

UNA INVESTIGACIÓN INTERDISCIPLINARIA

LA FRONTERA THE BORDER

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY EXAMINATION

ABSTRACT VOLUME

LA FRONTERA STUDENT PRESENTATION DAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2019



CHAPMAN
UNIVERSITY

One University Drive
Orange, CA 92866

Welcome

Welcome to the Student Presentation Day of La Frontera/The Border: An Interdisciplinary Examination!

Borders divide people, laws, and environments; across them flow people, legal and illegal goods, money, and more. During Fall 2019, Chapman University has embarked on a campus-wide interrogation of border issues, particularly those surrounding the U.S.-Mexico border. Drawing from the humanities, social sciences, journalism, law, and visual and performing arts, courses have examined borders through interdisciplinary perspectives. A number of public events encouraged the campus and wider community to examine the controversial issues around borders. Throughout the semester students and the wider community were invited to join a book club, tour the art galleries with a student Art Ambassador, dance with son jarocho musicians, and learn from numerous experts through lectures and panels.

The university-wide examination of borders has culminated in a conference at Chapman University from November 14th-16th, featuring leading scholars, artists, and journalists; the last day of the conference was saved for student presentations of their research and creative works about borders. La Frontera's Student Day demonstrates Chapman University's commitment to engaged learning. Student presentations are an extraordinary example of what occurs when you combine civic education with experiential learning.

Our student presenters reflect the diversity of academic and creative disciplines thriving within the Chapman community. Please take some time to stop by and listen to students discussing their research/creative activity in the oral presentations in Beckman Hall 213 and 214, examine some visual art and wander through the interdisciplinary collection of student poster presentations in Beckman Hall 404, or watch powerful student films in the DMAC Screening Room.

Through the multi-disciplinary examination of La Frontera, we hope our community will come away better informed and prepared to be engaged global citizens. We encourage people to continue learning from many ways of knowing about border issues—from visual art to poetry, from journalism to the law, and from social science to film. Through informed and active citizenry we can make a difference in the challenging issues of our time!

Dr. Lisa Leitz, Lead Coordinator for the Conference of La Frontera and Delp-Wilkinson Professor of Peace Studies at Chapman University

La Frontera Committee Members

La Frontera’s series of events, exhibits and conference were produced by an interdisciplinary group of faculty and staff, spearheaded by Dr. Lisa Leitz (Delp-Wilkinson Professor of Peace Studies), Dr. Lindsay Shen (Director, Phyllis and Ross Escalette Permanent Collection of Art), and Essraa Nawar (Library Development Coordinator and Assistant Librarian).

Additional La Frontera Committee Members include:

- Marcus Herse, Guggenheim Gallery Director
- Jessica Bocinski, Registrar of Art Collections
- Dr. Sandra Alvarez, Assistant Professor of Political Science
- Dr. Amy Buono, Assistant Professor of Art History
- Dr. Ruben Espinoza, Assistant Professor of Sociology
- Dr. Georgiana Bostean, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, Health and Policy
- Dr. Rafael Luévano, Associate Professor of Religious Studies
- Dr. Hilmi Ulas, Assistant Professor of Instruction, Peace Studies
- Claire Treu, Peace Studies Student Assistant

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- Chapman University Center for Undergraduate Excellence
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- Dean Jennifer Keene, Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
- The Delp-Wilkinson Endowment and Lecture Series in Peace Studies
- Chapman University’s Student Government Association
- The Escalette Permanent Collection of Art
- Guggenheim Gallery
- LatinX and Latin American Studies



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HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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ART

1. *Listening to Kashmir: Images of Propaganda and Resistance*

Presenter(s): Prabhnoor Kaur

Advisor(s): Dr. Amy Buono

On August 15, 2019, India celebrated 72 years of independence from the British Empire. Just ten days prior to that, on August 5, the Indian government had repealed Article 370, which allowed the state of Jammu and Kashmir the right to self-determination, its own constitution, and flag. Hours before the article was repealed, phone lines were cut off, internet access was banned, and prominent activists and leaders were imprisoned. The state is currently occupied by armed forces and under strict curfew. Why won't India let Kashmir speak? The history of the conflict in Kashmir is as old as the country of India itself. When India and Pakistan were carving out their borders in 1947, both countries believed they should acquire the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Today, India controls 55% of the land area of the state and 70% of the population. They drove their knife through state and the wound has festered, particularly in the Indian controlled Kashmir Valley. It has been the site for unrest since 1989, with significant movements and protests in 2010, 2016, and now in 2019, over the Indian government's treatment of Kashmiris. My research looks at images created at each of these moments, both in the Indian national media and in the Kashmiri resistance, to place what's happening today, right now, in the context of a sustained history of bloodshed. By unraveling these images and getting at what the voices in them are saying, the nuances of each specific situation disclose larger attitudes and conditions that birthed the vile and volatile moment Kashmir is in today. History often forgets so the responsibility falls on us in the present: we cannot ignore.

FFC

2. *Border Angels and Their Strategy for a More Ethical Southern Border Solution*

Presenter(s): Alanna Cronk, Nikki Kalhori, Cloe Johnson

Advisor(s): Dr. Lisa Leitz

Border Angels is a non-profit organization that utilizes what they call "direct community engagement" to create a more humane immigration process. With events like the strategic water drop, clinics with free legal advice for undocumented immigrants and so much more, our aim is to examine how these direct interactions with the immigrant population influence change from the bottom-up. Within the ethnographic research, we will take on an active membership in order to garner qualitative observations at events. Through our interviewing the organization's leaders and experiencing their work first-hand, we will be able to understand not only the necessity of Border Angels' work but also the unique capacity their direct and targeted efforts have to facilitate social justice. Border Angels' identity as a non-governmental agency is essential to their work. This allows them to create initiatives that establish a trusting and working relationship with the undocumented community in a way no government agency ever could. Their acts of civil disobedience contribute in a way that a government office bound to faithfully execute the laws of the land cannot. It is this special relationship that gives the stability people in the migrant communities need to have their distinct needs visible to law-making bodies. Isolating what makes Border Angels' brand of bottom-up advocacy effective is necessary to understanding the complexity of the southern border and creating real political change.

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3. *A Deeper Look into Médecins Sans Frontières Assimilation Practices*

Presenter(s): Alondra Alvarez, Jon Paul Lawton

Advisor(s): Dr. Lisa Leitz

Doctors Without Borders is a highly praised humanitarian group that seeks to provide emergency medical care for impoverished communities across the globe. It has gained notoriety for its efficient and need-based practices, redefining the expectations for any global, humanitarian group. One stand out quality that our research highlights is the organization's ability to properly adjust itself to foreign cultures. Successfully entering foreign domain demands a strong sense of cultural awareness; this is emphasized in a study conducted by Renée Fox, where she stresses Médecins Sans Frontières apolitical values that allow for its cultural permeability (Fox 2014). In a separate academic journal written by Renata Reis and Susana de Deus, they bring to attention MSF's distancing from European Union association; they emphasize this maneuver as reinforcing the organization's foundation to remain impartial of political influence (Reis and Deus 2017). With its a-policy and its cultural perception in mind, our research begs this question: how does MSF's position as a foreign aid group affect its ability to assimilate into impoverished communities? After having attended the conference MSF on the Road, hosted by mental health officer Karen Stewart, and interviewing a variety of MSF fieldworkers, we were able to gain a multilateral reflection of MSF's position as a foreign entity in impoverished communities. Our research aims to evaluate the efficacy of MSF's assimilation methods as a foreign aid group in impoverished communities.

4. *American Organizations on the Health of Immigrants*

Presenter(s): Skylar Fisher-Duddy, Cassidy Tran, Isabel Ward

Advisor(s): Dr. Lisa Leitz

Border Angels was founded by Enrique Morones, the first person to gain dual Mexican and US nationality. The mission of the organization is to help make the immigration process humane and embrace a community of individuals wanting to reform the system. We plan to interview leaders of a caravan that transports needed supplies to shelters in Tijuana housing asylum seekers. Traveling with the caravan, we will observe how this American organization helps to provide necessary resources to these men, women, and children. Furthermore, we will draw from sources such as 'Border crossers and border crossings' a chapter within *Borders: A Very Short Introduction* by Alexander C Diener and Joshua Hagen, *Border Politics In A Global Era*, *Crossing Arizona*, a 2005 short film, "From Dehydration to Fractures: Medical Issues Faced by People Crossing the United States: Mexico Border," and "Access to health for refugees in Greece: lessons in inequalities" that all look at issues relating to refugees, transborder identities and communities, migration, terrorism, and communities without territory. Border Angels' website and social media have a clear message that their mission is to spread information on ways to make immigration humane through the direct community. Through our research, we will be revealing how American organizations, like Border Angels, contribute to the health and well being of asylum seekers and immigrants crossing the US Mexico border.

5. *Access California: International Borders*

Presenter(s): Chaya Chandrashekar, Mary Bush

Advisor(s): Dr. Lisa Leitz

This research project examines the relationship between international borders and the work that Access California does with immigrants. Access California is an organization dedicated to "empowering all underserved populations". They focus mainly on Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans communities. Our project observes the services that Access California provides and the impact they have on these

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communities. An interview will be conducted with a manager of the organization. Our aim during the interview is to identify limitations that apply to their services and the effectiveness of their aids to “underserved populations”. We will also be taken on a tour of the organization and observe two classes that they offer their members and evaluate their curriculum and the aid they provide. We will aim to answer the question, “How does Access California’s internal culture positively affect the lives of Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans who have personally crossed international borders through their services and classes?” We will use class documents and scholarly journals that examine what we know about organizations dealing with international borders and Arab-American and Muslim-American lives in the US in recent years. We have examined Access California’s social media presence and website. We will be using ethnographic methods to examine Access California and its successfulness. In an academic journal by L.A. Cainkar, he discusses the complexities of life in America for Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans after the 9/11 terrorist attack. Another journal, written by, Sally Bonet, examines how the Patriot Act, a law established after 9/11, has affected Muslim-American youth’s psychological well-being, patriotism, and their educational abilities. These are interesting points that will come up in our interview with the manager. Another Journal, written by, Anisa Goforth, Evelyn R. Oka, Frederick T. Leong, and Daniel J. Denis discusses the adjustments Arab-Americans face in America, which we will be covering in the interview as well.

6. *World Relief Research Project*

Presenter(s): Max Hellmann, Markos Buhler, Jacob Adler

Advisor(s): Dr. Lisa Leitz

World Relief is a nonprofit organization located in Orange County, California that works with local churches to help migrants and refugees from countries around the globe. Our goal is to learn more about World Relief and how they work with people crossing the U.S.-Mexico border in hopes of obtaining documentation to reside in the United States. Also, we want to better understand the many consequences of the development of borders in both physical and social aspects. Our literature research has shown us how U.S. Policy now looks more heavily at merit when reviewing citizenship applications as opposed to past focuses on family ties. Also, current U.S. policy has punished noncitizens who benefit from certain federal safety net programs by blocking the path to citizenship. Our group conducted an interview with a member of World Relief as well as attended multiple events put on by the organization to better understand how the organization functions and puts its mission into practice. During our interview, we asked a list of questions relating to the different services of World Relief in hopes of better understanding how they go about helping migrants and refugees. We asked questions relating to their immigration legal services, obtaining citizenship status, their border initiative, Latin America immigration, and their Little Brushstrokes program. We asked about the organization’s goals, history, and actions. Also, we attended events centered around undocumented students and also citizenship workshops. The point of attending these events was to better understand how a heavily monitored international border can impact one’s life. Our research into World Relief examines their work in helping people obtain green cards and citizenship status and also explicates the difficult process of acquiring the proper documents necessary for temporary or permanent residency.

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7. *Corazon de Vida*

Presenter(s): Esmah Ascha, Maddie Tittle, Mia Johnson

Advisor(s): Dr. Lisa Leitz

In light of ongoing disparities and miscommunication surrounding the border between the United States and Mexico, a group of us decided to become involved with an organization working in both Orange County and Tijuana. Corazon de Vida works to raise money for Mexican orphanages and children's homes, primarily in Tijuana—the city along the border. This overpopulated city suffers from extreme poverty and drastically requires the services Corazon de Vida provides. Families and individuals migrate to Tijuana from other regions of Mexico or Central America in hopes of crossing the border to the U.S., but they are either prevented from crossing or deported shortly after; due to the dire circumstances typical of those living in Tijuana, families are left in such debilitating poverty they become unable to care for even their children. Corazon de Vida's mission is to guide children who have lost their families out of poverty, in hopes of providing them with a better life in Tijuana. Unfortunately, this process is inhibited by their lack of funding from the government, as well as America's polarization towards the border city as a whole—a notion is recognized in Diener & Hagen's *Borders: A Very Short Introduction*—which expresses that borders constitute processes of exclusion, alienation, and distinction. The sufferings of Tijuana's people as a result of its relativity to the Mexico/U.S. border led us to develop our research question: As a border city, how does Tijuana's geographical placement impact the opportunities of its inhabitants? Through research and first-hand experience, we seek to further analyze what Tijuana being a border city means in relation to opportunity for residents and the differential treatment it receives. We will interview prime members and volunteers of the organization and present our findings to the public.

8. *An Analysis of World Relief Southern California*

Presenter(s): Jack Hull, Sophehne Kevorkian

Advisor(s): Dr. Lisa Leitz

As a direct result of the closed-border rhetoric of the Trump Administration, immigrants and refugees have experienced an increasing amount of obstacles on their journeys to gain US asylum and citizenship. Recently, the magnitude of this struggle became amplified when the Trump administration announced they would lower the cap of refugees they would allow in FY 2020 to 18,000, far less than the previous few decades - a cap of around 90,000 refugees. When asked about the drastic reduction, World Relief CEO Tim Breene said the organization was "heartbroken," further stating that it "further dismantles our ability to demonstrate Christ-like hospitality toward the vulnerable." World Relief, a non-profit organization that teams up with local churches throughout the nation, seeks out to help refugees and immigrants navigate their newfound lives in the United States. These services include legal immigration services, refugee integration, hosting citizenship workshops, green card renewals, and DACA renewals. In order to fully understand the services they provide, as well as the future challenges they may face, we intend to attend one of their citizenship workshops at their Garden Grove location, as well as interview an employee of the organization. We are doing this with the intent to learn how these naturalization processes take place, how they benefit those who seek out their services, and how these processes will be affected by the changes that the nation has seen in immigration policy over the last three years.

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9. *Breaking Down the Wall: US Involvement and Aid with Immigration*

Presenter(s): Flora Mellana-Edison, Noel Miranda

Advisor(s): Dr. Lisa Leitz

The central purpose of our research is to understand more about the U.S.-Mexico border, and how non-profit organizations like Border Angels works to aid migrants and inform the public. Due to U.S. intervention, a large inequality gap has widened as a result of U.S. policies. This is the underlying cause for the terms “alien”, “illegal”, and “undocumented”. Stemming from these terms evolved racial discrimination towards those of Latin heritage, appearance, and language. Due to this anti-sentiment America seems to have for its southern neighbor, the U.S.-Mexico border, has more or less become the border in the eyes of the American public. It is the border that separates the United States from its threatening neighbor, which has spurred policing, militarization and fencing to protect the nation. The U.S.-Mexico border spans 120,000 square miles, with much of it being a harsh and brutal environment. As a result of this treacherous border, upwards of 5,000 migrants since 1994 have died because of this harsh environment. Organizations like Border Angels have since aided migrants so that this number of deaths does not continue to rise. Border Angels routinely provides water drops, which supply water for migrants trekking across the brutal desert. Through the interviews with Border Angels and attending their events is the way in which we shall learn about how they work to discredit the stereotypes of Mexican and Latino culture, as well as how they aid in immigration. Through this creative methodology, we expect to conclude that these stereotypes associated with Hispanic and Latino culture are nothing but stereotypes and are more or less created by the American public. Furthermore, we also expect the results of our research to supply the best way to aid migrants, even if just simple acts.

10. *Border Angels: An investigation of differing tactics along the U.S.-Mexico border*

Presenter(s): Emma Drake, Reuel Hon, Tyler An

Advisor(s): Dr. Lisa Leitz

Our study in respect to the US-Mexico border and the non-profit organization Angeles de La Frontera (Border Angels) led us to the following research question: In reference to the US-Mexico border, is prevention through deterrence more or less effective than attacking the root cause of migration? To address this question, we participated as active members in the Caravan of Love, one of Border Angels biweekly events. Our initial findings originate from this event. We observed the possibility that prevention through deterrence is not explicitly bound to illegal immigrants. Instead, it is a broader concept that affects many others, including asylum seekers of various countries and U.S. green card holders. We are also delving into multiple different sources discussing the context and reasoning behind the current action being taken by the U.S. concerning the border with Mexico. “Human Rights and United States Policy Toward Latin America” will contribute to our research because it discusses past relations between Latin American countries and the U.S. ranging from 1945-1980s (Schoultz 2014). This source will provide a basis and understanding of what has led to governmental action related to migration in the present day. “‘Enemy territory’: immigration enforcement in the US-Mexico borderlands” explains the historical causes behind the “prevention through deterrence” strategy currently being used by the U.S. and the impacts it has on current migration patterns. This source identifies what they believe to be critical flaws in the U.S. government’s regulation policies. They propose that the U.S. begins reconciliation by aiding the development of the Mexican economy (Ewing 2014).

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11. Immigrant Youth Activism

Presenter(s): Miriam Elfahdi, Ever Herman

Advisor(s): Dr. Lisa Leitz

Largely due to its proximity to the southern border of the United States, Southern California is home to thousands of documented, along with undocumented, immigrants. Because of this, there is a large prevalence of humanitarian organizations formed throughout the region, all with the purpose of aiding to the immigrant community. Our purpose with this project is to investigate how the younger generation of one of the most vulnerable communities is able to spark social change and action against the many injustices against their own communities. To do this, we chose to focus on the youth-led organization Orange County Immigrant Youth United (OCIYU). The mission of the OCIYU is to advocate for the “rights of undocumented immigrants to live lives free from exploitation and persecution”. Our research would contribute to a relevant inquiry in social sciences of the social and political impact of younger generations involved in activist groups. There are many factors that contribute to the development of youth-led organizations like the OCIYU, such as daily acts of resistance and collective action. Our project would further examine these factors by method of participatory-observant research of the OCIYU. We will be attending one of the general meetings that occurs weekly, as well as conducting two separate interviews with one of the program coordinators and influential members of the organization. Through our research, we expect to attest to previous scholarly studies by providing additional data and documentation of an organization near the southern border.

12. Kids in Need of Defense

Presenter(s): Ally Sparks, Bella Miller, Madison De La Garza

Advisor(s): Dr. Lisa Leitz

In 2008, the organization Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) was founded by Angelina Jolie and Microsoft with a goal to provide legal support as well as social services to unaccompanied children that have immigrated to the United States. How is KIND helping to make a change in the lives of unaccompanied children who have come into the United States and for those who will come? To answer the central question, certain aspects of KIND will be analyzed, such as KIND’s work outside of the United States, the location of their offices, and how they have gone about reaching their goals. Additionally, there will be analysis of the importance of the efforts of KIND on a national level. To conduct research in order to answer the question, interviews with one or more people who are directly involved with day to day actions with KIND will be conducted, observations and analysis of an event sponsored by KIND will take place, individual research through KIND’s website and social media outlets, as well as analysis of academic literature that has completed research over the crisis of migration of unaccompanied children into the United States. By utilizing these methods to analyze KIND, they will help in the understanding of KIND, how they help unaccompanied children who have immigrated to the United States, and why this information is significant in aiding migration of unaccompanied children into the United States.

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13. Assistance League Aiding Immigrants

Presenter(s): Paola Mejia Ruiz, Jillian Diaz, Olivia Arnold

Advisor(s): Dr. Lisa Leitz

Immigrant families are constantly entering the country and are contributing to the low-income minority population; a cause for their struggle involves early care and education programs having difficulty preparing and aiding immigrant families in relation to health, nutrition, social services, workforce, and other needs (Matthews and Ullrich, pg.3). Local citizens join charitable organizations in hopes of combating this problem and striving towards making their community a better place. In this research project, we are investigating how the Assistance League provides service to help immigrant families obtain a sustainable life after they cross the border into America. The Assistance League is a charitable organization whose purpose is to provide help to underprivileged people who have had trouble supporting themselves in America. They consist of 22,000 members nationwide, all of which are made up of volunteers. Although rooted in altruism, the Assistance League has received enough attention to become a very developed and formal organization. Their goal is to improve communities by focusing on the necessities of lower-income families; however, as a group, we are focusing solely on the immigrant portion of this target population. In order to effectively keep our focus on immigrant families, we use academic sources to track the demographics of a specific region and connect it to the target population of their services. We aim for a greater understanding by conducting semi-structured interviews and by attending hosted events; the interviews provide information on personal experience with and knowledge of the organization, while the main hosted event is an annual four-day craft show where we are given the chance to immerse ourselves in the culture of their services. The goal of the project is to analyze the Assistance League and discover the impact they have on immigrant families.

14. Border Angels Analysis

Presenter(s): Anoushka Todd, Audrey James, Milena Lucey

Advisor(s): Dr. Lisa Leitz

We have chosen to research Border Angels, a nonprofit organization based in San Diego, California. Border Angels' mission is to help immigrants in the U.S, specifically those who have crossed the Mexican border, and to advocate for their human rights and political reform towards immigration. Border Angels wants to help these immigrants in any way possible by hosting events monthly, such as their "Caravan of Love" event which brings supplies across the border to those in need, and weekly "Know your Rights" meetings in which they explain to immigrants their legal rights. We plan to attend their "Day Laborer Outreach" event in which they travel through the greater San Diego area, talking to and bringing care packages to recent immigrants seeking work and ensuring them that they are a social resource. We plan to use cultural analysis by accompanying Border Angels members as they meet undocumented immigrants, seeing their interactions and their affect on the community. These companies face criticisms; a source we have researched, the National Public Radio, condemns organizations such as Border Angels for encouraging dangerous and illegal migration. Also, The American Journal of Public Health brings attention to how immigrants may then be restricted and criminalized in their new society, which affects their day-to-day activities such as working and driving, as well as their overall well-being. By attending one of their events and conducting interviews with the Day Labourer Outreach leader, we hope to be able to answer our research question, "How and why does Border Angels strongly value the opinions and experiences of these Mexican immigrants?".

HISTORY

15. The Hidden Border between the Navajo Nation and U.S

Presenter(s): Jourdan Clark

Advisor(s): Dr. Maytha Alhassen

The Navajo Nation is considered decades behind the majority of Americans in living conditions and available resources. There is often a misconception about the support that Native Americans receive from the U.S government. I will study the ongoing controversial issues that include health care, education, property rights, employment and tribal governance. Navajo families face daily challenges we take for granted which include safe homes, unpaved roads, and clean running water. Due to the lack of running water and contaminated aqueducts, most families must carry water in from outside sources often located several hours away. In addition, education is a challenge for many families due to the location of schools and lack of qualified teachers. Living conditions contribute to health challenges, such as diabetes, alcohol and drug abuse. Also, suicide rates are amongst the highest in the U.S. Many of these challenges cannot be resolved because of the specialized agreements between the Native American Tribes and the U.S government. These agreements often limit citizens rights due to antiquated laws and attitudes toward tribal peoples. In my presentation, I will provide a poster demonstrating the realities of living on a Navajo reservation in 2019.

PEACE STUDIES

16. A Borderless World

Presenter(s): Sophene Kevorkian

Advisor(s): Dr. Maytha Alhassen

Medecins Sans Frontieres, or Doctors Without Borders is a non profit, independent organization committed to responding to medical emergencies worldwide. Doctors Without Borders has a team of over 42,000 doctors, nurses, and volunteers, works in over 65 countries, and operates solely on donations. The organization is dedicated to “independence, impartiality, and neutrality,” meaning they first respond to whoever needs the assistance most urgently, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, or social class. Despite physical, cultural, and religious borders, language barriers, differences in medicinal uses based on region and culture/religion, and numerous other boundaries, Doctors Without Borders is devoted to providing care for people globally. Their ability to provide aid to such a vast population and their multiple success stories raises the question of what a world without borders would be like. A world without borders could provide more opportunities for all, substantial liberties, and greater equalities- including freedom to travel without limits set by borders, free trade leading to globalization and innovation, a collective effort to overcome crises, and a system in which the whole world functions in a collaborative manner. But a borderless world could also mean security risks, overpopulation in certain areas, loss of culture, political issues, and complications regarding creating a system of law, just to name a few. So as Doctors Without Borders works without borders, how can their system of operation reflect on a prospective borderless world? In what ways can their operations and methods be followed in the shift into a borderless world? Borders are temporary, they fall and they change, they are crossed and overcome; so how could something that only lasts for a limited time be so significant in how we live our lives? Although it’s just a single example, Doctors Without Borders proves that a borderless world is a possibility.

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17. *The Societal and Physical Barriers of the U.S-Mexico Border*

Presenter(s): Lillian Grabowski

Advisor(s): Dr. Hilmi Ulas

The United States and Mexico border has been a popular point of discussion in recent years due to the implementation of more advanced security measures. The result of the border is not solely a physical separation, it also draws a divisive line that promotes the dehumanization of those on the other side as well as a power struggle between the United States and Mexico. The increase in security that is being enacted at the U.S-Mexico border has given the United States a false sense of superiority and power over those who are seeking refuge. The idea that the border needs a wall, maximum security, and detainment centers results in the perception that the people on the other side are dangerous and inhumane. Throughout my studies I have learned that the need for security is relative and can be altered through discourse. The American elite have declared a state of emergency at the U.S-Mexico border due to the high volume of families looking to immigrate to the United States. This mindset fails to take into consideration the circumstances of the individuals and categorizes the Mexican refugees as undesirable, regardless of their personal characteristics. The physical barrier as well as dehumanization suggests that the people crossing the border do not meet the American standard of a worthy human being. My goal is to analyze how political discourse and perceived American superiority results in a much larger barrier at the US-Mexico border than the wall itself.

18. *The National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights: a Synopsis*

Presenter(s): Avery High, Miles Allen, Sam Barela

Advisor(s): Dr. Lisa Leitz

The National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR) is a wide-spread national organization with the goal of advocating for immigrants and refugees both located in the United States and for those trying to seek refuge in America. Some of its other focuses include raising awareness of the Trump Administration's agenda to minimize immigration along the United States-Mexico border, and to create an "iron-fist" on any and all immigration into the United States. The NNIRR has published many articles bringing light to Trump's actions, including a recent cut to legal immigration by almost sixty five percent. The following research goes into how the NNIRR uses its platform and resources to not only bring awareness but to call for reformation of Trump's newly enacted immigration policies. Initial findings include various members and their work, as well as, their main goal of combatting the militarization of the southern border. There is a nationwide effort to improve the current state of our borders, as well as protest Trump's actions against both immigrants and refugees. The National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights is one of the present day leading efforts in calling for change and action, and is seeking justice for anyone who's sought refuge into the United States.

19. *Abstract*

Presenter(s): Elizabeth Hemmert, Devon Culpepper

Advisor(s): Dr. Lisa Leitz

Border Angels is a non-profit organization that assists in decreasing the death rate of individuals crossing the border, as well as ensuring a safe environment for immigrants once they reach their new homeland. This organization contributes solutions to the progressing national crisis that is surrounding the US/Mexico border. Through research and interviews, the gathered information will allow for a better understanding of how this organization became successful, and how it is making a positive impact on the lives of immigrants today. The Water Drop program is a program run by Border Angels that utilizes

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volunteers to drop water and supplies along the border in known areas for immigrants, programs like these have been created by the Director of Border Angels has developed her organization on a central belief in humanitarian rights, "Hoping people don't have to risk their lives and often lose their lives in order for a chance at one. But until then, as long as people are dying in the desert, we're going to be out there" (Arellano, 2019). While it has been noted that this group has saved many lives and positively impacted numerous immigrants, it is in constant conflict with border patrol; The government task force has been documented destroying several of these dropped supplies. It is expected by the end of this inquiry that the research will support the already established data, which points to this organization having an overall positive effect on the struggles of immigrants, even in the face of adversarial legislature and conflict.

20. Prisoners of War Amidst Border Crises

Presenter(s): Josey Dunbar

Advisor(s): Dr. Hilmi Ulas

This paper will examine prisoner of war (POW) mistreatment across chronic border disputes. The goal of this essay is to consider the degree to which inhumane treatment of prisoners correlates with the severity of a given border conflict. Ultimately I will test what sorts of conflicts are most likely to result in hostile treatment of prisoners. I will begin by considering three border disputes as they are today. Firstly, the conflict between India and Pakistan; followed by that of Ukraine and Russia; finally the border relations between Israel and Syria. I will then retrace the history of these conflicts. While considering the histories of these disputes, there are several key variables I predict will influence the severity of POW mistreatment. The first of which, is religious persecution on either side of the border conflict. I predict that border disputes between nations with different religions and a history of religious tension, will be more likely to mistreat POWs from their neighboring country. Next I will consider the influence of language, and differing race on the history of the conflict. Finally this paper will examine the colonial and cultural impacts on each conflict. I hypothesize that border conflicts which are more influenced by these specific tensions, will more severely mistreat prisoners of war. This essay aims to convey both the humane crisis of POW mistreatment as well as the specific types of conflicts which are most likely to result in this strain of hostility.

21. The China-Tibet Conflict

Presenter(s): Claire Thomsen

Advisor(s): Dr. Hilmi Ula

For this research project, I would like to study the core causes and possible solutions to the conflict over Tibet. This project will be a case study examining the history of the conflict and understanding the two key political debates surrounding it. The first argument is over whether Tibet should separate from China and become a new sovereign state, which leads to the second argument over if whether Tibet was independent or subordinate to China in certain parts of its recent history. The China-Tibet conflict is primarily considered an ethnic and religious conflict; however, the conflict goes much deeper than that. Historical geography, national security and sovereignty concerns, and the Chinese government control in Tibet add complexity to the issue, which makes conceivable solutions for peace and diplomacy in the near future very difficult. In my research, I will explain the main factors surrounding the conflict in an essay and presented on a poster. This will be an exploratory research project. I believe this research project will be great addition to the conversation about borders, sovereignty, and identity at the La Frontera / The Border conference.

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22. *The Metaphysical Border*

Presenter(s): Daniela Cervantes

Advisor(s): Dr. Maytha Alhassen

When we think of borders, more often than not do we think about something that causes separation, or rather segregation between two or more territories or rather – people. For me, a border signifies the boundaries between two or more populations in respect to geography, but more importantly, politically, thus creating an us versus them dilemma. I wish to explore this idea by researching the methods of exploitation, segregation, poverty, and political implementation of laws, sanctions, and institutions that were created in the United States by the majority population, as way to create a hierarchy based on socioeconomic status and race against the minorities in this country, and the obstacles they had to overcome. Additionally, I wish to analyze how we view these borders implemented today – the history of minority populations is essential to understand the nature of society that we live in today. From this research, I feel as though a visual poster will best help demonstrate my research of this topic. While conducting my research, I feel as though the results I will be getting will be interesting – as with all topics, there are some that are rather biased, and seeing how they differ from the actual facts. Also, I am expecting some of the results to show how this border continues to have an enormous effect then – just as it continues now, on how minorities live and go about their days, how they’ve had to overcome many obstacles over generations. How this fight for equality, and justice is one that we continue fighting for everyday, despite this metaphysical border.

23. *India and Pakistan from Kashmiri Eyes*

By: Preetha Raj

Advisor(s): Dr. Hilmi Ulas

The India-Pakistan border has been built on years of conflict and egregious discrimination from both sides. This research will be investigating the disputed state of Kashmir and the voices of the Kashmiri people lost in the noise of violence. The purpose of this research is to investigate the economic and social effects the conflict has caused on the Kashmiri people. This project will also begin the discussion of the Kashmiri conflict here on campus at Chapman. It is imperative to begin the discussion of the economic, social, and psychological issues in Kashmir caused by Indian-Pakistani conflicts. This project will heavily focus on literary research as well as using local and global organizations to interview and hear Kashmiris. Literature reviews include scholarly material created on Indian history, Pakistani history, border conflict and control between the two nations, and the conflict zone of Kashmir. All research material will circle back to the central question of what the specific economic, social, and psychological effects the conflict has caused on Kashmiri people. In addition to material reviews, I will be reaching out to global organizations, such as Kashmir Humanity Foundation and Conciliation Resources, to host interviews with those involved in the Kashmiri conflict. The interviews will be condensed into quantitative and qualitative data which will then be used to answer the question of what exactly the Kashmiri people feel are the most severe obstacles in this disputed area. Additionally, these findings will be communicated to relevant clubs on campus to begin the conversation of this conflict. It can be concluded that the specific qualitative and quantitative results found through research will improve the understanding of this conflict at Chapman University. Additionally, the results found may be used to further improve this conflict zone into a peaceful area and improve the lives of Kashmiri people.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

24. West Monroe and the Truth of Chicago's South Side

Presenter(s): Jamin Schwerner

Advisor(s): Dr. Maytha Alhassen

West Monroe - the most dangerous street in the infamous south side of Chicago, and one of the most dangerous streets in the world. It is a street plagued by drugs, murder, and poverty; for its denizens, every day is a struggle. Every day they fight to survive, to make ends meet, and all of this without any help from the outside. This perceived danger is the result of decades of the city's withdrawals from the area and the extreme discrimination against African Americans. Having lived in Chicago for 14 years, I am very aware of the separation between the different parts of the city. On the daily drive to school I would briefly go through the south side and I would see drug deals, violence, and destitution. One day I witnessed a man being viciously beaten by a group and everyone around turned a blind eye. In my project, I want to draw awareness to the border between the south side of Chicago and the rest of the city. There is too much separation between the two sectors as a result of years of injustice. I plan on fashioning a street sign to bear the name "West Monroe" and displaying photos that convey the difficulties of the average south sider. I will talk about my experiences and what I have researched in an attempt to inform my audience about the harsh truth of Chicago.

25. Understanding Present-day Kurdish Border Disputes

Presenter(s): Matthew Smith

Advisor(s): Dr. Hilmi Ulas

The purpose of this research is to find out why the Kurdish ethnicity is still discriminated against and continues to have major border disputes in the post Saddam Hussein era. It will examine various aspects of why the Kurdish are being pushed towards a potential humanitarian crisis while also identifying all the key players, both in terms of countries and regional groups. Currently, the Iraqi government to the south and the Turkish government to the North have effectively blockaded Kurdistan with their militaries. The recent October 2019 U.S military pullout of assets in the region has sparked a rapid geopolitical nightmare for the defacto state of Kurdistan. To gain a better understanding of what is at stake various international relations and middle eastern intellectuals/experts will be interviewed to attain knowledge as to why there is such ethnic hatred towards the Kurdish people and their potential for sovereignty. Statistical data from various think tanks such as the Rand Corporations and The Center for Strategic and International Studies will be used to help identify how this dispute can be handled and deescalated through proactive change. The results from this study will be two-fold in the sense that it could identify the reemergence of extremist groups in northern Iraq and Syria while it could also show us various types of social changes Iraq, Kurdistan, and Turkey need to make within their culture to push for peace. These social changes could include but are not limited to combating Racism towards Kurdish, denying extremism a platform, and protesting against right wing militarism.

SOCIOLOGY

26. Harmful Effects the Creation of Borders have on the Indigenous Peoples of America

Presenter(s): Anika Manuel

Advisor(s): Dr. Maytha Alhassen

This research project will examine the harmful implications the creation of borders have had over the Native American peoples. It will focus on three main components: effects of reservations, the struggles of border tribes, and ways the Native American community is resisting the ongoing oppression against them. While studying the detrimental outcomes of borders in several forms, research will include the physical effects sustained by the peoples, for instance displacement, violence, and poverty, as well as the mental effects sustained, such as trauma and loss of culture. This project will look at historical events, how it affects the communities today, and how the community is currently fighting these injustices through organizations and art. This research will also illustrate a different aspect of the U.S.-Mexico border conflict that many may not even consider, which is the reverberations of a physical barrier that signifies the territorial limits of the U.S. and Mexico, but divides the ancestral lands of border Native American tribes. The goal of this project is to bring more awareness and insight on the history and current actions of the indigenous peoples in America that have occurred as direct result of the installations of borders in various forms. Information will be collected from articles, published reports, interviews, and established, organizational websites. Research will be presented visually on poster boards.

27. The Success of Outreach on Undocumented Students in Higher Education

Presenter(s): Isabelle Schoenhoefer, Stephanie Yanes

Advisor(s): Dr. Lisa Leitz

Within the current climate of our nation, undocumented students are faced with multiple obstacles preventing them from attaining their goals of higher education. According to the academic journal entitled "College Access for Undocumented Students and Law", by Jessica Enyioha, as of 2011, there are over 1.5 million immigrant children whose chances of pursuing a higher education become harder due to their undocumented status. However, organizations like the University of California Irvine Dream Center are attempting to make post-secondary education a possibility for the AB540 and undocumented student population. For example, through programs such as DocuAlly and FRESH, the Dream Center provides opportunities for undocumented students in need of a safe environment. Although the UCI Dream center focuses on creating a safe space for undocumented students, they also attempt to support undocumented students through advocacy and guidance. The question remains, how does their outreach impact the educational and personal success of undocumented students? Thus, the purpose of the project is to evaluate the actions of the UCI Dream center as it assists undocumented students affected by the current border situation. Through interviews with members and leaders of the Dream Center and field research of public events, we will attempt to measure the success this organization has with undocumented immigrants pursuing higher education.

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28. Oaxaqueña de la Frontera

Presenter(s): Ana Vargas De la Rosa

Advisor(s): Dr. Ruben Espinoza

As an alternative midterm for my Latinx Theoretical Foundations class, through an interview, I aim to encompass the Gloria Anzaldúa's Borderlands theory through a visual creative representation of my mother. She crossed the border in the 1990s and has a very specific transnational experience. Because she is now a citizen, she is able to travel back and forth between her home country and her home here, in Los Angeles. By documenting her experiences on each side of the border, I aim to uncover the complexities of her emotional, social, and familial experiences before and after her border crossing. It is easy to feel lost about the swarms of people being deported every single day. It is easy to feel hopeless. What happens to the immigrants when they do successfully cross over? From starting a family in the U.S. to the death of her family members back in Oaxaca, I believe making a visual representation of her experience will make for a more immersive—and maybe even grounding—experience. What was it like to cross the border? Were you ever detained? How many people did you know when you arrived in Los Angeles? What is it like to go back? By weaving in these questions, her answers, and Anzaldúa's borderlands theory on my poster, it will hopefully insight some deeper questions in the people attending the conference. Through interviewing my mother, I expect to uncover harsh truths as well as gentle memories. I expect to uncover the humanity beyond the border.

ART

Deafness as Border

By: Helena H. Walker

Advisor(s): Dr. Amy Buono

What is it like to have a language not attached to a nation? Or even a geography? As an ASL speaker, there is never going to be a place I can travel to where I can reliably walk up to people and start speaking in our shared language, ASL. It is a purely phenomenological language. There is no physical border, no national border that contains our language, rather than an internal one, in other people. I am country-less, not cultureless. In this project, I want to look at disability—hearing disability—as border. On one hand, the border is real, and tangible, in us, but it is strengthened by societal perception. When asking for closed captioning from a professor one time, I got the response “I can’t prioritize your education over other students.” This was an arbitrary but meaningful border drawing; in which mine needs and access would destroy the fulfillment of such for other people. The momentary rhetoric of this person mirrored that of how xenophobes speak about “welfare” and “jobs” as they pertain to immigrants, despite these systems having little affect from immigrants, I am sure closed captions would have little effect on other students. They might be annoying to a few, but I can’t imagine many people suddenly being unable to understand a video because it has little words at the bottom. The project itself will be a video installation. I’d like viewers to be confronted by someone signing in a mode that implies that the viewer is expected to know sign. It should be alienating and isolating. This will be intercut with clips where people are talking, sound mixed to replicate how things sound to me. Rather than captions, the bottom will flash with text that says, “learn to lip read.”

One-Way Window

By: Ryan Nahmias

Advisor(s): Dr. Maytha Alhassen

For my project I am focusing on the “imaginary” border between Skid Row and the rest of Los Angeles. To show the struggle between these two locations in Los Angeles I have decided to use a window. On one side of the window there will be pictures of Skid Row and the people who live there, with them looking out onto the rest of Los Angeles. I will obtain these images by getting consent from multiple websites including “The Trauma of Life” Feature Shoot, and The Sun article on homelessness. Then, on the other side of the window will be the rest of Los Angeles, and the people living in it. These people will be looking out at the rest of Los Angeles, completely unaware of the people living in poverty in Skid Row. This divide as a sort of “global north and global south” situation in which the south gets completely neglected. Thus, the window serves as a “one-way glass” where people on Skid Row look out to Los Angeles, but the people and the rest of Los Angeles completely forget about the people living in a lumpen proletariat world, riddled with poverty and homelessness. By using the window as a “one-way glass” it is a symbol for how people take for granted the poor in big cities. It also displays the government’s ability to invisibilize the poor and ignore homelessness. This project also illustrates the large amount of under-resourced, and neglected people in large cities, with large economies. This project will show just how negligent the everyday citizen can be of the poverty that riddles their city. I was driven to research this topic, to discover the roots of economic displacement, and begin to push for a change of perspective on poverty from the everyday citizen.

Nieve de Limón

By: Natalia Ventura

Advisor(s): Dr. Hilmi Ulas

I am the daughter of a Tijuana who was born and raised in the border city of Chula Vista, CA. Crossing the border was an integral part of my childhood. To this day, one of my favorite parts about going to TJ is waiting in the line to come back. Most border crossers would call me crazy, because the wait can get tremendously long, but to them I say three words: *nieve de limón*. I am convinced that the best ice cream on earth is found at the San Ysidro border. On any given day at the world's busiest border, vendors sell everything from ice cream and religious sculptures to puppies and phone chargers. Many of these vendors have spent their whole lives selling goods at the border. Their workplace lies at the crossfire of the war that is U.S. and Mexican relations. Due to this position, border vendors are a unique population whose stories can help bridge the mental wall that Americans put up against Mexicans. I want to tell the stories of border vendors through a multimedia exhibition that includes, but is not limited to, visual, literary, and performance art. An exhibit like this would provide a space to talk about a variety of academic themes that circle the U.S.-Mexico border, including the following: poverty and capitalism, neocolonialism, transfronterix identity, mestiza consciousness, immigration reform, stereotyping and Othering, and community. I would approach this project using research methods common in Latinx studies, including testimonio, ethnography, photovoice, and borderlands methodology. My research would require crossing into Tijuana and spending time interviewing, photographing, and buying products from border vendors. I would then create art pieces based on themes and connections in my findings, and curate these works into a multimedia exhibition. The exhibit would result in a deeper understanding of the border-crossing experience. My hope is that an artistic glimpse into the lives of border vendors will deconstruct Americans' mental walls, and replace them with bridges that lead to peace and justice at the U.S.-Mexico border.

PEACE STUDIES

Peacebuilding Efforts and Sociopolitical/Economic Effects of the Western Sahara-Morocco

Border Conflict

By: Nikki DeBonis

Advisor(s): Dr. Hilmi Ulas

The Western Sahara-Morocco border conflict is between the Polisario Front and the kingdom of Morocco. The Polisario Front put attacks against the Moroccan defense wall between Guelta Zemmur and Hauza. The debate is that the Polisario Front believes that Western Sahara should be an independent state. This disagreement led to many battles and a cease-fire in 1991 that ended the conflict but didn't end the territorial debate. Thus, Western Sahara is still a 'non-self-governing territory' emphasizing self-determination. The Sahrawi people are an indigenous group that encompasses the Western Sahara territory. Many speak the Hassaniya dialect of Arabic and Spanish as their second language, which is a representation of their colonial roots. The Polisario fought against the Moroccan ruling of this region and established the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, the SADR, as an independent Sahrawi state within Western Sahara. The current conflict began in 1975 when Moroccan civilians went into Western Sahara to defy Spain. This led to Spain agreeing to give the northern portion of the colony to Morocco and the

southern part to Mauritania, where the Sahrawi were not recognized, leading to guerrilla war and worsening tensions. Present-day includes Morocco still controlling the region to the west of about 1,700 miles that splits Western Sahara from north to south. Within this are trenches, troops patrolling, and a wall that cuts the Polisario's territory from the coast and making the areas to the east unlivable, displacing many of the Sahrawi people. The central purpose of this project will look into the roots of the border conflict. It will also look at and compare this to the effects it has on political and economic society and the effect on the people living in all territories. In addition to this, it will look at efforts for peacebuilding within the conflict.

Invisible Borders: Orania

By: Belle McDougald

Advisor(s): Dr. Maytha Alhassen

Legally, Apartheid was abolished years ago. However, many will tell you that it is extremely prevalent in South Africa. The current existence of Apartheid manifests itself in the small town of Orania. Orania is a small town in the Northern Cape Province. The town was formed towards the end of Apartheid, and was originally created to be a safe haven for white people. I intend to expose the truth that South Africa remains extremely divided. I will investigate the invisible border that exists in between Orania and the rest of the Northern Cape of South Africa through a digital collage. The base of the collage will be a map of the town of Orania, and the surrounding Northern Cape. The collage will be set up to show the disparity of the regions. For example, I will juxtapose the public facilities. I will include pictures of the predominantly white school in Orania, and the other schools that exist outside of the invisible border. I believe this visual of the map and digitally adding pictures and symbols on key places will be successful and moving in comparing and contrasting the stark differences between the town, and what lies beyond.

How Public School Boundaries Harm Students

By: Layla Dessouki

Advisor(s): Dr. Maytha Alhassen

This project will explore the harmful effects that public school boundaries have on low-income students. The project will focus on a number of components: the history of these boundaries, the racial discrepancies they build, and how they contribute to poverty rates. In studying the effects of these borders in their varying forms, I will research the challenges faced by "high poverty" public school, such as the lack of funding they receive because of their dependence on tax revenues, and the struggles to retain teachers. Often, these borders, which are not subject to regular review or modification, produce collections of districts that are woefully inefficient, widening the discrepancy between wealthy and poor children. The goal of my project is to highlight the disadvantage that poorer children face in education and the fact that this segregation is a modern-day "separate but unequal". I will be gathering my research from articles, academic sources, published reports and interviews. My goal in presenting this information is to create a photo and graphic design series in the form of a magazine which I will design and create with my research and photographs using the Adobe Creative Suite.

Trouble in Taiwan.

By: Trenton Sokol

Advisor(s): Dr. Hilmi Ulas

Taiwan is currently an unrecognized country or 'State', as it is referred to in Peace Studies. While at one point in time Taiwan claimed to be the real China and rightful sovereign of all of its territory following a civil war, in which the national treasure and Democratic political party fled to the island of Taiwan. Taiwan is an interesting case because the primary language spoke in Taiwan is Mandarin Chinese, which is also the most prevailing language in mainland China. However, the political and economic systems of Taiwan are more similar to the United States than it is to China. As the hegemonic power of the United States fades prospective states such as Taiwan will be extremely important to the geopolitical realm as Taiwan's border are strategically positioned for fishing and trade routes, as well as military operation as Japan and South Korea are relatively close to Taiwan geographically. The Taiwanese people are wish to be recognized by the international community. For its minuscule size Taiwan is a major economic player in global politics, and supports a relatively high per-capita GDP for the region. I visited the Island of Taiwan this summer to learn Mandarin Chinese. During my stay many Taiwanese people approached me and told me that they are thankful to Donald Trump for acknowledging the prospective nation. I was initially confused, but it was brought to my attention that Donald Trump said in a statement "America First, Taiwan Second". This anecdote reveals the desire of Taiwan to not be ruled by China. This case has many complex implications and details, but one thing is for sure in my mind... The people of Taiwan wish for sovereignty and in recent times American companies have been bowing their heads to China and this has led to many implications for not only Taiwan, but also to Hong Kong. My Presentation will explain the complex geopolitical position that Taiwan is occupying, and will examine the likely hood of Taiwan gaining sovereignty and Nation State status.

FILM

Invisible Narratives

By: Sophia Morrisette, Jacky Dang

Advisor(s): Eric Young

Our research questions were: 1) Why is there a lack of representation of Asian-American women in Hollywood? 2) What are the prevailing stereotypes of Asian-American women in the media? 3) How does Asian culture and family impact the experience of growing up in the United States? Textbooks are sparse when it comes to information about empowered Asian-American women and their historical mark in the United States. The media and Hollywood do not offer much more representation. There are more than 15.9 million Asian-American women in the United States and yet this population continues to face unique challenges because of an idealized, stereotypical image in America. These women are often hypersexualized and exoticized, and deemed 'submissive.' Our project involved interviewing Asian and Asian-American women of all backgrounds on camera. We explored how film and media have contributed to stereotypes and reinforced the idea of what an Asian-American woman should be. We looked into the relationships and clashing cultures between first- and second-generation Asian-Americans. We explored how these women felt the brunt of one-word assumptions about who they are, despite coming from a variety of backgrounds and ethnic communities, and how language barriers and the lack of an Asian-American feminist movement reduces opportunities for change. Our research on American films and TV shows found that limited roles tend to offer three dominant stereotypes; the Kick-Ass Warrior, Domestic Tiger Mom, and Exotic/Submissive Flower. Our short documentary, *Invisible Narratives*, offered perspectives about how these stereotypes prompt Asian-American women to feel fetishized and boxed in because of race, and how they balance dual cultural identities.

INTERDISCIPLINARY

Forgotten Migrants: An Exploration of Indigenous Migration Across the U.S./Mexico Border

By: Talisa Flores

Advisor(s): Dr. Hilmi Ulas

The New York Times estimates that 76,000 migrants crossed the border without authorization in February of this year. The common reasons for choosing to cross the U.S./Mexico border are well-known; a promise of economic betterment, or a hope of security for themselves and their families. The fictitious "American Dream" is allurements enough for many but for those who have already suffered under such dream by having their lands stolen and their people murdered by genocide have different rationale for crossing. Stories of indigenous migrants crossing the border have not been examined enough. Indeed indigenous migrants have distinctive reasons for migrating to the United States and by examining secondary data analysis of various native groups, this paper aims to uncover their rationale for making such a life-changing decision. By exploring indigenous migrants more thoroughly, a clearer picture of border crossings can be established. If light is shed on further reasons for crossing the border, besides the obvious economic or security motivations; hopefully leading to the establishment of better policies regarding the border and those who wish to cross it.

PEACE STUDIES

Bordering Fascism

By: Eriq Vargas

Advisor(s): Dr. Hilmi Ulas

Borders don't promote or foster peace, and they are imperatively divisive. Throughout history, border conflicts have persisted because of an "us vs other" ideology, often in the name of safety. They're used to separate two different types of people, keeping those who implement the border "safe" from the population on the other side. Borders have become toxic to international relations, peace, and has poisoned the overall climate of the international community. Borders and their implementation become a slippery slope in which that they can actually promote authoritarianism and fascism. As a result, borders don't promote peace. In terms of borders and border expansion, no (ethno)state has been as overreachingly persistent as Israel. They accomplish this by legitimizing themselves multidimensionally which complicates the contemporary politics of the conflict by giving them control of the narrative. Israel obstructs the peace process of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by pivoting away from a compromise through their government's actions. Actions such as settlement expansion to increase their sovereignty over the West Bank, ignoring international law, human rights laws and UN requests, and having the United States, a supposed acting mediator, recognize their capital as Jerusalem highlights their desire to continue following the de facto standard and go against international laws and norms. This will be used to prove how Israel was able to prove legitimization through de facto practice. In this case study I will analyze the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the border politics. I will examine how de facto practice grants legitimate power, how it gives more power than de jure standards, and how this culture fosters authoritarianism and fascism.

The Mental Barrier created by The Berlin Wall

By: Finn Wainwright

Advisor(s): Dr. Hilmi Ulas

For my project, I would like to focus on what life was like in Berlin after the Berlin Wall came down and how the Berliner's overcame the mental barrier between the two side's identities. I think it would be a really interesting research question to answer since a physical barrier created a mental barrier between two identities who originally were one identity and also particularly because I attended high school in Berlin. This research question contributes to the area of inquiry because it will give insight on how two opposite identities that used to be one identity attempted to overcome a mental barrier. By learning this, we could then apply it to current mental barrier conflicts caused by physical barriers happening in the world today. For my research, I will focus on three separate aspects of the Berlin Wall as my methodology; compare how life changed after the Berlin Wall fell between the East and West Berliners, what mental barriers were created between the two identities, and if this mental wall is still on conflict presently. In order to do this, I will read different biographies that give two separate perspectives between the East and West Berliners after the wall came down and how life differed, research what actions the government took to help diminish this mental barrier and reintegrate the two identities, and interpret statistics by German studies that reveal if there is still a mental barrier in the eyes of some Germans, despite the wall having come down several decades ago. Personally, I think there must be some Germans that feel there is still a mental barrier, however I think it must be the older generation because a mental barrier is created the longer a physical barrier is up.

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New Mexico Militia

By: Ashley Glisson

Advisor(s): Dr. Maytha Alhassen

A right-wing led militia group operating along the U.S.-Mexico border, specifically in southern New Mexico, has begun stopping groups of migrant families and detaining them at gunpoint. The militia group calls themselves the United Constitutional Patriots and posts videos to social media, exploiting how they hold such groups. I want to explore the motivations of the militia members in detail and why they have created this militia/are a member of it. In order to do so, I will complete a close visual analysis of the things that this militia does. I intend to delve deeper into the groups intentions as well and look at any interviews that have been done with the militia's members. I want to show how controversial this groups' actions are and how it is affecting the community of immigrants. I find it interesting that this group is allowed to keep operating even though they have no legal authority under New Mexico/federal law to arrest migrants in the US. The militia plans to use their force until President Trump completes his promise of the border wall. The part that baffles me the most about this entire situation is that the militia is still allowed to arrest/detain people, even though it is against law. The group is very controversial and toxic to the entire border situation that is going on in the United States currently and should be stopped immediately.

FFC

The Formation of Queer Consciousness in Gay, Latin, Men: How Experiences Affect the Lives of Queer Latinos

Presenter(s): Daniel Leon-Barranco

Advisor(s): Dr. Miguel Zavala, Dr. Ruben Espinoza

I am interested in investigating the question: How does the social and cultural environment of Latinidad experience affect the “coming out” process for queer, Latinx, peoples? Additionally, the aim of this research is to discover whether Queer Latinx peoples retain their cultural identity/consciousness or abandon it. This project is relevant to analyze whether Latinx culture impacts people to abstain from or retain their cultural identity/consciousness. I also hope that this research can prove whether an amalgamation of standpoint theory and situated knowledge can come together to affect the process of (re)claiming identity; as the gay Latinx man claims their sexual identity, This research aims to analyze if queer Latinxs reclaim their cultural identity. I hope that this research can expand upon the ideas of theories like assimilation, cultural retention, and identity/consciousness. I would like to note that, unfortunately, I will have to limit my research to the biological sex of male(s), as this topic has not been explored from a male perspective. The purpose of this research is to encourage others to look into this phenomenon, rather than to establish my own theory, to inform others of the processes in navigating queer relations within a latinx household, and to generate a deeper understanding of how queer Latinxs navigate their queerness within their community. I carried out my research using qualitative methodology; an autoethnography of my lived experiences in the LGBTQ+ community and within the Latinx community. The works of Cindy Cruz, Katie Acosta, Sandra Harding, and Gloria Anzaldua.

INTEGRATED EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

Dreamers and Marginalization

Presenter(s): Kasey Jimenez

Advisor(s): Dr. Laura Loustau

This essay is a comparison between Dreamers and the marginalization they face when coming to the United States. There are four sources used as evidence: Massacre of the Dreamers: Essays on Xicanisma, Lives in the Limbo, Becoming DACamented, and Y no se lo tragó la tierra. I used these four sources to serve as hard facts and testimonies of what Dreamers have to go through to assimilate and become integrated into the American culture. In some cases, you get to read the interviews of these Dreamers and really see how many opportunities they had to turn down because of their identity. Many Dreamers have to talent, ability, and grit to do well and truly achieve the American Dream but there are barriers that can keep them from doing so. The Book Y no se lo trago la tierra, is a common literature book read to many migrant families to teach them about the coming of age for someone who is not a native born. When doing the book comparisons, we read how the story line evolves for those who came to the United States before the age of 5 and are now coming of age. It is truly heart breaking and disappointing to see so many young people having to give up or continue to fight for equality that should have been given to them many many years ago.

PEACE STUDIES

Would Building Walls Save the Kurds?

Presenter(s): Azzam Alhejaili

Advisor(s): Dr. Hilmi Ulas

The largest stateless ethnic group is in the heart of a long series of conflicts. It went from a fight against the so-called Islamic State to the creation of an alliance with a partner that was contributing to their misery, the Syrian government. In the recent escalations, the Kurds have been faced with a challenge that has been waiting on their doorsteps for quite some time. The American decision to withdraw from Syria had cleared the way for the Turkish government—enabling it to start carrying a military offensive against the long-suffering stateless nation. It is borders (or the fear of redefining them) that caused this new military confrontation to emerge. For this project, I use the Kurdish ambitions to gain autonomy as a case study to prove that what once was an instrument for states to separate their people from the “other” has become one that might, in reality, ensure the safety of people like the Kurds. The reasons for this development are many; however, one of which is the normalization of borders—physical and psychological. Lastly, what I seek in this paper, besides exploring how and why borders have become a necessity, is to put to the test the effectiveness of having them.

SOCIOLOGY

Letters from Mama

Presenter(s): Laura Chavez

Advisor(s): Dr. Ruben Espinoza

For my presentation, I plan on speaking about transnational communication between mothers and their families. For the last almost three years, my family has been involved in an immigration case. Long story short, my family has been working hard with our lawyer to bring my mother back home safely and legally. Because my mother still hasn't been able to come back home, my life, along with that of my additional family members, has been filled with a void. Although I am a citizen and have been able to go see my mother out in Mexico two times, sometimes the only thing that I physically have that is as close as I can get to “physically” having her by my side are letters from my mom. Most of the letters I and my immediate family have received have come from my mom through family members that went to Mexico to visit family there and brought them back for us here in the U.S. Although they might not seem like much, they are sometimes enough to get me through the rough days. Some of the letters, my mother even sprayed her favorite perfume, wrapping me in her imaginary presence. Through these forms of transnational communication, my family, and many others, have been able to push through and work through complex situations like these.

A Message from the President

By: Corinne Tam

Advisor(s): Dr. Edson Cruz, CK Magliola

The American flag is a floating signifier. Rather than producing meaning, meaning is produced onto it. How it is interpreted depends entirely in context to other things. As a multivocal symbol, its meaning is fluid, changing with the people that use it, where those people are, and how those people choose to represent themselves with it. A Message from the President is a project that records quotes as objective facts, words that Donald Trump himself has used, specifically focusing on gender politics. A Message from the President is both celebration and desecration. It is an attempt to communicate the influence the president has as today's chief representative of the country in setting the tone for what is tolerated in America. In this way, the flag is used to celebrate the president speaking directly to us, his electorate; it celebrates the values he embodies through the inscription of how he has verbalized those values. Desecration, on the other hand, is emulated in the second goal I had: to transparently present just a handful of the countless ways he has objectified, dehumanized, and belittled others.

Loteria and Borders

By: Clarissa Cordova

Advisor(s): Dr. Ruben Espinoza

Loteria is a traditional Mexican game, very similar to bingo. The game card is filled with various images and one person would call out the cards to fill out the card. The players would mark their cards using beans and when they fill the card will yell, Loterilla. Loteria is a game that many Mexican communities play and is a beloved cultural symbol and experience. To many generations of Mexican immigrants in the United States, it is a way they feel connected to their families and communities past the borders. This paper will discuss the representation of each image used in Loterilla and how it is significant to the LatinX culture. In addition, explore the reason why it has remained popular through generations and how it has developed.

WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Where do I belong?

Presenter(s): Samantha Jimenez

Advisor(s): Dr. Ruben Espinoza

Mexican-American. American-Mexican. Which one do I fit into? If I put American first does that mean I am more American than Mexican? If I put Mexican first does that mean I am less of American? My whole life I have struggled with this question. When I go to Mexico I am too white for my family. When I am in the U.S. I am too Mexican. It seems like I don't belong anywhere. This dilemma is common among children of immigrants. We struggle to find "our home". If we choose to pick one side of our identity then we're throwing away our other identity. My research will focus on the struggle of having multiple identities-with an emphasis on Latinx-Americans- and how to balance them. The border plays a large role in the division of our identities. Which begs the question, if there was no border would we still be struggling identity.

PEACE STUDIES

Can Pre-Colonial Roots Transcend Borders During a Crisis?

Presenter(s): Breil Bonaguro

Advisor(s): Dr. Hilmi Ulas

The central research question is how the border impacts countries in an ongoing crisis and those surrounding it, specifically Venezuela and South America. Almost all of South America is being impacted by refugees coming from Venezuela and this has a great impact on border relations and refugee sentiment. The humanitarian crisis is driving out millions of Venezuelans due to food shortages, political chaos, and hyperinflation. Where are they supposed to go and who is supposed to help them? These are the million dollar questions people around the globe would like to be answered because these are the questions that are coming from every single continent in the world. Borders have perpetuated conflict since the days of Romulus and Remus and current times have created more strife between modern borders. The research will look at the creation of modern day South American borders and how they have set the stage for the interactions of today in the crisis that Venezuela is facing. In turbulent times there is a great effect on the border, positive and negative and this is a current case study that can shed light on what the implications of the borders are on countries that have people fleeing for their lives. The impacts the crisis in Venezuela are having all throughout South America are extremely important because they are testing the validity of the borders that exist. The countries surrounding Venezuela are having to deal with the influx of refugees entering their countries. The research for this topic will include case studies from border towns on the Venezuela-Colombia border among others, a closer look at the human rights violations occurring within Venezuela that are forcing many to leave their home country, and a consideration of what the future looks like for South America with its borders being tested.

Displaced in Cyberspace: Cyber-borders Curbing Human Rights for Rohingya Refugees

Presenter(s): Shreya Sheth

Advisor(s): Dr. Hilmi Ulas

Under persecution, thousands of the Rohingya population are forced to flee from the Rakhine state in Myanmar to Bangladesh, thus becoming a stateless people living in refugee camps. The governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh exacerbate the stateless nature of the Rohingya by refusing to acknowledge their basic human rights. Land borders proved futile in preventing the Rohingya population from entering territories in Bangladesh. Physical barriers are not enough to contain refugees, so governments are resorting to impose 'cyber-borders' in order to border off the Rohingya from the local populations. Dependence on mobile services and access to the internet has become normalized and indispensable, thereby cementing itself as an integral aspect of daily life and another platform for human assembly. Cyber-borders are affecting the Rohingya refugee crisis in a two-fold, first by curtailing access to SIM cards and the internet for refugees. Moreover, internet shutdowns hinder communications for aid workers and journalists investigating human rights abuses against the Rohingya. This paper discusses the changing nature of bordering practices from physical borders to cyber-borders, by conceptualizing the term 'cyber-border'. It further conducts a case study analysis of the detrimental impact of cyber-borders on Rohingya refugees, as well as a secondary data analysis of internet shutdowns in Myanmar and Bangladesh. It is important to understand that imposing cyber-borders, through largely internet shutdowns, obstruct human rights and transcend beyond justifications for security.

Oral Presentations- Session 3
Saturday, November 16 | 1:30PM-3:00PM
Beckman Hall Room 213

The Dominican- Haitian Border

Presenter(s): Yasmeen Abu Khalaf

Advisor(s): Dr. Hilmi Ulas

When engaged in a conversation about borders, it is crucial to be critical of the role that they play in society and the ways in which they can be negative. Borders can be detrimental to a community by dividing populations and fostering xenophobia, which can have long-lasting impacts on these communities in the future. Often times, the implications of borders and the fear of “the other” is rooted in white supremacy and nothing more. A notable example of this is the Haiti and the Dominican Republic border which has intensified differences and violence between the two communities for years. Haiti and the Dominican Republic are two neighboring countries on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, but the two nations have very different histories and present day realities, one that has been heavily influenced by the implications of borders and western imperialism. In order to understand the ways in which each country has arrived to its present day reality, it is important to analyze each country’s colonial legacy and its relationship to borders. In this case study, I aim to examine the ways in which colonial legacies have influenced the perception of race and disparities in socioeconomic status amongst Haitians and Dominicans.

BORDERS

Presenter(s): Roxana Shoraka

Advisor(s): Dr. Hilmi Ulas

Why is Israel occupying the Palestinian territories? Why does this violence keep happening? Why is it so hard to make peace? How is the conflict going to end? What is the UNSCOP Partition plan (29 November 1947)? -The United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine, a proposal by the United Nations which recommended a partition of Mandatory Palestine at the end of the British Mandate. The resolution recommended the creation of independent Arab and Jewish States and a special international regime for the city of Jerusalem. The partition plan (a four-part document) attached to the resolution, provided for the termination of the Mandate, the progressive withdrawal of British armed forces and the delineation of boundaries between the two states and Jerusalem. It favored the Jewish state but wanted the Arabs and Jews to economically work together. The Palestinian reaction: offended that there is so much investigation to their right of land, said the Balfour declaration was immoral and unjust, they were entitled to a free and independent state. The plan was inconsistent with the UN charter and league of nations. The plan was to defend their beloved country until the end. Yishuv reaction: denies Arab history or entitlement to the land, said that Palestine virtually dropped out of history and made no contribution to modern civilization, they agreed to economic union but it must favor the Jews and allow large scale immigration. The June 1967 war changed the landscape of the Middle East. Israel’s military success was attributed to the element of surprise, an innovative and well-executed battle plan, and the poor equality and leadership of the Arab forces. Israeli morale and international prestige were greatly increased by the outcome of the war and the area under Israeli control. In conclusion- how do we resolve this crisis? This conflict will come to an end with Israel’s occupied land, rightfully be returned to Palestine. Both Israel and Palestinians need to come together and have a peace agreement as well.

PEACE STUDIES

San Francisco's Invisible Borders: Which Came First, the Gentrifier or Coffee Shop?

By: Emily Lam

Advisor(s): Dr. Maytha Alhassen

The city of San Francisco is known for being a melting pot of people from all walks of life and cultures. Being only 46.89 square miles, the city is densely populated and continues to grow. The growing technological and start-up companies in the area has led to an increase of workers from not only this country but internationally as well. The increase of so-called “techie” that work for these companies has resulted in higher costs for housing and gentrification in typically minority occupied and working-class neighborhoods. As more and more people move in, they begin gentrifying the area causing local residents to be pushed out and many of them becoming unhoused. That said, the unhoused population in San Francisco is approximately 8,000 people and they are seen throughout the city. In all the newly gentrified neighbors, the new occupants begin to build their own communities while the unhoused living outside their living spaces are excluded, creating both physical and social invisible borders. Using a collection of photos, videos, and GIS mapping, the presentation captures and visualizes the borders created by gentrification. Most of the physical borders created in gentrification are the coffee shops that have opened in the neighbors whereas the social invisible borders are created by avoiding and excluding the homeless population in the nearby areas.

Children in Cages

By: Madison Austin

Advisor(s): Dr. Maytha Alhassen

Approximately 15,000 children are being detained by ICE currently, and in this project, I would also like to examine minors who are incarcerated in the United States juvenile detention centers and prisons. In the United States, approximately 60,000 youth are incarcerated, and some are even placed in adult prisons. For my project, I would like to analyze the phenomenon of putting children in cages. Children are put in cages as either a punishment for crossing a border, or for crossing a legal border. I would like to focus on the racial injustices that are present in both scenarios. I first developed an interest in this topic while learning about the children who are being detained by ICE and viewing their drawings from inside the detention centers. I would like to research what happens in these facilities and the effects it can have on the children. For my research methods, I will examine statistics from these groups and compare it to average Americans in their age groups. I will also try to find testimonies from those either incarcerated or previously incarcerated to support my thesis. After comparing and contrasting the living conditions in these facilities, I would like to highlight certain issues that I find and compare them to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to show exactly how their rights have been violated. I will give my findings in a presentation.

Oral Presentations- Session 4
Saturday, November 16 | 1:30PM-3:00PM
Beckman Hall Room 214

Teaching the Border Crisis Through Restorative Justice in Schools

Presenter(s): Samantha Frame

Advisor(s): Dr. Maytha Alhassen

For my border project I will be facilitating a restorative justice circle with students at Columbus Tustin Middle School's leadership class. The restorative circle will be focused around child detention at the US/Mexico border and open a space for the students to discuss their feelings and knowledge of the issue. One of the activities during the circle will be to write letters to kids who have been separated from their families in the detention center. The goal of the restorative circle and letter writing activity will be to teach middle school students that while they cannot vote they have a voice and can take action about a social justice issue. The restorative circle will act as a way to teach deeply emotional subjects to a younger audience. Restorative circles allow room for students to share how they feel about a topic, or their relevant experiences by following agreed upon guidelines, so students will feel it is a safe space to discuss and learn about a sensitive subject. Many students in the group that I will be working with come from immigrant families, and have expressed their interest in issues at the border in previous restorative circles. I will present the letters and the learning outcomes of the restorative circle as a poster at the conference. I will show the outline for the circle as well as show several of the letters written to the migrant children on the poster, with the permission of the students. After the conference, I will be sending them to TODEC legal center (Training Occupational Development Educating Communities). The TODEC Legal Center is a grassroots community based non-profit that has been serving migrant communities in 1984. The legal center has a campaign that delivers letters to children in detention called Letters of Love.

Israeli Palestinian Conflict

By: Maddie Tittle

Advisor(s): Dr. Maytha Alhassen

The conflict between Israel and Palestine is a long and on-going complication that affects many people all around the world. This divide is a controversial topic that has long been debated when addressing resolutions. Even though a proactive solution has yet to arise, many people all over the world seek change. J-street is a Jewish run non-profit organization that seeks to find that peaceful resolution. This organization holds a conference at the end of October in Washington D.C. that many influential people come to speak at; they speak for pro-peace between the two states. This presentation will examine not only the conflict in general but it will also analyze the physical border wall that is currently in place, and how it affects both parties. It will also explore how this conflict might affect others that are not in Israel or Palestine. In addition, this presentation will analyze the organization J-Street and examine their platform around the border. Through my attendance at the conference, this presentation will look at the amount of support for this organization and whether or not there are any critiques that arise during it. While a solution to this conflict is difficult to clearly define, the examination of one specific organization working towards a more peaceful living environment can be thought-provoking. After attending the conference and doing in-depth research on the organization it is easier to understand how much this organization does for both sides of the conflict in order to find a peaceful solution.

Oral Presentations- Session 4
Saturday, November 16 | 1:30PM-3:00PM
Beckman Hall Room 214

Sociological, Politically-Enforced Borders in the U.S.

By: Stacey Bates

Advisor(s): Dr. Maytha Alhassen

In this project, I intend to explore the dynamics of the sociological border between United States citizens - especially those born with citizenship - and Latinx immigrants, whether they are undocumented, become citizens, or have green card status. I will briefly narrate the historical path that led to this perspective of "otherness" rooted in a racist and murderous foundation, and demonstrate the distinct, prominent presence of that perspective that remains among residents of the United States today. Examples of this modern prejudice include the militarization of the U.S./Mexico border, ICE violence and murders, as well as an increase in hate speech toward Latinx people, enforced by the government's dramatized, demonizing manner in which they treat the human subjects of immigration. I will refer to the documents recorded by the Spanish conquistadors of the 1500s, solidifying evidence of the abuse, massacre, and exploitation of the indigenous people from whom Latinxs descend, at the hands of the Spanish -- who were, ironically, technically the immigrants at that time. Following this, I will jump forward in time to address the dehumanizing conditions of refugee/immigrant detention centers put into place by the Trump administration, and the indifference and/or support of these practices by massive numbers of United States citizens, most of whom descend from European immigrants. It is my expectation of this investigation to not only reiterate the blatant correlation between Latinx treatment upon the arrival of colonialism with current sociological dispositions regarding the "illegal" immigration of Latinx people, but also to propose that this perception of "otherness" toward Latinx people is a forthright infrastructure of thought by (mostly Caucasian) United States citizens when addressing POC immigrants arriving from the southern border.

FILM

Synopsis

By: Ragini Bhasin

Advisor(s): Rachel Goldberg, David Ward

A 13-year-old Afghan refugee hustles around in a refugee camp at the Turkish border, trying to survive the harsh circumstances.

Divided: A Documentary Short Film

By: Brynne McKee, Jackie Palacios, Jack Mullinkosson, Benjamin Allen

Advisor(s): Sally Rubin

With political division slowly on the rise in the years leading up to 2016, the highly controversial presidential election between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton seemed to split the nation in half like it had never been before. With much of the country's media furthering ideas of a black-and-white, "my way or the highway" political mentality, citizens on opposite sides of the political spectrum must find a way to think independently and critically about their values, as well as the values of others. *Divided* examines the post-2016 American divide between red and blue through the eyes of two queer women on opposite sides of the aisle--Lynzee Domanico, a proudly gay, Republican of Mexican descent from Las Vegas, and Betty Valencia, a queer Mexican immigrant running as a Democrat in a highly Republican county. Both individuals experience hatred from political opponents, making it all the more difficult to seek out compromise or empathy with "the other side", particularly in regard to the United States' current division on the topic of immigration. Through hearing each other's stories, Lynzee and Betty attempt to knock down borders of their own by rekindling their individual commitments to compassion and genuine conversation, no matter with whom they talk to. *Divided* features groups of citizens from around the country, including students from the University of Chicago, where a culture of controversy exists surrounding political expression. The younger American generation, whose shoulders the country rests on, must decide if their partisan success, red or blue, is more important than a willingness to hear each other out.

SKIN HUNGER

By: Kristina Rodemann

Advisor(s): Rachel Goldberg

XIMENA (30s), is a Mexican immigrant working long night hours in a Los Angeles poultry processing plant in order to support her family hundreds of miles away. She is completely isolated in this new and alien land and yearns intensely for the sense of home and belonging that intimate touch affords. Desperate for touch, she steals her cousin's green card so she can see her husband and son at the border, but when the encounter doesn't go as expected, she looks for other sources of warmth. Though her present circumstances prevent her from experiencing this, she is ultimately able to find temporary comfort connecting with natural beauty that transcends borders.

Film Screening
Saturday, November 16 | 3:30PM-5:30PM
DMAC Screening Room

Vida en la frontera

By: Jared Formanek, Jack Kirby

Advisor(s): Derek Helwig

This film tells the story of Ali Jasmin Perez Vargas, a daily commuter from Tijuana, BC, Mexico to San Diego, California. The film follows her on her journey and shows the struggles of the daily commute.

Oportunidad

By: Wendy Medina Herrera

The film was created because of my father. By hearing his accounts, I was able to construct a story based on true events. He is a Mexican immigrant who crossed the border; however, many times in the media, immigrants are negatively portrayed. Their reasons for crossing are rarely shown because they live in fear. Oportunidad (opportunity) is about a young adult from Sinaloa, México, who does make enough money and has to decide between leaving for better opportunities or staying with his family. My film aims to raise awareness and show immigrants in a different light. It was also created in hopes of resonating with other immigrants so they feel less alone.

NEWS AND DOCUMENTARY

Alpharaoh

Presenter(s): Lidieth Arevalo

Advisor(s): Christine Fugate

From the shadows to the spotlight, a stirring autobiographical account of Alex Alpharaoh, an undocumented American artist who defies his greatest fears and shares his life onstage while touring the country. Through Alpharaoh's story, the film shines light into what it means to be an American in every sense of the word, except for one: on paper.

Advance Parole

Presenter(s): Lidieth Arevalo

Advisor(s): Chuck Workman

14 undocumented students of Mexican descent have the opportunity to travel back to their country of birth after 20+ years. They are excited to fly "home" and reconnect with their families and roots, only to find a huge cultural shock which makes them question their binational identity.

A

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Alhejaili, Azzam, 26
Allen, Benjamin, 33
Allen, Miles, 12
Alvarez, Alondra, 5
An, Tyler, 8
Arevalo, Lidieth, 34
Arnold, Olivia, 10
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Austin, Madison, 30

B

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Bates, Stacey, 32
Bhasin, Ragini, 33
Bonaguro, Breil, 28
Buhler, Markos, 6
Bush, Mary, 5

C

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Chandrashekar, Chaya, 5
Chavez, Laura, 26
Clark, Jourdan, 11
Cordova, Clarissa, 27
Cronk, Alanna, 4
Culpepper, Devon, 12

D

Dang, Jacky, 22
DeBonis, Nikki, 19
De La Garza, Madison, 9
Dessouki, Layla, 20
Diaz, Jillian, 10
Drake, Emma, 8
Dunbar, Josey, 13

E

Elfahdi, Miriam, 9

F

Fisher-Duddy, Skylar, 5
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Formanek, Jared, 34
Frame, Samantha, 31

G

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Grabowski, Lillian, 12

H

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Herman, Ever, 9
High, Avery, 12
Hon, Reuel, 8
Hull, Jack, 7

J

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Jimenez, Kasey, 25
Jimenez, Samantha, 27
Johnson, Cloe, 4
Johnson, Mia, 7

K

Kalhuri, Nikki, 4
Kaur, Prabhnoor, 4
Kevorkian, Sophene, 7, 11
Kirby, Jack, 34

L

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Lawton, Jon Paul, 5
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McKee, Brynne, 33
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Mejia Ruiz, Paola, 10
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Miller, Bella, 9
Miranda, Noel, 8
Morrissette, Sophia, 22
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N

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P

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Tittle, Maddie, 7, 31
Todd, Anoushka, 10
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Vargas De la Rosa, Ana, 17
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Walker, Helena H., 18
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Yanes, Stephanie, 16



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