The 2020 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium Proceedings: Abstract

#Eritrea|n: Making and Contesting Eritrean Political Subjectivity Across the Digital Diaspora
Layla **Al,** 4th-Year, Global Studies, Human Rights
Mentor(s): Dr. Owen Kohl, Anthropology; Dr. Maliha Chishti, Public Policy, The Pearson Institute

As a result of a recent history of colonization, occupation, and dictatorial rule, over a third of Eritreans currently reside outside of their homeland. Scattered across continents, Eritrean people have turned to the Internet to serve as a transnational community for cultural and political connection and identity exploration. The proliferation of news sites, blogs, and social media accounts dedicated to the Eritrean diaspora experience emerging in communities abroad have provided an unprecedented arena for discourse, largely unmitigated by the current regime's censorship efforts. The aim of this study is to investigate the Eritrean diaspora's use of Twitter to understand the role of digital media as a space for alternative political education and participation. My methodology consists of a qualitative analysis of a delimited data set of tweets, focused on the interactions between three popular Eritrean Twitter accounts and their followers. This examination revealed Twitter to serve as a new public in the context of today's globalization and forced migration. Eritreans engage the social media site as a medium for political expression and mass mobilization, largely by centering oppositional counternarratives that have long been suppressed and relegated to the margins by the authoritarian regime of their homeland. This research project endeavors to contribute to the growing study of transnational social media movements across the Global South.

The 2020 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium Proceedings: Abstract

Does Variation in Speech Production Impact Acoustic Cue Weighting in Speech Perception?
Nicholas **Aoki**, 3rd-Year, Linguistics, Statistics
Mentor(s): Dr. Jinghua Ou, Linguistics, Phonology Laboratory; Professor Alan Yu, Linguistics,
Phonology Laboratory

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Language is a central component of the human experience, and we are constantly engaged in both speech perception and production in order to communicate. When we talk, listeners must take the acoustic input as continuous sound waves and categorize the sounds into discrete phonemes, such as /b/ and /p/, that distinguish words from one another. For different sets of phonemes, various acoustic cues enable us to make categorizations, and individual variation has been demonstrated in cue weighting (i.e., how much we prioritize one cue over the other). Despite the extensive research on cue weighting, relatively little is known about the mechanisms underlying its variation. We hypothesize that speech production impacts cue weighting, and this project aims to better understand the underlying mechanisms of this phenomenon. Two phoneme contrasts are studied in this project: /b/ and /p/ as in "back" and "pack" and /i/ and /I/, as in "sleep" and "slip". Both of these contrasts have primary and secondary acoustic cues. Perceptual cue weighting between these cues will be measured via an eye tracking paradigm in which subjects will hear a word containing a sound in one of the relevant contrasts and click on the picture corresponding to the word they hear among a group of pictures. By tracking their eye movement and timing where their eyes move to as they hear the primary and secondary cues in the acoustic signal, we can study how they weight cues. Production data will be obtained when subjects read sentences to the pace of a metronome and stories containing words with the relevant contrasts. Mathematical values for the degree of cue weighting and values for the cue variation in the production data will be calculated. If values from the perception data are correlated with values from the production data, it will indicate that individual variation in speech perception impacts individual variation in cue weighting.

The 2020 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium Proceedings: Abstract

What's In a Name? Effects of Categories Versus Norms on Children's Openness to Unfamiliar Foods

Katherine **Boggs**, 2nd-Year, Psychology
Mentor(s): Dr. Hyesung Grace Hwang, Psychology

The present study tests the impact of labels and norms on children's acceptance of unfamiliar foods. Previous research finds that children are more likely to accept unfamiliar food when it has a label than when it does not. However, from this previous study, it is unclear why labels increase children's acceptance: do labels intrinsically prompt acceptance (the "category" hypothesis) or does acceptance come from labels implying and signaling a culturally constructed norm (the "norm" hypothesis)? This study aims to disambiguate these differing hypotheses by testing children's acceptance of unfamiliar food when it is described with a label but no consensus ("label" condition) versus described with a label and a consensus about the label ("consensus" condition). In the "label" condition, children hear that a group of children did not agree with one child's label for the unfamiliar foods, but in the "consensus" condition, participants hear that the group agreed with the child's label. We find that four- to seven-year-old children are more likely to accept unfamiliar foods in the "consensus" condition than the "label" condition, suggesting that the significance of labels stems principally from the implication of a cultural norm rather than merely the existence of a name for the item.

The 2020 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium Proceedings: Abstract

A Walk In the Park Or a Day at the Mall: The Effects of the Environment on Affect and Impulsivity

Jillian E. **Bowman**, 4th-Year, Psychology
Mentor(s): Professor Marc G. Berman, Psychology; Kathryn E. Schertz, Psychology

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The external physical environment has been shown to have tangible effects on our health, cognitive abilities, and our emotions (Berman et al., 2008; Kaplan, 1995; Thompson et al., 2012). Exposure to nature tends to have salutatory, or beneficial, effects on cognitive performance, while exposure to urban environments does not usually carry these same benefits (Berman et al., 2008, 2012; Kaplan, 1995). This study examined these connections between the environment and emotions. It is likely that a variety of factors of the environment and characteristics of the individual influence the strength of the relationship between the environment and emotion, and the current study investigated one of these factors. The factor investigated here was impulsivity, a measure that describes a person's desire for immediate rewards and general likelihood of acting impulsively. A sample of 101 adults, aged 18 to 39, were taken to two different indoor environments, one urban and one natural. They completed a baseline survey in the lab, and three self-assessment surveys while walking in the two environments, all asking participants to rate to what extent certain adjectives described their current emotional state and impulsivity. The data was analyzed using R. It was hypothesized that spending time in nature would increase the positive affect scores of the participants. This study replicated previously obtained results, demonstrating that time spent in natural environments led to large increases in positive affect, and a very slight decrease in negative affect. Participants' trait impulsivity was shown to be unrelated to the difference in their emotion scores across conditions, and only weakly correlated to their state impulsivity in each environmental condition. These results have the potential to be applied in public health frameworks, and will add to the expanding knowledge base regarding the interplay of the environment and the mind.

The 2020 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium Proceedings: Abstract

Impact of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction on Airway Inflammation in Individuals with Asthma
Estelle **Higgins**, 4th-Year, Psychology & Comparative Human Development
Mentor(s): Dr. Melissa A. Rosenkranz, Psychiatry, Center for Healthy Minds, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Dr. Richard J. Davidson, Psychology, Psychiatry, Center for Healthy Minds, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Professor Greg J. Norman, Psychology

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Asthma is a respiratory disease affecting approximately 10% of the population and imposing significant individual and public health burden. Like other chronic inflammatory diseases, asthma is highly vulnerable to exacerbation by psychological stress and has high comorbidity with affective disorders such as anxiety and depression. Mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR), the leading meditation training in healthcare settings, has been shown to decrease stress, reduce mood and anxiety symptoms, and improve physical symptoms. Given the evidence that MBSR targets both psychological and physiological processes, it has high potential as an intervention in asthma, a disease marked by interactions between psychological and physiological symptoms. Yet, MBSR's ability to impact the pathology in specific clinical populations remains largely unexplored. We investigated the effects of MBSR training on the association between inflammation, chronic stress, and mood and anxiety symptoms in adults with asthma. This project used a subset of data from a multi-visit study of asthmatic adults randomized to an 8-week MBSR training (n = 35) or a wait-list control group (n = 34). Clinically-relevant inflammation markers, including fraction of exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO) and blood and sputum eosinophils (EOS), were collected at baseline and six approximately-monthly follow-ups. Chronic stress was determined at baseline and self-reported asthma control and depressive and anxiety symptoms were assessed over time. Results show that FeNO levels and asthma control improved significantly over time in individuals randomized to MBSR, relative to controls. Furthermore, chronic stress was increasingly associated with higher EOS over time in wait-list controls, but those receiving MBSR training were protected from this effect. Supporting and extending existing evidence, our findings suggest that training in MBSR reduced airway inflammation, improved asthma control, and buffered effects of psychological distress on inflammation. MBSR interventions may thus be a clinically valuable adjunct to asthma treatment.

The 2020 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium Proceedings: Abstract

A View From the Oval Office: Insights From the Presidential Daily Brief, 1961-1977
Sophia **Kierstead**, 4th-Year, Political Science
Lucia **Geng**, 3rd-Year, Political Science
Mentor(s): Professor Austin Carson, Political Science

In 2016, the Central Intelligence Agency completed a special declassification of Presidential Daily Briefs (PDBs) delivered daily from 1961 to 1977. These documents are direct, precise summaries of the most important national security issues across two decades and four American presidencies. PDBs are also rich artifacts that reveal a window into the process of exercising state secrecy. In the past two quarters, we coded key features of each individual PDB and analyzed their textual and graphical content for changes over time. Through this methodological approach, we hope to come to a closer understanding of how states understand and prioritize competing policy challenges abroad, and how the concerns of different American presidents are reflected in their information consumption and learning style. Two particular features of the PDBs show potential: the number and length of redactions and the evolution of maps over time. In this presentation, we will show the implications of the data we have collected on these features to date. Redaction differences may reveal the depth of trust and closeness of the relationship between the President and the Intelligence Community. Changes in map granularity and subject across time, and between country focus, bring to light the evolution of the President and intelligence community's geographic imaginary. Our research is progressing toward a systematic analysis of these patterns using the data we have coded.

The 2020 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium Proceedings: Abstract

Wise Reasoning Project
Yena **Kim**, 3rd-Year, Psychology
Mentor(s): Professor Howard Nusbaum, Psychology, Center for Practical Wisdom; Professor Boaz Keysar, Psychology; Dr. Tamera Schneider; CUNY

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Past research argues that speakers with a Southern American English accent are often described (by Southerners and Northerners) as less cultured and less intelligent than those with accents of other regions, particularly the North. This North-South divide refers to not only the geographical split within the U.S., but also the social, cultural, and language factors which are different depending on the region. Accent perception, in this context, is the ability to be aware of differences in speech production, regardless of there being no physical line, and such preconceptions may influence people's judgments and decision making. Thus, the present study examines how attitudes about Northern- and Southern-accented American English can influence perceptions of profundity in speech, in essence transferring attitudes about speakers to their messages. Participants listen to either pseudo-profound statements consisting of buzzwords randomly organized into statements with syntactic structure but no discernible meaning (e.g., "Perceptual reality transcends subtle truth."); mundane (e.g., "Newborn babies require constant attention") statements; or more conventionally profound (e.g., "A wet person does not fear the rain") statements produced by Northern and Southern speakers (within-subjects). We hypothesize that the propensity to judge statements as more profound when produced by a Northern speaker, as opposed to a Southern speaker, will be associated with the endorsement of social stereotypes associated with each given accent. Our study may shed light on the extent to which social stereotypes may affect our value judgments of speech content.

The 2020 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium Proceedings: Abstract

Oops, I Did It Again: Children's Third Party Evaluations and Perceptions of Apology's Communicative Nature and Recidivist Implications

Abbie **Klein**, 4th-Year, Psychology & Comparative Human Development, Human Rights
Mentor(s): Professor Alex Shaw, Psychology, Center for Early Childhood Development, Developmental Investigations of Behavior and Strategy Laboratory; Benjamin Morris, Center for Early Childhood Development, Developmental Investigations of Behavior and Strategy Laboratory

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Apologies are a linguistic and social tool that are important for the maintenance of social harmony and conflict resolution. Adults understand that apologies serve an expressive function; they should ameliorate negative feelings from the victim and indicate that the perpetrator of a transgression is less likely to offend in the future. Children are taught to apologize early in life, but being able to say "I'm sorry" and recognizing when it should be said are very different from understanding its communicative functions and ability to predict reoffending. Here, (N=60), we examined the inferences that children (aged 4- to -9 years-old) make about those who apologize versus those who fail to do so. Specifically, we told children a story about two children who both independently steal a cookie from a fellow classmate and get caught. Participants are told that after school one of the transgressors goes and directly apologies to the victim, while the other just goes outside to play. Children were then asked to predict who the victim would be angrier at and also who was more likely to reoffend in the future. For both measures, they chose the non-apologizer, recognizing that the apology both was conciliatory (i.e. reduced anger) and also was a tacit agreement not to engage in that behavior in the future. This tendency to pick the apologizer increased with age. This present study extends work on "intuitive jurisprudence," providing evidence that even young children understand that apologies serve an expressive function, communicating meaningful social information.

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Politics in My Good Christian Suburbs: How a Weakened Christian Right Failed to Overcome the Suburban Chicago's 2018 Blue Wave
Ridgley (Ridge) **Knapp**, 4th-Year, Public Policy Studies, Religious Studies
Mentor(s): Dr. Sorcha Brophy, Public Policy Studies; Sol Lee, Public Policy Studies; Professor Curtis J. Evans, Religious Studies

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Since Jerry Falwell's Christian Right broke onto the national stage in the U.S. election of 1980, American politicians and prognosticators have treated the white evangelical community as a powerful bloc of voters and activists. However, the stocks of the Christian Right organizations that are heirs to Falwell's movement have fallen in recent years. This paper examines the ability of Christian Right organizations and white evangelical communities to affect political outcomes in the Chicago suburbs. I draw upon a body of literature focused on evangelical Protestants' high rates of volunteerism and their propensity to support the Republican Party in order to establish an expected high level of political involvement and coordination between more politically-oriented Christian Right organizations and the evangelical community. However, through an analysis of endorsement and fundraising trends, combined with qualitative interviews of clergy and political candidates, I find a reality in the suburbs of Chicago that deviates from this expectation. Though a spirit of civic involvement does exist within the evangelical community, there too exists a dissatisfaction with Christian Right organizations. Coupled with an observed lack of volunteers from said organizations for any but a handful of conservative Christian politicians, these factors reveal a low level of ability of Christian Right organizations to affect political outcomes in their favor. The findings of my suburban case study add another element to the findings of Djupe (2018), who asserted that areas with increased salience of Christian Right organizations may face reduced evangelical growth rates: even in areas of increasing evangelical growth like the Chicago suburbs, perceived extremism from Christian Right organizations may still push those who remain members of the evangelical community away from the Republican Party. Christian Right organizations should therefore pivot to focusing on municipal-level issues or face the potential that Democratic candidates may peel their voters away from the Republican Party base.

The 2020 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium Proceedings: Abstract

Forgiveness: The Effects of Mental Health Diagnostic Labels on Transgressions
Daniel **Labrousse**, 4th-Year, Psychology
Mentor(s): Professor Alex Shaw, Psychology, Developmental Investigations of Behavior and Strategy Lab

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Mental health stigma negatively impacts how people view others with mental health diagnoses, people report being less likely to want to hire or be friends with those who have a mental illness (Batastini, 2017; Link et al., 2003). However, mental health stereotypes are complex and, in some cases, may have positive effects. For example, people may think that those who commit a transgression are less responsible for the transgression if they have been diagnosed with a mental illness. The aim of these studies is to understand how mental health diagnostic labels affect people's judgments about others who commit a transgression. In Study 1 (N = 109), participants read a vignette about a man who commits a crime of vandalism by smashing someone's windshield. They are also told that the man exhibits symptoms consistent with a mental disorder (specifically ADHD: the person is described as "highly impulsive, always out and about.") What differed between conditions is whether the man was said to have been diagnosed with ADHD (Label + Behavior Condition) or not (Behavior Condition). Participants rated whether the person deserved forgiveness and was responsible for the wrongdoing. In line with the idea that psychiatric labels lead to more rehabilitation support and treatments rather than severe punishments (Berryessa, 2018), we predicted that the label made the man seem more forgivable and less responsible for his wrongdoing. The results patterned in line with this prediction, but were only significant for responsibility. Study 2 followed up with modifications of the vignettes and an addition of a pure control condition in which we did not describe the man as having any symptoms associated with ADHD, he was instead described as calm and stable. We replicated and expanded our results from Study 1. Participants in the label+ behavior condition were more likely to forgive the man and thought he was less responsible for his crimes than those in the behavior condition or control condition. Understanding the complexities of mental health stigma guides the next steps in labeling theory research, as well as implications on the relationship between health and criminal justice.

The 2020 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium Proceedings: Abstract

Seeing Green: The Restorative Effect of Natural Environments on Visual Attention
Tanvi **Lakhtakia**, 4th-Year, Psychology & Neuroscience
Mentor(s): Professor Marc G. Berman, Psychology, Environmental Neuroscience Lab; Kathryn (Kate) E. Schertz, Integrative Neuroscience, Environmental Neuroscience Lab

Modern life typically involves high levels of visual attention in the workplace as well as during leisure and routine activities and consequently, visual attention can become depleted and fatigued. According to Attention Restoration Theory (Kaplan, 1995), nature can have a restorative effect on some forms of directed attention. We conducted this study to investigate whether exposure to nature can have a restorative effect on visual attention specifically, using a Change Detection paradigm. In the first study, participants were first shown images of a natural or urban environment, as the Exposure condition. Subsequently, they completed a Change Detection task on either nature or urban images, and were required to identify where a detail in the original image had changed. Thus, the study used a 2x2 between-subject design. The hypothesis was that participants in the Natural exposure condition would have restored visual attention and detect more changes. Conversely, participants in the Urban exposure condition would exhibit change blindness—an inability to detect images— hinting at depleted visual attention. We did not have an a priori hypothesis about whether the environment of the change detection images would influence performance. In the first study (n=200), no significant difference was found between the Nature and Urban exposure conditions and the performance on the detection task [$F(3,196) = 0.113$, $p = 0.953$]. The second study (n=72) modified the Exposure intervention to be Nature or Urban videos instead of images to increase immersiveness. Again, no significant differences were found between the Nature and Urban conditions [$F(3,68) = 2.085$, $p = 0.110$]. This is in line with results from other visual attention paradigms (Stevenson, Schilhab, and Bentson, 2018). Future studies could explore whether more immersive exposure to natural environments are restorative for visual attention.

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Maximum Pressure, Minimal Impact: How Hezbollah Can Survive Without Iran

Geoffrey **LaMear**, 4th-Year, Political Science & Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Mentor(s): Professor Robert Pape, Political Science

Current scholarly thought remains divided on the importance of state sponsorship for the survival of militant groups. The U.S. policymaking also aims to cut the link between armed non-state actors and their state sponsors. This paper examines the role of state sponsorship on militant group survivability through a case study of Iran's sponsorship of Hezbollah. It concludes that the Iran's sponsorship does not explain Hezbollah's rise, and the improvement in Hezbollah's military capability is better explained by the group's increased community embeddedness since the 1990's. This analysis further demonstrates that the Iranian sponsorship confers a substitutable benefit to Hezbollah. Through an examination of Hezbollah's previously documented revenue streams, this analysis also shows how Hezbollah would fare in the wake of a hypothetical lapse in Iranian sponsorship. Drawing from Lebanese electoral data, open-source information from Hezbollah, and U.S. and Israeli estimates of Hezbollah's arsenal, I conclude that Hezbollah would be able to sustain a conventional force with capabilities at its 2006 levels even absent Iranian support.

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When the Going Gets Tough: Investigating Childhood Academic Resilience through Expressive Writing
Samuela **Mouzaoir**, 4th-Year, Psychology & Comparative Human Development, Education & Society
Mentor(s): Professor Lindsey Richland, School of Education, University of California Irvine; Almaz Mesghina, Comparative Human Development

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Academic resilience (AR) is defined as a student's likelihood of success despite significant classroom adversity, such as the stress of high-stakes assessments. While some measures of AR exist, none have analyzed students' own narratives as a means of identifying patterns of resilience in classroom settings. Additionally, little research exists linking patterns of AR to children's performance on classroom assessments or their motivation to perform well in class (their goal orientation). Here, I analyze AR in the emotional narratives of 163 10-12-year-old students. Students were asked to expressively free-write about their feelings prior to a stressful mathematics lesson. I report on a novel coding scheme I developed to identify patterns of resilient thinking within students' own emotional narratives. Future analyses will explore relations between AR, students' self-reported goal orientations, and learning from the mathematics lesson. This project has significant implications for the assessment of children's AR, as many assessment measures lack the attention to emotional processing that is inherent to the expressive writing-based scale created here. By developing a wholistic coding scheme, this investigation provides a multifaceted understanding of AR and creates a framework for future inquiry into the mechanisms underlying its development.

The 2020 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium Proceedings: Abstract

Decision Making for Children Higher Education: Understanding the Effect of Chicago Neighborhood Residence in Relation to Decision Making Processes about Children's Higher Education
Rimsha **Nazeer**, 4th-Year, Economics & Public Policy
Mentor(s): Samantha Steinmetz, School of Social Service Administration

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Many behavioral economics studies seek evidence-driven research to devise ways individuals can improve their decision-making. In the City of Chicago, research on the relationship between neighborhood residence and postsecondary enrollment rates, focused specifically on the culture and environment of each neighborhood, is a novel approach. Prior literature indicates that primarily low-income status, household income, and race identity factor into these results, but no effect alone is strong enough to explain how the culture of a neighborhood can lead to low college enrollment rates. Further research, especially at a local level like within the South Side of Chicago provides a deeper understanding as to how residence in a neighborhood affects a student's likelihood to enroll in a postsecondary opportunity. Moreover, this can ultimately help improve college enrollment rates for Chicago Public School (CPS) students, a challenging issue for all public high schools in the city. Through an analysis of neighborhood characteristics such as walkability, crime rate, household income, and CPS public data about current higher education enrollment rates, this paper explores why three neighborhoods in Chicago—Kenwood, Washington Park, and Woodlawn—have varying college enrollment rates for students, and what the possible underlying explanations are for these low rates in the context of neighborhood's social culture and environment. This paper finds that neighborhood residence does relate to how people view and proceed with the possibility of college, and that criminal activity may be the issue that is most connected to low college enrollment rates. Following this, the city should be aware that not all neighborhoods are the same; some require different treatment in terms of budgeting, prioritization, and resources for students beyond high school graduation in order for the South Side and CPS overall to achieve a more successful higher education attainment rate for future generations.

The 2020 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium Proceedings: Abstract

Theorizing American "Naming and Shaming" of NATO Allies
Giácomo **Ramos**, 2nd-Year, Political Science & Anthropology
Mentor(s): Professor Rochelle Terman, Political Science

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The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an asymmetric international alliance constituted of states that have different levels of economic and military strength. This asymmetry creates challenges regarding the burden-sharing of protection spending, since weaker members contribute proportionately less than larger and wealthier allies, a practice called "free riding." However, all allies benefit from their participation in NATO. While minor powers receive protection, major allies enhance their power projection. In this way, since a minor ally is aware of its fundamental importance for the major ally's effective power projection, the minor partner pays little heed to the demands of the major partner to increase defense spending. Moreover, the major power knows that its demands will be largely ignored. Nevertheless, American presidents, who represent a major power — the United States — consistently complain about free-riding allies. As such, we ask why such "naming and shaming" is continually made despite its ineffectiveness to induce change in burden-sharing. By analyzing presidential speeches, letters, and other primary sources concerning NATO, we identify the American presidents' sentiment toward allies' material contributions to NATO-related operations. Through this qualitative assessment, we catalogue positive, ambiguous, and negative sentiments. With these data, we then conduct quantitative analyses to understand the causes and impacts of American naming and shaming practices in NATO. We argue that negative statements toward allies' defense spending, while irrelevant to the allies, are relevant to the American presidents. The general narrative in complaints is that the minor partner is spending too much on "butter" at home (e.g., in social welfare programs) and not enough on "guns." Such statements necessarily imply that the United States is being forced to spend too much on "guns" to protect the allies, thereby undercutting its own ability to enjoy "butter." This message should resonate not with the ally, but with the American domestic public. In this way, our goal is to demonstrate that the American spending on NATO protection provides a useful rhetorical device for the American president to make excuses for a lack of adequate expenditure on welfare-oriented domestic public goods.

The 2020 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium Proceedings: Abstract

Democracy in the Age of Plutocracy and Pluralism
Emily **Salamanca**, 4th-Year, Political Science & Romance Languages and Literatures (Italian)
Mentor(s): Professor John P. McCormick, Political Science

Today, most Machiavellian scholars read Niccolò Machiavelli as a political theorist who endorses a "wide" structure of government that incorporates the people (*il popolo*) to a "narrow" government made up only of members of the elite (*i grandi*). However, existing literature has been divided over whether Machiavelli endorses the "Classical republican" model of government, *i.e.* endorsing a governing structure that appropriates the best elements of democracy, aristocracy, and monarchy; or, if he instead endorses a more revolutionary, class-conscious democracy, a system designed to protect and empower *il popolo* from/against the wrath of *i grandi*. Although scholars thus far have thoroughly analyzed the republican nature of Machiavelli's advised principalities, none have rigorously theorized the institutional undergirdings of the aristocracy–and the implications thereof–within these regimes. This research, instead, centers on, and points out, that Machiavelli introduces lessons not only about how a "virtuous prince," ought to take charge of a new polity, but also how he must subsequently implement and uphold broad, lasting, and reliable institutions of political access that incorporate all social classes of the prince's constituency. Through a critical analysis of *The Prince, Florentine Histories, The Discourses on Livy* and Machiavelli's first- hand political texts, including Titus Livy's *Ab Urbe Condita*, this project examines the institutions prescribed by Machiavelli for princes to establish in order to stabilize their tenure and to ensure the well-being of their polity. Moreover, to more broadly trace the historical theories of institutionalized oligarchy, as they were transmitted from the classical sources to society today, I compare historically-distant political texts–from Latin manuscripts to contemporary populist models–and see how they match onto Machiavelli's own anti-elitist political framework. In doing so, I hope not only to understand how elites take advantage of, and become enmeshed in, democratic systems, but also how the people themselves, as theorized by Machiavelli and beyond, can achieve self-government, political freedom, and base economic equality, despite the presence of oligarchic elites. Through this research, I both expand current conceptions of Machiavellian political thought, and explore how political institutions can regulate the behaviors of oligarchs who have accumulated undue socioeconomic influence.

The 2020 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium Proceedings: Abstract

Mapping the Politics of the New Global South
Neeraj **Sharma**, 2nd-Year, Economics Major, Quantitative Social Analysis
Mentor(s): Professor Mark Bradley, History, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights

In 1981, the Brandt Report on International Development used the term 'global south' in lieu of 'third world' to refer to economically developing nations. Despite the deliberate intention of the United Nations to use a term divorced from the post-Cold War politics, contemporary scholarship on the Global South era of development generally views it as a continuation of the Third World era and has done little to explore avenues of differentiation between these two time periods. We identify a break between the Global South and Third World eras of development by analyzing three investigative themes: linguistic rifts, changes in methodologies used to quantify development, and the evolution of subject and form in political art. The project is currently in an intermediate stage of analysis on linguistic rifts. Thus far, we have identified distinct changes in the vocabulary used by world leaders to describe development between 1970 and the present-day using TF-IDF analysis. The clusters of words used in speeches surrounding keywords like 'govern,' 'develop,' 'capable,' and others broadly shift in tone and valence as time progresses, providing strong support of the changing attitudes of those in positions of power. Tracking the evolution of the auxiliary vocabulary modifying these keywords provides insight into the intention and values of countries. Going forward, we will further observe this rupture between the 'Third World era' and the 'Global South era' through additional affective analysis.

The 2020 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium Proceedings: Abstract

The Potentials of Altruism in Children: Children's Willingness to Place Themselves in Harm's Way for the Sake of Others

Margaret **Wolfson**, 3rd-Year, Psychology, English and Creative Writing
Mentor(s): Professor Fan Yang, Psychology

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In today's interconnected world, we often find ourselves confronted by the needs and goals of other individuals and groups. Developmental research has shown that children are equipped with basic moral foundations to facilitate prosocial behavior from a young age, both for helping other individuals (Warneken & Tomasello, 2006) and for helping the groups they are in (Yang, Choi, Misch, Yang, & Dunham, 2018). What remains to be investigated systematically, however, is to what extent children are willing to benefit themselves, other individuals, or their group by enduring harm to themselves. Previous research has found that adults are unwilling to harm themselves in order to benefit other individuals (Volz, Welborn, Gobel, Gazzaniga, & Grafton, 2007). It is unknown whether children will display similar tendencies, and whether they would be more or less likely to benefit their group compared to other individuals. In our study, children will participate in three conditions (*Self, Individual, Group*). Each condition involves harm in the form of an annoying noise and a benefit to different targets in the form of a medal. Children are told that the longer they are willing to listen to the unpleasant noise, the bigger and nicer the medal will be for the self *(Self condition)*, the other individual (*Individual condition*), or the group (*Group condition*). We will measure how long children are willing to listen to the unpleasant noise on a 4-point scale (1= very short, 4= very long). We expect that similar to adults, children may tolerate the noise to a lesser extent for the *Individual* condition than for the *Self* condition, avoiding harming themselves to benefit another individual (target *N*=64, 4-9-year- olds, data collection ongoing). We do not have strong predictions about whether children may be more or less altruistic in the *Group* condition than the *Individual* or *Self* condition. We will also examine potential age differences to see if children's altruistic tendencies increase over time. These results will help illuminate how children value the self in comparison to another individual and a group, thus revealing the roots and nature of altruism, as well as have implications for promoting the common good.