

Honors Symposium



Friday, April 27, 2018

9:00 am

Hatcher Gallery (Room 100)
Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library
913 S. University
Ann Arbor, MI, 48109

PROGRAM

9:00 am Welcome

Jay Cook

History Department Chair, Professor of History and American Studies

Pamela Ballinger

Honors Committee Chair, Associate Professor of History

9:15 am Thesis Presentations

Joshua Hasler

Eugenics and the University: Reasserting C.C. Little into the History of Eugenics, Higher Education, and the University of Michigan

Advisor: Alexandra Minna Stern

Thalia Chrysanthis

Infinitely More Important: The Reemergence of Ninth Amendment Precedent During the Long Sixties

Advisor: Alexandra Minna Stern

Levi Teitel

Helmar Lerski and the Illumination of Zionism

Advisor: Anne Berg

Kendall Lehmann

One Man's Empire? Don Canham's Tumultuous Relationship with Title IX

Advisor: Mary C. Kelley

Youshi "Joshua" Zhang

Engineers and Rome: Tracing the Roman Element from Engineers in British India, 1793-1914

Advisor: Amanda Armstrong

Natalie Kozak

Forgetting Larry Itliong: A Glimpse into the Causes and Effects of Filipino-American Marginalization in the United Farm Workers

Advisor: Maris Vinovskis

Jay Dutcher

From Pines to Peaches and Brown Trout: Transformation of the Pere Marquette River 1860-1980

Advisor: Perrin Selcer

Julia Kropa

Keeping the US Hand Well Hidden: The Role of the Church Committee in Rethinking US Covert Intervention in the 1970s

Advisor: Victoria Langland

Rohin K. Patel

Poverty of India—British Colonial "Drain" and Contemporary Economic Implications

Advisor: Thomas R. Trautmann

Jared Kunkel

Dysfunctional Diaspora: Why Jewish Immigrant Dispersion from Galveston Failed

Advisor: Deborah Dash Moore

Keisuke Ozeki

American Citizens for Justice: Preserving the Legacy of Vincent Chin in Eighties Detroit
Advisor: Heather Ann Thompson

Reine Patterson

White Churches, Black Activism: The Detroit Presbytery from Civil Rights to Black Power
Advisor: Stephen Ward

10:15 am Refreshments

10:40 am Thesis Presentations

Jacob Margolies

A Nation Born from the Ashes: The Contribution of European Antisemitism and the Holocaust to the Birth of Israel
Advisor: Victor B. Lieberman

Cayla Palmer

Dr. Edward Bliss Foote and the Limits of Victorian Sex Radicalism
Advisor: Martin S. Pernick

Zaryff Razali

Confronting Hegemonies: How Masculinity and Socioeconomic Issues Framed Malay Feminist Strategies in Colonial Malaya 1931-1956
Advisor: Victor B. Lieberman

Laura Marsh

Their Name Is on Your Waters: Appropriation of Indigenous Aesthetics in Mackinac Straits Tourism in the 20th Century
Advisor: Gregory Dowd

Noah McCarthy

Gerald Ford, Human Rights, and the American Presidency
Advisor: Jonathan Marwil

Colleen Harrison

Girl Club: Barbara Mikulski, Female Senators, and Gendered Rhetoric in the Year of the Woman
Advisor: Matthew Lassiter

Margaret Johnson

Under the Influence: Mexico's Role in US International Drug Policy in Latin America 1969-1976
Advisor: Matthew Lassiter

Melissa Neal

Gendered Spaces at the University of Michigan at the Dawn of Coeducation
Advisor: Mary C. Kelley

11:20 am Refreshments

11:30 am Awarding of Prizes

- LSA Honors Awards
- Stephen J. Tonsor Best Oral Presentation of Thesis Award
- James A. Knight Scholarships in History
- Elizabeth Sargent Lee Medical History Prize
- Stephen J. Tonsor History of Ideas Undergraduate Honors Award
- John A. Williams History Award
- Arthur Fondiler Award for Best Undergraduate Thesis

2018 History Department Honors Students

Thalia Chrysanthis

Infinitely More Important: The Reemergence of Ninth Amendment Precedent During the Long Sixties

Advisor: Alexandra Minna Stern

The Ninth Amendment to the US Constitution, in the Bill of Rights, is often overlooked, even by historians. This trend was particularly true prior to its reappearance in the modern Supreme Court in 1965, during the *Griswold v. Connecticut* case. *Griswold*, and its companion case, helped overturn the country's anti-contraceptive laws, doing so through the Supreme Court's discovery of the right to privacy. This right was outlined in part by using the Ninth as a provision protecting rights not directly listed in the Constitution, its original purpose. My thesis focuses on this return of the Ninth to a prominent role in our Supreme Court, examining how and why the Ninth reappeared at this time.

Jay Dutcher

From Pines to Peaches and Brown Trout: Transformation of the Pere Marquette River 1860-1980

Advisor: Perrin Selcer

From 1860 to 1980, the Pere Marquette River in West Michigan transformed as a consequence of human engagement with the landscape. Although the logging industry moved into the river's basin and destroyed the natural landscape at the end of the nineteenth century, farming and fishing took over in the coming decades and stabilized both society and the environment through their mitigated impact on the landscape and their increasing focus on conservation. This is a story of devastation and triumph, because without logging, these industries may never have moved into the area and made the Pere Marquette the scenic, natural, and world-famous fly fishing destination it is today.

Colleen Harrison

Girl Club: Barbara Mikulski, Female Senators, and Gendered Rhetoric in the Year of the Woman

Advisor: Matthew Lassiter

In this thesis, I compare three areas of legislative work Senator Mikulski introduced or heavily supported around the time of the Year of the Woman. Most of this work will center on the legislation from the 103rd Congress, I also pull examples from the 102nd and 104th congresses as well. I examine how Mikulski chose to speak out the most when it came to the gendered issues. Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) provides insight as to how the males on the Labor and Human Resources Committee would act. I compare Mikulski to her fellow female senators, Kassebaum, Patty Murray (D-Wash.), and Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.).

Joshua Hasler

Eugenics and the University: Reasserting C.C. Little into the History of Eugenics, Higher Education, and the University of Michigan

Advisor: Alexandra Minna Stern

Clarence Cook Little was a prominent American eugenicist in the 1920s and 1930s and was a founder of the American Eugenics Society. By analyzing his prescriptions for reforming eugenics and American education, I have found that he viewed these “young sciences” as inextricably linked, with great symbiotic potential. His failed “University College,” which he attempted to implement while President of the University of Michigan, and the successful “Freshman Week,” were two educational reforms emblematic of these links. This thesis examines this dynamic as well as the way reinterpretation of Little’s involvement in the eugenics impacts his legacy and memory.

Margaret Johnson

Under the Influence: Mexico’s Role in US International Drug Policy in Latin America 1969-1976

Advisor: Matthew Lassiter

This thesis looks at the ways in which US international drug policy developed throughout 1969-1976, especially in respect to Latin America. Throughout these years, US drug policy became increasingly militaristic and invasive despite a larger reckoning with the United States’ role abroad. When examining the processes that made this evolution possible, Mexico emerges first as a key actor in shaping the initial form of US policy and later as a rhetorical device to justify the proliferation of these policies. Through Mexico, the US created an anti-drug policy standard that became emblematic of US foreign policy across Republican and Democratic presidencies despite the fact that these policies have not been proven effect in reducing drug supply.

Natalie Kozak

Forgetting Larry Itliong: A Glimpse into the Causes and Effects of Filipino-American Marginalization in the United Farm Workers

Advisor: Maris Vinovskis

The United Farm Workers, most often associated with Cesar Chavez, was not just important to Mexican-Americans. Larry Itliong, a Filipino-American, led the original grape strike that caused the formation of a Unified Farm Workers’ organization that would fight—non-violently—for farm workers’ rights. Itliong’s personal history, including the details surrounding his resignation from the UFW in 1971, demonstrates both the importance and marginalization of Filipino-American members of the UFW. However, the UFW also positively influenced Itliong’s engagement with his Filipino-American community. Ultimately, Larry Itliong serves as a symbol of a largely ignored population of migrants from the Philippines.

Julia Kropa

Keeping the US Hand Well Hidden: The Role of the Church Committee in Rethinking US Covert Intervention in the 1970s

Advisor: Victoria Langland

In 1970 a group of Chilean military officials plotted to kidnap the commander-in-chief of the Chilean army, General Rene Schneider, and use his disappearance to stop the confirmation of the incoming president. When the kidnapping failed, the group assassinated General Schneider. The CIA and Nixon White House gave strategic and material support to the group and encouraged the kidnapping plot. In 1975 the Church Committee in the US Senate investigated assassination and kidnapping plots involving foreign leaders and uncovered the United States' involvement in General Schneider's death. The lasting implications transformed Congress' relationship with the intelligence agencies and the White House.

Jared Kunkel

Dysfunctional Diaspora: Why Jewish Immigrant Dispersion from Galveston Failed

Advisor: Deborah Dash Moore

This thesis is centered on the Galveston Plan, which was an immigrant dispersion movement that took place between 1907 and 1914. The goal of the movement was to recruit Jewish immigrants from Russia and convince them to go to Galveston instead of New York City. When the immigrants arrived in Galveston they were sent to various locations throughout the US West in need of laborers. This particular dispersion effort was not as successful as originally anticipated. In this thesis I analyze the major reasons why the Galveston Plan was unable to distribute a higher number of immigrants. The major source of this analysis is the Jewish Immigrants' Information Bureau collection that was organized by the American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS). The AJHS chronologically organized the letters between the operative organizations. Through these letters, passenger lists, and other materials in the collection, I gained a keen understanding of how the Galveston Plan operated, and what caused the dysfunction that led to its ultimate failure.

Kendall Lehmann

One Man's Empire? Don Canham's Tumultuous Relationship with Title IX

Advisor: Mary C. Kelley

Title IX was a part of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 that prohibited sex-based discrimination in any educational program or activity that received federal funding. The University of Michigan (UM) Athletic Director from 1968-1988, Don Canham, placed importance on football while neglecting women's athletics and challenging Title IX. Progress in women's sports was delayed as a result. The research will illustrate how slowly change involving gender can occur at an academic institution, explore how one man can maintain decisive power and influence within an athletic department, and explain the barriers to the progress of women's sports at UM.

Jacob Margolies

A Nation Born from the Ashes: The Contribution of European Antisemitism and the Holocaust to the Birth of Israel

Advisor: Victor B. Lieberman

This project examines the impact of the Holocaust on the Israeli independence movement. It centers on the Yishuv-sponsored mass immigration campaign between c. 1930-1948, and the role of such European Jews in accelerating the termination of the British Mandate and in supplementing the fledgling Israeli army in the 1948 War of Independence. No less consequential was the impact of the Holocaust with respect to the United States' pro-Zionist trajectory and the nation's subsequent global lobbying effort prior to UN ratification of the Partition Plan. This thesis posits that such developments fundamentally transformed the nature of the Zionist movement, in effect equipping the Yishuv for sovereignty.

Laura Marsh

Their Name Is on Your Waters: Appropriation of Indigenous Aesthetics in Mackinac Straits Tourism in the 20th Century

Advisor: Gregory Dowd

In this thesis, I will examine the ways that various elements of the tourism industry in the twentieth-century Mackinac Straits, including the Michilimackinac Reenactment Pageant, and the marketing of "Indian Legends" and tourist literature, all served to advertise access to Indigenous identity for white vacationers. In privileging white conceptualizations of Indigenous identity, the tourism industry marketed images of Indianness concocted by the white imagination, and it profited from this romanticized, racially charged concept of Indigenous culture (which did not distinguish by region or nation and so was just that: the homogeneous Native). This exploitation by the tourism industry added to a legacy of colonization in the United States, and further subjugated Native communities where they already suffered at the hands of white settlers.

Noah McCarthy

Gerald Ford, Human Rights, and the American Presidency

Advisor: Jonathan Marwil

Gerald Ford's relationship with human rights has never been explored in a full work. This project addresses Ford's conception of human rights and its political application during his presidency. The goal is to explain Ford's apparently minimal role in the emergence of mid-1970s human rights politics. This work does so by assessing the development of Ford's character and actions as president, in the context of the politically viable models of human rights that emerged in this period. It demonstrates how Ford's exclusion from human rights appeals in the mid-1970s reflects his own character and the politicized nature of such appeals.

Melissa Neal

Gendered Spaces at the University of Michigan at the Dawn of Coeducation

Advisor: Mary C. Kelley

Although the first decade of coeducation at the University of Michigan may appear to have been a golden age for women students, their admission was shaped by narrow and specific constraints rooted in separate sphere ideology. Women students could only occupy domestic spaces, academic departments, and campus organizations in ways that did not threaten patriarchal hegemony. Archival records from the University of Michigan Bentley Historical Library and Vassar College Special Collections narrate the gendered experiences of Michigan students during this first decade of coeducation. I suggest a new approach by shifting the focus onto the physical and conceptual spaces created and altered as a result of women's admission, allowing women's voices to narrate a different interpretation and revealing that coeducation at the University of Michigan was not as progressive as it has often been represented.

Keisuke Ozeki

American Citizens for Justice: Preserving the Legacy of Vincent Chin in Eighties Detroit

Advisor: Heather Ann Thompson

"It's not fair," cried Vincent Chin as he fell getting clubbed by a baseball bat. On June 19, 1982, Vincent Chin, a Chinese American man in Detroit, was beaten to death by two white autoworkers who received no jail time for their crimes. American car giants could not compete with the Japanese competition, forcing the unemployment rate up to 17%. Angered by job cuts, black and white Detroiters turned against everybody who "looked Japanese." This is a story of the American Citizens for Justice, an Asian American civil rights organization, which responded to the heightened anti-Japanese racism.

Cayla Palmer

Dr. Edward Bliss Foote and the Limits of Victorian Sex Radicalism

Advisor: Martin S. Pernick

Dr. Edward Bliss Foote, physician and publisher, wrote some of his most famous works during the Victorian Era, during the passage of Comstock Laws in the late 19th Century, which restricted the publication and distribution of sexual health information and contraceptives. Two of his works, *Medical Common Sense* and *Sexual Physiology for the Young*, one written before and one after the passage of the laws, were analyzed in this thesis to show how Foote changed the language in his works to suit different audiences and to accommodate the passage of restrictive publication policies. This research will show the ways in which promotion of sexual health information can be hindered by governmental policies, explore how authors adjust their opinion on certain topics to fit specific audiences, and show how the efforts of sex radicals in Victorian America could be limited by societal and governmental restraints.

Rohin K. Patel

Poverty of India—British Colonial “Drain” and Contemporary Economic Implications

Advisor: Thomas R. Trautmann

In his work *Poverty and Un-British Rule in India* (1901), Indian Nationalist leader Dada-bhai Naoroji claims that between 1835 and 1872 Britain extracted £500 million from the Indian subcontinent. Naoroji’s perception of self-rule changed significantly throughout his lifetime and he came to understand the only solution to India’s poverty as native rule, influencing later thinkers such as Mahatma Gandhi. His views span business, politics, and philosophy, and have many present day implications in the Republic of India. My hope with this thesis is to bring attention to India’s “Grand Old Man” through a deep analysis of his life, work and impact, tracing the various alterations in his views and arguing that, ultimately, in order to understand contemporary Indian economic transformations, we must turn to the complex figures of the past.

Reine Patterson

White Churches, Black Activism: The Detroit Presbytery from Civil Rights to Black Power

Advisor: Stephen Ward

Churches, especially white Protestant churches, held an ambiguous role in American civil rights activism throughout the 1960s and early 1970s. During this time in Detroit, white Protestants were more conservative and averse to political activism than Catholics or black Protestants. During the Civil Rights and Black Power movements, however, the Presbytery of Detroit challenged expectations set by its members by contributing to African American civil rights, establishing itself as a continuous supporter and ally to this movement. This analysis of the Detroit Presbytery’s activism during three significant moments for black activism in Detroit—the Civil Rights Movement, the 1967 Rebellion, and Black Power—serves as a lens through which to study Presbyterian and white church activism in the movement for racial equality and black self-determination.

Zaryff Razali

Confronting Hegemonies: How Masculinity and Socioeconomic Issues Framed Malay Feminist Strategies in Colonial Malaya 1931-1956

Advisor: Victor B. Lieberman

This paper explores issues that framed late nineteenth to early twentieth century Malay political thinking and the impact it had on women’s political strategies. The paper argues that foreign labor in-migration and British policy played a key role in the economic and social issues that emerged among Malays, but goes further to analyze why some parties successfully captured Malay support while others did not. Then, relying primarily on autobiographies by prominent female leaders, this paper charts two strategies Malay women employed at the time, radical and pragmatic, based on whether they directly confront male political superiority or if they utilized it for women’s issues.

Levi Teitel

Helmar Lerski and the Illumination of Zionism

Advisor: Anne Berg

In 1934, Swiss-born photographer and cinematographer Helmar Lerski immigrated to Mandatory Palestine. In Lerski's films, his stark, up close shots of laborers and agricultural equipment give a sense of this growing Jewish economy. How do Lerski's films, in the context of other media representations of the Yishuv's economy and the sociohistorical developments from 1935-1948 alter the narrative of Jewish colonization? These films, though not profitable at the box office, were important cultural texts in establishing the representation of a modern Yishuv. The goal of this project is to understand how in light of his environment Lerski constructed an ideal depiction of Zionism.

Youshi "Joshua" Zhang

Engineers and Rome: Tracing the Roman Element from Engineers in British India, 1793-1914

Advisor: Amanda Armstrong

Choosing the engineers in British India as the case study, this thesis will trace and extract the Roman elements among those British engineers. First, the thesis will examine the input of these elements, such as the military tradition of survey and road-building in the eighteenth century, the contacts with Roman ruins in the early railroad age, and the classics components in the engineering education. Second, the thesis will investigate the mind and thought of those engineers. By reconstructing their opinions and reflections through their public and private writings, the thesis will address the following questions: What role did the idea of Rome play in their ambitions and worldview? What did they think of Rome, especially as the archetype of empire? Last, the thesis will look at those engineers' legacy. As their works got reinterpreted in the new light which focused on comparing Rome and Britain directly, the Roman elements were possibly inserted in this very process.