



CHALLENGING BORDERS

International Human Rights Conference

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Albion College

Cultural Heritage and Human Rights: Making a Case for Manoomin

Gabrielle Ahnen, Madilyn Archambeau, and Adia Langeland; Albion College

The United Nations (UN) defines cultural heritage as items of tangible (e.g. monuments) or intangible (e.g. traditions) culture that “[link] the past, the present, and the future” and “are considered to be of such value or significance today, that individuals and communities want to transmit them” to subsequent generations. This definition also includes objects of natural heritage (e.g., culturally-significant landscapes or biodiversity). With this poster, Albion College students enrolled in *ANTH 325: Methods in Anthropology* explore the human rights dimensions of a native plant (*manoomin*) that is deeply tied to the cultural heritage of Michigan’s Indigenous Anishinaabe Peoples.

Growth of Political Relations or Sportswashing? The Nuances of Sports as Soft Diplomacy

Emily Abramczyk; Albion College

The use of sports as soft diplomacy is an effective tool for political persuasion, but there is also evidence of international sporting events being used to hide political abuses. When authoritarian regimes host international sporting events, they utilize the international media coverage to increase their prestige

and finances while simultaneously increasing human rights abuses, political tensions, and cultural clashes. Through a focus on case studies from the 20th century to today, such as Ping Pong Diplomacy, the National Basketball Association, the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, and the Saudi Arabia backed LIV golf league, my research explores the positive and negative nuances and take-aways when governments use sports as diplomacy. By understanding the connection between sports and diplomacy, specifically the areas where the idealizing factor of sports have caused political tensions and where countries have abused the soft diplomacy power of sports, society can change the narrative to utilize international sporting events as a soft diplomacy tool to encourage greater respect for human rights, build cultural understanding, and grow positive political relations.

La Resistencia Sigue: Multi-Generational Resistance Against Anti-Immigration

Ivana Zelaya Avila; DePauw University

This thesis explains how immigrant policies negatively impact generations of Latine families, including those of undocumented and documented status. Although there have been decades of anti-immigrant policies, I focus on how anti-immigrant policies affect Latine, undocumented immigrants, and their first generation, Hispanic American children from the Trump administration to the present day. Some of my core themes are that these policies result in generational instability for many families regardless of status, how Trump's administration specifically racialized Latine people and the effect it had on Latine communities. Lastly, I reimagine a society that is more accepting of multilingual, non-American speakers (specifically in academia), and use already existing models on how to achieve that. I use several decolonial theories as a framework, including Black feminist theories and the "Nested Theory of Conflict". I conclude with a poem by Gina Valdès to continue the conversation on liberation for immigrants of all generations and statuses.

The GTRP: Studying the Long Term Effects of Development-Induced Displacement of the Gwembe Tonga People

Donna Avina, Jaylen Billings, Jacob Sebestyen, and Grant Spangler; Albion College

The Gwembe Tonga Research Project (GTRP) was created in 1956 to study the effects of Kariba Dam. Located on the Zambezi River found along the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe, the Kariba Dam is the world's largest manmade lake by volume. Its construction caused the development-induced displacement of nearly 60,000 Gwembe Tonga people. The longest-running ethnographic study in Africa, the GTRP has followed the same families for over 65 years. Most recently, GTRP researchers gained support from the National Science Foundation to study how social networks influence wealth inequality among the displaced population. During the spring of 2023, Albion College students from *ANTH 325: Methods in Anthropology* were given the

opportunity to input social network data that was collected in November 2022 by GTRP researchers. This data will help researchers understand the dam's enduring impacts and how the communities have changed over time.

The Interpretive Approach: Human Rights Awareness at the Whitehouse Nature Center.

Henry Bacolor, Andrew Cameron, Sontiana Davis, and Jayla Dupree; Albion College

The Whitehouse Nature Center (WNC) is 140 acres of oak-hickory forest, floodplain, prairie, and open field adjacent to Albion College's campus. Its trails, bodies of water, gardens, and visitor center are home to over 400 different plant species. People may know that an important part of managing any nature center is removing invasive species, promoting native ones, and educating the public about this process. What they may not realize is that this work connects to the topic of human rights. The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi are one of many Indigenous groups in Michigan working to restore native plants, which hold spiritual, cultural, and ecological significance for their tribe. At their request and in order to fulfill a need for signage identified by the WNC director, students in ANTH 325: Methods in Anthropology are developing interpretive panels that communicate the importance of native plants and other issues relating to food sovereignty. In documenting this work, our poster will raise awareness and hopefully inspire action.

Fighting Food Apartheid in Albion, MI, through Experiential CSE Internships

AJ Bieber, Riley Kunkel, Justin Loukotka, and Ashlynn Reed; Albion College

In the summer of 2022, six Albion College students served as sustainability interns through AmeriCorps and the Center for Sustainability and the Environment (CSE). The new summer internship program provides opportunities to engage in sustainability action on campus and in the community of Albion. Each day throughout the summer, student interns worked as a team, helping to address local food apartheid through partnerships with the Albion Community Gardens and the Student Farm. By the end of the summer, the interns helped grow and distribute over 3,000 lbs of produce. In addition to working at the Community Garden and Student Farm, the students also worked alongside campus Facilities and Grounds departments on other projects and created a CSE blog. These students established mutually beneficial partnerships with community members and gained gardening, communication, and leadership skills. The students addressed a community-wide human rights issue, food insecurity, and apartheid in Albion all the while witnessing the effects of these issues on a community that they have grown to call home. In this poster, we will discuss how sustainable gardening can promote sustainable communities and emphasize the importance of food sovereignty.

Innovation Badges as Gateways to Environmental and Social-Change Making
AJ Bieber; Albion College

CSE's innovation badges provide official recognition of a student's experiential learning, professional development activities, and pursuit of specialized interests. As a CSE intern funded by AmeriCorps, I have had the opportunity to help craft and test the content of the badges. Environmental justice (EJ) recognizes that people and communities least responsible for pollution, and climate change, are most negatively affected. In particular, communities with historically marginalized populations, based on race, ethnicity, gender, education, and economic status, suffer the most from environmental degradation. Access to a clean, healthy, sustainable environment is a universal human right. Students completing these innovation badges are developing skills that embody CSE's mission to empower students to be environmental and social changemakers. Through these badges, we are advocating for not only the planet but for the people and voices that have been silenced within past environmental movements. Students work hands-on with environmental threat records published by the EPA and EGLE, within the context of the Albion, and learn how their lifestyle impacts the environment. Both the EJ in Albion and Sustainable Living badges provide students with the opportunity to think about EJ and sustainability in the context of their lived experience and within the Albion community.

Dynamic Identities: Challenges and Opportunities for the Human Rights Approach to the Study of Life Writing
Anjali Chandawarkar; Utrecht University

The narration of lives is emblematic of human rights advocacy, particularly as we approach microhistories that pose important challenges to how we see identity operating. However, focusing on the dynamism of identity categories in their cultural, spatial, and temporal interplay can help sharpen the practice of life writing through the lens of human rights. Specifically, the analysis of gendered identity from a postcolonial framework poses to be valuable for Shani Mootoo's short auto-fiction, "Out on Main Street" (1993). Using Shaffer and Smith's study on the ethics of recognition at the intersection of human rights and life writing, Mootoo's text shows the subtle relationship between relationality and social cues, through which we have opportunities for agential activity in the enaction of the text's ethical positioning. Through the text's analysis, this presentation will seek to show why a feminist lens through the mode of life writing presents an important challenge to the human rights approach to the study of life writing. It will argue that the lens of victimhood for understanding human rights is limiting, and a gender-based analysis of life writing here is helpful, as it can help better position the recognition of agential activity in relation to dynamic operations of identity enacted through writing of self-representational texts.

States Create their Past: The Political Utility of Manipulating History

Nicole Chase; Oberlin College

The abuse of history differs in methods and extent- from silence and ambiguity to outright denial and falsification- across time and space while remaining a crucial tactic in states' toolkits. There has been a breadth of scholarship in the fields of historical manipulation in the international context; as such, I seek to investigate the domestic considerations that motivate the phenomenon. I aim to demonstrate that a state can curate history in order to dictate national identity because of its utility as a political tool. My analysis is grounded empirically in three divergent cases of memory- omission, denial, and suppression, respectively- in the countries of Spain after the Franco Dictatorship, Turkey after the Armenian Genocide, and El Salvador after its Civil War. Each case presents different decisions a state may make regarding when and how they change their national historical narrative. Ultimately, I determined that historical manipulation is a proven avenue for the states to amass legitimacy or power over their population in these cases. Authoritarian governance and leader personability aid these tactics, yet they remain highly effective in democratic states and under international scrutiny.

Making LGBTQIA2S+ Resources Accessible at Albion College

Alyvia Fondren; Albion College

Albion College promotes an inclusive and diverse campus community, but unlike other schools, we haven't previously had a resource page for the LGBTQIA2S+ community. By creating a resource page on Albion's website that can serve the current LGBTQIA2S+ community on campus, this project will help create space for future LGBTQIA2S+ students on campus and demonstrate to them that Albion promotes an inclusive campus climate by making sure that resources are readily available and accessible. The webpage is based off of a review of various literature including scholarly journals regarding best practices for LGBTQIA2S+ individuals on college campuses, interviews with Albion faculty, and interviews with LGBTQIA2S+ students on campus. This webpage can help put Albion College on the map as a school that proudly stands with the community, facilitates affirming resources, and continues to develop systems of support that protect the identity rights of their students.

Development Induced Displacement and Its Relation to International Human Rights

Ty'Nayia George, Zack Mazoway, Vincent Miller, and Noah Zimmerman; Albion College

Development Induced Displacement (DID) is when the government forces civilians to evacuate their homeland in order to complete an altered environmental project that often serves a broader community than those displaced. A recent example is when the construction of stadiums for the 2016 Olympics held in Brazil caused roughly 600 families to be displaced. Those who protested were suppressed by law enforcement. DID is not limited to Brazil; every country in the world has had cases of DID. With this poster students in *ANTH 325: Methods in Anthropology* provide a basic definition of DID, while attempting to explain what these diverse cases have in common and how this topic intersects with human rights.

Gauging Success in the 2011 Humanitarian Intervention in Libya

Ben Gruodis-Gimbel; Kenyon College

Should the intervention in Libya be viewed as a success or failure? There is rigorous debate around this question. President Barack Obama noted that Libya was the worst mistake of his presidency, but some scholars argue that the intervention was actually a fruitful operation. The contestation on this point arises from different perspectives over what the goals of an intervention should be. In my research, I present four different standards to judge Libya by. As the goals of intervention vary across these models, so do interpretation of the intervention's results. Understanding the different political views of humanitarian intervention is crucial to designing more apolitical interventions capable of saving lives and averting genocide.

Gender and Legitimacy in Iran: Possible Outcomes of the Mahsa Amini Protests

James S. Henderson; Kenyon College

This project attempts to address the questions, “why now?” and “what do the protests mean for the regime?” I will review scholarship on the state of women in Iran and the changing ideological and demographic makeup of the nation to show that resentment towards the regime has reached new highs, both for women, who have been increasingly restricted as the regime tries to brand itself as an Islamic theocracy, and for the general population, which is experiencing acute economic pain. The failure of the reform movement made clear to the dissatisfied public that the regime was not going to listen to their

concerns, which compounded the already-high resentment felt towards the regime, particularly by the educated youth. I then apply different scholarship on regime collapse and social movements to the Iranian case. This paper holds that, considering the current situation, a revolutionary replacement of the regime is highly unlikely. It is more plausible that either (a) members of the political elite will recognize the regime's unpopularity, defect from it, and attempt to draw support from the public, eventually ending in a transplacement; or (b) the regime will offer concessions to the protestors, which could lead to a gradual transformation of the regime into a system that is more responsive to the public's preferences. The most rational response would be for the regime to offer credible liberalizing or democratizing reforms. The supreme leader can probably maintain substantial power while allowing the public a few major concessions. This would likely extend the lifespan of the regime while avoiding the turbulence of continued unrest.

Inequitable Access to Diverse Literature in American Public Schools

Kali Johnson; Albion College

Students are shown to excel in the classroom when they feel connected to content and have their individual identities represented. Yet in America, young readers are facing inequitable access to books written by writers of color, particularly students from historically marginalized backgrounds. Between 2021-2022 1,158 books pertaining to race, racism, activism, and characters of color were banned across public school systems, affecting nearly 4 million students. Children are profoundly influenced socially and academically by lack of experiences and representation in literature offered in schools. I explored two diversely different Marshall public elementary schools; Harrington Elementary and Walters Elementary by retrieving audit of library books purchased in the last 5 years and calculated the percentage of books written by authors of color, comparing what types of books are available vs. what types of books 5th grade students at both schools say they are drawn to. The ultimate question being is there the presence of this inequitable access to diverse literature in America correlating to the diversity present in a small-town public school district in Michigan.

Poorest Pay the Highest Price: the Case of Environmental Migration

Lucia Kobzová; Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts

Climate change has brought various undesirable phenomena. Unprecedented droughts, floods, and other natural disasters caused by global warming have forced millions of people out of their homes. In the coming years, environmental migration will become even more prevalent due to the polluted environment and lack of water and food resources. However, at this moment, environmental migrants are not recognized as refugees and therefore cannot apply for asylum. Even though everybody ought to have a right to clean

drinking water, a healthy environment, and food, millions of people are deprived of this right without having an opportunity to move to a safer place. For that reason, anyone displaced as a result of climate change should be given the legal status of a refugee since living in an environment unsuitable for living, directly threatens our fundamental rights such as right to life.

A Comparison of Border and Non-Border Sanctuary Cities

Sheridan Leinbach, and Lindsay Ratcliffe; Albion College

The United States has some of the strictest and most exclusive immigration laws in the world, allowing entry to far fewer migrants than most nations. Our research compares sanctuary cities on the Southern and Northern Border to answer the following questions: How do sanctuary cities offer different protections? How does geographic location differentiate services and experiences? How do asylum seekers and refugees interact with these communities and each other? How does their work with undocumented migrants and asylum seekers compare to their work with those who have received the legal designation of “refugee”? We will use a case study approach, focusing on San Diego, California and Ingham County, Michigan to understand how sanctuary city policies differ and how those differences in policy, migrant population, and border community impact the role the city plays in asylum and immigration. In answering these questions we hope to better understand the role, purpose, and reasoning behind the legislation that is enacted in these cities and the role it plays in terms of asylum and immigration. We will compare these sanctuary cities’ policies, as well as how they interact, avoid, or supersede the federal government’s, and in some cases state governments legislation.

Know Choice Know Freedom

Miley Phillips; Albion College

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled the United States Constitution was found to grant the right to an abortion, recognizing the right to liberty in the Constitution that protects personal privacy (including the right to decide if a pregnancy should be continued). On Friday, June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States made a disturbing decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Currently, 12 states are enforcing a total ban on abortions; 4 states are enforcing a law that restricts abortions; 8 states are creating new laws that are restricting/banning abortion; and, 27 states have no limitations on abortions, and it is legal to get an abortion in those 27 states. The overturn of *Roe v. Wade* is violating the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, Article 2, Article 5, Article 7, and Article 12 in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The overturn of *Roe v. Wade* is negatively impacting people by denying basic health care and doing so in a racially discriminating way.

Norm Diffusion, Pride Parades, and Serbian National Identity

Sally Smith; Kenyon College

Restrictions placed on the Belgrade pride parades of the last twenty years highlight the ability of states to restrict the right of assembly claiming an inability to ensure the safety of participants and counter-protesters, a claim human rights activists believe to be a form of state-sponsored homophobia and a violation of the right to assembly. LGBT activism, most publicly exhibited through Belgrade Pride, has been a source of controversy, especially as the Serbian Orthodox Church has grown and placed increased pressure on the Serbian state to restrict the freedom of assembly for LGBT groups. Canceled following right-wing pressure more times than the parade has been held, the Belgrade Pride Parade is at the epicenter of Serbian political tension and the violence surrounding the event has increased tensions throughout the state.

Where are you? Twitter & MMIW Patterns

Rebecca S. Stone; American University of Paris

Violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls is a crisis in the US, with cases of missing or murdered Indigenous women occurring nationwide. Although there are several thousand reported cases, official government databases log approximately two percent of these cases. This study analyzed communication patterns on Twitter related to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). The research aimed to understand how information is shared, the content and context of messages, and patterns of reported missing persons. The study found a lack of comprehensive data and highlighted the limitations of sentiment analysis tools, which may not accurately reflect the experiences of marginalized communities. The study also identified patterns of reported missing persons and their last known locations near tribal reservations and lands. The research provides recommendations for better data collection practices and emphasizes the need for continued research. This is critical to support American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls and to hold government agencies accountable for their obligations to protect Indigenous women.