



Young Historians Conference 2023 Winners: Amelia Nason, Poppy Baxter Game, Andy Manne

34th Annual Young Historians Conference

**Sponsored by:
Portland State University's
History Department
& the Challenge Program
May 3rd, 2024**



Young Historians 2024 Schedule

9:00 – 9:20	INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME
9:20 – 10:30	FIRST SESSIONS
10:30 – 10:40	BREAK
10:40 – 11:50	SECOND SESSIONS
11:50 – 12:30	LUNCH
12:30 – 1:45	THIRD SESSIONS
1:45 – 2:15	AWARDS CEREMONY

9:00 – 9:20 **INTRODUCTION:** John S. Ott, Chair and Professor of History SMSU 355
WELCOME: President Ann E. Cudd, PhD

9:20 – 10:30 **FIRST SESSIONS:** Choose from Three

SMSU 338: **Violent Intolerance and Modern Memory**
Moderator: *Professor Patricia Schechter*

Julian Balsley
Grant Identity in Question: Middle Eastern Americans in Dearborn, Michigan

Ada Camp
St. Mary's Fragments of a Dream: Armenia and the Shadow of Genocide

Elliot Lindekugel
Grant Confederate Flight to Brazil: A Uniquely Transnational Perspective of Confederate Memory

SMSU 328-29: **Keeping Up Appearances**
Moderator: *Professor Catherine McNeur*

Jordan Donegan
St. Mary's The Double Standard of Victorian Beauty: Was Too Much Makeup Too Little, Or Was Too Little Makeup Too much?

Kai Williams
St. Mary's The Freedom and Danger of Crinoline

Adrienne Nguyen
St. Mary's Saucer Eyes and Square Foreheads: Examining the Pseudoscience Phrenology and Its Popularity in 19th Century Europe

SMSU 327: **Hidden Histories during WWII**
Moderator: *Professor Richard Beyler*

Jenna McComas
St. Mary's The Cambridge Five Spy Ring: The Notorious Bane of the British Government

Lia Hansen
St. Mary's A Matter of Ultra Importance: How Ultra's Decryption of Enigma Impacted the Outcome of World War II

Lea Yonago
Grant A History of The Bracero Program as an Agent of Transnational Modernity in the 20th Century

10:30 – 10:40 **BREAK**

10:40 – 11:50 **SECOND SESSIONS:** Choose from three

SMSU 338	Preserving the Past through Contemporary Beliefs Moderator: <i>Professor John S. Ott</i>
Maia Lippay St. Mary's	Marshlands and Monasteries: The Impact of Weapon Deposition on Medieval British Christianity
Audrey Kelley-Henroid Grant	Marcus Aurelius' <i>Meditations</i> and Its Interpretation with Christian Contemporary Thought
Diego Hernandez Grant	<i>The Popol Vuh</i> : Ancient Poems in a Contemporary World

SMSU 328-29: Money Makes the World Go Around
Moderator: *Professor Marc Rodriguez*

Katelyn Crowell Grant	Ceremonial Sexual Sacrifice to Commercial Prostitution: The History of Prostitution and the Social, Economic, and Religious Progress That Revolved Around the Profession
Caden Williams Grant	From Dice to Cards: Unveiling the Evolution of Gambling Through the Ages
Adelle Baptiste St. Mary's	Mosley's Miscalculations: A Corrupt Sporting President's Last Years of Chaos Within the World's Wealthiest Motorsport

SMSU 327: Imagining the Ideal
Moderator: *Professor Thomas Lockett*

Finley Irwin Grant	Thomas More's <i>Utopia</i> : Historical Value and Modern Influence
Nyilah Ali Moyo St. Mary's	A Melting Pot of Culture: The Impact of Toledo's Interreligious Community on Mudéjar Architecture
Anna Roberts Grant	The Influence of Plato's <i>Symposium</i> : Love and Beauty Throughout Media & Culture

11:50 – 12:30 **LUNCH** SMSU 355 (Ballroom)

12:30 – 1:45 **THIRD SESSIONS:** Choose from four

SMSU 338:	Nationalism through the Arts Moderator: <i>Dr. Brenda Frink</i>
Ellia Sheller St. Mary's	Inventing The Louvre - Napoleon's Art Plunder as A Symbol of French Nationalism and Cultural Superiority
Colette Reindl St. Mary's	The Brothers Grimm: Preserving Nationalism and the German Cultural Identity in German Folk Tales
Eliana Scheele St. Mary's	One Ring to Rule Them All: Connecting Johann Herder's Romantic Nationalism & Richard Wagner's "The Ring"
Ricky Kamenetz Grant	Indoctrination & Education: Plato's <i>Republic</i> and the Power of Censorship

SMSU 328-29:	Exploring Global Cultural Identities Moderator: <i>Professor Bright Alozie</i>
Amelia Vena Grant	Immigrant Identity Formation, a Transnational Approach: Italian Americans in New York City, 1880-1930
Ramona Sapru Henderson St. Mary's	Political Movement Through Cultural Identity: Lessons from the <i>Présence Africaine</i>
Kainat Kaur Deo St. Mary's	Manifestation Through Martyrdom: How the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Invigorated Indian Resistance to Colonial Oppression
SMSU 327:	Identity through Conflict Moderator: <i>Professor Jennifer Kerns</i>
Maya Geer St. Mary's	The Unheard Voices of Women in Convents: A Different Perspective on the Thirty Years War
Willa Fahrback St. Mary's	Faithful Coverage: The <i>Irish Independent's</i> Catholic Transformation of the Spanish Civil War
Jake McCauley Grant	<i>Priscus at the Court of Attila</i> : Unveiling Hunnic Dynamics
SMSU 333:	Cross Cultural Narratives Moderator: <i>Professor David Horowitz</i>
Naomi Hemstreet Grant	Jewish Immigrants in Argentina: The Bund as a Transnational Connection
Malina Yuen Grant	Homecoming or Homeless: An Exploration of the Ethno-National Identities of Japanese-Brazilian <i>Dekasseguis</i>
Jascha Stern Grant	"The Tin Pan-tithesis of melody": A Socio-Musical History of Eastern European Jews in New York 1880-1920

1:45 – 2:15	AWARDS CEREMONY Professor Jennifer Kerns, Department of History Joy Beckett, Challenge Program Director	SMSU 355 (Ballroom)
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ABSTRACTS

9:20 – 10:30
SMSU 338

FIRST SESSIONS
Violent Intolerance and Modern Memory
Moderator: Professor Patricia Schechter

Identity in Question: Middle Eastern Americans in Dearborn, Michigan

In the 2020 United States Census, fifty-four percent of the population of Dearborn, Michigan, identified as being of Middle Eastern or North African descent. The story of how a small Detroit suburb became the American city with the largest proportion of Middle Eastern citizens is one of transnational relations between the United States, its ally Israel, and the Middle East. The city's Arab-American community grew out of continuous wars that pushed people out of their homelands throughout the second half of the twentieth century, as well as the rise of the American auto industry. What makes Dearborn unique is that its established Arab-American community acts as a centripetal force, both because living in a place with many people of similar ethnic heritage softens the dislocation of immigration, and because strong ties between Dearborn and the Middle East—through remittances, phone calls, and travel—help new immigrants find jobs and settle into their new lives even more quickly than someone in a place with many similar people but no connections. These extended kin networks existing within Dearborn and between Dearborn and the Middle East have created a feeling that all the Arab communities in Dearborn—primarily Lebanese, Palestinian, Iraqi, and Yemeni—are a single transnational pan-Arab people under attack by the United States and Israel, in their host country and homeland. The strong cultural heritage present in Dearborn has influenced the way its Middle Eastern residents choose to assimilate into the dominant white Christian culture—often in an attempt to avoid Islamophobic discrimination—or to assert their cultural and religious heritage and celebrate differences.

Julian Balsley, Grant High School

Fragments of a Dream: Armenia and the Shadow of Genocide

Amidst the shadows of the war in Ukraine, in September of 2023, Azerbaijan's military advancement into an ethnic Armenian enclave called Nagorno-Karabakh ended a thirty-year conflict in just one violent day. The next morning, hundreds of thousands of Armenians fled, fearing ethnic cleansing and retaliatory killings. While the more recent history of this conflict is tied to the fall of the Soviet Union, Armenia and Azerbaijan's disagreements have lasted for generations. The threat of ethnic violence and forced migration is not new to the Armenian people, and unfortunately still remains relevant. This paper deals not only with questions of territorial integrity and national self-determination, but also difference: in religion, culture, and language. This largely forgotten clash, over a territory barely 1700 square miles in total, between two countries who are intertwined with the world's global powers, is one with huge international implications, making it one that cannot be ignored.

Ada Camp, St. Mary's Academy

Confederate Flight to Brazil: A Uniquely Transnational Perspective of Confederate Memory

The American Civil War has a fraught history that continues to prevail today. One aspect of its memory is the towns of Americana and Santa Barbara d'Oeste in São Paulo, Brazil. The towns were founded and populated by Confederate veterans following the Civil War, hoping to continue their ways of life in a welcoming country. Through the observation of primary sources from the original colonist enslavers and their descendants, parallels and discoveries can be found in the commemoration of the Confederacy in the United States transnationally. Cultural ties were both forgotten and strengthened throughout the nineteenth century as communication and transportation technologies progressed, leaving a unique cultural landscape. The glamourization of a false history has been largely reckoned with in the United States but overseas the discourse has lacked cultural relevance. Looking at transnational historiographies can give a broader scope to United States history, more accurately displaying its legacies.

Elliot Lindekugel, Grant High School

9:20 – 10:30
SMSU 328-229

FIRST SESSIONS
Keeping Up Appearances
Moderator: *Professor Catherine McNeur*

The Double Standard of Victorian Beauty: Was Too Much Makeup Too Little, Or Was Too Little Makeup Too much?

Makeup has been seen throughout history as a global component of ideas of beauty. From blushes, powders, and lip tints, it has been consistently used to enhance a person's facial features and to conform to societal beauty standards. However, during the Victorian era in England, beauty standards and societal expectations around makeup were contradictory, creating a double standard around the use of makeup. In particular, this applied to women of the upper class, who were viewed as a reflection of family wealth and social status. On one hand, large amounts of makeup were typically only used by actors and prostitutes, members of the lower class. A woman of the upper class surely did not want to appear as though they were associated with prostitution or being an actress. On the other hand, Victorian beauty standards for upper-class women valued a pale complexion, as it emphasized their class privilege freed them from the need to engage in manual labor. This ultimately left women of the upper class with the dilemma of whether or not to use cosmetics, along with the potential negative health and reputation consequences.

Jordan Donegan, St. Mary's Academy

The Freedom and Danger of Crinoline

"Hoop skirt" is a broad term encompassing many underskirt garments changing the shape of the skirt. Crinoline is often used interchangeably, but such use is incorrect. Crinoline is a specific design of hoop skirt. The developments of other forms of hoop skirts, such as farthingales and panniers led to the crinoline. The crinoline then led to more garments that fall under the term of "hoop skirt", such as the crinolette and bustles. Just as women's fashion today is debated as to the balance between the freedoms it offers and the "scandalous" nature of it, crinoline was debated when it was popular. The garment broke down class barriers and offered freedoms to women that were unavailable prior to its invention.

Kai Williams, St. Mary's Academy

Saucer Eyes and Square Foreheads: Examining the Pseudoscience Phrenology and Its Popularity in 19th Century Europe

Phrenology claims that a person's character can be judged by the shape of their head. Developed in the 19th century by Franz Joseph Gall, the reasoning behind his conclusion has many flaws. However, its reverence in Western Europe at the time portrays the shift brought by Enlightenment, from archaic religious ideals to new, exciting scientific discoveries. Franz Joseph Gall, a man blacklisted by the Church, leading a Western European science tour with macabre props, was the perfect person to represent the changing times. Soon enough, Gall had a fan club, merchandise, and media controversies to pair with his extreme generalizations and dismissal of any opposition. This paper examines the fallacies in Gall's research and the positive reception of his flawed research as a result of the popularization of Enlightenment ideas, specifically secularism and scientific exploration.

Adrienne Nguyen, St. Mary's Academy

9:20 – 10:30
SMSU 327

FIRST SESSIONS
Hidden Histories during WWII
Moderator: *Professor Richard Beyler*

The Cambridge Five Spy Ring: The Notorious Bane of the British Government

Beginning with the communist recruitment of Kim Philby in 1934, this paper traces the decades-long espionage journey of the notorious Cambridge Five. This spy ring had expansive reach, from the halls of the British government, to Washington D.C, and ultimately, the pages of the press. This paper explores the extreme influence that British governmental incompetence had in enabling the communist endeavors of the Five. This paper examines how British incompetence had them provide a helping hand in their own humiliation at the hands of the press, increase avoidable tension with their American allies, and ultimately elevate Soviet espionage by baring the incompetence of their own.

Jenna McComas, St. Mary's Academy

A Matter of Ultra Importance: How Ultra's Decryption of Enigma Impacted the Outcome of World War II

During World War II, one of the most prominent unsung heroes were the Allied codebreakers of Ultra who, under the thick blanket of absolute secrecy, worked tirelessly throughout the war to decrypt the German Enigma cipher. Efforts to break the Enigma cipher were underway since the beginning of the war but yielded little success until 1943 and Alan Turing's Bombe. After this point, Allied forces were able to more effectively combat Axis forces, especially German U-boats in the Atlantic Ocean, while keeping the whole operation under wraps to avoid suspicion and changing of the code. This paper explores how Ultra's efforts were a key part of the Allies's overall victory in the war, due to their effects on Allied performance in the later years of the Battle of the Atlantic.

Lia Hansen, St. Mary's Academy

A History of The Bracero Program as an Agent of Transnational Modernity in the 20th Century

The Bracero Program was an agreement devised between Mexico and the United States which provided a state-sanctioned avenue for Mexican men to work as contract laborers in the United States. It was originally intended to alleviate the World War II labor shortage in the United States, but would continue past the war until 1964. Its longevity was a result of the central role it played in bringing both Mexico and the United States into a modern, transnational relationship. I aim to examine the relationship between the two nations in two contexts: an historical-economic one, and an ethnographic one. These two lenses are two sides of the same coin, in that they are both ways of viewing the change that modernity and transnationalism brought to Mexico and America.

Lea Yonago, Grant High School

10:40 – 11:50
SMSU 338

SECOND SESSIONS

Preserving the Past through Contemporary Beliefs

Moderator: *Professor and Chair of History John S. Ott*

Marshlands and Monasteries: The Impact of Weapon Deposition on Medieval British Christianity

This paper, using proven archeological evidence, time-specific literature, and references on monastic life, local tradition, and social concepts of mythology, draws a clear connection between the prevalent European Iron Age practice of ritual votive and weapon deposition into bodies of water and the state of Christianity in middle ages Great Britain. The ceremonial county of Lincolnshire, particularly the Witham Valley, is featured heavily for its high concentration of deposition and monastic sites in a verifiably close distance of each other. The paper explores the possibility that the existence of these pre-Christian ritual sites remained relevant throughout the Roman period through the practice of syncretization, and eventually became intrinsically associated with the land, until the construction of monasteries and the determination of land use during the middle ages was affected by the spiritual connotations the ritual-associated land maintained. The second half of the paper focuses on selected writings of the Christian era that featured weapon deposition as well as prominent plot elements that suggested a non-Christian influence as evidence that these practices remained relevant enough in the consciousness to be worthy of inclusion in works such as the Arthurian Cycles and several Old English poems. Through an analysis of these literary works, the archeological and geographical make-up of the monastic landscape, and the cultural contexts of both medieval and pre-Roman Britain, this paper argues that ritual deposition was a spiritually and socially significant aspect of Britain's history that had an observable impact on the religion, ritual, literature, and local lore of the British middle ages.

Maia Lippay, St. Mary's Academy

Marcus Aurelius' *Meditations* and Its Interpretation with Christian Contemporary Thought

Often regarded as one of the key Stoic works, Marcus Aurelius' *Meditations* is a demonstration of the importance of self-reflection and Stoic ideals. His life was one of war and turmoil that influenced his possibly autobiographical writings over the years during his time campaigning during the Marcomannic wars. Since his death, the manuscripts remaining have been altered and interpreted in various ways. I speculate that *Meditations* being framed in the Christian lens is one of the most significant ways it's relevant today as it demonstrates the way contemporary ideas are imprinted onto classical work. Translators and readers of *Meditations* such as Wilhelm Xylander and Meric Casaubon understood Marcus' ideas with a Christian lens in the era of Scholasticism where ancient text was interpreted through the lens of Christianity as a way to attempt to reconcile theology with ancient philosophy. Additionally, Neostoicism, the emergence of Stoicism during the Enlightenment has been intertwined with Christian ideals. Alongside Christianity, historians also speculate that Marcus' writing is an early example of the understanding of self and individualism that came from the late Roman and Greek era of the city-state. *Meditations* is also a demonstration of the human understanding of the unity of the world and the relationship people have with others, which can be seen in the connection between ancient philosophy and modern theology.

Audrey Kelley-Henroid, Grant High School

The Popol Vuh: Ancient Poems in a Contemporary World

The *Popol Vuh* is a text of immense importance from historical and literary perspectives. The Quiche story of creation provides considerable insight into how the Quiche language and stories were orally and literarily adapted to resemble a myth and history of people lost to time. This essay discusses the effect of literary translation of the text into a multitude of languages that altered the meaning of the ancient texts. This coupled with the comparison of differences in language vernaculars between Mesoamerican and European cultures played a significant role in altering the socio and psychological takeaway of the mythical poems. The essay discusses these factors using many perspectives (psychological, literary, scientific, historical) to adequately analyze the significance of the text both in the past and present eras. The essay's goal is to use alternative perspectives to look at how the interpretation of the text has shifted based on the translation of the text.

Diego Hernandez, Grant High School

**10:40 – 11:50
SMSU 328-29**

SECOND SESSIONS

Money Makes the World Go Round

Moderator: *Professor Marc Rodriguez*

Ceremonial Sexual Sacrifice to Commercial Prostitution: The History of Prostitution and the Social, Economic, and Religious Progress That Revolved Around the Profession

From its believed origin in Ancient Mesopotamia, prostitution has not only survived but is a profession that has continued to play a culturally defining role through the centuries. While its initial emergence was through an act of religious ritual and sacrifice, it transformed into a commercial profession. Prostitution, despite it becoming a representation of sexual deviance, not only persevered but thrived across vast regions, cultures, and time periods. The profession's social 'taboo' and the forbiddenness of being associated with the institution has carried forward through time and across varying societal constructs, the attempts to hide or extinguish prostitution has never universally been successful. Patriarchal principles, economic realities, and religious and geographical standards provided the cementation of prostitution as a prosperous commercial landmark throughout history.

My study of the historical and societal importance of prostitution spans large periods of time and vast differences in cultures to highlight its evolution and provide insights into how it defines prostitution today. Through a detailed analysis of Ancient Mesopotamia, Ancient India, and Medieval Mediterranean Port Cities, the historical commonalities paint a clear picture of our current perceptions of prostitution. While the studies that have been conducted on such topics and places can draw a variety of conclusions, I highlight in the details to ensure descriptions that still include details and specifics. I used the common denominators found within my research to give the best scope of all periods of analysis and used these commonalities to draw answers about prostitution and the topics surrounding it.

Katelyn Crowell, Grant High School

From Dice to Cards: Unveiling the Evolution of Gambling Through the Ages

Gambling's global history offers valuable insights into humanity's evolution, serving as a unit of analysis for historical study. In Mesopotamia, it reflected survival-focused societies, predominantly among the poor. Rome integrated gambling into its culture for competition and spiritual exploration. Over time, Italy saw a transition to entertainment-driven gambling among the affluent. Australia's gambling industry burgeoned, diverging from Italy's social model. In the U.S., gambling is primarily economic, with online platforms rising in prominence. Despite variations, common themes persist, illuminating humanity's trajectory from survival to a planetary species. Gambling's multifaceted history provides a lens to comprehend human evolution.

Caden Williams, Grant High School

Mosley's Miscalculations: A Corrupt Sporting President's Last Years of Chaos Within the World's Wealthiest Motorsport

Formula 1 has been the highest form of open-wheeled motorsport for over seventy years, producing spectacle, excitement, and scandal. But there was never more scandal than in the last three years of Max Mosely's reign as president of the sport's governing body—the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA). This paper seeks to examine how Mosely allowed the mismanagement of scandals during his tenure, and even contributed to the lack of justice in the punishment dealt out after said scandals; as well as showcasing the inherent bias towards decisions that would serve his ideals and hopes for the sport.

Adelle Baptiste, St. Mary's Academy

**10:40 – 11:50
SMSU 327**

SECOND SESSIONS

Imagining the Ideal

Moderator: Professor Thomas Lockett

Thomas More's *Utopia*: Historical Value and Modern Influence

Thomas More's *Utopia* is a complex work, with several highly debated theories as to its purpose and true meaning. While many historians are plagued with this debate of whether More's *Utopia* was genuine, satirical, or both, this paper discusses the social conditions that More depicts in his writing, and how those ideas permeate society today. Societal topics including work and leisure as well as religion are ideas heavily discussed in *Utopia*, but rarely studied. This paper analyzes the immediate and long term impacts that More's ideas have caused, and the presence of his ideas throughout the world at the time of *Utopia*'s publication and thereafter. Territorial expansion via piracy, the demand for utopian literature in Russia, ancient Chinese utopian writing including Peach Blossom Spring, and vibrant genres of utopian film showcase the everpresent utopian ideas that endure today, half a century after *Utopia* was first published.

Finley Irwin, Grant High School

A Melting Pot of Culture: The Impact of Toledo's Interreligious Community on Mudéjar Architecture

The paper "History of Tolerance and Coexistence: The Influence of Mudéjar Architecture on the Cultural Heritage of Toledo, Spain" explores Toledo's religious cohabitation and the influence of Mudéjar architecture on the city's cultural heritage. Toledo's historical transformation from its Roman and Visigothic periods to the Islamic rule under the Umayyad Caliphate showcases the collaborative exchange of ideas and artistic traditions among Muslim, Jewish, and Christian scholars and artisans. It highlights the significance of Mudéjar architecture as a testament to cultural fusion and tolerance and discusses the challenges faced during the post-Christian reconquest period. The paper presents Toledo's Mudéjar architecture as a symbol of tolerance, unity, and cultural richness.

Nyilah Ali Moyo, St. Mary's Academy

The Influence of Plato's *Symposium*: Love and Beauty Throughout Media & Culture

The Ancient Greek philosopher Plato is unquestionably one of the most influential writers of philosophy in history. Through his various writings and works, Plato influenced the entire world's ways of thinking and discussion. In his dialogue *The Symposium*, Plato explores the humanistic complexities of love, beauty, and desire and shows various approaches to these topics, from mythological ideas to complex philosophical thought. *The Symposium* has managed to stretch far beyond the world of ancient Greece and has influenced the works of many different authors, artists, and writers. From Shakespeare in Renaissance-era England, to Freudian thought, the idea of Platonic Love, and to German artists of the 19th Century, the influence of the dialogue is one that is impossible to ignore.

Anna Roberts, Grant High School

12:30 – 1:45
SMSU 338

THIRD SESSIONS
Nationalism through the Arts
Moderator: Dr. Brenda Frink

Inventing The Louvre - Napoleon's Art Plunder as A Symbol of French Nationalism and Cultural Superiority

Today, few know that the world's most renowned museum was once an infamous collection of stolen art. The Louvre, located in Paris, France, was built on the plunder of commander and emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. Between the years of 1643 and 1805, the Louvre had been little more than an abandoned castle filled with squatters, with grand plans for a future museum passed down through the French Revolution, before the project was assigned to Napoleon. Under his supervision, the Louvre would flourish and become the world's largest public art museum, a pioneer in its field, and grow into what is today the world's most famous museum. But it would also serve a political agenda: promoting French nationalist and cultural superiority.

Ellia Sheller, St. Mary's Academy

The Brothers Grimm: Preserving Nationalism and the German Cultural Identity in German Folk Tales

In the 18th Century, Germany as it is known today did not exist. The land was only a small piece of an ancient regime: The Holy Roman Empire. Imposition of French rule under Napoleon's Grand Empire was the breaking point for Germanic peoples. A cultural nationalistic movement began taking root, paving the way for the unification of Germany as its own individual country. The effort to define a unique German culture is exemplified through the works of the popular Brothers Grimm—German writers who undertook the mission of gathering and publishing nearly one hundred traditional German folk tales. These folk tales exemplify the nationalist movement they were born from, and the tales, such as "Hansel and Gretel," portray a unique set of values which exemplify the formations of a unique German cultural identity.

Colette Reindl, St. Mary's Academy

One Ring to Rule Them All: Connecting Johann Herder's Romantic Nationalism & Richard Wagner's "The Ring"

In the 18th and 19th centuries in Germany, a new craze was emerging, one that would forever change Germany. The ideas of Nationalism, popularized by Johann Gottfried Herder, revolutionized the way that Germans thought about their country. Through this new kind of "Romantic" Nationalism, an importance was placed on "volksongs," or folksongs and stories as a means to take pride in one's culture. The massively popular opera epic "The Ring of Nibelung" was written by Richard Wagner over fifty years after Herder's death, but it holds the values that Herder developed in it. In many ways, the Opera is the ultimate "volksong," and gives the Romantic Nationalism that Herder molded a new vehicle that inspires and awes to this day.

Eliana Scheele, St. Mary's Academy

Indoctrination & Education: Plato's *Republic* and the Power of Censorship

Plato's *Republic* focuses on the creation of the best possible society through the implementation of strict measures to reshape the social order. Future leaders, most notably Napoleon through the secularization and centralization of the French education system, have followed the path laid out by Plato to utilize societal mechanisms to build transformative change. Education has been a prime factor in shaping thought and perspective on a societal level and still serves as a powerful tool for better or for worse.

Ricky Kamenetz, Grant High School

12:30 – 1:45
SMSU 328/29

THIRD SESSIONS
Exploring Global Cultural Identities
Moderator: Professor Bright Alozie

Immigrant Identity Formation, A Transnational Approach: Italian Americans in New York City, 1880-1930

Of the Italian immigrants arriving in America during the Great Migration (1880-1924), few understood themselves as “Italians.” On paper, Italian unification took place in 1861, but the creation of Italy as a unit of politics was not the creation of Italians as a unit of nation. Even decades later, immigrants landing in New York City understood themselves in regional terms—as Calabrians, Sicilians, and Neapolitans. “Italian national identity” remained an idea confined to the imaginations of wealthy and educated Italian nationalists. In the years that followed the Great Migration, immigrants reshaped Italian-American identity as they grappled with American ideas of race and national belonging. Here, a transnational analytical framework is applied to the study of Italian-American identity formation to understand how the social and economic connections migrants forged between their hometown villages and overseas enclaves transformed experiences of identity. From the strictly regional affiliations immigrants arrived with, Italian ethnic identity was redefined by transnational experiences of nation into something truly novel, an immigrant identity that produced vivid experiences of feeling Italian-American.

Amelia Vena, Grant High School

Political Movement Through Cultural Identity: Lessons from the *Présence Africaine*

The *Présence Africaine* journal was unlike any of the time. Founded in Paris in 1947, its mission centered the expression of African cultures that had been suppressed under French colonial rule. The writers did not share a race or nationality but were united by a shared purpose of creating literary discourse around the colonization of Africa and the struggles of the pan-African movement. The founder, Alioune Diop, was a Senegalese professor who promoted a unique approach to political change. He was aware of the stark cultural losses that the French colonization of Africa was causing and saw the colonial suppression of African culture and its exclusion from the idea of “modernity” as a means of control by France. This paper explores the journal’s unique approach to African decolonization through cultural expression.

Ramona Sapru Henderson, St. Mary’s Academy

Manifestation Through Martyrdom: How the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Invigorated Indian Resistance to Colonial Oppression

On the evening of April 13th, 1919, streams of setting sunlight danced through the crowd of Sikh pilgrims gathered in Jallianwala Bagh, a narrow, four-entrance complex in the heart of Amritsar, Panjab. They were there to celebrate Vaisakhi, one of the largest dates on the calendar for the Sikh faith. A short punctured the warmth of the sunlight, sending the community into frenzied alarm. And then 1650 more rounds within fifteen minutes. Under the instruction of former Lieutenant Governor of Panjab, Michael O’Dwyer, General Brigadier Reginald Dyer killed roughly 1000 of the peacefully assembled people at Jallianwala Bagh, subsequently claiming his actions were made in accordance with the implementation of martial law, which prohibited political gatherings. Mahatma Gandhi, a prominent Indian social leader, returned from overseas personal endeavors to discover the Indian nation in ruin over the loss of so many lives in Panjab. Harnessing the bloodbath at Bagh as his evidence, Gandhi created a nonviolent, liberative philosophy, Satyagrahi, spreading it to over 1 million Indians in the decades following the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. The sacrifice of Sikhs in Amritsar became the root cause for eventual Indian disenfranchisement, exemplifying the British Raj’s tyrannical violence and oppression of the South Asian people.

Kainat Kaur Deo, St. Mary’s Academy

12:30 – 1:45
SMSU 327

THIRD SESSIONS
Identity through Conflict
Moderator: *Professor Jennifer Kerns*

The Unheard Voices of Women in Convents: A Different Perspective on the Thirty Years War

The Unheard Voices of Women in Convents: A Different Perspective on the Thirty Years War
Nuns played an active role in chronicizing the Swedish phase of the Thirty Years War. The dedication to their writings provides a unique glimpse into the social, and economic impacts of the conflict. These impacts portray the pain and suffering the war caused to these small communities due to the depletion of resources. Thus, the records portray how the nuns forged good relationships with enemy soldiers to limit the threat of further destruction. Through the writings of these nuns, the history of the war becomes nuanced by adding the voices of women and showing their commitment to their communities through the preservation of their records, which allows for a deeper understanding of these women's contribution to history.

Maya Geer, St. Mary's Academy

Faithful Coverage: The *Irish Independent's* Catholic Transformation of the Spanish Civil War

In the summer of 1936, the Spanish Civil War erupted with a military coup d'état against the current Republic, launching three years of chaos and casualty. Among the ranks of supporters for the imminent fascist regime were Fascist Italy, Nazi Germany, and shockingly, the majority of Ireland's citizens. However, their support was not unprompted. The *Irish Independent*, a popular newspaper, flooded its pages with gory depictions of anti-clerical violence committed by the Spanish Republicans and steered their audience into the kind of righteous sensationalism that would later inspire an Irish Brigade to form on behalf of the fascist regime. This paper aims to find out what financial and political motives the *Irish Independent* had to simplify, dramatize, and misrepresent the Spanish conflict to its audience. Particularly, the newspaper's Catholic-centric narrative points to a manipulation of events in order to gain favor from the Irish Catholic Church hierarchy.

Willa Fahrback, St. Mary's Academy

Priscus at the Court of Attila: Unveiling Hunnic Dynamics

This paper examines and reevaluates the lasting impacts of Priscus of Panium's eyewitness account of his ambassadorial trip to Atilla the Hun in 449 CE, dubbed *Priscus at the Court of Attila*. Through meticulous analysis, this paper attempts to contextualize the presence and military movements of Huns across Europe based on Priscus' original work. I clarify that Atilla's encampment was in Wallachia while detailing the location's significance and the significance of Hunnic military movements in Media. Moving forward, I use Priscus' work as a tool to observe the social norms of Byzantium and Scythia ranging from things like their female beauty standard to their court rituals. Additionally, Priscus' writings motivate an exploration of the economic motivations behind Hunnic actions, helping to explain an attempt at a possible shift in the Hun economy away from plundering to a focus on tribute. Furthermore, Priscus' observations of Hunnic diplomatic behavior offer crucial insights into the complexity of the Hunnic political vision. By utilizing Priscus' work and its impacts, the paper attempts to challenge the notion of the Huns as uncivilized and offers a nuanced understanding of their culture.

Jake McCauley, U.S. Grant High School

12:30 – 1:45
SMSU 333

THIRD SESSIONS
Cross Cultural Narratives
Moderator: Professor David Horowitz

Jewish Immigrants in Argentina: The Bund as a Transnational Connection

Between 1881 and 1948, thousands of Eastern European Jews immigrated to Argentina, escaping subjugation and seeking economic opportunities. These Jewish immigrants initially worked in the agricultural colonies of the Pampas before settling primarily in Buenos Aires, drawn to the benefits of living in a densely populated city. Jewish socialism abounded, connected with the Bund in Russia and Poland while still existing independently. This paper examines the organization Avangard, the first representation of Bundism in Argentina, and its economic and cultural aims, before exploring Bundist schools in Argentina. I also analyze the secular Jewish schooling movement in Poland in order to provide context and comparison for the Argentinian movement. Finally, this paper provides an investigation of multiple factors that led to the decline of local Bundist organizations in 1948. This paper argues that the presence of Bundism in Buenos Aires demonstrated the transnational identity of Eastern European Jewish immigrants in Argentina. I utilize research on migration, Jewish socialism, Yiddish, and specifically the scholarship of Frank Wolff to establish this transnational connection. Through Bundist organizations, Jewish immigrants retained a relationship with their home, language, and socialist beliefs, despite the distance.

Naomi Hemstreet, Grant High School

Homecoming or Homeless: An Exploration of the Ethno-National Identities of Japanese-Brazilian Dekasseguis

The return migration of Japanese-Brazilians to Japan from 1990-2008 encapsulates a complex issue of nationality, ethnicity, and belonging between two different cultures who came to depend on each other. Beginning in 1990, Japan instituted a new migration policy that opened the door for second and third generation ethnically Japanese individuals who were living in foreign nations to receive temporary work visas. This allowed for a great amount of migration from Brazil of Brazilians with Japanese heritage. This population is especially significant due to the high level of Japanese immigrants to Brazil during the early 20th century, due to reasons such as ethnic persecution of the Okinawans in Japan, and a shortage in laborers for the coffee plantations of Brazil. Much research has been done regarding the patterns and trends of these groups' migration between Japan and Brazil, as well as the factors that have allowed for this back and forth. This article examines this shifting labor dependency, but focuses on individual stories and the effects of this relationship on those who exist within the push and pull of the migratory trends between the two nations. Through the lens of these personal histories, it is possible to see that the identity of a Japanese Brazilian consists of blurred lines and constantly shifting self-perception. This is due to the changing of external expectations on the individual based on specific work, family, or social circumstances, as well as physical features and language abilities. There exists no single mold or descriptor for this identity as it constantly fluctuates based on several factors.

Malina Yuen, Grant High School

“The Tin Pan-tithesis of melody”: A Socio-Musical History of Eastern European Jews in New York 1880-1920

Influxes of Eastern European Jewish people immigrating to the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries motivated by poor economic and social conditions in their home countries and the appeal of economic opportunity in the U.S. settled in New York City. This event and decades of its aftermath are reflected in American popular music of the era. Tin Pan Alley, consisting primarily of Jewish composers and songwriters, became a metonym for the popular music industry in the U.S. The lyrical and melodic content of songs that came out of this reflect the Jewish-American national duality and Black influences that established perennial standards in American popular music and American popular culture as a whole.

Jascha Stern, Grant High School

Thanks to all those who make The Young Historians Conference possible:

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PSU HST 203 – US History

Joan Nyland, St. Mary's Academy:
PSU HST 203 – US History

Matt Vannelli, St. Mary's Academy:
PSU HST 102 – Early Modern Europe and the World

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