



**Weatherhead Center**  
FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

## 2019 Undergraduate Associate Thesis Conference

February 7–8, 2019

Center for Government and International Studies, South Building  
1730 Cambridge Street, Belfer Case Study Room (S020 on the concourse level)

Up-to-date details on the conference, including the presenters' abstracts, can be found on the conference website at [http://conferences.wcfia.harvard.edu/undergraduate\\_thesis](http://conferences.wcfia.harvard.edu/undergraduate_thesis).

*(Please note that most of the presenters' theses are due in March and are works in progress.)*

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### Thursday, February 7

#### 12:15 p.m. Welcoming remarks

**Michèle Lamont**, *Center Director, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs; Faculty Associate.* Robert I. Goldman Professor of European Studies; Professor of Sociology and of African and African American Studies, Harvard University.

#### 12:30–2:30 p.m. PANEL ONE: US FOREIGN POLICY

**Chair: Stephen Peter Rosen**, *Faculty Associate; Chair, Weatherhead Research Cluster on International Security.* Beton Michael Kaneb Professor of National Security and Military Affairs, Department of Government, Harvard University; Harvard College Professor.

**Philip Balson** (History), *Kenneth I. Juster Fellow.* Strategy and Credibility: How American and British Visions for Southeast Asia Evolved in Crisis and Framed Escalation in Vietnam (1961–1964).

Abstract: My thesis looks at how America's regional strategy in Southeast Asia evolved in the years leading up to the 1965 escalation of the Vietnam War. Paying special attention to the idea of credibility and the role played by Anglo-American relationship, I first trace how President Kennedy and his advisors formulated a progressive Cold War vision in the aftermath of the 1961 Laotian crisis. Meanwhile, Britain restrained US policy and looked toward Malaysia as a means of sustaining its ability to do so. I argue that Kennedy's strategy came to rest on Vietnam and Indonesia, both of which presented apparent successes through 1962. Meanwhile, Britain quietly pursued an independent line but came into conflict with American policy by 1963 as Indonesia sought to undermine Malaysia. As crises in both Vietnam and Indonesia escalated, I argue that President Johnson abandoned Kennedy's strategy while retaining his assumptions and that instead of restraining him, Britain tied Vietnam and Malaysia together in the minds of US policymakers. In that way, by the summer of 1964

Johnson and his advisors had little regional vision, but rather a series of relatively unfounded assumptions which framed and strongly influenced their decision to escalate in Vietnam.

**Sunaina Danziger** (History), *Williams/Lodge International Government and Public Affairs Fellow*. *Nazis in America: The Secret CIA Programs that Shaped the New Global Order*.

Abstract: On May 8, 1945, the Allied powers—represented by the United States, Soviet Union, and United Kingdom—formally accepted Nazi Germany’s unconditional surrender of its armed forces, on a day known as “Victory in Europe,” or “VE” day. Although the war was formally over, the world remained very much in disorder. Allied countries convened in Yalta, San Francisco, and Potsdam to debate and construct the postwar international order. Even before the official cessation of hostilities in Europe, major figures of the US intelligence community, anticipating a global conflict between the United States and Soviet Union, initiated a series of secret operations that laid the groundwork to establish hegemony in a world of dueling superpowers. In their efforts to do so, the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps, Office of Strategic Services, and Central Intelligence Agency courted a wide swath of Germans, including high-profile former Nazis. Operations Sunrise, Paperclip, and Rusty respectively saw the US intelligence community negotiate with the leader of the SS in Italy to propel an early surrender of German troops in Italy, bring hundreds of thousands of German scientists to the United States, and deputize Hitler’s former head of anti-Soviet intelligence. This thesis explores how American intelligence subverted denazification in its early Cold War efforts to establish a coherent “Western bloc” to counter the ideological and geostrategic influence of the Soviet Union. Although lofty rhetoric about the cultural unity of the West emerged in the intelligence documents discussing each operation, all three were principally geostrategic in nature. They sought guarantee cohesion in Western European and American approaches to containment, at a time when West Germany was divided over whether to seek national unity through Cold War neutrality.

**Richard Yarrow** (Joint Concentration in History and Philosophy), *Williams/Lodge International Government and Public Affairs Fellow*. *Nationalism and Politicization of World War I-era European Scientists*.

Abstract: This thesis analyzes the ideologies of elite German natural scientists as the scientists approached and engaged in World War I. German science represented the pinnacle of scientific achievement in the early twentieth century, and the scientists themselves had embraced a fervent and widely-recognized internationalism. In voluntarily joining the German war effort, elite scientists consciously sacrificed their scientific institutions and research, as well as their international connections and prospects of advancing their internationalist agendas. Their actions both helped destroy German scientific institutions and launched the new form of “chemical warfare.” These transformations may be understood through the ideologies of a “scientized” or “scientistic” nationalism developed and held within the community of elite German scientists—that is, the scientists as a distinct group. I argue that the scientists saw values of efficiency imbued in nature but guided with the standards of the nation; tended to “biologize” the nation and solidify the nation in a science that emphasized foreign threats and minimized Germany’s risks from the synthesis and use of poison gases; and envisioned themselves as essential instruments of the nation capable of imposing their ethic upon the German military. The development and collapse of these ideological positions before and immediately after World War I foreshadow scientists’ later ethical stances toward Nazism and nuclear weapons.

**2:30–2:45 p.m. Coffee break outside of S020**

**2:45–4:45 p.m. PANEL TWO: INEQUALITY POLITICS AND POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA**

**Chair: Jocelyn Viterna**, *Faculty Associate; Harvard Academy Senior Scholar*. Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, Harvard University.

**Michelle Borbon** (Social Studies with Secondary in History), *Julian Sobin Fellow*. Deconstructing Corruption Discourses in the 2018 Sonoran Elections.

Abstract: In Sonora, Mexico, corruption accusations and anti-corruption policy proposals dominated the 2018 presidential, state, and local elections. While the World Bank defines corruption as the abuse of public office for private gain, during the elections the term became a catch-all for any wrongdoing. As corruption accusations rallied huge crowds, the political staffers behind these campaigns seemed to define corruption differently depending on the specific action, actors, and present company. I analyze these inconsistencies by interviewing and shadowing twenty campaign staffers from the PRI and Morena campaigns for two months. I focus primarily on staffers from the center-left PRI political party, which despite having held an iron-grip in conservative Sonora for years suffered a surprising defeat to Morena—a new, socialist political party which had never before won a seat in Sonora. Based on my conversations with PRI staffers in the wake of their defeat, I analyzed the shifting boundaries they drew to distinguish acceptable from unacceptable corruption and the ways they used these boundaries to make sense of career uncertainty, political failure, and violence. Corruption rumors allowed PRI staffers to create a sense of elite belonging at a time when the Sonoran ruling class underwent massive upheaval.

**Isabel Lapuerta** (Joint Concentration in Music and Anthropology), *Frank M. Boas Fellow*. Music, Tourism, and Identity: Cuba's Tourism Industry as a Site for Exporting, Preserving, and Reimagining National Identity, and How Its Musicians Navigate These Relationships.

Abstract: Cuba reopened its doors to tourism in the 1990s after years of government disdain for the industry, as the collapse of the USSR left the country in financial ruin and with tourism as its only hope for economic stability. As a country with a strong musical tradition and whose national identity was closely linked to music, it is no surprise that music has taken a front seat in Cuba's tourism industry. However, Cuba's dual currency system—which makes jobs in tourism the most lucrative on the island—and the incredible international popularity of *Buena Vista Social Club*, a 1997 documentary and album on Cuban music from the 1940s–1950s, have created not only an industry where pleasing tourists is essential to survival, but where tourists' preconceptions and expectations of what Cuban culture and music are like are narrow and tied specifically to the music and imagery found in *Buena Vista Social Club*. This has led to an overrepresentation of "traditional" Cuban music (such as that found in the film) in areas of tourism, and creation of a repertoire that is limited in terms of song and genre and constantly repeated in tourism.

Using Marx's theory of commodification as well as ethnomusicological theory of music as a representation of cultural identity, this thesis argues that music played in tourism in Cuba essentially works to represent tourists' perceptions of Cuban music and national identity, which musicians have to satisfy in order to survive. This thesis focuses on how musicians

working in tourism interact with this almost imposed, tourist-perceived identity of their country and culture which they rise to meet while performing for tourists, how this identity may complicate their own cultural identity, and how awareness of imposed identity impacts the musicians' relationship with the music they're playing.

**Luca-Slavomir Istodor-Berceanu** (Women, Gender & Sexuality), *Williams/Lodge International Government and Public Affairs Fellow*. LGBT Activism and the Decriminalization of Homosexuality in Guyana.

Abstract: Guyana is currently the only country in South America to have a colonial law that criminalizes buggery (anal sex), which mainly affects the gay community. However, Guyana culturally identifies as part of the Caribbean, where such laws are, in many cases, still a reality. This research focuses on LGBT activism in Guyana, and its connections to the country's colonial history. Based on interviews with LGBT activists and community members as well as document analysis, this study examines how the power dynamics between the West and Guyana affect the struggle for LGBT rights. I explore the tension between Guyana's buggery law having been imposed as part of the British penal code and the way the West now presents itself as progressive while sometimes disproportionately portraying Guyana as poor, undeveloped, and homophobic in articles and reports. I discuss the relation between Guyanese identity—which many participants consider to be based on diversity, multiracial inclusion, and understanding—and the exclusion of homosexuality, which is sometimes portrayed as “foreign” or a “white man's thing.” I put forward the differences between Western and Guyanese LGBT activism, and analyze whether Western officials or activists can influence the progress of LGBT rights in Guyana. Finally, I talk about the recent oil exploitation in the country by US company ExxonMobil and its implications for economic development and LGBT rights.

**4:45–6:00 p.m. Reception outside of S020**

**Friday, February 8**

**8:00–8:30 a.m. Continental breakfast outside of S020**

**8:30–10:30 a.m. PANEL THREE: GLOBAL ACCESS TO RIGHTS ISSUES**

**Chair: Paul Chang**, *Interim Director, Undergraduate Student Programs; Faculty Associate*. Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Harvard University.

**Molly Leavens** (Special Concentration in Food and the Environment), *Rogers Family Research Fellow*. Corporate Responsibility, Social Outcomes, and Environmental Implications in the Global Cacao Market.

Abstract: The global cocoa industry currently suffers from interrelated issues of low productivity, farmer poverty, and environmental degradation. This study seeks to evaluate the living income of cocoa farmers and argue for how private companies of varying scales can break these cycles of poverty and improve environmental outcomes. This is a mixed methods study incorporating three waves—in 2009, 2014, and 2018—of a survey assessing hundreds of impact metrics across almost 3,000 Ghanaian cocoa farmers. The study additionally includes farmer focus groups and ethnographies in Ghana, Indonesia, and Central America, and key

informant interviews throughout the global cocoa supply chain. This study is original in assessing the implications of private-sector initiatives over a ten-year period and questioning the qualitative driving factors behind these trends. Preliminary findings confirm the challenges faced by cocoa farmers and the urgency for multidimensional solutions that address a diversity of obstacles on and off the cocoa farm. This study is useful for private companies, who are funding a majority of cocoa sustainability programs, to evaluate and improve their programs.

**Christina Qiu** (Applied Mathematics), *Kenneth I. Juster Fellow; Simmons Family Research Fellow; Undergraduate Research Intern*. The Role of Administrative Assistance in Labor Outcomes for Roma Informal Settlement Residents: Results from the MOUS Program in Grenoble, France.

Abstract: In 2012, the metropole of Grenoble, along with the local Centre Communale d'Action Social (CCAS), commissioned an administrative assistance program called Maîtrise d'Oeuvre Urbaine et Sociale (MOUS) which specializes in the labor and social integration of Roma informal settlement residents. Emphasizing attainment of temporary housing and social accompaniment, the MOUS program Avenir Emploi utilizes a candidature process based on an assessment across "integration criteria." Since its inception, the MOUS program has assessed 167 applications and accepted seventy individuals with an acceptance rate of 42 percent. Panel data of 714 observations spanning seven lag-years, application assessment data, and difference-in-differences regressions were used to assess causal effects of the MOUS program on labor outcomes. This thesis finds that conceptions of "motivation" by the MOUS program rest primarily on French language ability, which interacts with other integration criteria in an additive—not multiplicative—way in acceptance decisions. The MOUS program exists in a network of other administrative assistance programs that work through a similar "accompaniment" mechanism. Those accepted into the MOUS program are more likely to obtain job contracts, participate in job-specific training programs, and be enrolled in French language workshops primarily provided by administrative assistance programs *outside* the MOUS in the post-acceptance period. Participation in the MOUS program increases both utilization of administrative assistance programs *outside* the MOUS and utilization density of these programs. This study finds that the MOUS program may help beneficiaries develop accompaniment-specific skills that make participation in outside administrative assistance programs more effective.

**Rohan Shah** (Social Studies), *Rogers Family Research Fellow*. Water Price, Community, and Technology: The Impact and Meaning of 'Water ATMs' in the Mathare Valley of Nairobi.

Abstract: Globally, the urban poor have far worse access to services like clean water and sanitation than the rich. This project investigates a technological intervention being deployed in Nairobi's slums that ostensibly improves water access: prepaid water dispensers. By using electronic payments, the "water ATMs" promise to cut out the rent-seeking vendors that sell water to households in slums at 10–100 times the scheduled tariff. This thesis investigates how water ATMs have impacted the urban communities of Mathare Valley in Nairobi.

By performing OLS regression analysis on data from an original survey of 654 households, I find that water ATMs have nearly halved average water prices paid by households. However, 45 percent of households using the ATMs report paying prices higher than the digitally-fixed price. This is because some community-based organizations that manage the water ATMs are seeking water rents from ATM users. Ethnographic interviews with the members of these

organizations muddy our normatively-charged understanding of “rent-seeking” as rapaciousness. Water rents are not necessarily understood as exploitation, but instead thought of as the legitimate and formally sanctioned right of community-based organizations. Water ATMs are thus understood as disruptions to this social arrangement.

**10:30–10:45 a.m. Coffee break**

**10:45–12:45 p.m. PANEL FOUR: COMPARATIVE ISSUES OF IDENTITY AND ACCESS**

**Chair: Michael Stein**, *Faculty Associate*. Visiting Professor, Harvard Law School.

**Elsie Tellier** (Sociology), *Undergraduate Research Fellow, Canada Program*. The Factors that Impact the Gap in Treatment for Indigenous Canadian Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in the Manitoban Child Welfare System.

Abstract: Through fifteen qualitative interviews with Manitoban foster parents who have fostered Indigenous children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, I examine the ways in which stigma impacts the lives of both parents and children. I analyze how the label of “foster” creates stigma for both parents and children as well as how this exists alongside racism and ableism. I examine briefly how policy and practice minimizes or amplifies the experience of stigma faced by foster children and foster parents through their interactions with the Manitoban Child Welfare system.

**Michelle Liang** (Joint Concentration in History & Literature and Women, Gender & Sexuality), *Frank M. Boas Fellow*. A Transnational Comparative Analysis of Queer Rights Activism.

Abstract: This thesis explores how kink communities’ constructed histories shape their relations to the globally venerated “Dutch tolerance,” first in discussing highly visible leather establishments in the Netherlands, and then moving into smaller BDSM subcommunities formed by queer women of color. The constructed histories in the gay male leather scene reflect a nostalgia for the 1970s, composed of transnational images of machoness, muscles, leather, and dirtiness. However, the leather nostalgia for a lost “grittiness” is also a nostalgia for a racialized gay masculinity reiterating ideas of liberalism that colonial Dutch discourses actively cultivate. But while the white gay male leather scene mostly understands the power in kink as individual and agential, BDSM necessarily implicates more “social” forms of power, like racial hierarchy and cis-heteropatriarchy. The BDSM subcommunities I discuss centralize marginalized experiences of kink, in which the boundary between kink and daily life is inherent to kink desires and practices. In doing so, these communities refute glorifications of apolitical and fun kink spaces and the claim that extensive kink negotiation processes are “too American,” which is a position with strong connections to Dutch disavowals of race as solely coming from the US and other European countries, ongoing racism toward Afro-Surinamese diasporas, and nascent fears of the conflated Muslim/terrorism/refugee/immigrant category.

**Wonik Son** (History), *Williams/Lodge International Government and Public Affairs Fellow*. UN Humanitarian Images and the Construction of Global Disability.

Abstract: My thesis research explores the perception of disability in the global imagination, informed by the images of postwar UN humanitarian photography. I analyze the United Nations and World Health Organization’s archives in Geneva and New York of photographs,

films, posters, and other visual sources, disseminated to the public, to help contextualize the postwar construction of “the disabled” as a distinct category in need of special global attention.

Historians who write about UN and international organizations have traditionally focused exclusively on textual archives. There has been budding interest in the UN’s visual history, but the scholarship is in its infancy. This project seeks to add a new dimension to the study of projection and gaze during postwar decolonization: How did and does the UN perpetuate or problematize the same images of the disabled as objects of pity? Who is “disabled” in the UN’s images? Who is the “public” in these films? Using samples of WHO photographs on disability, and *It’s the Same World*, a UN film produced for the 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons, I argue that the audience for these images was primarily the West. These images are a product of the able-bodied West’s collective need to reaffirm a completeness of self amidst suffering, disabled bodies. The enthusiastic reception of the UN’s photographs and educational films by a predominantly Western audience provided a sounding board that reaffirmed both the UN’s internationalism to the global public and the potential of media to extend the UN’s visual identity.

**12:45–1:45 p.m. Lunch provided outside of S020**

**1:45–3:45 p.m. PANEL FIVE: CURRENT ISSUES OF COLONIALISM AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Chair: Yuhua Wang**, *Faculty Associate*. Assistant Professor, Department of Government, Harvard University.

**Raquel Leslie** (Joint Concentration in Government and East Asian Studies), *Rogers Family Research Fellow*. Towards the “China Model” of Development? Ethnopolitics and Party System Stability in Africa.

Abstract: From massive investments in infrastructure, the growing prominence of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), and the extension of the Belt & Road Initiative into the continent, there is no question that China is changing the way African politicians seek aid and investment. However, many in Washington fear that China’s economic diplomacy efforts to promote more non-Western government engagement in Africa are in fact intended to demonstrate that Western democratic ideals are not universal. In light of this persistent narrative of an ideological struggle between the United States and China on the African continent, politicians, scholars, and the media alike typically focus on evaluating whether China seeks to use its soft power to export an alternative model of development to liberal democracy and the Washington Consensus—one predicated on a greater reliance on market capitalism while retaining an authoritarian political structure.

However, the underlying mechanisms that condition the extent to which African states themselves find the so-called “China model” attractive remain relatively underexplored. In order to shed light on the recipient country perspective, I interview government officials, scholars, and development professionals in Kenya and Ethiopia about their attitudes not only towards the lack of stringent conditionality attached to Chinese assistance, but moreover the appeal of China’s internal ideology and governance approach for their own countries. Despite Kenya’s and Ethiopia’s respective regime types as democracies and closed anocracies, I find that the party system that each country engineered as a means of ethnic conflict

management—and the political stability, or lack thereof, that each produces—plays a critical role in determining the extent to which government officials are receptive to the lessons in political governance offered by the China model. I then evaluate the generalizability of this argument beyond my two case studies by conducting large-N regression analysis using the Varieties of Democracy dataset and Afrobarometer’s household surveys, in order to determine whether there exists a correlation between electoral instability and perceptions of China as an attractive development model for one’s country.

**Molly Nolan** (History and Literature and African Studies), *Undergraduate Research Fellow, Weatherhead Research Cluster on Inequality and Inclusion*. Open Spaces: Environmental Racism, Settler Colonialism, and the Testing Fields of South Australia.

Abstract: In 1956, the British-administered Operation Buffalo commenced in remote South Australia, and on September 27 of that year, the first atomic bombs to be tested at Maralinga exploded into the atmosphere. This activity marked the beginning of a series of nuclear tests to be conducted on indigenous-held lands which had, up until that point, been overseen by the Maralinga Tjarutja, a Pitjantjatjara people in western South Australia to which Maralinga held fundamental spiritual significance. Despite this, the Maralinga Tjarutja were forcibly relocated to a settlement at Yalata, on the south coast of the state, and when the lands were returned to their custodianship in the mid 1980s, they remained contaminated with nuclear residue. Although some efforts have been made in an attempt to remedy the injustice caused by the British and Australian governments in their efforts to become global superpowers, fundamental failings prevail today. This research focuses on domestic and foreign government policy, legal systems, and British-Australian international relations to better understand the Western world’s ongoing colonial relationship with the concepts of indigeneity, ownership, and land.

**Alexandra Shpitalnik** (Government and Slavic Literatures & Cultures), *Frank M. Boas Fellow*. Challenges to NGO Development in Modern Russia: The Plight of Socially Oriented Organizations in a Post-Soviet Hybrid Regime.

Abstract: This thesis investigates the role of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) providing social services in modern-day Russia. Through an overview and critique of hybrid regime and civil society theory, it creates a space for the discussion and analysis of the legitimate role of civil society in nondemocratic regimes. Then, it draws upon interview and ethnographic data to present the argument that socially-oriented NGOs (SONGOs) in Russia play a significant role independent of the government, though beneficial for both the government and the general public. This thesis challenges the notion that Russian NGOs’ main challenges result from government repression and co-optation, highlighting challenges outside of this dynamic that have hindered growth and necessitated innovative, citizen-led development strategies. It investigates a state-society relationship between SONGOs and the Russian government characterized by mutual benefit, despite difficulties caused by a lack of knowledge and experience within both parties.

**3:45–4:00 p.m. Coffee break**

**4:00–6:00 p.m. PANEL SIX: HISTORICAL ISSUES OF COLONIALISM AND DEVELOPMENT**



**Chair: Mark C. Elliott**, *Faculty Associate*. Mark Schwartz Professor of Chinese and Inner Asian History, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations and Department of History; Vice Provost for International Affairs, Harvard University.

**Arthur Schott Lopes** (History with Secondary in Classical Civilizations), *Williams/Lodge International Government and Public Affairs Fellow*. *A Tropical Homer: Reinterpreting Gilberto Freyre's Casa-Grande & Senzala, 1902–1940*.

Abstract: My thesis seeks to reinterpret Brazilian sociologist, anthropologist, and historian Gilberto Freyre's magnum opus *Casa-Grande & Senzala* (1933) as a national myth rather than as a scientific essay, assessing it as a literary piece that can create a multiracial theory of nationalism for 1930s Brazil. As an intellectual history of this seminal work, it begins with the context of Luso-Brazilian nationalism in the twentieth century, exploring the writings of Brazilian and Portuguese nationalists and their own constructions of both nations. It then proceeds to analyze how Freyre co-opted the logic of these nationalisms to subvert them, using their language of family and genealogy to turn race into a moot category. Freyre's mythical narrative theorizes a genealogical nationalism for Brazil, based on the miscegenation prompted by colonial patriarchy, its unique family structure, and its socioeconomic consequences. Through this interpretation, I also seek to understand the complex internal logic of *Casa-Grande & Senzala*, interpreting its use of social science as an accessory element to his mythical account of Brazilian nationality. As of now, the thesis concludes with a tentative third chapter on Freyre's political thought, linking his theories about the nation to his writings on the State.

**Sierra Nota** (Joint Concentration in History and Slavic Languages and Literatures), *Williams/Lodge International Government and Public Affairs Fellow*. *Make Way for the Railway: City Development and the Trans-Siberian Railroad*.

Abstract: While the vast majority of Russian settlements in the first quarter of the twentieth century were shrinking in population and suspending infrastructure projects, the city of Irkutsk experienced a developmental 'boom'. This is despite the fact that the primary force driving migration and expansion in this period has been shown to be centered around the industrialization in the Empire's largest cities. Paradoxically, Irkutsk added few factories and moved away from heavy industry in this period. It was the construction of the Trans-Siberian railway, and the international trade, seasonal labor, and commodities movement that this new network brought through its geographically most important junction, Irkutsk, that allowed the city to thrive. The city thus developed in a uniquely 'transit-oriented' fashion. It was only once the Bolsheviks came to power, bringing with them a distaste for international trade and the movement of its citizens outside of the Union, that the city stopped expanding and faded into relative obscurity. This thesis aims to trace the unique urban development that characterizes this transformative period in Irkutsk; what ultimately emerges is a nonindustrial international metropolis that defies neat characterization by current historiographical approaches to late Russian imperial urbanism.

**Ziqi "Jules" Qiu** (Joint Concentration in History and Mathematics), *Williams/Lodge International Government and Public Affairs Fellow*. "Friendship or Hostility, Trade or War": The 1832 Voyage of the *Lord Amherst*.

Abstract: My thesis follows the voyage of the ship *Lord Amherst* in 1832 along the Chinese coast led by Hugh Hamilton Lindsay from the East India Company (EIC), and examines how, through various interactions at the very frontiers of two empires, people like Lindsay observed and concluded about the nature of government, law, commerce, and national character of the subjects of the “Celestial Empire.” It tells the story from the perspectives of the Select Committee of EIC in Canton, of merchants like Lindsay who were anticipating the end of EIC’s monopoly, of the Chinese officials in the port cities they visited, and of the Court of Directors of EIC and British politicians in London. What I hope to portray, in the various strands of narratives of and attitudes toward the voyage, is the process through which the different visions of the relations between war, peace, and trade were formed when the future held much uncertainty and possibility, and their complex roots in a mix of British ideas of political philosophy and moral considerations. The exchange of information and opinions among the characters of this story continued well into and beyond the Opium War, and so did the competition of these different views.

**6:00 p.m. Closing remarks**

**Theodore J. Gilman**, *Executive Director, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.*