

2016 Schiff Summer Fellows

Supporting independent research in the humanities through fellowship awards up to \$3000 (*total awards, may be combined with other sources = \$15,600*)

Paige Newhouse (T'2017 Sprng, U-HIST-AB, U-GER-AB2)

The Stasi and North Vietnamese Students in the GDR: the surveillance of socialist principles.

Fellowship (*Kata Gellen, Dept of Germanic Languages and Literature, mentor*)

Newhouse's research for her senior thesis project will explore the relationship between the Ministerium für Staatssicherheit (Stasi) and North Vietnamese students studying in the GDR from the inception of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) in 1954 until its union with the Republic of Vietnam in 1976. As both a History and German major with a strong interest in post-war Germany, she hopes to further her understanding of the GDR and socialism through a topic that is only presently being researched and written about by historians.

Emma Wright (T'2017 Sprng, U-CA-AB)

Narratives of Pain and Pilgrimage among Thru-Hikers on the Appalachian Trail

Fellowship (*Katya Wesolowski, Dept of Cultural Anthropology, mentor*)

Wright will study the narratives of pilgrimage and pain among Appalachian Trail thru-hikers and how that pain influences their experiences as a modern day pilgrim. She will spend 5 months trekking the entire length of the Appalachian Trail. As a thru-hiker, she will have a unique opportunity to understand the culture of this mobile community. Her research will be based on participant observation and interviews (formal and informal) with thru-hikers, trail angels, and friends of the trail. This research will then be used for her senior thesis.

Mariana Calvo (T'2017 Sprng, U-PPS-AB, U-HIST-AB2)

War, Migration, and Memory: Memories of Migration and the Guatemalan Civil War from Lynn, Massachusetts

Fellowship (*Carlos Rojas, Dept of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, mentor*)

Calvo will conduct interviews with Guatemalan immigrant families in Lynn, Massachusetts. She hopes to find a deeper connection between the current wave of Guatemalan migration and the civil war that took place in the 80s and 90s. She believes that telling stories of war and migration to American audiences will help shift the current narratives about Latin-America and migration from Latin-America. She will use the interviews for a senior thesis in history that addresses the US' involvement in the Guatemalan Civil War, and the effects of that involvement both in Guatemala and the United States, including: How is the Guatemalan Civil War connected to the current wave of migration from Guatemala to the United States today? How are the Guatemalan residents of Lynn, MA dealing with the trauma of the war?

Benjamin Brissette (T'2017 Sprng, U-NEUR-BS, U-SPAN-AB2)

Exploration of the motivations for the development of literacy in the Iberian Peninsula

Fellowship (*Elvira Vilches, Dept of Romance Studies, mentor*)

Through an investigation of primary source materials in the National and Royal Libraries of Spain, focusing on early training documents pertaining to different professions, especially merchants and traders, this research will attempt to uncover the motivations, economic and otherwise, that drove

the spread of literacy in early Spain. The goal of this research is gain insight into how, after the introduction of the printing press, literacy spread beyond the realms of the church and academia and began to be a part of general society. This holds great importance in terms of tracing Spain's national development in terms of the importance of literacy and how it came to be an integral part of the national identity. It is also relevant to the more general idea of what motivations can drive the adoption of a tool such as literacy at a national level. The questions that will be focused on are: Were the motivations for the development of individual literacy primarily economic or social " that is, was the goal more to gain money, or prestige? In which professions was the development of literacy most supported or required? How did this mix of professions contribute to the broader diffusion of literacy? During this era, literacy was more of an individual pursuit than a national goal, and this researcher hopes to understand the personal motivations that led to literacy as a national phenomenon.

Ibanca Anand (T'2017 Sprng, U-ECON-BS, U-LIT-AB2)

In Search of Macondo: Comparing Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches to Characterizing the Magical Realist Voice

Fellowship (*N. Katherine Hayles, Dept of Literature, mentor*)

Given magical realism's status as a relatively nascent genre, there has been much discourse among literary communities when it comes to laying down a strict definition. This study attempts to seek the shared characteristics of magical realist voices using three distinct methods: a survey of subjective opinions of emerging writers and magical realist aficionados in Bogotá, Colombia; a literature search of academic, peer-reviewed analyses; and a data-driven investigation of the leading determinants that separate magical realist texts from other texts using regression analysis and factor analysis. Not only will these three different segments inform a clearer understanding of some of the underlying circumstances or experiences that may influence the creation of a magical realist narrative perspective, but the differences among their conclusions will also be evaluated. To what extent do qualitative and quantitative research approaches support or conflict each other in this particular study? Given the recent rise of the digital humanities, this question addresses the more general debate about incorporating calculations into literary theory. Thus, the goals of this research project are two-fold: develop a more nuanced understanding of what magical realism is, while also assessing the merits and demerits of the techniques used to construct that definition.

Max Kramer (T'2017 Sprng, U-IN-PSYPH)

Moral Machines: How To Build Ethics Into Robust Artificial Intelligence

Fellowship (*Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Dept of Philosophy, mentor*)

It has thus far been difficult to incorporate ethics into robust artificial intelligence (AI). Most AI research is conducted within straightforward utilitarian or consequentialist frameworks, but these simple approaches can lead to counterintuitive judgments from an ethical perspective. For example, most people consider it immoral to harvest a healthy patient's organs to save the lives of two or even five other patients. Empirical research in ethics and moral psychology can serve to elucidate our moral intuitions and gather a set of features that are morally relevant to various ethical dilemmas. Kramer believes that incorporating these morally relevant factors rather than presuming a certain ethical framework could enable AI to make moral decisions that are safer, more robust, more beneficial, and acceptable to a wider range of people. To be useful in the development of AI,

our moral theories must provide more than vague, general criteria. They must also provide an operationalizable, and presumably quantitative, theory that specifies which particular actions are ethical in a wide range of situations. In the proposed project, we will take a machine learning approach to this challenge. Guided by the moral philosophy and psychology literatures as well as empirical survey data, Kramer hopes to identify features of ethical dilemmas that are relevant to the moral status of possible actions in them. He will construct a labeled data set of instances of (un)ethical decisions, based on which we can train classifiers, thus contributing to the development of a more moral AI.

Dai Li (T'2019 Sprng, UNDECLARED)

Theorizing French Labor Organizations in Global Context

Fellowship (*Michael Hardt, Dept of Literature, mentor*)

Title: Labor Rights in Social Transformation

Li will spend 6 weeks in France to study how labor organizations have helped workers secure their needs. Labor movements in France have been very influential both socially and politically, and have been a key reason in a number of social unrests and demonstrations—the 2006 youth protests, for example, were instigated by the controversial Labor Bill. In order to understand the theories of labor, capital, and social transformation, she will conduct a research project with a major French labor union Workers' Force (Force Ouvrière, FO.) She is interested in exploring the boundaries between the quotidian life of the working class in France and the increasingly globalized world. What are the burning issues that trouble the French working class? What have been the main and immediate causes of recent labor-related protests? What is the role of the EU in labor movements? How has the EU shaped and changed the lives of the French working class? What work have labor organizations done to mobilize and politically engage workers? Although this proposed project lies at the intersection of humanities and social science, and she will steer the project towards the humanities, exploring how to theorize labor movements and social transformation in late capitalism.

2015-16 Schiff Academic Year Awards

Supporting independent research in the humanities through grants and assistantships up to \$400 (*total awards = \$6000*)

Casey Tissue (T'2016 Sprng, U-CPS-BS, U-VIS-AB2)

Wired! Lab, Digital Athens

Assistantship (*Sheila Dillon, Dept of Art, Art History, Visual Studies, mentor*)

Zeren Zhang (T'2017 Sprng, U-STA-BS, U-ECON-BS2)

Venice Virtual World

Assistantship (*Kristin Lanzoni, Dept of Art, Art History, Visual Studies, mentor*)

Hanna Wiegers (T'2016 Sprng, U-ART-AB)

Paris of Waters

Assistantship (*Sara Galletti, Dept of Art, Art History, Visual Studies, mentor*)

Elizabeth Speed (T'2018 Sprng, U-ART-AB, U-POLI-MIN)

Venice Interactive Visual Atlas (VIVA)

Assistantship (*Kristin Lanzoni, Dept of Art, Art History, Visual Studies, mentor*)

Jessica Williams (T'2019 Sprng, UNDECLARED)

The Kingdom of Sicily Database

Assistantship (*Caroline Bruzelius, Dept of Art, Art History, Visual Studies, mentor*)

Lauren Adair Jones (T'2019 Sprng, UNDECLARED)

The Lives of Things

Assistantship (*Caroline Bruzelius, Dept of Art, Art History, Visual Studies, mentor*)

Sydney Harrington (T'2018 Sprng, U-CPS-AB)

Wired Fellow for the Venice Interactive Visual Atlas (VIVA) Project

Assistantship (*Kristin Lanzoni, Dept of Art, Art History, Visual Studies, mentor*)

Christine Kuesel (T'2019 Sprng, UNDECLARED)

Research Assistant, Statues Speak @ Duke

Assistantship (*Sheila Dillon, Dept of Art, Art History, Visual Studies, mentor*)

Cassidy Oberfeld (T'2018 Sprng, U-POLI-AB, U-ART-MIN)

Venice Interactive Visual Atlas

Assistantship (*Kristin Lanzoni, Dept of Art, Art History, Visual Studies, mentor*)

Gabriella Bloom (T'2018 Sprng, U-ART-AB)

Venice Interactive Visual Atlas

Assistantship (*Kristin Lanzoni, Dept of Art, Art History, Visual Studies, mentor*)

Jimmy Zhang (T'2017 Sprng, U-STA-BS, U-ECON-BS2)

Venice Virtual World

Assistantship (*Kristin Lanzoni, Dept of Art, Art History, Visual Studies, mentor*)

Xirui Liu (T'2017 Sprng, U-ECON-BS, U-STA-BS2)

Venice Virtual World

Assistantship (*Kristin Lanzoni, Dept of Art, Art History, Visual Studies, mentor*)

Vania Ma (T'2017 Sprng, U-CHEM-BS, U-SPAN-AB2)

César-Nicolás Pensón's "The Galindo Virgins" (1891) as a Foundational Text of the Haitian-Dominican Border

Travel Grant (*Richard Rosa, Dept of Romance Studies, mentor*)