

LARTS Minor Capstone Projects

2021

William Suh, “An analysis of the changes of campaign finance reform through the lenses of the McCain–Feingold Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (2002) and Citizens United v. FEC (2010)” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Political Science and Economics, spring 2021. Adviser James Klein)

An analysis on the rise and impact of big-money, independent political groups through the lenses of the McCain-Feingold Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 and the Citizens United v. FEC Supreme Court decision of 2010.

Sami Watts, “Fashion, Gender, and Classical Music Performance: Deconstructing Classical Music through Design” (research and fashion design project for the LARTS Minor in Cultural Studies, spring 2021. Adviser Jill Gatlin)

The creation of a gender inclusive/neutral concert clothing collection-line adhering to and bending both general and NEC’s concert dress codes. The project seeks not only to create an inclusive space for bodies deemed as ‘other’ on the classical western music stage, but also to open up conversations about the heteronormative and conservative structures of niche parts of the music industry.

Lila Quillin, “Invisible Cities: Exploring the Bridge Between Literature, Music, and Visual Language” (creative arts project for the LARTS Minor in Creative Arts, spring 2021. Advisers Katya Popova and Patrick Keppel)

An animation of the visual language of Fedora, a city described in Italo Calvino’s novel *Invisible Cities*, to accompany the author’s orchestral piece inspired by the same city.

Marie Fujimoto, “Work and Consumption, with Freud and Marx” (research and creative project for the LARTS Minor in Cultural Studies and Creative Arts, spring 2021. Advisers Jill Gatlin and James Klein)

An animation presenting the intersection of Freudian psychology and Marxist economics and their implications for the development of classical musicians.

2020

Alex Garde, “Listening to Future Forests” (research and creative project for the LARTS Minor in Environmental Science, spring 2020. Adviser Matthew Duvneck)

This project simulates the next 100 years of a forest under two scenarios: one with normal climatic conditions, and one with climate change. The simulations are represented musically, allowing one to “listen” to the forest in order to help understand the impact of climate change on forest ecosystems.

Ilana Zaks, “Flying Forward” (multimedia project for the LARTS Minor in Creative Arts, spring 2020. Adviser Patrick Keppel)

A multimedia performance featuring Jennifer Higdon’s Violin Concerto, a dance premiere, and a documentary film on the subject of the empowerment of women in the classical music, fashion design, electronic production, film and dance industries.

Allyson Bennett, “The Marriage of Lieder and Text” (research project for the LARTS Minor in German, spring 2020. Adviser Sia Stovall)

An examination of the relationship between Romantic German text and Lieder through various settings of Goethe's *Der Erlkönig*.

Andrew Barnwell, “Observational Study of Museum Visitors’ Interactions with Analog and Digital Educational Tools” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Social Studies, spring 2020. Adviser James Klein)

Research from the Jacob Lawrence Gallery of the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM), along with demographic data and financial analysis of the PEM and the Museum of Fine Arts

McKinley James, “New England Traditional Music and Dance” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Anthropology and Ethnomusicology, spring 2020. Adviser James Klein)

A comprehensive study of the traditions of contra dance, showing the heritage and community of New England dance and music through a historical and modern study of culture and music.

2019 (the inaugural LARTS Minor class)

Darynn Dean, “All About Love: Jazz and Gender” (documentary film for the LARTS Minor in Cultural Studies, spring 2019. Adviser Jill Gatlin)

An exploration of how jazz can be founded in what feminist writer bell hooks calls a “love ethic.” The film chronicles the author’s creation of the first ever “NEC & Berklee All Women Cross Big Band,” featuring interviews with prominent women jazz musicians, peers, and scholars from NEC and Berklee.

Julia Cohen, “Rejection” (solo performance piece of five extended monologues for the LARTS Minor in Acting, spring 2019. Adviser Patrick Keppel)

A solo performance piece weaving together a series of monologues and guitar interludes on the theme of “The Five Stages of Rejection”: Lesley from Alan Bennett’s *Talking Heads*, Hertha from Tennessee Williams’ *Spring Storm*, Karen from Tracy Letts’ *August: Osage County*, Jessie from Marsha Norman’s *Night, Mother*, and Nina from Chekhov’s *The Seagull*.

Bosba Panh, “Art in Post-Genocide Cambodia” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Cultural Studies, spring 2019. Advisers James Klein and Jill Gatlin)

A consideration of the cultural value in presenting trauma in art through analyses of works by Sera Ing, Rithy Panh, the Bangsokol Requiem, as well as the author’s own song cycle *Father Mine*.

Alexandra Purdy, “Women of Athens: The Contrasting Roles of Women in Classical Athens and Classical Tragedy” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Theatre Studies, spring 2019. Adviser Patrick Keppel)

A research project examining the striking contrast between the severely limited roles of women in Classical Athens and the assertive and powerful roles of a number of prominent female characters in Classical Tragedy.

Liana Branscome, “Insomniac” (collection of poems for the LARTS Minor in Poetry, spring 2019. Adviser Ruth Lepson)

A collection of poems about everyday encounters—an exploration of the ramifications of the secrets we keep, the insecurities we believe in, and the mysterious side of life.

Mira Williams, “Transgressive Bodies: Desire and Discipline” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Cultural Studies spring 2019. Adviser Jill Gatlin)

An analysis of how works by Sarah Lucas and Andre Dubus offer reflexive, unique, and highly relatable discussions of gender and atypical bodies.

2018

Chelsea Fingal DeSouza, “The Problem of Representation and Identity in Three Postcolonial Literary Contexts” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Literature, spring 2018. Adviser Jill Gatlin)

An exploration of the ways individual and cultural identities are created and manipulated in post-colonized nations. Looking at Antigua, Vietnam, and India, the project focuses on three literary works—Jamaica Kincaid's *A Small Place*, Viet Thanh Nguyen's *The Sympathizer*, and Kiran Desai's *Inheritance of Loss*—to investigate the ways colonialist oppression persists in the postcolonial era.

Luther Warren, “Jane Jacobs and Robert Moses: Defining the American City” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Cultural Studies, spring 2018. Adviser James Klein)

A study of the controversy centered on Robert Moses, builder of 20th Century New York City, designer of that 'monumental city' and 'Power Broker' and his critic, Jane Jacobs, dedicated to the idea of the city as neighborhood, as the 'intricate ballet' of its residents.

2017

Katherine Miller, “Balancing Act: An Evolution of the First Lady through Conflicting Allegiances” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Literature and Cultural Studies, spring 2017. Adviser Jill Gatlin)

A research project comparing the human rights and nation building work of three notable First Ladies—Abigail Adams, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Hillary Clinton—documenting the evolution of the First Lady from advisor to policy maker and how this shift challenged these women to balance their duties to their country, their husbands, their own voices, and the country's women. [Capstone presentation included a performance of “What Can One Woman Do?” from Stacy Garrop's 2006 song cycle, *In Eleanor's Words*.]

Jesse Gardner, “Thinking Gender and the Family in Marx and Freud” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Cultural Studies, spring 2017. Adviser James Klein)

A research project examining the problematic notions of gender in the writings of Marx and Freud.

2016 (LARTS Minor introduced, fall 2015)

Bryce Leafman, “Collaboration and Complicity in the Holocaust” (research project for the LARTS Minor in History and Social Studies, spring 2016. Adviser James Klein)

A research project examining the second wave of Holocaust historians who have emerged in the last decade, taking the pioneering work of Hilberg, Levi, and Arendt and complicating it with notions of participation, encouragement, and psychological as well as economic investment in perpetrating the Holocaust.