2016 Student Research & Ideas Fair

Friday
March 18th, 2016
13th Annual
Student Research and Ideas Fair

March 18, 2016

We are very proud to host our thirteenth annual Student Research and Ideas Fair.

As senior students, you know that our university is a living body of students and scholars. It is a vibrant and diverse community of people, each with a variety of aspirations and goals, each with a unique perspective. It is a place where we challenge you to meet our Goals of a Liberal Education:

- An independent, inquiring mind;
- A breadth of knowledge and depth of understanding;
- An awareness of the perennial questions and new challenges confronting humanity;
- A depth and consistency of moral judgment;
- An ability to write and speak with clarity and precision.

Every year at this fair, students from a myriad of academic backgrounds gather and share their ideas, research and discoveries with fellow students and faculty mentors, noted scholars in their own fields. The fair truly demonstrates the best that St. Thomas has to offer: the unique student experience, faculty engagement, and our emphasis on excellence and open-minded inquiry.

I want to congratulate the students who are participating in this year's fair.

The liberal arts explore controversial and competing ideas in ways that demand informed, careful and considered judgment. Your participation in our fair demonstrates that you are up to that challenge.

Dawn Russell
President and Vice-Chancellor
13th Annual Student Research and Ideas Fair
March 18th, 2016

All presenters and guests are invited to join us in the Brian Mulroney Hall Rotunda (BMH 318) for lunch. This will be an opportunity to talk to the students about the research and ideas that they will be presenting.

12:00 – 1:00  Lunch and Opening Remarks
by Dawn Russell, President and Vice-Chancellor; Dr. Michael Dawson, Associate Vice-President (Research); & Dr. Michael Boudreau, Dean of Humanities and Acting Dean of Social Sciences.

1:00 – 2:40  Concurrent sessions:
• Music, Literature and Society (BMH 107)
• Prescriptions for Happiness (BMH 108)
• Perceptions of Crime and Criminals (BMH 204)
• Health, Food and Aging (BMH 205)

2:40 – 2:50  Nutrition Break
Ground Floor of Brian Mulroney Hall

2:50 – 4:30  Concurrent sessions:
• Gender, Work and Popular Culture (BMH 101)
• The Brain at Work: Perceptions and Multitasking (BMH 102)
• Food, Technology and Public Policy (BMH 103)
• Global, National & Local Identities (BMH 107)
Concurrent Sessions

2016 Student Research & Ideas Fair
# SESSION ONE

Room 107, Brian Mulroney Hall  
1:00 – 2:40  
Session Theme: **Music, Literature and Society**  
Moderator: **Dr. Anthony Tremblay**

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Room 108, Brian Mulroney Hall
1:00 – 2:40
Session Theme: **Prescriptions For Happiness**
Moderator: **Dr. Matthew Hayes**

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<td>Krista O'Reilly</td>
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Room 204, Brian Mulroney Hall
1:00 – 2:40
Session Theme: **Perceptions of Crime and Criminals**
Moderator: Dr. Jean Sauvageau

Kyle Ferris  
Eyewitness Testimony: Assessing the Knowledge and Beliefs of Police Officers in Training  
Psychology, 5th year

Jennifer Hull  
Allan Legere: Constructing Moral Panic in Miramichi  
Criminology and Criminal Justice, 5th year

Ashley Lee Smith  
Pedophiles on Film: A Comparative Analysis of Academic & Popular Criminology  
Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Michelle Spavold  
From Victor to Villain: The media’s construction of Dr. Charles Smith’s wrongful conviction cases  
Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Laura Steeves  
DNA: The be all and end all of scientific evidence? Analyzing judicial decision making factors in courts  
Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year

Room 205, Brian Mulroney Hall
1:00 – 2:40
Session Theme: **Health, Food and Aging**
Moderator: Dr. Matthew Dinan

Eve Baird  
The Sleep Kit  
Gerontology, 4th year

Jennifer Estey  
Evaluating Ethics E:learning Materials for Use in Long-term Care Environments  
Interdisciplinary Studies, 5th year

Memory Ford  
Therapeutic Gardens for Hospice and Palliative Care Patients  
Environmental Science and Studies, 5th year, University of St. Thomas

Kathleen Nash  
The Food Crisis and Indigenous Populations in Northern Canada  
Science and Technology Studies, 4th year

Michelle Richard  
The Impact of an Appearance-based Intervention on UVR-protective Behaviors of Outdoor Lifeguards  
Psychology, 5th year
NUTRITION BREAK
2:40 – 2:50
Lower Level Brian Mulroney Hall

SESSION TWO

Room 101, Brian Mulroney Hall
2:50-4:30
Session Theme: **Gender, Work and Popular Culture**
Moderator: **Dr. Karla O’Regan**

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Room 102, Brian Mulroney Hall
2:50 – 4:30
Session Theme: **The Brain at Work: Perceptions & Multitasking**
Moderator: *Dr. Sandra Thomson*

Karen Buckle  
Spontaneous Activation of Causal Inferences Consistent with the Self-serving Bias: A Probe Recognition Study  
Psychology, 5th year

Maria Clara Santacruz  
The Effects of Media Multitasking on Attention  
Psychology, 4th year

Brittany Harris  
Multitasking as a Desirable Difficulty  
Psychology, 4th year

Laura Ivy Prichard  
University Students' Knowledge and Perceptions of Traditional Bullying and Cyberbullying  
Psychology, 4th year

Mitchell Syvret-Caplin  
Teachers' Perceptions and Knowledge of Traditional and Cyber-bullying  
Psychology, 4th year

Room 103, Brian Mulroney Hall
2:50 – 4:30
Session Theme: **Food, Technology and Public Policy**
Moderator: *Dr. Tom Bateman*

Scott Babin  
The Politics of Data  
Science and Technology Studies, 4th year

Megan Beaulieu  
The Role of the Foodscape in the Obesity Epidemic  
Science and Technology Studies, 4th year

Emily Blue  
Weighing the Options: Pesticide Usage on Prince Edward Island  
Journalism and Communications, 3rd year

Brandon LeBlanc  
Constitutional Conventionalism and Electoral Reform: Difficulties Faced by the Liberal Party of Canada in Reforming the Electoral System  
Political Science, 3rd year

Kassandra Myer  
Technology and Connectivity: Understanding the Role of Mediated Technology in the Lives of Students  
Sociology, 4th year
Room 107, Brian Mulroney Hall  
2:50 – 4:30  
Session Theme: **Global, National and Local Identities**  
Moderator: **Dr. Bonnie Huskins**

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<td>Emily Stankovich</td>
<td>Italy’s Tourism Industry: Economic Potential and Competitiveness</td>
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<td>Riley Williams</td>
<td>An Examination of Cosmopolitan Citizenship: Cinema Politica Fredericton as a Space for Political Consciousness</td>
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Abstracts

2016 Student Research & Ideas Fair
Music, Literature and Society

Natasha Harris
English, 1st year
Faculty Mentor: Professor Andrew Titus, English

Inherently Monstrous
The motive of a hero is the fuel that keeps their journey going. Upon detailed analysis of the classical epic Beowulf the hero's motives become less noble; as such, one could argue that certain monsters Beowulf battled had perhaps even noble motives regarding why they attacked the hero, while the hero himself had none. Through a close reading of Beowulf, one is able to form the argument that Beowulf himself might not be a true “hero”. In this paper, I will argue that although Beowulf did follow the journey of the hero, as outlined by mythologist Joseph Campbell, his true challenge — and the true monster of the story — is Beowulf himself. Understanding classical literature is an important part to any arts degree, and looking at Beowulf through this lens provides a unique perspective regarding what a hero is, and shows that heroes and villains can be confused, ultimately leading to the “hero’s” downfall.

Liam Keith-Jacques
Sociology, 4th year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Gül Çaliskan, Sociology

Social Interaction in the Modern Bluegrass Quartet: The Montgomery St. Bluegrass Band
The modern bluegrass quartet's jam session is an informal instance of intersubjective power, knowledge transmission and improvisation. The Montgomery St. Bluegrass Band is a quartet in keeping with traditional bluegrass instrumentation (guitar, fiddle, banjo and standup bass) and repertoire. Studying this case from a sociological perspective has implications for other research that is concerned with the coordination of human activity around a common goal, the pedagogical techniques that allow a group to learn efficiently, and the traditional culture of an American folk music genre that has quickly become globalized since its genesis in the 1950s. Peter Weeks’ studies (1981 & 1996) of correction talk and repair, Nolley’s (1975) linguistic ethnography of the bluegrass jam, Prus’ (1999) study of intersubjective power and many other scholarly works have been drawn from in the development of this research. Morton (2005) and Khodyakov (2008) have grappled specifically with the social processes that enable collective music making but this research aims to bring this approach to the context of the traditional bluegrass genre. Participant observation, focus groups and audio recordings are used to show the complex interactional and communicative processes at work in the rehearsals of The Montgomery St. Bluegrass Band. Band members engage in these social processes with the help of gestural communication, correction/repair oriented dialogue and traditional bluegrass knowledge and terminology. In what ways do band members facilitate the process of correcting and repairing problematic segments of music? How do nuanced interactions allow for spontaneous improvisation? What power structures and roles of authority are at work in this context and how do they help band members to collectively achieve their music?
The Choice is (Not) Yours: Constructions of Women's Agency in Fifty Shades of Grey

Recent research suggests that current dominant media disperses portrayals of female sexuality that may reproduce gender power inequalities (e.g., Gill, 2009). Emphasis is placed on placing male desire above female desire, which results in blurring understandings of female sexual agency. However, such inequalities are masked by portraying women as being sexually liberated agents with choice, resulting in a distinctly postfeminist sensibility (Barker, 2013; Gill, 2009). Through feminist critical discourse analysis, the present research examines the themes of female sexuality and sexual agency in the popular novel, Fifty Shades of Grey (James, 2012). A feminist poststructuralist approach will aim to distinguish how women's sexuality and agency is constructed in the novel through the use of language and discourse. At this point of analysis, postfeminist agency and self-policing has emerged as a dominant discourse, as seen, for example, in the conflicting inner dialogue between the female characters' regulating “Subconscious” and empowered “Inner Goddess”. Furthermore, the theme of power and consent has been identified as dominant theme in relation to constructions of gender and heterosexual relationships. The emerging discourses and themes will be discussed with regard to women's sexuality and postfeminist agency.

Belonging in Canada

Canadian national identity is defined by multiculturalism, diversity, freedom, and liberty. This ideology forces people who live on the perimeter of the dominant culture to have a disillusioned sense of self and cultural-identity. With this national identity assumed, marginalized people have a diffused sense of belonging and have less access to justice. George Ryga's The Ecstasy of Rita Joe considers this injustice on an individual level by focusing on a young aboriginal woman, Rita Joe, who seeks work outside of the reserve and is repeatedly rejected by the systematically oppressive, whitewashed government. Similarly, George Boyd's Consecrated Ground explores the displacement of the people of Africville, a black Halifax community who were denied basic necessities and therefore forced to abide by unjust government policy. By considering the life of Rita Joe and the destruction of Africville respectively, these plays analyze both what it means to be a minority in Canada and what it means to belong. The discourse surrounding these narratives demands recognition of events that have been purposefully suppressed in Canadian history. These two plays offer a medium to examine how presumptions of a “good” national identity will affect power relations between dominate and marginalized cultures.
Antigone vs. Creon

Antigone is the story of a young woman attempting to honour her family and a king who is trying to construct a law-abiding population from the wreckage of a civil war. While both are struck by tragedy, due to their conflicting beliefs, the plot is surrounded by debate – one of which considers the following question: who was right and who was wrong? As a liberal arts student studying both literature and philosophy, I have combined the two subjects to explore this debate from the perspective of two central figures in literature and philosophy: Sophocles, the author of Antigone who believed that hubris was the greatest source of self-destruction, and John Locke, a philosopher concerned with government and civilian responsibilities. By contrasting the two, I will examine and criticize the actions of each character in the ancient Greek tragedy, thus exposing two of the many very different conclusions regarding the debate of right and wrong action. By integrating the two areas of study, I will also be demonstrating the versatile skills that I have learned as a liberal arts student by connecting the ideas and theories found in both literature and philosophy.

Active Aging Ideals in the Third Age

This study uses a qualitative case study approach, focusing on participant observation in senior's exercise classes and semi-structured interviews. It seeks to understand how older people assign meaning to their physical activity in retirement. The research aims to answer the following question: how do people in the third age assign meaning to their lives through the activities in which they partake? This study considers the idealized notion of active aging and the pressures placed on people in the third age by institutions that govern aging and aging “experts” who sell anti-aging products and strategies. It considers how people internalize and interpret the ideals of “active aging” and what the effects of that internalization are on the aging population. Specifically, it seeks to understand how people adjust to a new lifestyle, how their identity is affected, and the role that gyms, fitness clubs and other institutions that seek to promote physical activity can play.
Paige McCafferty  
Sociology, 4th year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kristi Allain, Sociology

Best Abs Ever: How the Discourses in Fitness Magazines Contributes to the Normative Understandings of Fitness and Beauty

Fitness is a term that encompasses a variety of meanings. It is a loaded word and holds a weight of assumptions about the body, for instance, that thin bodies are synonymous with healthy bodies. There are certain understandings about health and fitness that correspond with a certain types of bodies. In other words, narratives surrounding thin bodies are often disguised as discussions about health and fitness. It is important for social scientists to investigate where these understandings come from and what they say about women's bodies. Foucauldian discourse analysis helps us to understand narratives as definitive of the practices that people engage in. I draw on the results of a content analysis of 5 issues of Fitness to unpack the narratives surrounding women's healthy bodies. Many narratives surrounding the best way to “do” fitness centre on weight loss in the form of limiting calories, or high calorie burning workouts. Furthermore, these narratives describe weight loss as the ultimate form of overcoming adversity. I draw on various studies that demonstrate that equating thin bodies with healthy bodies creates a constant preoccupation with weight, and establishes connections between weight and health that promote weight control as an absolute health practice.

Krista O’Reilly  
Science and Technology Studies, 4th year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kelly Bronson, Science and Technology Studies


In science studies, we use the concept of scientization to explain the conversion of a non-scientific phenomenon into one dominated by science and the representatives of science, technical experts. This paper applies the concept of scientization to the concept of “Scientific motherhood.” Scientific motherhood is a phenomenon wherein motherhood becomes increasingly intervened into by medical experts; in scientific motherhood, women come to believe themselves incapable of raising healthy children without expert attention and advice. In previous research, I traced the scientization of motherhood in Canada in the first half of the twentieth century. This paper presents an analysis of breastfeeding advice given to new mothers in New Brunswick between 1950 and 2000. My research indicates that the trend of scientization continues through this period, with possibly negative consequences for women and their babies.
Justin Robar  
Sociology, 3rd year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kristi Allain, Sociology

My Experience with a Sport for Development Program
In this paper I critically reflect on my own experience with a sport for development program, Bhubesi Pride. The goal of sport for development programs is to use sport as a facilitator for promoting positive social outcomes. Bhubesi Pride sends volunteers from the Global North to eastern and southern African countries to coach rugby. To critique my own experience, I examined issues of power that are perpetuated through sport for development programs, including issues associated with: racialized and colonial relationships between the Global North and Global South, and sponsors motives for instituting such a program. Drawing on current policy recommendations from the United Nations and John Sugden's 'Football 4 Peace' program was also extremely useful in examining my experience as he is very critical of sport for development programs and implements his work in his own program based out of Israel. Using the United Nations and John Sugden's work, I make recommendations about how a sport for development programs should be carried out. It will be possible, after all these topics are explored to see how my experience with Bhubesi Pride measures up to what is considered to be a 'good' sport for development program.

Hailey Rheault  
Sociology, 4th year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Erin Fredericks, Sociology

How helpful are the pamphlets? Perspectives of Parents and Guardians Raising Children with Autism
Medical perspectives describe autism as ‘problematic’ disorder which impairs individuals’ social capabilities. When children are diagnosed with autism, medical professionals advise parents to learn about autism and obtain the appropriate services to help their children. This small research project was the first sociology study to ask the question: How does information provided by Autism NB resonate with parents’ experiences raising autistic children? Inspired by the theoretical work of Michael Foucault, I examined parents’ understanding of ASD in light of professional practices and lay discourses. I used a qualitative, exploratory case study design to frame this project. In New Brunswick, 6 parents of autistic children took part in semi-structured interviews. Most parents understand their children's autism through a dominant psychological model which treats autism as a 'behavioural problem' that requires intensive therapeutic programming. A small number of parents disagreed with this perspective, which made it more difficult to access support services. The ASD information provided to parents of children with autism was used to create an ideal way of being autistic and parenting an autistic child. For some, this ideal was enabling as it provided guidance. For others, this ideal served to increase feelings of failing at being a good parent.
Eyewitness Testimony: Assessing the Knowledge and Beliefs of Police Officers in Training

Eyewitness testimony has become a hot-button topic in psychology, criminology, and the criminal justice system. Eyewitness memory is not new in the field of psychology as the theme can be traced back to Hugo Munsterberg in 1908. More recently, DNA evidence has led to high numbers of exonerations from judicial systems the world over, leading to increased research focus dealing with eyewitness memory. This study is based in the psychological science of eyewitness memory and past research conducted by Dr. Fraser and others. The research team hopes to learn what students studying to be police officers across Canada know and believe about eyewitness memory. Using a short, anonymous survey, students from police training schools across Canada will be asked what they think about eyewitness memory. These results will be compared to standing research conducted with police officers, judges, university professors, and undergraduate students.

Allan Legere: Constructing Moral Panic in Miramichi

In May, 1989 convicted killer Allan Legere escaped from two prison guards during a visit to a Moncton, New Brunswick hospital. For the next seven months, Legere would terrorize the community of Miramichi, New Brunswick through repeated sightings, a string of attacks, and ultimately committing four murders. It did not take long for word of the convicted killer’s escape to spread nationally through the media. Through moral panic theory and thematic content analysis, this thesis examines the local and national media coverage of the Legere manhunt from before and after his capture as a way of providing a snapshot to how the media contributes to public misperceptions about crime and its control. Due to the climate in which we are living, the impact of the media on beliefs about crime is widespread and therefore its potential to create distortions is a relevant societal issue across a variety of topics and disciplines.
Ashley Lee Smith  
Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dawne Clarke, Criminology and Criminal Justice

**Pedophiles on Film: A Comparative Analysis of Academic & Popular Criminology**  
For my honours research, I compared popular culture constructions of pedophiles against select academic literature to answer the question, how do popular culture constructions of pedophiles compare to academic constructions? Qualitative content analysis and elaborative coding (Saldaña, 2012) informed my analysis of four popular films about pedophiles: L.I.E. (2001), Capturing the Friedmans (2003), The Woodsman (2004), Hard Candy (2005), as well as twenty journal articles about pedophilia from 2000-2010. Four themes: just resolution, pedophile redemption, conflict between official restraint and vigilante freedom, and questions of truth, in Greenhill and Kohms article, “Pedophile crime films as popular criminology: A problem of justice? (2011)” were tested and compared with the films and the articles. Preliminary analysis reveals that while the popular culture construction of pedophiles bears some similarity to what is known through academic literature, there are significant differences.

Michelle Spavold  
Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chris McCormick, Criminology and Criminal Justice

**From Victor to Villain: The media’s construction of Dr. Charles Smith’s wrongful conviction cases**  
Child pathologist, Dr. Charles Smith, was a famous and reputable witness for the prosecution for more than a decade in dozens of criminal cases. His testimony had the ability to make defendants plead guilty, and convinced juries to convict. His word was believed over all others. This all changed when it became apparent that his testimony had led to multiple people being wrongfully convicted. His was suspended, his cases were reviewed, and an official inquiry was conducted. Through a thematic content analysis of 172 Toronto Sun articles between January 18th, 1991 to August 24th, 2013, this research examines how the media portrayed Dr. Charles Smith during this period. In particular, a literary theory called the narrative cycle of the anti-hero will be used to highlight his fall from grace as a forensic superstar. In looking at the role of the media, the research contributes to an absence in the literature on wrongful convictions.
Laura Steeves  
Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jean Sauvageau, Criminology and Criminal Justice

DNA: The be all and end all of scientific evidence?  
Analyzing judicial decision making factors in courts

Dennis Oland and Allan Legere; these are only the names of two suspected or convicted killers that were brought to justice with the use of DNA. DNA has become a hot topic within our society, but do we really understand its prevalence or importance?

This research project aims to determine how DNA and scientific evidence play a role in the judicial decision making process in cases of homicide. This is followed by four sub theses, which essentially work toward determining the frequency of this evidence in comparison to others, how it is used and how it is referred to and what this tells us about its significance. My research is focused on determining whether DNA and scientific evidence are crucial pieces of evidence in such cases. Moreover, it seeks to determine whether judges perceive this evidence to be pertinent to their decisions, more so than other types of evidence mentioned within the case.

I will be employing a discourse analysis of 20 appeal cases of 1st, 2nd degree murder, and manslaughter in New Brunswick. These cases will be collected from pre-1989 and post-1990 to encapsulate the emergence of DNA and scientific evidence in the 21st century. I will demonstrate my findings through an analysis of the discourse surrounding this evidence in the cases and whether or not it reveals an inordinate importance for this evidence in comparison to others used in the cases.

Eve Baird  
Gerontology, 4th year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janet Durkee-Lloyd, Gerontology

The Sleep Kit

Dementia is a chronic disease of the brain which affects approximately 14.9% of Canadians. There are many different types of the disease, with the most common being Alzheimer’s. The more general symptoms of dementia include memory loss, changes in personality, judgment, and sometimes speech. A major symptom of dementia that is overlooked in the medical field are sleep disturbances; which are present in all types of dementia. Sleep disturbances exacerbate the other symptoms experienced by the individual diagnosed with dementia and can create added stress for their care partners. Research by Richards et al. (2005) suggests that individualized social activity can improve sleep by 30%. Although this has been recognized as a difficulty, there is little research that discusses how to improve this. The lack of available resources for dementia clients and their care partners is problematic. The Sleep Kit is a small box of alternative therapies, primarily based on individualized social activity. Care partners would be responsible for administering the therapies for their loved one, in an attempt to ease their sleep disturbances and improve their overall quality of life.
Jennifer Estey
Interdisciplinary Studies, 5th year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Clive Baldwin, Canada Research Chair, School of Social Work

Evaluating Ethics E:Learning Materials for use in Long-term Care Environments
This project focuses on the question: “To what extent does e:learning enhance ethical reasoning among long-term care (LTC) staff?” Staff in LTC will engage with e:learning materials, based on interview and focus group date with LTC staff discussing ethical issues in their work, over an extended period. Following this, focus groups and interviews will be conducted with participants to explore what changes in participants’ ethical reasoning can be identified following engagement with the e:learning materials, the strengths and weaknesses of e:learning in ethics training, and staff perceptions regarding e:learning in relation to developing ethical practice. Interview and focus group data will be compared with previous interviews and focus group data to identify enhancements in ethical awareness indicated by the ability to identify ethical issues, the use of ethical concepts and principles in discussing ethical issues and the justifications used in decision-making, the use of more nuanced terminology, and the use of alternative ethical frameworks in decision-making. In conclusion, I will look to the issue of knowledge mobilization in LTC. This project is funded by Mitacs, and conducted in partnership with NB LTC facilities.

Memory Ford
Environmental Science and Studies, 5th year
Faculty Mentor: Sr. Damian Marie Savino, Environmental Science & Studies
University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas, USA

Therapeutic Gardens for Hospice and Palliative Care Patients
As part of a class project in the spring semester of 2015, I conducted a research project and developed the design for a therapeutic garden for hospice and palliative care patients. Palliative and hospice care deals with those patients fighting a terminal illness or who have reached the end of their lives, so the intent of the therapeutic garden is to comfort the patient, their family, and the staff. Since a therapeutic or healing garden is intended to help its users reach a certain outcome, the design elements are critical to the well-being of its users as well as the garden itself. The therapeutic garden design was created using the evidenced based design (EBD) guidelines defined in the Therapeutic Landscapes textbook by Clare Cooper Marcus & Naomi Sachs. Several cases studies were reviewed and used along with the EBD guidelines in an effort to repeat positive experiences and avoid those things that created an adverse effect on the patient or the garden.
Kathleen Nash
Science & Technology Studies, 4th year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kelly Bronson, Science & Technology Studies

The Food Crisis and Indigenous Populations in Northern Canada

In Northern Canada, Indigenous communities are facing many health problems such as Type II diabetes and heart disease as a result of a lack of healthy food choices in grocery stores and the introduction of processed foods into northern food environments (Rudolph and McLachlan, 2013). Mainstream technological approaches to food-related health crises around the world tend to focus on the food choices that individuals made and they ignore the food system's place in the problem. These approaches focus on solving the problem through existing policies, corporations and regulatory agencies (Edson Jones and Davidson, 2014). Taking a socio-technical approach to the food-related health crisis among Aboriginal communities in Northern Canada, my paper not only looks at existing policies but also the social situations that have contributed to this problem. The food crisis that is currently plaguing aboriginal communities in Northern Canada can be attributed to a lack of access to healthy, fresh foods as well as the high rates of unemployment and poverty that these communities are experiencing. Both of these are associated with historical injustices that have troubled aboriginal communities such as the residential school system, as well as resource extractions that have changed the environment within which they live (Rudolph and McLachlan, 2013).

Michelle Richard
Psychology, 5th year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Suzanne Prior, Psychology

The impact of an appearance-based intervention on UVR-protective behaviors of outdoor lifeguards

Skin cancers are the most common forms of cancer in Canada, even though they are preventable through ultraviolet radiation (UVR) protection. Outdoor lifeguards are especially vulnerable to skin cancers because they work in the sun with swimwear. Given these dangers, it is important to research effective ways of encouraging outdoor lifeguards to engage in UVR-protective behaviors. It is known that health risk education about the dangers of UVR exposure has been ineffective in encouraging consistent UVR-protective behaviors. Another way to change behaviors is through programs that reveal the negative appearance effects of sun exposure. An appearance intervention paired with health risks education may be more effective than health risks education alone. This study examined whether combining health risks education with appearance effects is more effective in increasing the intention to engage in UVR protection among outdoor lifeguards than health risks education alone. Participants were 76 outdoor lifeguards who received either health risks education only or both health risks education and appearance effects. Their intentions to tan and to engage in UVR-protective behaviors were measured before the interventions, immediately after, and four weeks later. Results will be presented and discussed in terms of improved health protection programs.
An Examination of the Experiences of Female Varsity Ice Hockey Players

Popular notions of ice hockey in Canada help to reproduce male entitlement, with men’s hockey being understood as the more important form of ice hockey, thus marginalizing women in this sport (Adams 2006). The purpose of this research project is to examine the experiences of female varsity ice hockey players at the university level to understand how these athletes experience being an athlete in a male dominated sport. This study was completed by conducting five semi-structured interviews with players of a female ice hockey team in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS). Supplementary interviews were carried out with the head coach and members of the athletic department, and subsequent information was drawn from the CIS gender equity policy. The main argument in this project is that female hockey player’s experiences different treatment than their male counter parts. Throughout the interview process the majority believed this to be the case. This research is important as a case study examining the structure and culture of CIS hockey players as it could have further use for administrators, organizations and institutions in their efforts to better understand issues of inequality that are perpetuated within CIS hockey programs.

Female Lawyers on Film

The popular culture representation of the strong, competent, successful female lawyer is relatively new and captured in the legal drama Damages (2007). My research, a qualitative content analysis of Damages uses both a popular and feminist criminological lens to compare and contrast the two female lead characters, veteran, hard-nosed defense attorney, Patty Hewes with the fresh-out-of-law-school Ellen Parsons. The focus of the analysis is to assess if the popular culture portrayal of the legal profession represents advancement of women or maintains the status quo. I conclude that while there have been some advancements in the popular culture representations of female lawyers, the cost of that success could be interpreted as prohibitive.
Meghan MacEachern  
Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dawne Clarke, Criminology and Criminal Justice

**A Review of Women-Centred Corrections: Staff and Client Perspectives**

Through a review of the academic literature on female corrections, most of the women had faced numerous systemic barriers and programs such as health promotion, lifestyle skills and leisure activities had shown some success with reintegration. Further, the most effective correctional interventions for women are those which invite women to engage in their own social development through gender-sensitive, trauma-informed and socially inclusive programming.

In order to understand the tenets of women-centred programming in Canada, the program manual was analysed to determine the extent to which the promotion of the mental, physical, spiritual, social and psychological health of women predominates. Feminist scholars suggest that female correctional programs exert additional social control rather than providing assistance with reintegration.

A focus group of correctional officers from the New Brunswick Women's Correctional Centre (NBWCC) considered if the programming at NBWCC is perceived by the staff as women-centered, trauma-informed and evidence-based. In order to better understand the distinction between male and female correctional programming, a sample of participants was drawn from the population of women inmates based on whether they had served a prior sentence in a male dominated provincial institution. Both staff and inmates described a typical day in the institution in order to elucidate the perceptions of both parties.

Karah McDonald  
Sociology, 4th year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Erin Fredericks, Sociology

**Interpreting Women's Experiences in Male-Dominated Careers**

Women who work in male dominated careers have varying experiences dependent on many individual and societal circumstances. Women working in male dominated places of work find themselves experiencing positive and negative occurrences in their work environment that other work environments might not present.

This research project sought to let women talk about and show how they experience working in male careers. My project is sociological research that takes a symbolic interactionist approach to examine the interactions that take place between women and their male dominated work environment. The research also addresses such things as everyday sexism, patriarchy and gender normalizations.

For this research project I used semi-structured qualitative interviews with six women. All interviews were transcribed verbatim and thematic coding was used to analyze the data.

Women navigate well in male dominated careers if they are given the right tools to do their job effectively. Women succeed in male work environments when they are working in fair, professional environments with the right training and equal opportunity.

Women are able to manage working in male careers very well, regardless of being a woman working in a “man’s world.” Most of the women I interviewed had good experiences working in male dominated careers. The most success and job satisfaction for women happened when they were able to utilize the tools effectively in these environments, and were given an even-handed equitable work experience.
Rubaina Singh  
Criminology and Criminal Justice, 5th year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Karla O'Regan, Criminology and Criminal Justice

An Intersectional Feminist Discourse Analysis of the documentary film, “India's Daughter”

My thesis is about India's Daughter, a documentary film, based on the brutal gang rape of Jyoti Singh that happened in India in 2012 and sparked protests and serious debate about gender inequality across India, attracting national and international attention. The Indian government banned this documentary even before it was released. This sparked international rhetoric about 'India's Rape problem'. I have transcribed the entire documentary, including both words and visual images (e.g. use of light, music, etc), using a critical discourse analysis. It uses intersectional and postcolonial feminism to thematically code the documentary. These themes help us understand the complex interplay of factors that construct the status of women in India in a way that sanctions sexual violence against them. My work also seeks to understand how this status is challenged both within India and the larger international community by both men and women in ways that cater to a 'western gaze' or 'colonial lens,' positioning violence against women as a problem that is inherent to Indian culture.

Karen Buckle  
Psychology, 5th year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nancy Higgins, Psychology

Spontaneous Activation of Causal Inferences Consistent with the Self-Serving Bias: A Probe Recognition Study

Spontaneous inferences are instantaneous, automatic, and unintended assumptions about behaviours or outcomes. Existing research demonstrates different types of spontaneous inferences, including trait, situation, social role, and social justice inferences. For example, if given the description "John gets an A on a test", one may infer that John is smart or that the test was easy, without being aware of their inferences about the reason for John's success. The present experiment aims to further our knowledge of spontaneous inferences in the area of self-perception by exploring to what extent the self-serving bias (i.e., the tendency to take credit for our successes and externalize our failures) influences spontaneous causal inferences about one's own behaviours. The experiment uses a probe recognition methodology, which measures participants' accuracy and reaction times when rejecting probe words that are not present in a target sentence. Reaction time and accuracy are expected to be slower and worse for causal probes consistent with typical self-serving attributions. The findings may help in understanding the degree to which the self-serving bias influences individuals' interpretations of positive and negative life events, and may be applicable to reattribution training, which challenges individuals' dysfunctional attributional styles and promotes resiliency in the face of failure.
Maria Clara Santacruz  
Psychology, 4th year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sandra Thomson, Psychology

The Effects of Media Multitasking on Attention

Media multitasking involves the simultaneous use of more than one type of media. The goal of the current study was to examine the effects of media multitasking on measures of attention. Previous research has shown that people who frequently engage in media multitasking are worse at switching between tasks and get more easily distracted by irrelevant stimuli than low media multitaskers. Participants filled out a media multitasking questionnaire to determine their level of media multitasking in everyday life. They also completed two cognitive tasks measuring selective attention and dual-task performance, where their reaction time and accuracy were recorded. It is hypothesized that heavy media multitaskers will perform more poorly on these tasks, as shown by increased reaction times and decreased accuracy compared to light media multitaskers. These findings would suggest that heavy media multitasking is associated with a reduced ability to control attention in dual-task situations and focusing their attention to a single task in general.

Brittany Harris  
Psychology, 4th year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sandra Thomson, Psychology

Multitasking as a Desirable Difficulty

The present research examines the effect of multitasking on short-term and long-term memory. Previous research has shown that making an encoding or retrieval task more difficult for the learner can improve long-term retrieval of information, which makes such difficulties ‘desirable’ (Bjork & Bjork, 2011). Because multitasking makes encoding and retrieval of information more difficult, it is possible that multitasking is a desirable difficulty, and, therefore, it may actually be beneficial for long-term memory. Existing research on multitasking as a desirable difficulty presents mixed results. The present study was designed to further investigate this issue. Participants read short passages, which they either restudied or recalled. An immediate recall task occurred under full or divided attention conditions. Participants then returned 48 hours later and attempted to recall each of the passages. It is hypothesized that dividing attention will impair performance compared to a full attention condition on the immediate recall task, but dividing attention will improve performance compared to full attention on the delayed recall task. Also, it is hypothesized that the restudying condition will have the lowest recall performance on the delayed retrieval task. This would show evidence of multitasking as a desirable difficulty.
University Students’ Knowledge and Perceptions of Traditional Bullying and Cyberbullying

There is a conflicting debate as to whether education or legislation can aid in preventing bullying behaviour and victimization. Bullying behaviour is not an isolated series of events, rather it can be performed through both traditional bullying (physical and verbal) and cyberbullying (bullying behaviour through online technology). However, knowledge of what constitutes as either traditional or cyberbullying may be indistinct. The current study aims to test first year psychology university students on their present knowledge and perceptions of both traditional bullying and cyberbullying. It is essential to gain insight on how the next generation of potential workers (be it teachers, or law enforcement) perceive, and construct as bullying behaviour. An overview of the method section (including participant information and questionnaire) will be discussed. The questionnaire consists of three sections. The first section examines students’ comprehension surrounding traditional bullying and cyberbullying. In the second section, students were asked to differentiate between traditional and cyberbullying via a series of vignettes as though they were in a teaching and the third section assesses their general perceptions of both types of bullying. The results section, future research, and limitations will not be discussed.

Teachers’ Perceptions and Knowledge of Traditional and Cyber-bullying

It has been recognized that educational institutions have a problem with bullying. Studies show that it is possible to reduce rates of bullying and victimization, but that it depends mostly on the knowledge and perceptions that teachers have on this matter. Currently, 155 teachers responded to a survey that contained two knowledge sections concerning bullying, both general and applied. The survey also contained sections dealing with perceptions and education on bullying. This will be presented as a preliminary analysis, as responses are still being collected.
Scott Babin
Science and Technology Studies, 4th year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kelly Bronson, Science and Technology Studies

The Politics of Data
Food is an intimate commodity that each of us interacts with on a daily basis and yet the production of food is not always visible (Winson, 1994). In particular, closely associated with the processes of food production are a number of agricultural technologies that remain invisible to the majority of us as consumers of food. This is precisely the location of intervention for the present study. This paper examines relationships between big data technologies, the collection and use of agricultural data, and more specifically, the possibilities for arrangements of power and authority embedded in the design and use of these technologies. The main theoretical framework for this research stems from literature on the politics of technology and fills a gap in critical science studies with regards to big data use in agriculture. This project applies discourse analysis to a variety of written texts, and draws comparisons between a select few big data technologies. The specific research goals for this project are to a) consider which farming systems are advantaged by [corporate] use of big data technologies? and b) consider the policy implications of relying on quantitative data.

Megan Beaulieu
Science & Technology Studies, 4th year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kelly Bronson, Science & Technology Studies

The Role of the Foodscape in the Obesity Epidemic
More and more health professionals are defining the growing concern over obesity as an epidemic. The statistics Canada website shows that in 2014, 54% of adults and 23.1% of youth aged 12 to 17 were considered overweight or obese (statcan.gc.ca). These rates of obesity represent a health related concern that is not easily ignored. The blame is often placed on the individual, and only technical solutions are offered to the individual to help solve their problem—such as dietary advice that they are meant to incorporate into self-regulation. In turn, social factors that may contribute to poor dietary choices and subsequently poor bodily health are not considered. A socio-technical approach on this issue acknowledges the social forces contributing to obesity. In my paper I take this socio-technical perspective and describe the role of the supermarket layout or foodscape in the obesity epidemic. Specifically, I focus on the profitability of unhealthy foods to explain why they dominate the grocery store foodscape.
Weighing the Options: Pesticide Usage on Prince Edward Island

The aim of this project is to evaluate the public policy process to determine the potential for policy change concerning agricultural pesticide use on Prince Edward Island.

When discussing health and environmental policy issues the decision making process is complex, due to having to weigh safety and economic concerns. Although there is no consensus on the risk that pesticides pose, public concerns continue to rise about the environment and healthcare issues. In addition, there is concern for the established agricultural industry which is historically the backbone of the economy. Through analysis of the public policy process and qualitative interviews this thesis will consider the issue of pesticide usage and the stakeholders positions to provide potential policy solutions and a strategic plan to move forward.

Constitutional Conventionalism and Electoral Reform: Difficulties Faced by the Liberal Party of Canada in Reforming the Electoral System

The subject of this thesis is electoral reform in Canada and how the electoral system can be legally reformed. The Liberal Party of Canada has promised electoral reform before Canada’s next general election, but how would such reform actually be implemented? Several governing documents set out the rules and limitations of legislators, most notably the Constitution Acts of 1867 and 1982, but these documents only create the framework in the work of Parliament. Constitutional conventionalism forms a set of uncodified rules and dictates how the codified documents operate, all done to ensure responsible government. The question this thesis desires to answer is: how will constitutional conventionalism affect the Liberal Party’s plan to reform Canada’s electoral system? What steps would be required to make such a change, a vote in the House of Commons and the Senate, a vote in all provincial legislatures, a national referendum, or multiple of the aforementioned? The answers to these questions will form a thesis that addresses the most important mechanism of democracy, the electoral system.
Kassandra Myer
Sociology, 4th year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sylvia Hale, Sociology

Technology and Connectivity: Understanding the Role of Mediated Technology in the Lives of Students
As society continues to develop advancements in technology such as cell phones and various other forms of portable devices, the rise of social media is ever so prevalent. Social media is currently at the heart of the 21st century. Everywhere you look people are in constant use of their cellphones, whether they are updating their Facebook profiles, tweeting about what they had for lunch or swiping right on Tinder. The epidemic of cell phone use in the last decade is especially apparent in the lives of adolescents and young adults. For many individuals social media becomes a pivotal aspect of their social lifestyle. Social media outlets such as Facebook or Twitter allow people from around the world to create and maintain meaningful relationships despite a difference in geographical location. This project explores the topic of social media and cell phone use amongst students in university. This research seeks to answer the following question: “How do university students navigate social media platforms in their everyday lives?” To obtain the research data this project uses a case study design. The methodology used to obtain this data was focus groups and individual interviews. The focus group sessions and the individual interviews followed a semi-structured design. The participants were university students living on and off campus.

Rebecca Boone
History, 3rd year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Carey Watt, History

Globalization: How Long a History Does It Have?
Typically globalization is seen as a new phenomenon in a world filled with ever-changing technologies that contribute to the expansion of the “global village”. While it is true that the term itself is relatively new, the trend is not. Historian Peter Stearns discusses this at length. Other historians disagree. My research will look at the three major globalization positions that demonstrate the beginnings of globalization at different junctures - the classical era, the mid nineteenth century and the mid twentieth century. I will argue that globalization as a trend can be seen even earlier, trends that Stearns refers to as “foundations.” This exploration will be partly historiographical, examining all three theories at length and will supplement the arguments using historical examples from all time periods. I will use both general historical trends and specific micro-narratives to expand their arguments and will ultimately place globalization in a world history perspective that transcends time.
Michael Maloney
History, 4th year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Bonnie Huskins, History

Black Slavery in New Brunswick: A Secreted Reality
Black slavery in New Brunswick has not received the focused attention of twentieth-century Atlantic scholars. F.W. DesBarres suggests that it was “too sadly humiliating to be given extended treatment.” Harvey Amani Whitfield, who has recently published a monograph entitled North to Bondage: Loyalist Slavery in the Maritimes (UBC Press, 2016), argues that the enslavement of Blacks in this region lies outside the paradigm of American enslavement and Canadian freedom, that has been fostered by such feel-good stories as Canada’s role in the Underground Railroad and the Maritimes’ association with free Black Loyalists. However, examination of eighteenth and nineteenth-century primary sources such as newspaper advertisements, as well as secondary sources including historical texts and legal briefs written by some early New Brunswick residents, demonstrate unquestionably that colonial New Brunswickers enthusiastically embraced Black slavery. This paper explores the nature of the Black slave society that was created in our province from the time of the initial arrival of the French until the official abolishment of slavery in the British Empire in 1834.

Michael McNeil
History, 4th year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Carey Watt, History

Creating the ‘Modern’ World: A History of the Formation of the Nation-State
Abstract: The ‘modern’ world is divided up into Nation-States, which we take at face value, not really questioning the system in which we live, but it is important to ask and dig deeper into aspects of our daily lives, such as how did the nation-state as we know it come to be, what makes it ‘modern’ and will it last? In my research I have focused in on this question to examine the history of the nation-state on the global scale, by not simply accrediting one region or nation with the creation but by using comparative history of the world to see how the nation-state has been created. By looking as themes such as exchange, nationalism, government, trade, identity, empire, and individual human stories, I hope to fully grasp the story of the ‘modern’ nation-state. Starting in the 13th century I will follow the inception, advancements and acceptance of the ‘modern’ nation-state.
Charlotte Schwarz  
Political Science, 3rd year  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Shaun Narine, Political Science  

Russia’s Foreign Policy Toward its Neighbouring States  
This study will examine Russia’s foreign policy to its neighbouring states, focusing on regional development in the Eurasian area through Russia’s creation of the Eurasian Economic Union. The Eurasian Economic Union is an organization for regional economic integration. The organization, to date, has five member states; Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. It is important to ask whether this organization is merely an extension of Russian foreign policy and whether it has the potential of bringing benefits to all member states. In answering these questions one must examine how the Eurasian Economic Union came to be developed and to examine Russia’s domestic politics and foreign policy. In focusing on Russia’s role in the development of the Eurasian Economic Union, it is also important to examine the costs and benefits of the formation of such a Union. Larger questions also arise from the development of a regional organization in Russia’s neighbourhood. These include questions about the rise of regional development in a globalized world (new regionalism), and the global implications which arise from further regional corporation in the Eurasian Union.

Emily Stankovich  
International Studies, senior student  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Hans Stockton, International Studies  
University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas, USA  

Italy’s Tourism Industry: Economic Potential and Competitiveness  
The tourism sector has become one of the biggest contributors to GDP and one of the biggest sources of employment in European countries. For this reason, improvement of national tourism sectors has the potential to revive struggling European economies. Italy, historically considered to be one of Europe’s top travel destinations, is facing economic problems, and for this reason it provides a good case study of tourism competitiveness. This paper aims to discover the strengths and deficiencies of Italy’s tourism industry and the industry’s potential role in revitalizing the nation’s economy. Several potential indicators of tourism competitiveness are included in a comparative statistical analysis of 40 countries to test their relationship with the World Economic Forum’s Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index. Results show that three of the five variables tested (purchasing power parity, cultural and creative resources, and government individual travel and tourism spending) are found to be possible determinants of tourism competitiveness. Prescriptions for improving Italy’s tourism industry based on these findings are included in the paper, though further research is recommended.
Riley Williams
Sociology, 5th year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Gül Çalıskan, Sociology

An Examination of Cosmopolitan Citizenship: Cinema Politica Fredericton as a Space for Political Consciousness

In this paper, I explore the ways that the Fredericton chapter of Cinema Politica (CP) fosters a space of cosmopolitan citizenship and documentary viewership. Cosmopolitan citizenship offers a sense of solidarity that exists under the attitude that all people are deserving of rights and the upholding of those rights. Audience members are actively participating in distinctively political acts of learning about local, national, and global issues. The discussion period of these gatherings further provide a space for building of a political conscious mind. I aim to look at the ways that CP Fredericton provides a positive social space in the community that strengthens the political consciousness and open mindedness of its active participants. My research consists of having participated in the CP Fredericton community and administering surveys to audience members to further explore the impacts that this local collective has on the lives of its participants. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with both the organizers of the chapter as well as audience members. I have found that CP Fredericton does have a significant impact in the lives of the regular participants as it is offers them a space for critical thought and the discussion of pressing issues.

Organizing Committee

Dr. Michael Boudreau
Dr. Michael Dawson
Ms. Susan Sears

Students Selected to Represent STU at the University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas

Each year St. Thomas University selects two students to represent the University in the Research Symposium at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas.

Congratulations to the two students who have been selected to represent us this year:

Kathleen Nash
The Food Crisis and Indigenous Populations in Northern Canada
Science and Technology Studies, 4th year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kelly Bronson, Science and Technology Studies

Rubaina Singh
An Intersectional Feminist Disclosure Analysis of the Documentary Film “India’s Daughter”
Criminology and Criminal Justice, 5th year
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Karla O’Regan, Criminology and Criminal Justice