

## Undergraduate Humanities Honors Fellows

Emory College of Arts and Sciences

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**Claire Barnes** is a senior majoring in Religion and Philosophy with a minor in Sustainability. Her honors thesis explores the relationship between indigenous food sovereignty and religion. She relies heavily on 20th century and contemporary indigenous scholarship, citing authors such as Vine Deloria Jr. and Glen Coulthard. Her thesis is also informed by interviews conducted with indigenous food producers from Terra Madre—an international Slow Food Conference that Claire attended in September 2018. Sourcing from indigenous scholarship and primary data, Claire examines the relational ontologies inherent in indigenous worldviews and seeks to assert these ontologies translate into global doctrines on indigenous food sovereignty.



**Chris Batterman** is a senior majoring in Music, with a focus on musicology/ethnomusicology, with additional concentrations in Latin American Studies and Portuguese. His senior honors thesis takes an interdisciplinary approach to the music of Brazilian composer Antônio Carlos Gomes (1836-1896). Based in archival research conducted in Brazil, his thesis examines Gomes' operatic works through the lens of race, nationalism, and indigeneity. Situating these operas within the Brazilian nation building project of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Chris hopes to demonstrate the ways in which Gomes' works are reflective of the dominant discourse on race and nation. Specifically, he argues that Gomes used his operas to present and disseminate certain notions of *brasilidade* (Brazilianess) and contribute to the popular construction of "*a raça brasileira*" ("the Brazilian race").



**Nathan Blansett** is a senior at Emory majoring in English and Creative Writing. He is the recipient of a summer fellowship from the Stadler Center for Poetry at Bucknell, a 2017-2018 Stipe Arts Fellowship, a Johnston Fellowship for Travel and Research in Austria, and an assistantship at the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library. His honors thesis in creative writing, a collection of poems provisionally titled *Germinal*, centers on sexuality, desire, artifice, and history.



**Isabel Goddard** is a senior majoring in Quantitative Sciences with a Cultural Anthropology emphasis. Her undergraduate honors thesis focuses on examining the construction of diverse friendships among undergraduates and the larger social, political, and economic implications that these relationships can have after graduation. In combining both quantitative and qualitative research methods, her interdisciplinary research is able to illuminate both the nuances of friendship among Emory undergraduates through ethnographic data as well as the larger trends and implications of these networks through survey data. Specifically, her results have centered around the dynamics of gender and habitus in shaping the friendships of students. Isabel hopes to continue this research through longitudinal studies in several universities as well as incorporating social network analysis with her survey and ethnographic data in her future graduate work.



**Daniella Gonzalez** is a senior majoring in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology, and Spanish and Portuguese. She is writing an honors thesis on family planning for both patients and healthcare providers within the public health care system of Brazil (SUS). She conducted research during the summer of 2018 in a clinic in Bom Retiro, São Paulo. Daniella's thesis delves into prenatal and postnatal care in the UBS of Bom Retiro, a primary healthcare clinic. Her work also highlights the varying definitions of family planning for the various participants within gestational care, including patients, physicians, nurses, and community agents.



**Michael Keen** is a senior double majoring in Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies and Arabic. His thesis for the MESAS Department draws on history, communications theory, and discourse and image analysis to analyze the dominant narrative frames employed by Facebook users linked to the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), a secular northern Malian secessionist rebel group that launched an armed uprising against the Malian state in 2012, to define the MNLA's identity and goals during the 2012-2015 conflict. His project aims to contribute to a broader scholarly understanding of how non-jihadist insurgent groups formulate and propagate their identities and goals through social media.



**Samantha Korn** is a senior on the pre-medical track majoring in English. She is currently writing her honors thesis on the intersections of literature and medicine. Specifically, she is analyzing depictions of chronic illness in young adult fiction and children's literature. Her goal is to combine literary theories of disability, cognitive approaches to literature, medical humanities, and narrative medicine in order to develop the best methods for representing and treating young people with chronic illnesses. She hopes that her work will be incorporated into the depiction of chronic illness in the healthcare world as well as in popular media.



**Alexandra Llovet** is a senior on the Pre-Medicine track, double majoring in Biology and Spanish and Portuguese. Her research focuses on the stereotyping of Hansen's disease (in derogatory terms, leprosy) patients in Brazil. Alexandra began her research on this topic during the summer of 2017 and continued the project the following summer. She visited two patient isolation colonies, shadowed doctors in a reference center hospital and gathered literary pieces to see the different faces of Hansen's. Her thesis has an interdisciplinary approach that incorporates first-hand accounts of patients and artistic sources as representations of the disease in twentieth and twenty-first century Brazil.



**Cana McGhee** is double majoring in Music Research and French, with her primary interests being in the late-nineteenth century. Her project explores how Symbolist poetry and French-language vocal music (*mélodie*) responded to francophone understandings of national identity through language. Within this paradigm, Cana is analyzing several song cycles by French composer Gabriel Fauré, and she seeks to elucidate how his settings of Symbolist texts engage with various invocations of sound, music, and the human voice. Furthermore, she places Fauré within transnational discourse by exploring the role of his music in artistic festivals held in Brussels held from 1886-1914. By incorporating primary source materials, Cana's project makes a call for reconsidering Fauré as a participant in linguistic nationalist discourse and as an active supporter of artistic communities both in and outside of Paris.



**Sam Rao** is a senior on the pre-medical track majoring in Spanish and Portuguese. His senior thesis is a comparison of models of mental healthcare in Argentina and the United States. Argentine society, particularly in the capital of Buenos Aires, is heavily involved in the discipline of psychoanalysis and encourages individuals to share openly their mental health as a form of treatment. On the other hand, American treatment of mental health is more medicalized and relies primarily on prescription of medication. Sam traveled to Argentina in the summer of 2018 to observe psychoanalytic group therapy sessions in order to gather ethnographic data. He hopes to use this thesis to learn more about cultural understandings of health and how that could improve treatment outcomes as a prospective physician.



**Zoe Robbin** is a senior in Emory College pursuing a double major in Quantitative Sciences and Arabic Studies. Zoe's thesis in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies analyzes the impact of the #MeToo movement on representations of sexual harassment in the Jordanian media. Her project incorporates a critical reading of post-colonial and feminist history to evaluate the ongoing relationship between Western and Eastern movements for gender equality. During the summer of 2018, Zoe received the Emory Global Health Field Scholarship to aid in the development of a primary prevention intervention for sexual harassment at the University of Jordan in Amman.



**Namrata Verghese** is a senior in Emory College, pursuing a double major in Psychology/Linguistics and English/Creative Writing. Her honors thesis, housed in psychology but necessarily interdisciplinary, examines narratives of sexual violence and trauma. Specifically, it centers the stories of women of color in an attempt to elevate the voices missing from our cultural conversations around sexual assault, in the wake of #MeToo and other contemporary movements. The project considers both autobiographical narratives collected through the Fivush Family Narratives Lab and literary memoirs. By placing the two traditionally disparate corpora in conversation with each other, Namrata hopes to investigate whether, together, they will yield enriched understanding of experiences of sexual violence, particularly in regards to marginalized communities.



**Yi Xie** is a senior double majoring in History and English. She is currently working on her honor thesis, "Becoming American in a Multiracial Context: Chinese 'Sojourners' and African Americans' Battle for Inclusion in a White Republic, 1868-1904." This research aims to develop a clear understanding of the racial dynamics of the second half of the nineteenth century by studying the "Chinese Question," the "Negro Problem," and the relations between the two from the perspectives of abolitionists, Caucasian immigrants, African Americans, and the Chinese. She investigates why and how the "Chinese Question" and the "Negro Problem" were conflated and differentiated, and how dynamic and complex were the relations between the two. She also conducts a comparative study of anti-black and anti-Chinese violence on the West Coast. She has visited archives in Northampton, MA and will conduct more archival research in Seattle, WA.