Rutendo Chabikwa
Global Studies
Faculty Sponsor: Madeleine Wong

Reclaiming Dreams of the Forefathers: The case of #MustFall Protests in South Africa

In October 2015, university students gathered at various parliamentary precincts across Cape Town to protest, in particular, hikes in university fees, forcing higher education institutions to shut down. More generally, these protests signaled new struggles against marginalization and oppression. Aided by social media communication, as exemplified by the hashtag banner - #FeesMustFall and #RhodesMustFall – these protests fomented solidarity between students and workers in the struggle for not only a new imagined geography of post-apartheid society in South Africa, but also for emergent identities and subjectivities among young South Africans. Employing a multi-sited approach and drawing on qualitative interviews with students - from four institutions in Cape Town and Johannesburg - who participated in these protests, this paper addresses how young South Africans navigate new spatial and social areas of higher education that often marginalizes many youths, and how they simultaneously act to undo the colonial identities prescribed to them and colonial boundaries imposed on them. First, the paper explores how students were mobilized to consciousness and activism through social media to claim 'new' identities and subjectivities in and through historical spaces that continue to constrain their opportunities in post apartheid South Africa. Second, the paper highlights the ways in which students contested how South Africa's neoliberal project operate in universities functioning as microstates that increasingly surveil, police, and discipline particular students entirely within the geographical and administrative boundaries of the campus.

Margaret Chandler
Tanner Fellow
Faculty Sponsor: Madeleine Wong

Tasting Memories

The original plan for my Tanner Fellowship was to create a photo journal documenting the work of the International NGO World Vision in Myanmar (Burma). The project came about because my father was very instrumental in creating the Burmese branch of the organization. He was the first country director when my family and I lived in Yangon from 1995 to 1999. Therefore, this project has always been strongly connected to my childhood growing up in Yangon. When I arrived, the familiarity of the city was overwhelming but
amazing. As I became reacquainted with the culture and the way of life, I learned that my initial idea for representing my project was going to be impossible. As a foreigner according to the law, I was not allowed to visit any of the project sites.

I reorganized my project and research to focus on what I could find out about World Vision: Myanmar’s process in implementing projects throughout the country. My research consisted of a series of interviews with project managers, the current country director, and the current project director. Throughout the process, I learned about how the organization has changed and evolved over the twenty years it has been active. On a more personal level, I learned the most about the influence my parents, particularly my father, had on the organization and the people who greatly influenced my early childhood.

Danrong Chen
Economics
Faculty Sponsor: Meryl Motika

Is there a relationship between Chinese board of directors’ ages and their company’s risk behavior?

For this honor research, I discuss how Chinese board of directors’ age differences affect risk aversion. I use the non-linear regression model with dependent variable age, independent variable debt to equity ratio and dummy variable vectors including firm size, region, type of companies and gender. My hypothesis is that in the age range of 40 to 80, the companies’ risk taking behavior will increase as the ages of the board of directors rises.

I collected around 300 data from Chinese companies about their board of directors’ age and their quarter financial report from a Chinese stock website. I am structuring the data by using Minitab. I am still analyzing my data now and it shows right pattern and I hope to see more significant soon.

This topic is interesting because if the data matches my hypothesis, companies can choose their board of directors to adjust their companies risk taking behavior and balance their risk and benefit.

Julianne DeGuardi
Global Studies
Faculty Sponsor: John Collins

Migrant Dairy Farm Workers in the North Country:
A Microcosm of NAFTA’s Human and Structural Repercussions

For my Global Studies Honors SYE I have examined how the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has created significant political and economic structural changes,
which have disrupted the traditional lifestyles in many communities throughout Mexico. Such disruption has placed these communities in vulnerable and insecure living environments, a process which has necessitated migration to the US. While in Mexico on a summer study abroad trip, I spoke with small-scale farmers who had lost their land and subsidies due to the implementation of NAFTA, thus exposing me to some of the implications of NAFTA within Mexico. In addition, I investigated the migratory ramifications of this legislation in the US, specifically in the North Country, by interviewing and observing migrant dairy farm workers in St. Lawrence County. Through these interactions I have gained insight about migrant workers’ experiences in the US, as well as their life in Mexico prior to migrating. Moreover, I have analyzed how the presence of Hispanic migrant workers in the North Country, of which most local residents are unaware, has impacted social and cultural relations within this region. This research process has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the transnational effects of NAFTA on a micro and macro scale in both the US and Mexico, including the political, economic, cultural and human impact that are too often overlooked in today’s globalized world.

Joey Duggan  
History  
Faculty Sponsor: Elizabeth Regosin

The National Career of Huey P. Long

Over the past several months, I have been composing an analysis of Huey P. Long’s career as the Senator from Louisiana from 1932 to 1935. Long had a compelling career in politics: He rose to the governorship by galvanizing support from poor farmers who had traditionally been ignored by the political elite. My analysis examines the ways in which Long attempted to appeal to a similar national demographic during his tenure in the Senate. Long threatened to upset the Presidential Election of 1936 before his assassination in 1935.

Up to this point, a great deal of the scholarship on Long has wrestled with questions of identity. Some scholars have attempted to justify labels such as demagogue and portray Long as a power-hungry fool, while others have tried to capture Long at his most shrewd, and make a case for Long as an ideologue. This project does not directly attempt to draw a grand conclusion about Long’s identity. I chose to draw the gaze away from Long’s career in Louisiana, and analyze the methodology and rhetoric that led to Long’s rapid success during his time in the Senate. The results evidence Long’s political expertise, and demonstrate the earthshaking potential of an effective employment of populist politics.

The project has profound resonances with an age in many ways determined by popular politics. An analysis of Long’s career helps ground these strategies in a political tradition. It is also a fresh consideration of a compelling historical drama.
Xaviera Gitau  
Global Studies  
Faculty Sponsor: Madeleine Wong  

Dadaab Refugee Camp Closure and the Securitization of Refugees in Kenya  

I will be presenting my Global Studies Honors SYE on what the closure of the Dadaab refugee camp by the Kenyan government as a measure of national security, means within a historical context, and also understanding this decision within the climate of the global rise of terrorism. Part of my research also included a discourse analysis on the media discussions and debates held on Kenyan television regarding the closure of the camps. This platform is important for analyzing how the Kenyan public is receiving and understanding the closure of the camps. As part of my research, I was able to return to Kenya and interview willing participants of Somali descent, through a Fred Kahrs award by the Global Studies Department. Although the results to my analysis are still ongoing, I have found that there remains a great historical trend to securitize of people of Somali descent from the Kenyan government, a posture that was inherited from the British settler colonial administration. Not only does the Kenyan government have a systemic aversion towards people within the northern part of the country, this marginalization has also manifested itself into how the police and other state institutions within Kenya treat these people. Additionally, although the UNHCR and other international organizations help run humanitarian focused refugee camps, there is a lack of integrated approach to dealing with the reality of Al Shabaab's infiltration inside Dadaab and other refugee camps.

Alexandria Haehl  
Statistics (SYE) w/Government Interest  
Faculty Sponsors: Ronnie Olesker, Ivan Ramler  

Presidential Speeches of the United States: Stylometric, Sentiment, and Cluster Analyses  

The history of the United States is plagued with war, depression, recession, and scandal. However, the presidential voice helped to mitigate these issues as they arose. At times throughout history, presidents have spoken to instill hope and to call for peace, but also to declare war and ask citizens to fight for their country. The purpose of this research is to analyze the sentiment and style of 953 presidential speeches dating back 228 years to discover commonalities and contrasts between presidents speaking styles. I began by web scraping these speeches to create a basic data set. I used stylometric, sentiment, and cluster analyses to demonstrate similarities and differences between speakers numerically and graphically, and explored the reasoning behind each difference. I used logistic regression to identify trends during peacetime and wartime, and to predict the type of speech (spoken or written) based on the information I obtained on the State of the Union Addresses. Finally, I
analyzed the most recent speeches of President Donald Trump and compared his style and sentiment to those of our past 44 presidents to determine any similarities or differences from past rhetoric.

Megan Kloeckner
Anthropology
Faculty Sponsor: Wendi Haugh

Human Security in Luoland: How Anthropology can Improve upon Conditions of Development in Kisumu, Kenya

As the third largest city in Kenya and the nation’s main port to Lake Victoria, Kisumu—like the greater Kisumu County in which it sits—is surprisingly underdeveloped for a city of its size and prominence. Many believe that it is a government’s responsibility to provide for and protect their citizens, and classic political theory alleges it should be achieved through the use of its military. More recent political theory, however, recognizes that additional factors determine whether a country is secure. The concept of “human security” argues that non-military related components—such as food security, affordable healthcare, and access to quality education—determine whether a country or region is faring well. While countless governments and development organizations have sought to improve human security in less affluent communities around the world, they very rarely consider local perspectives on how to “improve” their own community. A trend of ineffective and unsustainable development initiatives has resulted. The Luo ethnic community in Kisumu County has come to hold little faith in its national government, as they maintain that historical ethnic biases have reduced the national government’s concern for Luo welfare. Kenya’s updated Constitution (2010), however, has given the Luo a reason for optimism, as it promises decentralization and will grant county governments more local authority. As Kisumu County is mainly comprised of Luo residents, the community should garner political representation and receive more support. In conjunction with the decentralization plan, I argue that anthropologists—while largely absent in human security studies to date—should participate in studying factors of human security within Kisumu, as their ability to comprehend local ideological and social systems can provide insight into whether the local governments’ proposed initiatives will actually improve the residents’ welfare. Using Kisumu, Kenya as a case study, this research project will examine how Kenya’s colonial and independent governments have impacted the Luo peoples’ measure of human security, and will seek to employ an anthropological approach to determine and incorporate Luo perspectives in prospective government development plans.
An Epistemological Critique of Dream Science

This paper will begin by reporting the early historical developments toward contemporary dream science. Next, it will explore two major philosophical assumptions on dream reports which are the basis of dream science skepticism. The first assumption that dreams are “too untrustworthy” to “study dream experience in any detail” or verify data empirically will be examined in part as a problem of privileged access and intraindividual differences (Windt, 2013, 3). This assumption is explained by Dentan, Bulkeley, and Vellozzo. The second major assumption draws a deep “conceptual connection between dreaming and dream reporting” asserts that this connection renders empirical dream research through dream reports impossible since it would alter the very concept of dreaming (Windt, 2013, 3). The paper will continue by discussing the implications these assumptions have on scientific methodologies that inform empirical dream research. Finally, a defense of dream reports as a legitimate intuitive form of scientific data with be provided. Concluding remarks will provide suggestions on what can be done with dream reports to assist empirical dream research. Specifically, the works of dream researchers like Antonio Zadra, Robert Stickgold, and Jeffrey P. Sutton will provide examples of how creative methodologies can be used to make dream reports empirical and falsifiable. The paper will conclude that acknowledging dream reports and the problems they pose is the key to finding scientific utility for dream reports as empirical data.

French Comedy and Handicaps

Winter Break 2015 I watched a movie with my family called La Famille Belier (Eric Lartigau, 2015). La Famille Belier is a comedy in which Paula, a gifted singer born from a deaf family, shows us her daily routine and the struggles that she goes through in order to achieve her dreams. Watching this movie for me was a turning point because I had never encountered a comedy that talked about handicaps and I wondered whether the combination: comedy + handicap was a good one or a bad one.

Therefore, I decided to plunge myself into an honors thesis to answer this question. For that purpose I started investigating what other French comedies portrayed handicaps, and I found two other movies: Le Huitième Jour (Jaco van Dormael, 1996) and Les Intouchables (Eric Toledano and Olivier Nakache, 2011). Le Huitième Jour portrays a character with
Down syndrome while Les Intouchables tells a real story of a paraplegic millionaire and his assistant.

Through the analysis of these three comedies I found that each type of handicap is different from each other. I also found that society, and not disease or accident, is oftentimes the agent that creates a handicap by stereotyping and marginalizing those individuals that differ from the norm; but I learnt much more from this research: a handicap can be a form of culture in itself.

I am still working on this thesis, but the conclusion that I’ve reached so far is that the best way to integrate all members of society is to be exposed to them and as a student at St. Lawrence; I would like to see a more diverse student body to achieve this goal.

Margaret Mauch  
Environmental Studies  
Faculty Sponsor: Jon Rosales

Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Scientific Understanding of Large Storms

Previous investigations done by the Alaskans Sharing Indigenous Knowledge project (AKSIK.org) reveal that residents of the native villages of Savoonga and Shaktoolik claim that storm intensity is increasing in the Bering Strait Region of Alaska. Climatologists do not make that claim, instead focusing on the lack of sea ice as the physical factor affecting storm surge intensity. This project explores the varied interpretations of storm intensity from the scientific understanding to that held by traditional ecological knowledge holders, including the incongruity between scientific and TEK certainty of storm intensity. With further investigation, gender perceptions of climate change, and more specifically, storm intensity, was explored to reveal different ways climate change is experienced and perceived among gender. The project bases its conclusions on previous video interviews done by AKSIK investigators of residents of Savoonga and Shaktoolik describing climatic changes in their environment and on follow up interviews to distill further descriptions of changing storm patterns while comparing it to dominant climate science evidence. Incorporating knowledge from the natural sciences as well as TEK is critical to understanding the landscape.

Sarah Phillips  
Performance & Communication Arts  
Faculty Sponsor: Selina French

The Art of Creating a Corset

With some guidance from Selina French, SLU Costume Shop Supervisor, I built a corset to be worn in the St. Lawrence University Theatre Spring 2017 production Everyman. I
padded a mannequin to match the actor’s measurements. Using the mannequin, I created the patterns for the corset, used the patterns to cut out the fabric and then I stitched them together. I did the same for the corset lining, sewed the lining and the covering together and created the channels for the boning. To give the corset the required shape, I cut steel boning to length, finished the ends using a boning tipper, and inserted the boning into the corset body. After carefully sewed in the busk closures, I stitched on ribbon and gold suspender clasps. The corset required a lot of time, attention to detail, and patience. Because it was made for a male actor, it is breaking the gender stereotype of what clothing should be worn by which gender. I think it is important for people to see and learn about the work that goes into creating and building the costumes for the performances as it give a greater appreciation for all that goes into a production of a play.

Rebecca Raab  
Sociology  
Faculty Sponsor: Daniel McLane

**Fostering an Alternative Future: Living Sustainably in an Ecovillage**

While ecovillages have historic precedence, the concept has gained increasing popularity and interest around the world. The Global Ecovillage Network defines an ecovillage as, “an intentional or traditional community using local participatory processes to holistically integrate ecological, economic, social, and cultural dimensions of sustainability in order to regenerate social and natural environments.” We are conducting the study to examine ecovillager’s motivation for their residency, challenges, benefits, impact to quality of life, and obstacles to joining an ecovillage. We have compiled a review of existing ecovillage literature, as well as primary research on the ecovillage for this case study. Existing studies on ecovillages are limited, often broad in scope, and few are case studies. We are still in the process of interviewing residents of an ecovillage in Upstate New York. This study is situated at a time where concern for the environment is exceedingly high due to the devastating level of environmental degradation and in a political atmosphere that appears not to be advantageous in this respect. The sustainable community design structure in this ecovillage integrates ecologically sound principles, community sufficient cohousing, and consensus decision-making, offering a lifestyle that contrasts significantly with the conventional practices of living.
Paige Richardson  
Global Studies  
Faculty Sponsor: Jayantha Jayman  

A Discourse of Ethnic Conflict Over Class Struggle in Sri Lanka: Global Implications  

Conflict in Sri Lanka has a long history of being constructed as ethnic conflict. The dominant literature on the topic suggests that conflict is tied to tensions between the Singhalese and Tamil ethnicities. This research argues that conflict in Sri Lanka is a product of modern systems of political economy, thus reflecting phenomena understood via cultural studies. A theoretical framework mixing a number of theorists inspired by Marxism, including Antonio Gramsci and Karl Polanyi, along with Michel Foucault, provides a historically grounded basis for understanding areas of conflict. By analyzing the discourse offered by the dominant literature and comparing it to the material reality of three different time periods—the British imperial era, the post-independence and civil war era, and the contemporary era—this paper will show that conflict is more strongly correlated with class struggle, with ethnic tensions being its product in the 20th century.

Madison Rusch  
Estudios Hispanicos  
Faculty Sponsor: Steven White  

I’ve got a Bad Feeling… A Translation  

For this project, I translated a collection of short stories by Nicaraguan author Arquímedes González, born in 1972, titled Tengo un mal presentimiento. The project consisted of translating the fifty-two short stories contained in the book from Spanish to English, as well as editing the stories and reaching out to have the work published. The stories deal with the theme of tragedies of the human heart, and do so with a sense of dark humor. Many of the stories have shocking endings, or unexpected twists, making the plots and characters memorable to the reader. The writing style is unique, combining pessimism with absurdity, and is part of what makes these short stories such interesting reading. I enjoyed this book both for its shock value and inherent feeling, and also enjoyed the challenge of translating the stories to English while preserving these traits.

Danielle Schwartz  
Tanner Fellow  
Faculty Sponsor: Jane Kring  

Kenya Birth Experience  

During the summer of 2016, I studied abroad in Kenya. There, I spent three weeks with a St. Lawrence University health care program, and one week interning at FREMO, a birthing
clinic in a slum area outside of Nairobi. FREMO is a non-profit clinic whose aim is to empower women. During my time there, I was able to witness prenatal appointments and postpartum checkups, as well as attend a variety of counseling sessions, and assist with vaccinations and live births. By immersing myself in the culture and health care system of this developing country, I gained invaluable hands-on experiences, as well as a new perspective of health care— that is greatly appreciative of various cultures. This work is specifically of interest to me, as someone who is pursuing a career in health care.

Emily Sheltry

History

Faculty Sponsor: Evelyn Jennings

The Impact of British Immigration in Nineteenth Century Valparaiso, Chile

Chile was initially established by Spanish colonizers in the sixteenth century, and had a significantly smaller population than many of its other colonies. Throughout the colonial period, the port of Valparaiso was a small fishing village that meant little to the state politically, economically, or culturally. When the independence fight began however, revolutionary politicians opened some of Chile’s ports to foreign immigration to raise funds for their independence fight. The largest immigrant group to take advantage of Valparaiso’s new economic opportunities was British. As they became increasingly important in the economic growth of the nation, they could exploit this importance to achieve a level of cultural and political freedom unmatched in Chile at the time. They began to create and manipulate municipal services, to protect their businesses and economic ventures. They helped to fund and create Chile’s first police forces and fire-fighting corps, built Protestant cemeteries and Churches even while they were outlawed in the rest of the nation, and had a lasting impact on the physical layout of Valparaiso’s neighborhoods. This presentation will investigate how and why these British immigrants were so effective in achieving their goals within the context of the city, and why their economic strength and influence did not translate into any significant political power within the Chilean nation.

Emily Smith

Philosophy

Faculty Sponsor: Jeffrey Maynes

Embodied Cognition Applied to Trauma Research

One discipline of the Philosophy of Mind, Embodied cognition rests on the concept of cognition being dependent on having sensiromotor experiences. These sensiromotor capabilities are “themselves embedded in a more encompassing biological, psychological and cultural context” (Varela et. al). Essentially, the description of cognition as being embodied asserts that having a physical body with these certain sensorimotor capacities
cannot be separated from cognition itself, and that the environment is part of a larger cognitive mechanism. Embodied cognitivist Margaret Wilson insists “The information flow between mind and world is so dense and continuous that, for scientists studying the nature of cognitive activity, the mind alone is not a meaningful unit of analysis” (Wilson 2). I applied embodied cognition to the current research on trauma and traumatic disorders, and looked at trauma stemming from combat, domestic violence and sexual assault. This research is of interest because examining trauma is important to improve public perception on the complicated nuances that trauma survivors face. The implications of better understanding trauma can improve the lives of survivors of sexual violence and perhaps may help put an end to victim-blaming and secondary victimization. I came to the conclusion that embodied cognition is a much more plausible research strategies into trauma research and trauma literature than any other methodologies of Philosophy of Mind.

Emily Terry
Modern Languages & Literatures
Faculty Sponsor: Eloise Brezault

Le rôle de la France dans le génocide au Rwanda : les enquêtes sur les rôles complices dans la Bande Dessinée

From the beginning of Fall 2016, I have researched the role of France in the 1994 Rwandan Genocide. My honours project is divided in three sections: a historical background of Rwanda, France’s contested Opération Turquoise, and the representations of the French involvement in Rwanda in graphic novels. Over the course of my research, I have analysed six graphic novels written by both French and African authors, with the intentions to find similarities and differences of the narrative of the genocide between each graphic novel and author. Each graphic novel is critical of France’s involvement in the Rwandan genocide, with multiple themes shared amongst the narratives. In addition to a formal written thesis, I am creating a digital narrative to reflect my research on France’s involvement the Rwandan genocide and present images from the graphic novels themselves in order to create a timeline of the genocide in 1994. This project presents a collection of evidence and interpretations into the contested role of France in the genocide and is aimed to interest more people in the 1994 Rwandan genocide through the lens of graphic novelists.
Emily Terry
Tanner Fellow
Faculty Sponsor: Alison Del Rossi

Conservation Heritage – Turambe

In June 2016, I interned for Conservation Heritage-Turambe, a NGO located in Musanze, Rwanda. My duties and responsibilities during the internship included racquet stringing and stringer maintenance, managing CHT’s social media accounts, following up with visitors, donors and partners via email, shadowing studio artists to create water colour paintings and paper mâché masks for fundraising, research and apply for grants in conservation education, and create and teach conservation and health classes in CHT’s afterschool outreach program. My internship with CHT provided me with an opportunity to work with a local NGO that plays a crucial role in education the surrounding communities in order to protect its environment. Throughout my experience, I learned a lot about the conservation of mountain gorillas and how important outreach programs like CHT are in educating local communities about the benefits of protecting the environment and living a healthy, sustainable life in harmony with nature. My Tanner Fellowship experience is reported via a wordpress site that I would like to present at the Festival of Scholarship as an oral presentation. I used a wordpress site to document my experience and present an organized photo essay with pictures I collected during my internship. Sharing my unique experience would be of interest for people looking to learn more about working and living abroad, and those who are interested in conservation education as a potential career of interest.

Anna Travers
Economics
Faculty Sponsor: Bob Blewett

Effective Resource Management as a Means for Ending Poverty Traps

Some of the least developed countries in the world are extremely rich in natural resources, but continue to exhibit low, or no growth despite this. Instead of providing an opportunity for economic development, these natural resources actually cause them to enter a vicious cycle in which poverty begets poverty, otherwise known as a poverty trap. As a capstone to my degree in environmental studies and economics, I have been researching the relationships between natural resource depletion and development to prove my thesis that effective natural resource management is a necessary factor for poverty alleviation.

There are a number of conditions that facilitate this vicious cycle in which poverty begets poverty. It is a result of a failure of the fundamental principles on which the foundation of their economies is built. At the core, dependence on natural resources acts as a driver for
corruption and conflict, as people see opportunity for profit. As the environment is exploited and resources are depleted at increasing rates, the most powerful groups in society are incentivized to take control of resources that are still available. The problem continues when rebellion or violence to regain control of the natural resources becomes the most profitable course of action. Therefore, efficient natural resource management is a necessary component for escaping poverty traps.

This creates a negative compounded effect on the environment; the implication of already unsustainable practices significantly increases as the pool of resources these countries depend on diminishes at increasing rates. In a period of climate change and increasingly global consumption it is increasingly important to deal with this issue.