth of understanding;
- An awareness of the perennial questions and new challenges confronting humanity;
- A depth and consistency of moral judgement;
- An ability to write and speak with clarity and precision.

Every year at this Fair, students gather to share their ideas, research, and discoveries with their fellow students and faculty mentors. The Student Research and Ideas Fair truly demonstrates the best that St. Thomas has to offer: the unique student experience, faculty engagement and our emphasis on excellence and open-minded inquiry.

I want to congratulate the students who are participating in this year's Fair.

The liberal arts explore controversial and competing ideas in ways that demand informed, careful and considered judgement. Your participation in our Fair demonstrates that you are up to that challenge.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dawn Russell".

Dawn Russell
President and Vice-Chancellor

17th Annual Student Research and Ideas Fair

March 13th, 2020

SCHEDULE

12:00 - 12:45 PM

Lunch and Opening Remarks: BMH 318, The Rotunda
Dr. Michael Dawson, Associate Vice-President (Research)
All presenters and guests are invited to join us in the
Brian Mulroney Hall Rotunda (BMH 318), for lunch.

1:00 - 2:40 PM

SESSION ONE

Panel 1: Latin/America (BMH 107)
Panel 2: Relationships: Familial, Sexual, and Legal (BMH 108)
Panel 3: Youth and Well-being (BMH 202)
Panel 4: Beliefs, Experience, and Empathy (BMH 204)
Panel 5: Law and Order I (BMH 205)
Panel 6: Queering Form to Render Consciousness: Unsettling a Stable (?)
Maritime Literary Canon (MMH 307)

2:40 - 2:50 PM

Nutrition Break, Ground Floor of Brian Mulroney Hall

2:50 - 4:30 PM

SESSION TWO

Panel 7: Interrogating Popular Culture (BMH 107)
Panel 8: Gender: Online and ... Everywhere! (BMH 108)
Panel 9: Law and Order II (BMH 202)
Panel 10: Staying Focussed (BMH 204)
Panel 11: Complicating "Canada" (BMH 205)
Panel 12: Desiring "Anne": Women at the Centre of the Maritime Literary
Tradition (MMH 307)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

SESSION ONE

Panel 1—Brian Mulrone Hall, 107

1:00 - 2:40 PM

Theme: Latin/America

Moderator: Dr. Karen Robert (History)

Caeley Currie

The Rise of Solidarity With El Salvador

History, 3rd year

Manuel Garcia

Femicides in Nicaragua

Human Rights, 4th year

Caroline Jonah

Women in the Huelga: How women's participation in the UFW grape strike shaped Chicana feminism in the United States

History, 3rd year

Giao Dang

The Political Economy of Trumpism. Is it an end to the Washington Consensus?

Economics, 3rd year

Panel 2—Brian Mulroney Hall, 108

1:00 - 2:40 PM

Theme: Relationships: Familial, Sexual, and Legal

Moderator: Dr. Sarah Vannier (Psychology)

Valérie Godin

Informal caregiving for older adults: Challenges of system navigation

Psychology, 4th year

Rachel Kerzner

Relational Savouring – Links with Relationship Quality and Attachment

Psychology, 4th year

Kyra Wilson

Feeling good about feeling good: Links between sexual savouring, sexual self-efficacy, and sexual well-being

Psychology, 4th year

Alejandra Villanueva

Are you there? Ghosting tendencies and attitudes in romantic relationships

Psychology, 4th year

Brandon Case

'Administering a Noxious Thing': Canada's Criminalization of HIV Non-Disclosure

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Panel 3—Brian Mulroney Hall, 202

1:00 - 2:40 PM

Theme: Youth and Well-being

Moderator: Dr. Michael Fleming (Sociology)

Grace Baker

Deciphering Delinquency: An Analysis of Protective and Risk Factors Among Youth in Maritime Canada

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 3rd year

Emma Merrithew

Emerging Adulthood – A New Perspective Towards the Criminal Sentencing of a Young Person in Canada

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Bethany Jensen

The Gender Gap: Middle School Children & Subject Aptitudes

Sociology, 4th year

Julie Roberge

CPTED and Student Perception of Safety at St. Thomas University

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Shannon Lewis
and

Emily Messer

Internalized Stigma and Resilience: Relationships with Academics and Mental Health

Psychology, 4th year

Panel 4—Brian Mulroney Hall, 204

1:00 - 2:40 PM

Theme: Beliefs, Experience, and Empathy

Moderator: Dr. Matt Dinan (Great Books)

Alexandra Cunningham

Good and Bad Reasons to Reject Externalism

Philosophy, 4th year

Samantha Arthurs

Analysing Life's Transformative Experiences

Philosophy, 4th year

Graham Manderville

The Dark Side of Empathy: Problems with Moral Judgement

Philosophy/ History, 5th year

Panel 5—Brian Mulroney Hall 205

1:00 - 2:40 PM

Theme: Law and Order I

Moderator: Dr. Claire Goggin (Criminology & Criminal Justice)

Andie Amaya

Private Member's Bills: A Rising Canadian Tradition?

Political Science, 4th year

Nicole Murray

Police Culture and Sexual Assault Investigations

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 3rd year

Robyn Gionet
and

Melissa Godin-Belliveau

Prague Summer School – Crime, Law, & Psychology

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Alexander Gallant

A Constitutional Analysis of Privacy Law

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Emily Miller

**Should Turkey be considered a Safe Third Country?
Does international law properly protect the rights
of refugees?**

Human Rights, 4th year

Panel 6—Margaret McCain Hall 307

1:00 - 2:40 PM

Theme: Queering Form to Render Consciousness: Unsettling a Stable (?)

Maritime Literary Canon

Moderator: Dr. André Loiselle, Dean of Humanities

Evan Mersereau

**Arm-in-Arm a' Tavern-Brawling: Complicating Day's
Environmental Narratives**

English, 6th year

Emma Faulkner

**David and the Mountain: An Exploration of Self-Transformation
in Ernest Buckler's *The Mountain and the Valley***

English, 4th year

Katy Johnson

**Interactions with the Ethereal: The Formation of Identity in
Atlantic Canadian Literature**

English, 3rd year

Carly Mason

**Resurrection of the Author: Recovering Buckler in *The Mountain
and the Valley***

English, 3rd year

NUTRITION BREAK

2:40 – 2:50

Lower Level Brian Mulroney Hall

SESSION TWO

Panel 7—Brian Mulroney Hall 107

2:50 - 4:30 PM

Theme: Interrogating Popular Culture

Moderator: Dr. Dawne Clarke (Criminology & Criminal Justice)

Mary Baker

Balancing Cultivation and Tradition in Disney's *Moana*

Interdisciplinary Studies, 3rd year

Evan Mersereau

Homes of Leaves: A Transtextual Play Demonstration

English, 6th year

Robyn Gionet

"You laugh at me, and I'll shoot you where you stand":

Fifty Years of Female Law Enforcement in Crime Films

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Mech Peers

**"I like to dissect girls – did you know I'm utterly insane?":
Deconstructing Ideological Messages about Serial Killers &
Mental Illness in Popular Film**

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Panel 8—Brian Mulroney Hall 108

2:50 - 4:30 PM

Theme: Gender: Online and ... Everywhere!

Moderator: Dr. Angela Wisniewski (Science & Technology Studies)

Tamika Allison

**Gendered Surveillance in Public Space:
An Auto-Ethnographic Analysis**

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 5th year

Emma Ewart

**How Do Those who Self-Identify As Women Find
Value in Misogynistic Media?**

Sociology, 4th year

Megan Fram

**The Role of Gendered Language and Victim-Blaming
in "Revenge Porn" Cases**

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 3rd year

Panel 9—Brian Mulroney Hall 202

2:50 - 4:30 PM

Theme: Law and Order II

Moderator: Dr. Susan Reid (Criminology and Criminal Justice)

Brianna Hill

Media Analysis of NCRMD Offenders

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 3rd year

Sarah Kohut

Effect of Correctional Treatment on Recidivism among Mentally Ill Offenders

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 3rd year

Victoria Forbes

A Review of Legal Professionals' Knowledge and Beliefs on the Topic of Eyewitness Testimony

Psychology, 4th year

Bibi Wasiimah Joomun

Miscarriage of the Criminal Justice System: an Indirect Psychological Analysis of False Confession Cases

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Alexander Gallant

Remanded Offenders in Provincial Corrections

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Panel 10—Brian Mulroney Hall 204

2:50 - 4:30 PM

Theme: Staying Focussed

Moderator: Dr. Sandra Thomson (Psychology)

Nhat Phung

Sharpening Attention through Meditation/Mindfulness Training

Psychology, 2nd year

Jennica Jean

The Prevalence of Cell Phone Use While Driving Among Young People

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 3rd year

Laura Wheaton

Are you Really Studying Properly?: A Discussion of Useful Strategies

Psychology, 4th year

Panel 11—Brian Mulroney Hall 205
2:50 - 4:30 PM
Theme: Complicating “Canada”
Moderator: Dr. Kristi Allain (Sociology)

- Haley Collicott **Canadian Pentecostalism: Twentieth Century Responses to Darwin’s Theory of Evolution**
Science and Technology Studies, 4th year
- Bruna Porto **Canadian Offshore Schools – How Canadian Identity is Portrayed Abroad**
Journalism, 4th year
- Felomena Deogratsias **“Black Self – White World”: Documenting Racism Through a Young Black Woman’s Story – A Cellphilm Screening**
Criminology and Criminal Justice, 2nd year
- Megan Melanson **Men in the Lumber Industry**
Sociology, 4th year
- Megan Hill **Fit Bits: Sex, Fitness, and Successful Aging in Zoomer Magazine**
Sociology, 4th year

Panel 12—Margaret McCain Hall 307
2:50 - 4:30 PM
Theme: Desiring “Anne”: Women at the Centre of the Maritime Literary Tradition
Moderator: Dr. Andrew Klein (English Language & Literature)

- Georgia MacNaughton **Archetypal Anne: *Anne of Green Gables* and the Mythology of Canada**
English, 4th year
- Caelin Sullivan **Catholicism and Presbyterianism in *Anne of Green Gables***
English, 3rd year
- Gaelyn Armstrong **The Gift of *Green Gables*: The Powerful Psychological Potential of the Childhood Narrative**
English, 3rd year
- Emma Rhodes **Seeking the Outside Female in Two Eastern Canadian Texts: Hugh MacLennan’s *Each Man’s Son* and Donald Shebib’s *Goin’ Down The Road***
English, 4th year
- Hannah DeLucry **Women as Outsiders: Representations of Alternative Women in Atlantic Canadian Film**
English, 4th year

ABSTRACTS

PANEL 1: LATIN / AMERICA

Caeley Currie

History, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Karen Robert, History

The Rise of Solidarity With El Salvador

This presentation will discuss the motivations and goals of U.S. based solidarity groups and NGOs in solidarity with El Salvador. It will be focused on the 1980-1992 time period of the Salvadoran civil war but will also provide context that predates 1980 and a brief follow up that continues to the present day. The key characters involved are the U.S. government as an intervening force in the civil war, the FMLN a leftist movement advocating for drastic change in Salvadoran society, the PCN and ARENA which represents the historic holders of power in El Salvador, and finally the solidarity groups and NGOs such as CISPES who oppose US intervention, oppose the PCN and ARENAS hold on power and support the FMLN's desire to assert change in El Salvador. This topic finds its significance and main argument in the principle motivations for solidarity group protest. These groups cited U.S. financial support in the suppression of democracy and mass human rights abuses as the sources of their outcry.

Manuel Garcia

Human Rights, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christina Szurlej

Femicides in Nicaragua

Violence against women is not an understudied subject. Research about the topic has been done all around the world. Thorough studies have been carried out on its causes, effects, and have provided recommendations for its prevention. However, even when the topic has been studied over and over again, violence against women continues to be a very tangible issue affecting women on a global scale. In many instances, violence against women tends to escalate to a fatal level, resulting in femicides. While some people argue that violence has no gender, women are overrepresented as victims and men as perpetrators. This paper will explore the issue of femicides in Nicaragua and identify which intersectional factors contribute to the risk of femicide in this country. Particular attention has been given to women's geographic location, education level, and social condition and socioeconomic status.

Caroline Jonah

History, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Karen Robert

Women in the Huelga: How women's participation in the UFW grape strike shaped Chicana feminism in the United States

This paper examines women's participation in the United Farm Workers (UFW) grape strike in Delano, California, from 1965 to 1970. This strike happened during the Chicano rights movement of the 1960s, when Mexican American farm workers organized to demand better wages and safer working conditions from California agribusinesses. Dolores Huerta was the vice president of the union, the primary organizer for pickets and boycotts, and the main negotiator with grape growers. Huerta and many other Chicana women took on leadership positions in the union, and many Chicana farm workers joined the union and participated in pickets, marches, and boycotts. While women were integral to the success of the UFW, union publications, contemporary journalists, and public memory in the United States have downplayed women's participation in the strike. This paper argues that the Delano grape strike demonstrates how Chicana feminism emerged from the Chicano rights movement. Chicana women became politicized during the Chicano rights movement through union activity, but masculinist ideals within the union demonstrate the attitudes that lead Chicanas to form feminist groups in the 1970s.

Giao Dang

Economics, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrew Secord

The Political Economy of Trumpism. Is it an end to the Washington Consensus?

Since taking office, President Donald Trump has sparked many controversies over his statements and policies. Many people argue that Donald Trump is simply a president who used his peculiar language to win the election, and eventually would have to conform to well-established institutions of the state. From my perspective, however, President Trump is an embodiment of rising populism and neo-mercantilism, as well as a testimony to the inevitable deterioration of the neoliberal state. My research project will examine the populist and neo-mercantilist nature of Trumpism, its impacts on the implementation of the neoliberal Washington Consensus, and the causal relationship between the neoliberal state's instability and the 'Trump phenomenon'.

PANEL 2: RELATIONSHIPS: FAMILIAL, SEXUAL, AND LEGAL

Valérie Godin

Psychology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michelle Lafrance

Informal caregiving for older adults: Challenges of system navigation

As mortality and fertility rates have been decreasing throughout the past decades, Canada is experiencing a significant increase of adults living longer and New Brunswick has the highest proportion of older adults in the country. Most older adults wish to age-in-place, meaning that they want to age in their homes rather than in institutionalised settings. Because there is a lack of formal support for older adults to age-in-place, family and friends are often solicited to provide care for their loved ones. This informal caregiver role entails time, physical, psychological, and financial constraints. As a result, many experience "caregiver burden," as they try to negotiate this challenging role. In the present study, we explore the accounts of 11 informal caregivers of older adults aging-in-place in New Brunswick, with a view to better understand the systemic challenges they face. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with each participant about their experiences of caregiving, the challenges they face, and their recommendations for change. In this ongoing Psycho-Social Ethnography of the Commonplace methodological study, information navigation emerges as a key complication, whereby participants describe various ways in which the health care system adds to their caregiver burden. Recommendations for potential changes will be presented.

Rachel Kerzner

Psychology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sarah Vannier

Relational Savouring - Links with Relationship Quality and Attachment

The quality of one's romantic relationship is linked with overall health, happiness, and life satisfaction (Knox & Schacht, 2010). Relational savouring is an emotion regulation process that involves anticipating, being in the moment, and reminiscing about a positive experience with a romantic partner. Among people in long-distance relationships, relational savouring predicts higher relationship quality (Borelli et al., 2014), yet, its effect on people living with a partner is unknown. Attachment style (i.e., the way we tend to behave in close relationships) may impact the ability to savour close relationships (Burkhart et al., 2012), yet few studies have assessed attachment and relational savouring concurrently. In the current study, 300 participants (living with a romantic partner) will complete online measures of relational savouring, attachment style, and relationship quality. I predict that participants higher in relational savouring will report higher relationship quality. I also predict that this link will be weaker for participants higher in insecure (i.e., anxious or avoidant) attachment. Data collection is ongoing and will end in February 2020. This study will inform future interventions designed to improve relationship quality among people who are living with a romantic partner.

Kyra Wilson

Psychology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sarah Vannier

Feeling good about feeling good: Links between sexual savouring, sexual self-efficacy, and sexual well-being

Sexual well-being correlates with relational and individual well-being, and is a predictor of relationship satisfaction and length. As such ways to increase sexual well-being are being investigated, one being sexual savouring. Sexual savouring is the anticipation, in the moment savouring, and reminiscing of positive sexual experiences. Sexual savouring has already been correlated with improvements in relational and sexual satisfaction, sexual desire, and sexual frequency. The next step in research surrounding sexual savouring is to study its relationship with other predictors of sexual well-being. As such I am investigating the effect that sexual self-efficacy (promoting one's sexual interests in sexual interactions) has on sexual savouring to produce improved sexual well-being. I predict that sexual savouring will be related to increases in sexual satisfaction, sexual frequency, and decreases in sexual distress. I also predict that sexual self-efficacy will moderate this effect, with sexual savouring producing better results in those higher in sexual self-efficacy and producing less impressive results in those lower in sexual self-efficacy. In order to determine this I am currently gathering 300 participants via an online survey platform to complete measures on sexual self-efficacy, sexual savouring, sexual frequency, sexual satisfaction, and sexual distress. I anticipate collecting participant data in February.

Alejandra Villanueva

Psychology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mihailo Perunovic

Are you there? Ghosting tendencies and attitudes in romantic relationships

Ghosting refers to when a romantic partner abruptly cuts off all communication with their partner by avoiding them online and offline (Koessler, 2018). Despite its growing popularity as a relationship dissolution strategy, there has been very little research on ghosting in psychology. Our study examines whether different personality variables predict who ghosts and who gets ghosted. We surveyed 168 undergraduate students about their attachment style, scores on the Big 5 personality variables, experiences ghosting and being ghosted, as well as attitudes toward ghosting. We predicted that avoidantly attached individuals (who are uncomfortable with intimacy and emotions) would be more likely to ghost because of their aversion toward dealing with the others' emotions during breaking up. We also predicted that anxiously attached individuals (who are often viewed as overly needy and possessive) would be likely to be ghosted as their partners would want to avoid a potentially overly- emotional breakup. Results supported our hypotheses. Unexpectedly, results also revealed that anxiously attached individuals were also more likely to ghost. Mediation analyses revealed that anxiously attached individuals' tendency to ghost was mediated by their tendency to have been ghosted in the past. Implications of the results will be discussed.

Brandon Case

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Karla O'Regan

'Administering a Noxious Thing': Canada's Criminalization of HIV Non-Disclosure

Canada prosecutes the non-disclosure of HIV status in sexual relationships at an alarmingly high rate compared with other countries (Grant, 2011). In the landmark Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) decision of *R v Cuerrier* (1998), the Court ruled that HIV-positive individuals have a duty to disclose their status to sexual partners; failing to do so can negate consent. Non-disclosing individuals can be charged with aggravated sexual assault if a "significant risk of serious bodily harm" to the complainant is determined. While *Cuerrier* set the standard for HIV non-disclosure cases, the Court in *R v Mabior* (2012) reframed the test of "significant risk of serious bodily harm" to be a "realistic possibility of transmitting HIV." After the *Cuerrier* decision, harsher sentences in HIV non-disclosure cases became the trend, which disproportionately affects marginalized Canadian populations. This study explores two parts of this issue: first, whether there has been a continued trend towards harsher sentencing for HIV-positive individuals post-*Mabior* and; second, whether there are prevalent discourses framing the discussion of HIV non-disclosure. Feminist and queer theoretical lenses will be applied to the criminalization of the non-disclosure of HIV; preliminary findings and their significance will be discussed.

PANEL 3: YOUTH AND WELL-BEING

Grace Baker

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 3rd year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Claire Goggin

Deciphering Delinquency: An Analysis of Protective and Risk Factors Among Youth in Maritime Canada

The purpose of this study is to determine the types of protective and risk factors experienced by Maritime youth. Such factors are known correlates of both pro- and anti-social outcomes. For example, protective factors are those characteristics of the child, family, and environment that reduce the likelihood of behaviours such as delinquency and later adult offending. Risk factors tend to increase the probability of youths becoming involved in problem behaviours. Protective and risk factors are organized into five categories: individual (i.e., resilience, confidence, aspirations); family (i.e., relations, expectations, presence); peer (i.e., relations, friend-group, peer lifestyles); school (i.e., attendance, GPA, extra-circular involvement); and community (i.e., volunteerism, community crime rate, community support). Data for the study will be gathered from an anonymous survey administered to an undergraduate sample at St. Thomas University. Survey questions will be developed from the aforementioned factor categories. Results will be examined from the perspective of social learning theory, which states that people's behaviours are shaped through social exposure to others and their surroundings. It is expected that the results of the study may provide insight into the availability of appropriate preventative programs for youth in the Maritime region, especially school and community-based offerings.

Emma Merrithew

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Karla O'Regan

Emerging Adulthood - A New Perspective Towards the Criminal Sentencing of a Young Person in Canada

This presentation reviews recent developments in psychological as well as developmental research on those eighteen to twenty-five years old in terms of their criminal responsibility. It goes on to analyze the gender differences within the social bonds of this age group, emerging adults, and follows by comparing the provisions of the YCJA to those of the Canadian Criminal Code in terms of what they each provide for this age group. Next, it looks at case studies such as the case of Ashley Smith and the perceptions of emerging adults in Nova Scotia. The paper continues to highlight the origins of the age of legal responsibility as well as how the law must adapt to take adequate care of these emerging adults, in an attempt to inform readers and policy makers that people in between the ages of eighteen to twenty-five require specific attention in terms of rehabilitation and support, and are not adults just yet.

Bethany Jensen

Sociology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Marilee Reimer

The Gender Gap: Middle School Children & Subject Aptitudes

My research will zero in on teachers working closely with middle school children (grades 6, 7, and 8). The aim of this research is to identify factors (both academic and social) within the classroom that contribute to student's attitudes towards math, science and technology courses. I will also be studying how gender is related to both the academic and social factors of the classroom. My aim in this research is to find a potential correlation between students' subject aptitudes and the social influences of these aptitudes; and tie it to the existing literature on femininities, masculinities, and STEM. This will be completed by targeting a student population (with teachers acting as a representative for the population) in the advanced foundational stage to determine what (if any) factors have an impact on student's decision to enter into math and science University preparation courses once they reach high school, and if a students' gender is a factor in this decision.

Julie Roberge

Sociology/Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Fleming

CPTED and Student Perception of Safety at St. Thomas University

How safe is St. Thomas University? Learning how students perceive safety on campus and how elements of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design can increase safety benefits students, faculty and the community. This research seeks to answer the question: Is there a relationship between the application of CPTED principles on campus and students' perception of safety? To answer this question, I engaged in a multistep process consisting of a campus safety policy review, a survey of students and subsequent descriptive data analysis, a visual review of higher risk areas, and an interview with a campus security official. The findings presented in this research are aimed at encouraging small changes to the physical environment to promote safety and wellbeing on the STU campus while testing the efficacy of CPTED principles more broadly.

Shannon Lewis and Emily Messer

Psychology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Marvin Claybourn

Internalized Stigma and Resilience: Relationships with Academics and Mental Health

We examined the mental health of first year university students along with their resilience, coping, and internalized stigma and how these factors relate to wellbeing and academic behaviours. A total of 93 participants (85% female) were recruited from St. Thomas University and completed measures at three times during the fall semester of 2019. The first set of questionnaires measured mental illness diagnoses, general wellbeing, resilience, stigma, coping styles, and academic behaviours. The two follow up sessions consisted of questionnaires that measured wellbeing, and academic behaviours. GPA was collected following the last set of questionnaires. Analyses indicated that 32% of participants reported having been professionally diagnosed with a mental illness, while 40% reported believing that they had an undiagnosed mental illness. Our analyses are ongoing, but a preliminary analysis of the data indicates that there are initial differences between participants who reported a diagnosed mental illness and those who did not on several key variables. It also appears that the changes in general wellbeing over the semester differ depending on whether students reported having a mental illness.

PANEL 4: BELIEFS, EXPERIENCE, AND EMPATHY

Alexandra Cunningham

Philosophy, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Scott Stapleford

Good and Bad Reasons to Reject Externalism

The debate between internalism and externalism in epistemology concerns one of the traditional conditions for knowledge: justification. Specifically, proponents of these theories seek to understand precisely what confers justification on a belief. Theories of justification are typically characterized as internalist if they hold that all reasons for a belief being justified are cognitively accessible to a person. Externalism represents the rejection of this thesis; defenders of this theory deny that the justifiers must be internal to a believer's perspective. In this paper, I present an objection to the externalist account. After describing the internalist and externalist positions, I attempt to show that externalism, broadly construed, allows a person to be justified when they hold beliefs for the wrong reasons, and this indicates a significant problem with the theory. Next, I argue that this kind of objection will not work for more specific articulations of the externalist thesis, such as reliabilism. Finally, I contend that such theories must still account for a "good reasons" evaluation of justification, an internalist consideration.

Samantha Arthurs

Philosophy, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Scott Stapleford

Analyzing Life's Transformative Experiences

The notion of transformative experience was introduced in 2014 by philosopher Laurie Paul, whose book sparked a new debate in epistemology. Transformative experiences are experiences that teach us things we cannot know in advance of the experience itself or by any other means. As a result of this epistemic limitation, a problem of practical rationality arises, which cannot be solved without also threatening the authenticity of the agent. I argue, however, that there are ways for an agent to make decisions involving transformative experience rationally while also remaining authentic. I will first provide a summary of the text, elaborating on the concepts where needed for clarity. I will then evaluate the argument, drawing on thoughts from other philosophers, including Paul Bloom, William Talbott, and Elizabeth Barnes. I will end with my own evaluation of the argument's plausibility, and finish by concluding that this is only the beginning of a much bigger debate.

Graham Manderville

Philosophy/History, 5th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Scott Stapleford

The Dark Side of Empathy: Problems with Moral Judgement

In the past decade, more and more influential members of North American society such as President Barack Obama have stressed the importance of empathy. Obama and others like him advocate in support of empathy as an undeniable good that must be employed in making moral judgements. This has resulted in empathy becoming a popularly appealed to emotion to center one's morality around. Not only is this reliance on empathy misguided. It is also dangerous. Empathy has a lesser-known dark side that is hardly ever talked about. Especially prevalent when it comes to making moral judgements, empathy seems to have various flaws that in practice result in agents making judgements contrary both to what is good and what is rational. Because of empathy's susceptibility to the inherent biases of humans, its ability to act as a spotlight narrowing the focus of one's judgements and its susceptibility to being influenced by proximity, empathy is a bad guide for making moral judgements. One would be much better served relying on a combination of emotion and reason to engage in a more rationally compassionate form of moral judgement making similar to what Paul Bloom argues for in his book *Against Empathy*.

PANEL 5: LAW AND ORDER I

Andie Amaya

Political Science, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Thomas Bateman

Private Member's Bills: A Rising Canadian Tradition?

What is the likelihood of private member's bills (PMBs) being passed in the chambers of Parliament? Are PMBs more likely to be passed in the House and Senate under a minority or coalition regime? These questions are central to the understanding of the cause and effects of PMBs in Canadian politics. Since the mid-1900s the content of these bills proposed by members of Parliament (MPs) has changed dramatically—this has to mean something. The purpose of the thesis proposal is to explore the nature of private member's bills in the Canadian Parliament, and their relationship with party politics and the electorate. In addition, the thesis proposal outlines the similarities and differences of PMBs introduced in other Westminster Parliamentary Systems (e.g., Australia). The behaviour of MPs as a means of getting public policy across via PMBs will be explored as well using the McGrath Report and Standing Order changes that have emerged over time. Furthermore, there will be an explanation on the limits of the thesis's research and the likelihood of arriving to a valuable conclusion.

Nicole Murray

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Claire Goggin

Police Culture and Sexual Assault Investigations

The current study examines the relationship between police cultures and sexual assault investigations. Prior research demonstrates that sexual assault survivors report potential police judgement (i.e., victim blaming) as a reason why they do not seek medical or criminal justice attention (Felson, 2005; Orchowski, 2009). Furthermore, scholars in feminist and critical criminology theory have blamed police culture, defined as a set of informal systems within police departments that guide officers' conduct (Chan 1997), as the reason why victim blaming occurs in sexual assault investigations (Long, 2017). This presentation will be based on how The Illinois Rape Myth Assessment Tool (IRMA) divides rape myths into 7 categories (i.e., she lied, he didn't mean to) to get the best measure of attitudes possible about rape myths (Payne, 1999). My study will use the IRMA scale to examine whether a police culture is present in the St. Thomas University (STU) criminology department, and the subsequent effects that police culture can have on sexual assault investigations. After analyzing the literature, my hypothesis is that criminology students will have higher scores on the IRMA than other departments at STU, demonstrating the presence of an early police culture that is more likely to victim blame than other disciplines.

Robin Gionet and Melissa Godin-Belliveau

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Claire Goggin

Prague Summer School - Crime, Law, & Psychology

Located in the Czech Republic, the Prague Summer School offers a number of academic programs, one of which is Crime, Law and Psychology. This intensive 25-hour program offers students an opportunity to apply previously learned concepts and learn new applications of previous theories. For example, our understanding of the psychological, criminological, and legal concepts acquired through our studies at St. Thomas University and the Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick (CCNB) was complemented by the diversity of perspectives reflected in discussions with program participants. This allowed us to explore, compare, and challenge various concepts within an international milieu. Lectures were presented by qualified professors in the relevant disciplines from a number of countries including Italy, the United Kingdom, the United States, South Africa, and the Czech Republic. Aspects of forensic science, interviewing, criminal procedure, policing, terrorism, false confessions, and eyewitness identification were among the topics covered through lectures and in-class discussions of relevant issues. Overall, this experience has allowed us to not only grow academically but to also expand our cultural horizons and consciousness around key issues of concern to the relevant disciplines within a global context.

Alexander Gallant

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Claire Goggin

A Constitutional Analysis of Privacy Law

This study will be a comparative qualitative analysis of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms. The study rational is to determine how a rights-based approach affects privacy law. The study methodology will focus on sections 7, 8, 11(d) of the Canadian Charter compared to section 8 of the European Charter. This will involve an analysis and comparison of Supreme Court of Canada cases to European Supreme Court cases that have interpreted these enshrined statutes in the context of privacy. Research will be centralized on cases that reference the Personal Information Protections and Electronics Documents Act (PIPEDA) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Cultural transmission theory and conflict theory will be applied to this research. The expected result is that the European Union will have greater privacy protections in comparison to Canada. This will support the argument that the Canadian Federal government should make statutory revisions to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in order to broaden the definition of the security of the person.

Emily Miller

Human Rights, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christina Szurlej

Should Turkey be considered a Safe Third Country? Does international law properly protect the rights of refugees?

The Syrian civil war created a massive migration movement. Millions of Syrians have sought refuge in neighbouring countries, and some have migrated as far as the EU. In 2016, the EU made a deal with Turkey to limit the influx of irregular migrants entering the EU through Turkey. The deal ensured that Turkey would host Syrians refugees and strengthen border control. The EU-Turkey Deal has been highly criticized because Turkey is well-known for violating human rights and not complying with international refugee law. The EU-Turkey Deal focuses more on deterring refugees from entering the EU without due consideration for the implications for refugees. This raises the question: should Turkey have been considered a Safe Third Country for refugees? Moreover, does international law, as is, properly protect and safeguard the rights of refugees?

PANEL 6: QUEERING FORM TO RENDER CONSCIOUSNESS: UNSETTLING A STABLE MARITIME LITERARY CANON

Evan Mersereau

English, 6th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anthony Tremblay

Arm-in-Arm a' Tavern-Brawling: Complicating Day's Environmental Narratives

Frank Parker Day's novel *Rockbound* offers several entry points for complicating both its own text and the regional narratives which the text evokes and responds to. Though the narrator frames the story as a classical romance, its characters challenge that constraint through realism. Though protagonist David Jung marries into a powerful family, he spends much time with his best friend, Gershom Born the younger, in potent intimacy. Though David lives in a predominantly Christian society, his Sunday thoughts turn to blasphemous questioning of the motives and powers of God, the Devil, and his great provider Nature. This presentation will demonstrate how Day constructs a text which nearly deconstructs itself; to that end, it will consider queer theory – particularly as it relates to American philosopher Henry David Thoreau, as well as notions of queer time – early drafts of *Rockbound*, and the commodification of Atlantic Canada. Through these considerations of homosociality between David and young Gershom, a foundational bisexuality emerges in the text where ruggedness and tenderness are interlinked. So *Rockbound* treats the idealized notions of Atlantic Canadian labour narrative: complicated by the counter-narratives of its characters, its peoples.

Emma Faulkner

English, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anthony Tremblay

David and the Mountain: An Exploration of Self-Transformation in Ernest Buckler's *The Mountain and the Valley*

Natalie Taylor's research on Ernest Buckler's *The Mountain and the Valley* states that the "ending of the book demands a return to the beginning." A close investigation of both the epilogue and prologue reveals a strong argument for reading David's story as a metaphor for shifting states of self-consciousness in relation to Henri Bergson's theory of consciousness. In this way, I propose to read the novel as an exploration of David's unconscious, and his largely unsuccessful attempt to bridge the gap between his inner self and his social self. The key conflict of the text emerges as David's inability to unify his imagination's tendency to over-determine the external world, and the external world's tendency to invalidate the creative power that is his imagination. The novel can then be seen as an exploration of the wounds inflicted upon David, both spoken and unspoken, while maintaining the potential for the profound realization of self-consciousness which occurs as David climbs the mountain. As David reaches the top of the mountain his two worlds collapse, and he experiences a true moment of self-consciousness in which he is able to reflect on his past and realize the self-transformations which have led to this climax.

Katy Johnson

English, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anthony Tremblay

Interactions with the Ethereal: The Formation of Identity in Atlantic Canadian Literature

Antonine Maillet's *Pélagie*, Thom Fitzgerald's *The Hanging Garden*, and Alistair MacLeod's *No Great Mischief* each personify the spectral and ethereal by turning them into tangible beings. In doing so, these fictional works manipulate their own narratives by creating multiple dimensions of time which exist simultaneously and allow the present to interact directly with the ghosts of the past. "The uncanny" is presented by critics Cynthia Sugars and Gerry Turcotte as a feeling of unresolved displacement, or the feeling of constantly reinventing oneself as a response to the past. I propose that through their interactions with the spectral, the characters in these works rewrite their pasts and envelop themselves in the uncanny. In doing so, they create a shaky reality which emphasizes the circularity of time as past and present converge. This presentation will explore the effects of the uncanny, suggesting that the instability it creates is the uncertainty of whether an exploration of one's past reveals one's true identity or reveals the futility of basing an identity on history. Ultimately, this presentation will question whether we would be happier if we could form our identities free from the ghosts of our past, and whether this is ever truly possible.

Carly Mason

English, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anthony Tremblay

Resurrection of the Author: Recovering Buckler in *The Mountain and the Valley*

The tradition of literary criticism for centuries has been preoccupied with the importance of the author as an authority of textual truth. To challenge that certainty, Roland Barthes called for the death of the author in his 1967 essay, proposing instead that a text's meaning should be derived from the reader's uninfluenced interpretation of the text itself. While an author's subjectivity and intent should perhaps be ignored when considering a piece of literature, I would argue that the influence of the author's subjectivity will be found in texts regardless of the authorial intentions. Few authors so obviously write based on personal experience as Ernest Buckler does, especially in *The Mountain and the Valley*. Claude Bissell notes the similarities between Buckler and his protagonist David, calling David a "crippled Ernest" – a childhood genius in rural Annapolis Valley, but lacking the opportunities of Buckler later in life. To remove the influence of the author entirely is to deprive the text of a layer of possible meaning. Thus, my aim in this paper is to recover Buckler in *The Mountain and the Valley*, exploring the intersection between the author and his character, whether intentional or otherwise, as found throughout the novel.

PANEL 7: INTERROGATING POPULAR CULTURE

Mary Baker

Interdisciplinary Studies, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rodger Wilkie

Balancing Cultivation and Tradition in Disney's *Moana*

Disney's *Moana* tackles the difficulties involved in being a virtuous ruler and doing what is best for the community. The idea of maintaining a harmful tradition for its mere sake appears often in Confucianism as the philosophy attempts to apply a critical eye to rulers and the issues they face. In both *Moana* and Confucianism, the community's needs are recognized and nurtured by the virtuous ruler. It is this virtue that a good ruler hopes to cultivate in the community. By sailing across the sea and returning the Heart of the Ocean to its rightful place, *Moana* not only restores order to her society, but challenges a tradition that was once made for the benefit of the people, but now is limiting them from reaching peak cultivation. Much of *Moana* aligns itself with key Confucian virtues and values and emphasizes the importance of being a good ruler.

Evan Mersereau

English, 6th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Matte Robinson

Homes of Leaves: A Transtextual Play Demonstration

This presentation will demonstrate the basic conceits underpinning the video game adaptation of Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* through a live playthrough of the game's "Winter" section. The purpose of this is twofold: to alleviate the common semantic concerns of newcomers to *Walden*, a game (e.g.: "How would a Thoreau video game work?") and provide the contexts which frame the game. The presentation will switch periodically from *Walden*, a game to its contemporaries *What Remains of Edith Finch* and *Gone Home* to showcase the common threads between these interactive texts: their mechanical similarities as part of the walking simulator genre, and each game's use of other texts. All three of these games rely on explicit intertextuality with older works in order to construct their narratives. In other ways these games call on other subtypes of Gérard Genette's transtextuality, but paratextuality is of particular concern in *Walden*, a game. Unlike *What Remains of Edith Finch* and *Gone Home*, *Walden*, a game frames its intertexts in such a way which transforms how newcomers to those texts would engage with them, and even allows for preliminary engagement with those texts. This demonstrates the unique trans-media properties of paratextuality in video games.

Robyn Gionet

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dawne Clarke

"You laugh at me, and I'll shoot you where you stand": Fifty Years of Female Law Enforcement in Crime Films

Most of what people know about crime and the criminal justice system is filtered through popular culture – in this case, crime films. Given this, it is important to critically examine how crime films represent crime, criminals, criminal justice processes, and criminal justice agents (Rafter, 2007; Rafter, 2010; Surette, 2014). This study examines the representation of female law enforcement officers in film, using the following research questions: How do cop films construct female law enforcement agents? How are these constructions gendered? What ideological messages emerge from these constructs? Five films covering the time frame, 1976-2016, were selected: *The Enforcer* (1976), *Blue Steel* (1990), *Fargo* (1996), *Murder by Numbers* (2002), and *The Heat* (2013). A directed content analysis, guided by cultivation theory and feminist theory, provided the methodological and analytical frameworks. Preliminary findings indicate that little change has occurred in the representations of female law enforcement officers in popular film. They continue to be constructed as hyper-masculine, with personal issues leading them to policing, and dismissal as "not real law enforcement" by co-workers, police administration, and the public.

Meah Peers

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dawne Clarke

“I like to dissect girls - did you know I’m utterly insane?”: Deconstructing Ideological Messages About Serial Killers & Mental Illness in Popular Film

Popular film is a primary means through which people learn about crime (Surette, 2014). In particular, mental illness as a cause of crime is an often-used misleading trope, especially in serial killer films. This study uses a directed content analysis to examine popular serial killer films from 1990 to 2018 to answer the question: How do popular crime films construct mental illness as a cause of crime, specifically serial murder? By applying concepts pulled from the literature to the films – for example, Call’s (2019) analysis of serial killer films and the examination of psychopathy in cinema by Leidstedt et al. (2014) – this study seeks to uncover the ideological messages about mental illness as a “cause” for criminal behaviour. In focusing on the mental illness of the films’ antagonists, the violent and repetitive crimes committed, and the characters’ motivations, the data reveals how mental illness and crime are constructed in popular media, and how this medium creates stereotypes about mentally ill people. The preliminary findings demonstrate film’s reliance on narratives of morbid violence, specific demographic profiles of serial killers, and criminal motivations rooted in mental illness, which create and support negative misleading representations of mental illness and crime.

PANEL 8: GENDER ONLINE AND... EVERYWHERE!

Tamika Allison

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 5th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chris McCormick

Gendered Surveillance in Public Space: An Auto-Ethnographic Analysis

As we increasingly rely on surveillance to guarantee our safety, its effectiveness has become the subject of debate in and out of academia. Regarded as an urban phenomenon, surveillance is meant to make space a safer place for all. Koskela (2002) recalls studies that show women are more worried about their personal safety in the urban space than men, which would lead us to assume that women are the beneficiaries of surveillance practices. There is little evidence to support this. Instead, gender has become one of the many forms of power and repression associated with surveillance (Koskela, 2002). In places such as shopping malls and transportation areas, women are more likely to be under surveillance while the people behind surveillance are usually men. Even in the most basic sense, surveillance reinforces the public space as gendered. This thesis uses an auto-ethnographic approach to look at places in which the public is invited, while documenting the visual and emotional experience of moving through a masculinized and surveilled urban space.

Emma Ewart

Sociology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kristi Allain

Honours Thesis - How Do Those who Self-Identify As Women Find Value In Misogynistic Media?

For my honours thesis in sociology, I have interviewed participants who self-identify as women who are part of fanbases of media that is often conceptualized as misogynistic as a result of its either being male-dominated and/or its use of negative portrayals of, or violent imagery referring to, women. I want to examine what allows these women to remain fans of these types of media, what value they take from it, and why it appeals to them. Specifically, for this research I examined people who self-identify women or girls between the ages of 18 and 25 who are fans of the pop-punk genre. Using semi-structured online interviews with participants recruited via a Reddit forum, I conducted qualitative research into this topic. Through this, I found several common themes that shed light on how these participants reconcile these two aspects of their identities, including expressing shame about their interests, denial that misogyny is present, defensiveness, dismissal of other female fans, and limiting their investment in the genre. I will present the findings and my conclusions about the implications of this phenomenon on gender theory, modern Internet fanbases, and feminist theory.

Megan Fram

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Claire Goggin

The Role of Gendered Language and Victim-Blaming in “Revenge Porn” Cases

My research topic is non-consensual disclosure of intimate images, more popularly known as “revenge porn”. This is a form of digital sexual abuse that affects predominantly women. Similar to sexual assault, victims of “revenge porn” are blamed for their own victimization. They are told they asked for it, they should have seen it coming, they should not have taken the photos in the first place, etc. This type of sexual violence has only been illegal in Canada since 2015. For this project, I will use feminist theory to do a discourse analysis of cases where S.162.1 (Publication of Intimate Images Without Consent) is used, specifically looking at how victim-blaming and gendered language play a role in this crime and in these cases. Feminist Theory suggests that society treats men and women’s bodies differently. Women’s bodies have been valued as pure and innocent and are disregarded when perceived as promiscuous or “easy”. This sparks victim-blaming towards women in sexual violence crimes, like “revenge porn”. Radical feminists view “revenge porn” as a tool for men to maintain their positions of power over women and to keep patriarchy alive. Results will likely show gendered language in these “revenge porn” cases that reinforces victim-blaming.

PANEL 9: LAW AND ORDER II

Brianna Hill

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Claire Goggin

Media Analysis of NCRMD Offenders

The Canadian Criminal Justice System considers that those who have mental disorders have a disease of the mind. Not all offenders with a mental disorder are deemed not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder (NCRMD). The determination of NCRMD is conducted through psychiatric assessment. The media (newspapers, television, books, etc.) plays an integral role in the portrayal of various criminological and societal issues, including NCRMD, which may influence the public's view. The aim of this study is to explore and analyze media depictions of mentally ill offenders, with and without NCRMD designation. Through a content analysis of 30-40 newspaper articles, taken from 5 major Canadian newspapers related to cases of mentally ill offenders a coding system will be devised to determine the tone of the articles (negative or positive; stigma and/or stereotyping), underlying messages, the mention of rehabilitation, and available resources. An assessment of differences in the content of these articles will delineate if there is any variation in the portrayal of mentally ill offenders with and without NCRMD designation. Previous studies have shown that articles about mentally ill offenders deemed NCRMD are more negatively portrayed than offenders without the NCRMD designation.

Sarah Kohut

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Claire Goggin

Effect of Correctional Treatment on Recidivism among Mentally Ill Offenders

Mentally ill offenders are often unable to access appropriate correctional treatments within the criminal justice system. This thesis will examine the relationship between treatment completion and recidivism among this population. Results will be examined from the perspective of symbolic interaction theory, which proposes that people interact with things based on the meanings they assign to them. In the criminological context, if mentally ill offenders develop a more positive relationship with society, as defined by greater treatment-based skills acquisition, they will be less likely to reoffend after release. A narrative review of the existing literature of skills-based treatment programs for mentally ill offenders will be conducted focusing on their treatment experiences and post-release outcomes. The sample will be drawn from peer-reviewed studies published since 2000. A preliminary search of the literature indicates that mentally ill offenders who complete prison-based treatments tend to have a lower post-release recidivism rate than those who do not. More specifically, there is evidence that treatment programs which focus on interpersonal and cognitive skills development are most effective at reducing recidivism.

Victoria Forbes

Psychology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ian Fraser

A Review of Legal Professionals' Knowledge and Beliefs on the Topic of Eyewitness Testimony

The topic of Eyewitness testimony has been hotly debated between legal professionals and experts in the field of cognition for many years. Many legal professionals believe that knowledge surrounding this topic is in fact common sense; however, previous research suggests that this demographic holds a lack of knowledge on the subject despite their beliefs. Experts are aware that legal professionals do not hold sufficient knowledge on these important topics, therefore experts wish to have their voices heard during trials to ensure that wrongful convictions are avoided. This review aims to compare studies performed in various countries which focus on the knowledge and beliefs that judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers hold on the topic of eyewitness testimonies. After all available data has been obtained and reviewed, a meta-analysis will be completed. The meta-analysis itself intends to compare the demographics within each group, as well as across time, where available. Finally, the author will present suggestions as to why the results may differ from country to country, as well as between time periods.

Bibi Wasiimah Joomun

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chris McCormick

Miscarriage of the Criminal Justice System: An Indirect Psychological Analysis of False Confession Cases

With the emergency of Criminology of Wrongful Conviction over the last decades, an increasing number of literatures has documented the existence and causes of false confession as well as the relationship between false confession and wrongful conviction of the innocent. According to the Innocence Project, 30% of all DNA exonerations involve false confessions. This research examines the relationship between psychology and the criminal justice system, with a focus on false confession. By examining exonerated cases, and analyzing the role of psychologist expert witnesses, especially during the investigation stage, this research addresses the importance of psychological evidence within the criminal justice system. Alongside, by using theories from Maria Hartwig in their study of the Reid Technique, literatures from Richard A. Leo who studies the Criminology of Wrongful Conviction, findings from the psychologists like Elizabeth Loftus and Saul Kassin, this paper examines the significance of psychology in the criminal justice system. It is anticipated that the results of the study will provide useful insights into changes over time in the prevalence of wrongful convictions which may, in turn, reflect changes in investigative procedures through a psychological lens.

Alexander Gallant

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Claire Goggin

Remanded Offenders in Provincial Corrections

This study will be an analysis of Canadian remanded offenders. The study rationale is to determine how remanded offenders affect provincial institutions. The study methodology will focus on Statistics Canada research, applicable statutes and literature reviews. This will involve an analysis of the definition of remand, the average length in Canada, the effect on correctional services, the cost, incarceration rates, and its effectiveness. Research will be centralized on Statistics Canada research from 2013 to 2018. The expected result is that remanded offenders have significant effects on resources in comparison to the sentenced population. This will support the argument that the Canadian Federal government should make statutory revisions to the Criminal Code to give judges greater discretion during judicial interim release proceedings.

PANEL 10: STAYING FOCUSED

Nhat Phung

Psychology, 2nd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sandra Thomson

Sharpening Attention through Meditation/Mindfulness Training

Meditation/mindfulness training (MT) has been shown to correlate with enhanced cognitive performance and less negative mental health. This paper summarizes and evaluates a number of studies on the impact of MT on attention in order to address its benefits and propose an underlying mechanism. Among the studies, both correlational and causal relationships were established, participants came from different contexts, and the length and format of MT varied. This implies that the positive effects of MT on attention can be generalized to academic and occupational contexts. One study used a series of computerized visual attention tasks (e.g. ambiguous pictures) to evaluate participants' attentional capabilities, and found that, compared to non-meditators, experienced meditators performed better in selective attention, perspective-shifting, and were less prone to change blindness. In the other studies, a subset of participants underwent different forms of MT over short periods of time and demonstrated improvement on sustained attention and a decrease in mind wandering, compared to the control groups. The results also suggested that acceptance training might be the underlying mechanism.

Jennica Jean

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Claire Goggin

The Prevalence of Cell Phone Use While Driving Among Young People

Cell phones have revolutionized the way that people communicate. The ability to text, call and scroll endlessly on social media apps has many people consumed, even while they are doing potentially dangerous activities, such as driving. This lack of self-control is also a danger to others travelling on the roadways. To determine how prevalent cell phone use while driving is among young people, I plan to conduct a self-report survey of St. Thomas University students. The theoretical framework that I will use is Self-Control Theory. This theory states that people engage in deviant behavior because of their lack of self-control. For example, in a study conducted in 2011, approximately 75% of young drivers admitted to texting or accessing the internet while driving (Cook & Jones, 2011). Furthermore, according to Transport Canada's National Collision Database distracted driving accounted for approximately 48% of all driving fatalities and serious injuries in 2016 (Statistics Canada, 2019). It is anticipated that the results of the present study will confirm the degree to which local norms for distracted driving behaviours are consistent with previously published data which has indicated that cell phone use while driving is a prevalent concern.

Laura Wheaton

Psychology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sandra Thomson

Are you Really Studying Properly?: A Discussion of Useful Strategies

One of the most effective study strategies is testing yourself, which is also known as the testing effect; however, most of the research in support of the benefits of testing has not considered that students typically study while surrounded by distractions. Recently, researchers have analyzed both testing and studying while attention is divided. In other words, attempts have been made to examine whether these real-world distractions might disrupt the benefits produced by testing. However, these studies have diverse results, leaving the question of the impact of attention on the testing effect unanswered. The present experiment seeks to further examine this question by determining the conditions under which divided attention is most detrimental to learning. In a three-phase experiment, participants learned 60 word pairs, practiced them using either study or testing techniques under full and divided attention, and then took a final test in either a cued- or free-recall format. We predicted that we would find similar benefits of testing in both the full and divided attention conditions, but that words studied under divided attention would be recalled significantly less than those studied under full attention. These results would suggest that testing is more resilient to divided attention than is studying.

PANEL 11: COMPLICATING “CANADA”

Haley Collicott

Science and Technology Studies, 4th year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jane Jenkins

Canadian Pentecostalism: Twentieth Century Responses to Darwin’s Theory of Evolution

The popular view of the relationship between science and religion is that they are in conflict. The classic example used as evidence of this conflict is Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution. The features of Darwin’s theory that seem to suggest its incompatibility with Christianity include: natural, rather than supernatural, creation, the notion of humans being animals, and an earth that is billions of years old. Therefore, the theory of evolution and Christianity have traditionally been considered incommensurable. Furthermore, it is commonly accepted that fundamentalist Christians are opposed to evolutionary theory, to the point of being anti-science. My research shows something different. I examine the various responses, in late 19th- and early 20th-century Canada, of philosophers, theologians, and Christian fundamentalists to Darwin’s theory. Drawing on newsletters of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and scholarly journals published in Canada at the time I argue that, rather than being anti-scientific, fundamentalist Christian discomfort with the theory was deeply rooted in fears of modernity and perceived disruptions to the traditional values of church, state, and family. My research reveals that the notion of inherent conflict between science and religion is an oversimplification of a deeply complex issue regarding the relations between science and Christianity.

Bruna Porto

Journalism, 4th year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Marcea Ingersoll

Canadian Offshore Schools - How Canadian Identity is Portrayed Abroad

Canada is a country very well known for many things and, among them, its quality education. This research examines the phenomena of Canadian identity at Canadian Offshore Schools – schools that offer Canadian curriculum based on the provincial government that gives them accreditation. They are located in countries around the world for people who wish to experience the Canadian education without leaving their home countries. We asked the question of what is Canadian about these schools and used the websites to answer. For our analysis of Canadian identity at Canadian Offshore Schools, we created a digital repository of the websites from each school. We studied these websites along with their portrayal of Canadian education and identity. As of this year’s data, there are 125 offshore schools; 118 of these with updated websites. We will analyze them as cultural expressions, using Pauwels’ (2012) multimodal framework. This presentation has, therefore, the purpose to show how these institutions “look” Canadian, where they are located and how they – websites from around the world – envision what Canada, or what to be Canadian, is.

Felomena Deogratsias

Criminology and Criminal Justice, 2nd year

Faculty Mentor: Prof. Josephine Savarese

“Black Self—White World”: Documenting Racism Through a Young Black Woman’s Story—A Cellphilm Screening

This short documentary resulted from a cellphilm workshop for Black identified students I attended at the University of New Brunswick in November 2019 to satisfy course requirements for CRIM 3123: Contemporary Issues in the Criminal Justice System. It was led by second year PhD Candidate at UNB, Alicia F. Noriega, and attended by young, Black filmmakers from both campuses. The objective was to create a short film regarding the personal experiences of black students in Canada using an accessible tool, the cell phone. In “Black Self -White World”, I begin with an interview (2006) with my younger brother and myself speaking on the racial discrimination we experienced in a Québec grade school to show that racism exists in Canada. Drawing from Black scholars including W.E. Dubois and his notion of double consciousness, I assert that race relations in Canada are a by-product of the white supremacy I experienced. The aim of this screening is to showcase ways film can offer people of color a voice and a platform to speak their truths. While these truths often fall on deaf ears, this screening offers viewers a chance to learn from our past to better our future.

Megan Melanson

Sociology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kristi Allain

Men in the Lumber Industry

Men in the Lumber Industry is a qualitative research project which uses semi-structured interviews with middle-aged working-class men who have worked in the lumber industry for a decade or longer. The lumber industry largely consists of an aging workforce where men experience “wear and tear” on their bodies, due to the types of labour they conduct. It is historically a male-dominated industry, resulting from normative understandings of gender and the body that see men’s bodies as strong and physically capable. Drawing on 5 qualitative interviews, in this presentation I will examine the following: How the industry has changed over the last two decades and how that has impacted the workers, how participants’ masculinities shape how they understand their social responsibilities as men; and how they utilize their bodies to provide and care, both through their employment, which is physical in nature, and their tinkering and maintenance at home. This examination will put the lived experiences of these men in conversation with existing literature on masculinity, labour and the body, including R.W Connell’s theories on masculinities, Michele Lamont’s Dignity of Working Men, and Susan Bordo’s The Male Body.

Megan Hill

Sociology, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kristi Allain

Fit Bits: Sex, Fitness, and Successful Aging in Zoomer Magazine

Old age is presented by culture makers, health officials, and the press as a time for youthful activity, to be validated by activities such as sex and exercise. Drawing on neo-liberal attitudes, these groups position healthy aging as the responsibility of the individual, alleviating state responsibility and ignoring the ways that other social and economic factors contribute to health in late(r) life. In this paper, I will provide a qualitative thematic analysis of Zoomer Magazine, a widely read Canadian lifestyle magazine targeting Canadian Baby Boomers. In my examination of 18 issues of the magazine, from 2017 and 2018, I noted the following broad themes: successful aging, neoliberalism, sex, and exercise. Although Zoomer positions late(r) life pleasures associated with sex and exercise within frameworks of neoliberal healthy aging, the real-life accounts relayed in the magazine work to disrupt common-sense ideas, positioning desire and pleasure at the forefront of healthy aging. Rather than emphasizing a fear of death and decline, those in late(r) life demonstrate the potential of the future as a site of resistance and joy. This disruption of dominant discourses of healthy aging make visible its permeability and present alternative ways of aging.

PANEL 12: DESIRING “ANNE”: WOMEN AT THE CENTRE OF THE MARITIME LITERARY TRADITION

Georgia MacNaughton

English, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anthony Tremblay

Archetypal Anne: *Anne of Green Gables* and the Mythology of Canada

Anne of Green Gables is considered to be one of the most influential Canadian novels of all time, both nationally and internationally. The tropes and patterns within the book have had a major impact on the common perception of Eastern Canadian culture, not only in other countries but here as well. Critics such as Irene Gammel and Elizabeth Waterson have dedicated much of their work to documenting and analyzing the importance of Anne's character in the construction of Canada's literary history, as well as the place it holds in the greater literary world. In this presentation, I will be examining the ways that *Anne of Green Gables* has been manifest in Canadian children's media over the years, how the book acts as a blueprint for our self-perpetuated stereotype of Canadian culture, as well as the subsequent impact this stereotyping has had specifically on the lifestyle and industry of Eastern Canada. I'm especially interested in exploring the archetypal nature of Anne's character and the relationship it holds to perceptions of Canadian culture, including the 'folk' stereotype as explained by Ian McKay and the narrative it creates that is so often assumed to be the character of the region.

Caelin Sullivan

English, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anthony Tremblay

Catholicism and Presbyterianism in *Anne of Green Gables*

Though Anne Shirley of *Anne of Green Gables* has no religious upbringing, she embodies a Catholic sensibility when she arrives at Green Gables. Andrew Greeley's "The Catholic Imagination", discusses the sacramental nature of Catholicism, in which life is a constant revelation of the presence of God in the world. Anne feels a connection to God through nature, as she tells Marilla that prayer should be sensory and experienced in nature. Anne creates rituals, reproducing and adding to the Catholic religious tradition. Critic Mary Henley Rubio writes about Scottish Presbyterianism values in Prince Edward Island in "L.M. Montgomery: Scottish-Presbyterian Agency in Canadian Culture": self-examination, plain speaking, empowerment of all classes through education, democracy in church and civic government. Anne's Catholic sensibility is eroded during the novel as she is taught Scottish Presbyterian values. Presbyterian morals become ingrained in Anne by the end of the novel as she chooses to stop speaking with flowery language, becomes conscious about the morality of her actions, and believes in and prays to God. Anne's Nova Scotian Catholicism is replaced by Prince Edward Island Scottish Presbyterianism over the course of the novel, infusing her with new morals, and permanently altering Anne's sense of wonder in creation.

Gaelyn Armstrong

English, 3rd year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anthony Tremblay

The Gift of Green Gables: The Powerful Psychological Potential of the Childhood Narrative

Since its publication in 1908, Lucy Maud Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* has continued to resonate with readers all over the world. Numerous literary critics have written on the reasons behind the novel's sustained popularity, but their explanations have largely excluded what I propose is a crucial component of the novel's success, which is the way in which Anne's deliverance from her traumatic early childhood can so easily be mapped onto the reader's memories of their own childhood. I argue that the enormous contrast Montgomery draws between Anne's past and present life and the beautiful and romantic descriptions in the novel of both the natural landscape and of Anne's everyday items and activities allow Anne's experiences in Avonlea to assume a kind of magical or fantastical quality in the mind of the reader, and that it is this particular quality that allows the story to yield so naturally to this process of mapping. Spring boarding off Irene Gammel's essay, "Reading to Heal: *Anne of Green Gables* as Bibliotherapy," I propose to examine how the story of Anne's redemptive journey is able to be superimposed over a reader's memories of traumatic and/or disappointing childhood experiences to achieve a positive psychological effect.

Emma Rhodes

English, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anthony Tremblay

“Seeking the Outside Female in Two Eastern Canadian Texts: Hugh MacLennan’s *Each Man’s Son* and Donald Shebib’s *Goin’ Down The Road*”

Both Hugh MacLennan’s 1951 novel *Each Man’s Son* and Donald Shebib’s 1970 film *Goin’ Down the Road* introduce male characters who are oppressed by their homelands in different ways: MacLennan places readers in Broughton, where men are oppressed by an ever-present Calvinist theology. Pete and Joey, in *Goin’ Down the Road*, are plagued with the maritime condition of being deliberately placed on the periphery. In both cases, the characters internalize their oppression and this manifest itself as inferiority. Janice Kulyk Keefer says of Daniel Ainslie in *Each Man’s Son* that he searched for “a gentler, maternal” God to replace the tyrannical Calvinist God. The results of oppression are characters who cannot find meaning in their birthplace and so seek that meaning elsewhere, in the female and maternal. Pete and Joey, in *Goin’ Down the Road*, enter Toronto and say, “Toronto hide your daughters here we come.” Central to their search for success is the search for the female. This paper aims to examine how the different forms of oppression contribute to a search for an outside female. Ultimately, when the outside female no longer serves a purpose for the male characters, they seek a new female and the cycle continues.

Hannah DeLucry

English, 4th year

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anthony Tremblay

Women as Outsiders: Representations of Alternative Women in Atlantic Canadian Film

It is without a doubt that women are central to Atlantic Canadian film and fiction, as they often are the vessels to which political and cultural identity can be transparently discussed. Examples of such woman include Moonie Pottie in Allan Moyle’s 1997 drama *New Waterford Girl*, Margaret MacNeil in Mort Ranson’s 1995 film *Margaret’s Museum*, and Ellen Caneen in Ernest Buckler’s 1952 realist fiction *The Mountain and the Valley*, who all become the social pariahs. Lee Parpart writes on women in the Atlantic Canadian region who often have not been included in the central industries, thus narratives are offered through the subjectivity of the female gaze upon such a labour force. The exclusion from labour results in the women having a clearer ability to critique the debilitating industries and landscapes that they live in all while maintaining an outside perspective. Moonie Pottie questions the unspoken anti-intellectualism in New Waterford without ever having it be directly defined; Margaret must watch generations of the men in her family give their lives up for coal mining, directly questioning the authority that the coal mining industry has over the town; Ellen remains her family’s link to their past, present, and future.