

# Mellon Interdisciplinary Humanities Summer Fellowship

An Articulation of Want: Writing Poetry through the Lens of Literary Theory  
By Amanda Larson

## ABSTRACT:

This summer, I completed eight poems for my senior thesis that were supplemented by readings of literary theory. I attended numerous writer's workshops under four separate supervising writers, at places such as the Attic Institute, in Portland, Oregon, and the New York State Writer's Institute in Saratoga Springs, New York. Additionally, I used the funds from the Mellon Foundation to purchase reading material on literary theory, which determined the lens through which I approached my writing process. I have grown immensely as a writer throughout this experience; I have learned new techniques to revise my writing, and heard from experienced writers about the ways in which I can improve my poetry in line and form. Rather than being influenced by broad schools of thought, as indicated in my initial proposal, I have had the opportunity to reduce the theory mentioned in my poetry to a level of specificity that reflects the amount of detail usually included in my own style of writing. By having the opportunity to read the theorists I've selected in detail, I've gained an understanding of the ways in which language informs the shaping of my own experiences through poetry.

Is It Ethical to Genetically Enhance Your Future Child?  
By Bella Ratner

## Abstract:

As the science related to genetic engineering becomes more advanced, more and more ethical questions relating to such technologies arise. If we have the opportunity to create the exact child that we want, should we do so? Is it okay to mess with some genes of your future child and not others? In this paper, I discuss arguments and objections associated with these questions. The aim of this paper is to show that it is ethical to tamper with the DNA of your future child only when you are attempting to prevent disability.

MEMORY, NARRATIVE AND TRAUMA:  
METHODS OF RECONCILIATION IN SOUTH AFRICA  
Corey Carter Wilson

## ABSTRACT:

Following the abolition of apartheid in South Africa, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was assembled as a method of restorative justice. Victims of human rights violations gave statements about their experiences, and perpetrators of human rights violations were also able to request amnesty and testify. The assembly of the TRC created a site of remembrance through storytelling, which can be seen as reminiscent of a historical narrative tradition in South Africa. For my pre-thesis research, I traveled to Cape Town, South Africa in order to engage with various fields of study—trauma, postcolonial, and literary studies—and thus to

thoroughly examine the relationship between memory, narrative and trauma within a specifically South African context. I examined this relationship in terms of three different temporal locations before, during and after the TRC. I sought to answer research questions that corresponded with these temporal locations, and ultimately considered these questions across the proposed boundaries of time. The first two parts of my project focused on the history of apartheid in South Africa and the conditions that led to the formation of the TRC. The third part of my research examined post-apartheid fiction literature as an alternative method of reconciliation and storytelling. This phase served as the apotheosis of my project a culmination of my historically focused research through the lens of fiction literature. Though the individual parts of this project will attempt to answer individual research questions, ultimately my project examines the modalities of memory, narrative and trauma in South Africa.

### The Philosophy of Conspiracy Theories

Desiree Santos

#### Abstract:

Powered by political paranoia and the rapid exchange of ideas made possible by the Information Age, hearing conspiracy theories about the way the mainstream media, government, and global elites are deceiving the world is common. In my report, I outline the research conducted as a part of my Mellon Pre-Thesis Fellowship regarding the philosophical area of inquiry related to conspiracy theories. For my research, I read texts about the history of American conspiracy theories, data about which individuals are most likely to believe in conspiracy theories, and philosophical papers related to epistemic vices, belief formation, conspiracy theories, and gossip. I discovered that belief in conspiracy theories is not reserved for paranoid political extremists; in fact, most Americans believe in at least one major conspiracy theory – and it's not unwarranted for them to have some skepticism about their government. Through events such as Watergate, history has shown that even those holding some of the highest political positions in the United States are not immune to conspiring against their enemies and the American people. One of my key findings was that, in most conspiracy theories, there is a speck of legitimate evidence that may warrant investigation, however this evidence is often used as a springboard to leap to unsubstantiated, far-off conclusions that take the form as a conspiracy theory. In this way, I found, the way arguments in favor of a particular conspiracy theory are formed bears a striking similarity to the way that gossip forms and spreads. In my senior thesis, I hope to further explore the epistemic overlap between conspiracy theories and gossip.

### Philosophy Research

Emma Loftus

#### Abstract

Philosophers and psychologists alike have long wondered about what place, if any, emotions should and do have in ethics. In this project, I explored the role that empathy has within Kant's

ethical theory. Empathy has three main components, which are often conflated with each other, confusing discussions on the topic. This issue emerged when exploring current research on autism and sociopathy, which seems to support the idea that empathy is a necessary trait for one to be capable of ethicality - though for some, their concept of empathy lead to them to think their research pointed to the opposite hypothesis. Kant's opinions on empathy's place in his ethics are somewhat mercurial, but ultimately appear to point to his thinking that empathy can muddy ethical judgments if not carefully monitored, and that it is not necessary for having ethical motivation, though it can serve as a stand-in for reason when reason is not enough to push the moral agent.

## Johnson Summer Student Research

Methods for quantifying petal cell shape in *Mimulus*

Emma Bekele, Dr. Findley Finseth

### Abstract:

Reproduction is essential for all organisms. In plants, reproduction relies on pollination. In addition to large-scale traits such as shape and color, flowers may use traits imperceptible to the naked eye in order to attract pollinators. One such trait may be the conical cell shape of petal cells, which previous work has identified as providing a foothold for foraging bees. However, an ideal methodology for quantifying cell shape has not yet been developed. To explore different techniques in a phylogenetic framework, flowers from the genus *Mimulus* were planted and grown under controlled, identical conditions. Four groups of species lines were chosen for comparison: *M. guttatus*, *M. nasutus*, and *M. micranthus*; *M. cardinalis*, *M. lewisii*, and *M. parishii*; *M. lewisii* (wild type) and *M. lewisii* (flat-celled mutant); and *M. verbanaceus* (wild type) and *M. verbenaceus* (flat-celled mutant). *M. guttatus* flowers were visualized using atomic force microscopy. One flower from each species line was observed using confocal microscopy. Six flowers from 10 plants from each species line were observed using light microscopy. The upper right petal and bottom center petal of flowers were visualized using light microscopy. Six cells from the interior of the bottom petal were randomly chosen, and angles, cell height, and cell width were measured to obtain an average Conical Value on a scale of 0 to 1, where 1 is a perfectly flat cell. Preliminary results have shown the Conical Value to align more closely to qualitative observations than previously established measurement parameters.

A Model Experimental System for Polymer Interactions  
Isabelle Lopez

**Abstract:**

Producing long strands of polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) is challenging, however such filaments could be used as model foldamers due to their surface hydrophobicity being patternable. Our work determined a means of reliable producing long patternable filaments. We found tracking the viscosity of PDMS to be a good proxy for determining when filaments could be drawn. The project also consisted of studying the folding pathways of the filament at the air-water interface. The surface of the material is hydrophobic. Using corona discharge, the surface's typically hydrophobic surface can be switched to be hydrophilic. We created and used an Arduino-controlled corona discharge system to pattern the filament by altering hydrophobicity along the strand. We found that folding events depended on the pattern of hydrophobicity that we imposed.

The Influences of Age, Emotions and Implicit Bias on Face Recognition  
Hannah McCarthy Potter

**Abstract**

During my summer internship in the Claremont McKenna College Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory, mentored by Professor Catherine Reed, we carried out four experiments using electroencephalography (EEG) to investigate the influences of age, emotions and implicit bias on face recognition. Specifically we explored the neural origins of the "Own Age Effect" or "OAE" which refers to the finding that we are better at recognizing the faces of people who are the same age as us. When we encounter another person we rapidly process a great deal of information from their face, including whether we recognize them and what emotion they are experiencing. Research has shown that processing is subtly different if the person we encounter is not our same age-- a young adult encountering an elderly person responds differently from when she encounters another young person, and conversely. We used EEG to examine when and how these differences in the brain occur. An additional question we asked was whether implicit bias about old age could affect the neural responses. Using a 32-electrode cap, we recorded and averaged electrical brain responses when the participant recognized the individual and when the participant recognized that person's emotion. We also collected a measure of implicit age-related bias. We tested 20 younger adults (18-30 yrs) and 20 older adults (60-82 years). After cleaning and analyzing the data, we will determine whether the amplitude of the face specific N170 and P200 event-related potentials (ERP) differ as a function of age and emotion. We will then use correlational techniques to explore the relationship between the N170, P200 and implicit bias (i.e., whether we subconsciously attribute good/bad attributes to people who are like/unlike us). These results may have implications for helping us understand how our own biases may change the way we perceive other people and their emotions.

Manipulation of the Tasmanian Devil Immune System to Kill Tumor Cells  
Katherine Erickson

**Abstract:**

The Tasmanian Devil, *Sarcophilus harrisii*, the world's largest carnivorous marsupial, has suffered an 80% population decline due to a transmissible cancer, Devil Facial Tumor Disease (DFTD). One strategy for preventing extinction of the species is by manipulating the Devil's immune system to kill tumor cells. The current project focused on investigating three immunologic interactions in the Devil: PD-1:PD-L1 interactions, CD40L B cell proliferation and Fc-tagged recombinant proteins.

It has been established that high levels of PD-L1 (programmed death ligand 1) are found in DFTD serum<sup>6</sup> and that PD-1:PD-L1 pathway blockades can help manipulate immune systems to kill tumor cells in human cancers<sup>5</sup>. In the current study, Devil anti-PD-L1 plasmids were created via PCR amplification of target DNA from a Devil cDNA library, insertion of anti-PD-L1 DNA into an expression vector, and transfection of Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells. Anti-PD-L1 expression from the transfected cell line was analyzed using an enzyme-linked immunosorbency assay (ELISA) and fluorescent activated cell sorting (FACS).

A lack of species-specific tools such as antibodies or proteins has long plagued immune research on non traditional study species, such as Tasmanian Devils. The present study aided in the re-creation of initially monomeric Fc-tagged dimer proteins as part of a new protein system that rapidly develops species-specific proteins. These proteins will eventually be used in the detection of proteins to understand the function of Devil antibodies, leading to potential immunotherapy<sup>7</sup>.

CD40:CD40L binding has been shown to proliferate B cells<sup>8</sup>. In this study, a CD40L accessory cell line was created which can be used to stimulate and proliferate B cells within the Devil immune system.

All three aspects of the project are critical steps of a much larger investigation into the immunologic interactions of Devil Facial Tumor Disease. Therefore the project outlined within this report details the creation of these proteins and plasmids and not their applications.

Quantification of Pathologic Tau in Neurodegenerative Disease  
Lauren Longo

**ABSTRACT:**

Neuroscience is, particularly due to its recently growing scope, a naturally interdisciplinary field. This area of science incorporates elements of psychology, biology, chemistry, and philosophy that cover the cognitive, behavioral, and physiological characteristics of the nervous system. The investigation's interdisciplinary focus connects molecular biological processes of degenerative disease to the cognitive functions and psychological behaviors typically caused by the disease, as well as the preventative measures. Tau protein plays a large role in the development of Alzheimer's Disease and other neurodegenerative diseases, making it an important aspect of the brain to study thoroughly. Utilizing a widely-used protein quantification

technique called immunoprecipitation, which applies the concepts of antibody-antigen bonding, a standard for the quantification and consequential purification of phosphorylated tau protein in brain tissue samples was established. We wanted to quantify tau protein in an absolute manner, and these standards and immunoprecipitation techniques will in turn help to find neuropathological differences in healthy and demented brain tissue on a molecular level. The greater purpose of the work conducted the past ten weeks revolved around gaining a better understanding the differences in neural composition of demented patients, as well as patients with a considerably high level of pathology showing no cognitive decline or typical symptoms associate with neurodegeneration (resilient), and very old patients with a very low level of pathology despite their age (resistant). In addition to understanding the relative neural compositions of these patients, it is also important for the investigation to explore the lifestyle factors that could have influence on these differences – such as weight, heart health, exercise, stress levels, other diseases, alcohol and drug use, etc.

### There's Presence in Wellness: The Body in Context

Meghan Gwinn

**Abstract.** The intention of this research is to explore different practices from international performing artists that can eventually be repurposed as healing exercises for marginalized individuals. I studied under Minako Seki to learn her method; the Minako Seki Method, which is a fusion of contemporary dance and physical theatre with the classic Japanese Butoh technique that also integrates her holistic living philosophies. Further questions include: What is the relevance of Minako Seki's wellness philosophies against a Black American landscape? I continued my inquiry at the Paris Summer Academy hosted by Oriantheatre Dance Company, where six international artist-companies explored their innovative methods in dance, physical theatre, performance art, body-mind research, and sound art with researchers. During the academy, Rob Hayden of the Ultima Vez company proposed an exercise focused on individual "thunder" wherein participants were invited to physically and emotionally liberate themselves through consistently loud, brash self-expression. I'd like to work towards applying Hayden's "thunder" work into an active, unbridled approach to processing anger amongst individuals lacking an appropriate outlet. Moving forward, I'd like to consider: what are other exercises that allow participants to express their explosive energy in a safe but effective manner? I'd also like to practice Jacques Lecoq's Five Masks, and movement with roots in the African diasporic tradition, respectively. Lecoq's "masks" obscure the visual identifiers of the face/voice thus leaving the body as the main mechanism for communication with a viewer. How can the "masks" be used to support discourse on race in an audience? How might visual obscurity challenge the basic understanding of identity? How can Lecoq's "masks" be applied as a therapeutic practice in Black and Brown communities? How has African diasporic movement been used as a tool to process racial trauma stemming from the Transatlantic Slave Trade?

Choosing to Rescue or Not to Rescue:  
A Cognitive and Literary Analysis of Chretien de Troyes' "Knight of the Cart"  
Rena Patel

**Abstract**

Understanding the complexity of morally relevant values, decisions, and actions depends upon interdisciplinary engagement between scientific investigation and the study of the stories of struggles in the cultivation of virtue. Through a combination of literary analysis, cognitive modeling, and textual analysis through affect studies, we created an understanding of a person's motivation through the influences that surround them via narrative, cognition, and culture. In addition, the interdisciplinary nature of this study also exhibits how a combination of both quantitative and qualitative analysis can further enhance our understanding and interpretation of text and behavior.

The Connotations of the Labels of Immigration as Presented in the Media  
Tamara Wachsman

**Abstract:**

The U.S. news media often uses labels for unauthorized immigration interchangeably, referring to the group as both "undocumented workers" and "illegal aliens." The purpose of this study is to examine the attitudes that such labels evoke, as assessed in the frame of a media article. The study participants, who are adult U.S. residents, were randomly selected to complete a survey after reading a mock news article on the topic of immigration. Each mock article used one of six labels, to describe unauthorized immigrants. Participants' attitudes toward unauthorized immigrants were then measured with an adapted version of the Illegal Immigrant Scale (Ommundsen & Larsen, 1999). While analysis showed no significant differences between the attitudes in the six conditions, the demographic variables of political ideology, race, and age were seen to significantly impact attitudes towards unauthorized immigration. These results denote the impact various labels have on public opinion when presented in the media, especially regarding attitudes towards immigration.

**Keywords:** unauthorized immigration, immigrants, labels, media

## Esterly Award

Challenging Our Culture of Imprisonment  
Alicia Goode-Allen

**Abstract:**

Through this project, I was able to work with Dignity and Power Now, an organization founded by Patrisse Cullors of the Black Lives Matter movement, and professor Thomas Kim to do a combination of organizing learning and academic research. Dignity and Power Now (DPN)

works to create a Black and Brown-led prison abolitionist movement, and through internship work with them and independent study, I have worked to analyze the ways in which histories of radical Black activism connect to present tactics and strategies for social change. Through this project, I was able to connect the academic side of abolitionist organizing to active political campaigns--specifically Dignity and Power Now's campaign to end Sheriff violence in LA county jails. I worked with my supervisor, James Nelson, on two projects of DPN's: its leadership programs, Forever Rooted and Dandelion Rising, and DPN's campaign with JusticeLA which seeks to reallocate the 3.5 billion recently allocated for prison expansion in LA to community and mental health resources. Throughout the summer, my research concentrated on the ways current state and local legislation and cultural attitudes contribute to both a massive web that supports caging people, particularly folks of color and the working class. In addition, I learned about whiteness (my own and others') and how whiteness, particularly in the Office of Inspector General's office and within county Board of Supervisor practices, contributes to stagnation and further deadly state oppression rather than igniting radical change that would end Sheriff violence in LA jails on the streets. I finished the summer thinking about movement and base-building and how efforts today connect to radical base-building movements during, for example, the Mississippi freedom struggle.

Studying Behavioral Economics at the London School of Economics and Political Science  
Emma Johnson

Abstract:

My Esterly grant was put towards a summer study abroad program I did at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) where I took a class on behavioral economics for three weeks. As an economics major, behavioral is a very important economics elective that has helped me further understand the consumer and how people go about making decisions. I spent three months in London, first doing an 8-week internship at an investment firm and then the 3-week class at LSE. I was able to experience a new city outside of the U.S. and explore Europe in addition to working and studying. At the London School of Economics, I spent 54 total hours in class getting taught by two leading economics professors in Europe who both received their PhD's in economics from the University of California Berkeley. During the class, we explored many traditional items taught in micro and macroeconomics such as the Phillips Curve, inflation, game theory, and utility. Then we explored these topics deeper and added on the psychological argument into them. In most traditional micro and macro classes the neoclassical models are taught without adding psychological elements into the models even though it often makes the models more accurate. Behavioral Economics aims to work outside of the traditional models and explore behavior and make predictions based not only on the economics. Some of my favorite topics I learned were behavioral game theory and heuristics/biases. The Esterly grant made it possible for me to take this economics elective that I have been looking forward to taking for many years at one of the best economics schools in the world. I am very thankful for this opportunity to both learn and explore abroad.

Environmental impacts of renewable energy technologies in the US and Malaysia  
Emma Stacy

Abstract

As part of Keck's environmental chemistry class last semester, I presented at the "Advanced Renewable Energy Technologies Towards Low Carbon Innovations and Development" symposium at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Throughout the semester, I worked in a group of three with one other Keck student and one student from the University of Malaysia to investigate the environmental impacts of renewable energy technologies in the US and Malaysia. Together for five days in Malaysia, we prepared a 25 minute presentation to deliver at the conference and worked to write a paper on our topic. We found that hydropower's negative environmental impacts outweigh the benefits in both countries; biomass, while it still releases pollutants, is an improvement over coal power and has potential in both countries; solar power has low negative impacts and high potential to be increased in both countries, and wind power has the least negative impacts and a large potential to be increased in the US but not much potential in Malaysia.

Possible Use of miRNAs for Worm-to-Worm Communication in *C. elegans*  
Jennifer Johnston<sup>1</sup>, Sergio Barberan-Soler, PhD<sup>2</sup>

**Abstract:**

During my 9 weeks at SomaGenics, Inc., I aimed to determine whether *C. elegans* roundworms communicate with one another using extracellular microRNA (miRNA) molecules, and if so, identify which miRNA sequences the worms release into their environment, and what responses those miRNAs elicit in the worms exposed to them. This putative form of communication is known as the "environmental RNA" concept, and has been proposed by Craig Hunter and colleagues of Harvard (Whangbo et al. 2008) and Eric Miska of Cambridge (Braukmann et al. 2017). To begin this long-term project, I grew worms in liquid media, allowing time for them to potentially release RNA into the solution, and extracted RNA from the liquid. I then created sequencing libraries using the SomaGenics technology RealSeq-AC and sequenced the samples. Though the experiment needs to be repeated, our data show that there are *C. elegans* miRNAs existing outside the worms, and that some of these miRNAs, such as cel-miR-34-5p, are known *C. elegans* stress response miRNAs. With more experiments, this may further suggest that the miRNAs in the media have communicative functions. Continuing this research would be the first step to determining the effects and mechanisms of environmental RNA in *C. elegans*. It could potentially uncover a new layer of biology and give insight into how cells and organisms may communicate using environmental RNAs. Because roundworms are sometimes pathogenic, understanding how they may communicate using RNA would allow researchers to learn how to interfere with those interactions as a therapeutic approach.

Monitoring Anthracoronene-Ice Interactions  
via Infrared Spectroscopy  
Julie Korsmeyer

**Abstract:**

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are the most abundant large organic molecules in space. As such, they are generally thought to be a main contributor to the infrared emission bands observed in the interstellar medium (ISM). Through the infrared spectroscopy of matrix-

isolated in a matrix of water-ice, irradiated with ultraviolet (UV) light, and then analyzed using Infrared Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy. Anthracoronene has not been studied in water before, and therefore the vibrational transition data (i.e. band positions and intensities) are compared with coronene and anthracene, parent molecules of anthracoronene, and theoretical predictions made using density functional theory (DFT). Conclusions from this work will be applied to astronomical observations of the unidentified infrared emissions of the ISM, as well as observations of infrared absorption features in dense molecular clouds.

## Hearst

Utopia: A Blueprint for Tomorrow?  
Emma Cornwell

**Abstract:**

The genre of utopian/dystopian fiction has become especially prominent in today's culture (through books, movies, television series, etc.), but this genre has been around for centuries. If utopian literature is to be considered a blueprint for society, did this literature, then, fail to make any sort of changes? What sort of implications does this have for these sorts of works being made today and their intended outcomes? This summer I sought to explore why this genre has flourished and even grown in popularity since its early days and have a better understanding of the historical conditions that encourage the production of this work that imagines more positive futures. Furthermore, there seems to be a shift from more utopian works to more dystopian works. I want to examine this shift, taking into consideration whether or not utopia is intended to be a blueprint for society. Because if it is, has this shift then proved that these societies really are impossible? Why is this genre so popular when most of today's works seem to assert that the utopia is a "no place"? In concluding my research, I have decided to narrow my focus to exploring the ways utopian writers conceptualize place and the relationship between geographic place and social possibility (especially for women). Does a utopia have to be completely new to be powerful? Does it need to be geographically distant? And when thinking of utopias as a blueprint for the future, do focused institutions (as opposed to completely new worlds) offer a more practical solution?

Are Nonprofits New Forms of Colonial Behavior?  
Guadalupe Flores

**Abstract:**

We are currently seeing increased activity in the food justice movement. Almost all of the nonprofit organizations focus their energy on helping low income communities of color by

encouraging food security and highlighting the failure and injustice of the industrial food system. With the funds they allocate, they aim to produce and/or distribute fair, healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food to the community. At the same time these nonprofits and the ways in which many of them proceed, contribute to reestablish white systems of power and privilege through their programs. The aim of this paper is two-fold: It will first provide a short history regarding this recent food justice movement and then focus more specifically on the Growhaus, a nonprofit in Denver, Colorado.

Restoring the Relationship Between Food, Nature, and People:  
An Exploration of Natural Farming in Japan  
Katie Graham

**Abstract:**

In Japan's postwar era, agriculture has become highly industrialized, involving heavy machinery, chemical fertilizers, and pesticides, all in the name of "progress." Through employing such practices, humans have attempted to improve upon nature's way of doing things, and in turn have destroyed the fertility of the soil and endangered our health and the future of our planet. Masanobu Fukuoka, widely renowned as the father of natural farming in Japan, challenges the notion that we need chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and machinery in order to farm successfully. Rather, Fukuoka advocates for a type of farming that doubles as a natural ecosystem, in all of its biodiversity and resilience. In hopes of exploring natural farming as a sustainable alternative to conventional farming, this study examines the perspectives, philosophies, and practices of eight farmers from five small-scale farms in the Chubu and Tohoku regions of central Japan. This research was conducted during a ten-week period in the summer of 2018. Findings from this study suggest that while small-scale farmers in Japan face many challenges, natural farming offers hope for a livable future, in which the relationship between food, nature, and people may be restored.

The Early Modern and Present Day Book Trade: An Economic Approach to Understanding  
Literary Popularity over Time  
Maureen Cowhey

**Abstract:**

In my research, I examined empirical data on the early modern and present-day book trade in order to understand key features of literature that make texts popular or unpopular over time. For publishers in the early modern London book trade, printing a text was a risky investment with high costs and unpredictable payoffs. Therefore, the printing of even one edition of a text indicated the value of a text. Subsequent reprints and multiple editions over many years indicate high popularity and profitability. My thesis will use the popularity factor to offer a new way to analyze the different genres of Shakespeare's texts and how each genre changed in popularity over time. In researching the early modern book market and analyzing the publishing data, this project endeavors to understand how the routine business decisions of producers to print and consumers to purchase Shakespeare's texts resulted in a literary canon that persists in popularity and acclaim to this day. My research uses English literature to explain Economics and

Economics to drive my understanding of English literature in order to shed new light on these early modern classics.

### Sexual Violence, Colonization, and Indigenous Women in the U.S

Mattie Bono

#### Abstract:

The high rates of violence against Native women have only recently become visible in mainstream media and news outlets, but the violence itself is not recent. Newspapers are reporting the unbelievably high number of Native women who are sexually assaulted, kidnapped, and even murdered on their reservations. The vast majority of the women who report these crimes state non-Native men as their perpetrators. The history non-Natives committing acts of sexual and general violence against Native women goes back to the first days of settler colonialism, when the colonists raped, abused, and subjugated Native women's bodies. Built on this colonial foundation of violence and subjugation, the federal government wrote treaties and legislation that has stripped away Native sovereignty and in turn stripped Native women of their rights and personal safety.