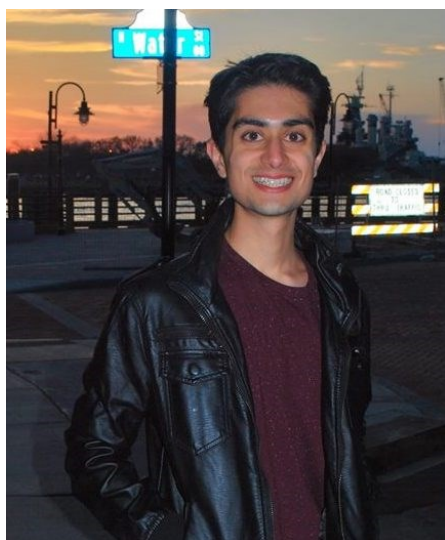


2017 Rigel Scholars



Jay Arora

Jay Arora is a Trinity sophomore from Raleigh, North Carolina. He is planning on majoring in Public Policy and English. He has conducted research with the Sanford School of Public Policy and the Duke Cancer Institute, where he published a paper on inflammatory breast cancer. In his free time, Jay works as the Managing Editor of the 60 Seconds program at Duke Political Review and writes a biweekly political column.

Conformity Against Counter-Culture:

A Comparative Study of the *Bildungsroman* and Beat Poetry

This project consists of a historical-literary comparative study between the traditional European bildungsroman and the popular coming-of-age novels in mid-20th century America. While both subgenres focus on young people maturing in society, the respective protagonists undergo wildly differing arcs. The European bildungsroman often focus on gaining social standing and monetary success, whereas the American novels emphasize the prevalence of counter-culture and anti-capitalistic ideals. I plan on contextualizing this shift by analyzing the following: (1) Differing stylistic choices of the literature, (2) Differing economic realities, and (3) Current events of the time. This dissertation seeks to identify the reasons behind the tendency for authors of European bildungsroman to embrace capitalism, and for American authors to do the opposite. I seek to provide a greater understanding of the anxieties of young people as they develop their individuality in a capitalistic society, and how that is expressed in popular literature.

Faculty Research Consultant: Professor Taylor Black

Librarian Research Consultant: Arianne Hartsell-Gundy



Cyan DeVeaux

Cyan DeVeaux is a sophomore at Duke University from Suffern, New York. She intends to double major in Computer Science and Visual & Media Studies. At Duke, she is a Reginaldo Howard Memorial Scholar, an Alice M. Baldwin Scholar, an executive board member of Wiring With Women, and a research assistant at Duke's Identity and Diversity Lab.

The Representation of Mental Health in Children's Media

Television and film are powerful in their ability to promote messages that reach a mass amount of people. For children making sense of the world around them, these messages are critical. Consequently, addressing topics such as anxiety, stress, and grief are relevant for children still learning how to manage those feelings. My research project focuses on how various television shows and films aimed towards children have portrayed mental health related themes. I will analyze how stressful situations, including seemingly "adult" topics, are translated into a child friendly format and examine what coping measures are suggested as well as any other notable patterns. This research will contribute to discourse surrounding childhood mental health and media representation.

Faculty Research Consultant: Professor Gareth Price

Librarian Research Consultant: Danette Pachtner



Sophia Laettner

Sophia Laettner is a member of Duke University's class of 2020, from Jacksonville, Florida. Sophia is pursuing a double major in English and Public Policy. She is the head of Events and Outreach for Small Town Records, Duke's record label on campus. As an artist she explores creating through music, photography, writing, and poetry. As a public policy student, her interests include human migration, racial and sexual inequality, and environmental justice. Her research project is largely inspired by Toni Morrison's writing.

The Female Trickster

My research centers around the female trickster figure, as she occurs in history, literature, and as the author herself. The trickster figure is a common trope, especially in African literature. Historically, the trickster archetype is male. While the female trickster is rarer, the goal of this research is to collect information on these female tricksters, and create a comprehensive resource, such as a website. My research will include the writings of Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, and Zora Neale Hurston, among others. I will also explore how the author operates as a trickster, by primary research through interviews. Trickster authors write to undermine conventions, inequalities, and negative narratives surrounding gender and race. My secondary research will include scholarly works and Ricki Stefanie Tannen's book, *The Female Trickster: the Mask That Reveals: Post-Jungian and Postmodern Psychological Perspectives on Women in Contemporary Culture*. Ultimately, my hope is that this research will highlight an important character in literature, giving a stronger voice to the female tricksters, whom I believe are inherently feminists.

Faculty Research Consultant: Professor Joseph Winters

Librarian Research Consultant: Danette Pachtner



Naomi Lilly

Naomi Lilly is a member of the class of 2020. Naomi is studying African American Studies and Gender Studies, and pursuing a certificate in Policy Journalism and Media Studies. At Duke, she is a member of the Penny Pilgram Cohort, the political chair co-president for Duke's NAACP chapter, a member of the Duke Deja Blue acapella group, and a content creator for The Bridge (an online publication). Her academic interests include gender and racial injustice, the role of activism in today's society, and the media's growing impact with issues related to social injustice(s).

Dementia and the Cycle of Role Reversal

This project seeks to focus on the role dementia has played within my family and its visibility within the African American community. My grandma is currently an African American female with 87 years of age and dementia. I often detached myself from understanding and becoming involved in my grandma's dwindling health. I wanted to preserve the image I held of her in the previous 18 years of my life. However, a first time trip to her health care provider for a routine checkup, would completely change my scope on the involvement I needed to have. Accounts by doctors, specialists, and family members will offer deeper insight into the role reversal (individuals in charge of caregiving) Dementia often presents.

Faculty Research Consultant: Professor Chris Sims

Librarian Research Consultant: Brittany Wofford



Joel Mire

Joel Mire is a sophomore studying English literature and computer science at Duke University, in Durham, NC. There, he researches 20th Century Modernist literature. Additionally, he is developing projects that integrate computers into high school English classes. Joel is a Benjamin N. Duke Scholar and a Senator of Academic Affairs on the Duke Student Government.

**Self-Invention in the Postcolonial Novel: Constructing Identity
and the Legacy of Imperialism**

As the sun finally set on the British Empire, writers across the globe reckoned with complex and often disparate cultural influences in their texts. Bildungsroman, from the German bildung, meaning 'education or formation,' and roman, meaning 'novel,' became a rich literary tradition in Europe that chronicled an individual artist's formational years and eventual self-identification. The postcolonial novel of formation often has many similarities to the European Bildungsroman, but such a comparison is perhaps inappropriate considering Europe's legacy of exploitative imperialism in its empires' colonies. Indeed, self-identification for historically oppressed persons presents itself more difficulty for many non-European counterparts, and new modes of self-creation are necessary. Disassociation, irrationality, and reappropriation become new methods of protest and empowerment. This paper analyzes the struggle for identity in postcolonial and modernist literature in the 20th Century.

Faculty Research Consultant: Professor Aarthi Vadde

Librarian Research Consultant: Arianne Hartsell-Gundy



Michael Ong

Michael is a sophomore from Richmond, VA double majoring in chemistry and environmental science. His research focuses on the intersection between the environment and human health, and he has researched ecotoxicology in the Nicholas School of the Environment. His interests also include environmental justice, global health, and sustainability, and he has been awarded for his sustainability initiatives at Duke. Michael is also a David M. Rubinstein Scholar, Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Fellow, and intern for Sustainable Duke.

Hogs and Heath: An Environmental Injustice Issue

There are enough hogs to match every person living in North Carolina. Despite this overwhelming population, almost all of the ten thousand hogs are concentrated in eastern North Carolina, an area of low socioeconomic and minority populations. Farm conditions pose potential harms to human health as million pounds of waste are produced every few seconds. While previous research has been conducted on the physical health effects of hog waste, little research has been done on possible mental health effects. Research has shown that the microbiome plays a large role in health. This study attempts to identify if complexes of environment, ecology, and health in eastern North Carolina may lead to reduced mental health outcomes through analyzing psychology and biology.

Faculty Research Consultant: Professor Rebecca Vidra

Librarian Research Consultant: Ciara Healy



Valedie Oray

Valedie Oray is currently a sophomore at Duke University who is intending on pursuing a double major in Biology under a Neurobiology concentration and Public Policy. She is currently working in the Neurobiology department at Duke University under the direction of Dr. Debra Silver and has previously worked in Dr. Cindy Lustig's cognitive neuroscience lab at the University of Michigan. She is also an active volunteer advocate at the Community Empowerment Fund in Durham. When she is not studying, she is heavily involved in the music department, previously performing in Duke's Opera Workshop and continuing her music studies through private lessons.

Analyzing Differences between Teacher Involvement in Setting Curriculum for Urban and Suburban Public Schools

There are great discrepancies in the educational opportunities offered to students in urban and suburban communities. These discrepancies seem to lead to considerable differences in the quality of education and the future prospects students receive between the two environments. One of the potential attributes of this "academic gap" is the ability for teachers to influence the establishment of curriculum within the classroom. I am interested in exploring the different academic environments from an instructor's perspective in order to understand the implications of having freedom to modify and adapt set curriculum within the classroom. I hope to understand the implications of having a teacher-influenced curriculum within different communities. Through the understanding and analysis of this factor of education, I hope to conclude whether it is significant in affecting the academic quality students receive in public schools. Furthermore, I hope these findings will enact education policy that will create more equal academic opportunities.

Faculty Research Consultant: Professor Kristen Stephens

Librarian Research Consultant: Emily Daly



Shyam Pradheep

Shyam Pradheep is a member of Duke University's class of 2020 who is looking to pursue a double major in Computer Science and Statistics. A resident of Muscat, Oman, he finished high school in India before joining Duke. He is involved with the Duke International Association, the Duke University Union, and has also been a part of the LDOC committee. A huge fan of Science fiction, Shyam loves reading in his spare time. He is also an avid Ping-Pong player.

The Role and Effects of Writers of Color in Science Fiction

The earliest evidence of Science Fiction dates back to 2000 BCE; however, writers of color have played a small role in this genre until only very recently. My project will explore the breadth, impact, and evolution of works by writers of color. I will retrace the conception of Science fiction through scholarly articles and books as well as investigate the cultural and social impact of various popular science fiction novels. I will also re-examine popular sci-fi novels and the reactions to the same through an afrofuturist and techno-orientalist lens. Further, by conducting interviews with writers of color, I will be able to gain a deeper understanding of the hurdles they face and the influence it has on their work. Through this project, I hope to highlight the scarcity of writers of color in Science Fiction, as well as bring to the forefront the unique advantages they bring to this genre.

Faculty Research Consultant: Professor Susan Thananopavarn

Librarian Research Consultant: Greta Boers



Ashleigh Smith

Ashleigh Smith is a native of St. Louis, Missouri and a member of the Duke University class of 2020. She is pursuing a double major in Art History and African American Studies as well as a certificate in Human Rights. She is the Director of Social and Academic Engagement for Duke's Black Student Alliance as well as a member of Nasher MUSE, the Nasher Museum of Art's student executive board. This project was inspired by her passion for the arts, African American life and how they intersect.

Facing Trauma: An Exploration into the Aestheticizing of Black Trauma in

Fine Arts Institution

This research is about telling the truth. Black trauma is an aspect of American history that often goes unacknowledged. From slavery, to the civil rights movement to today's battle with police brutality, the public discourse surrounding these moments in history don't always highlight the trauma they have caused to the black community. There is power in art. Works like *Red Race Riot* 1963 by Andy Warhol and the *Without Sanctuary* Exhibition collected by James Allen illustrate counter narratives that highlight traumatic aspects of black history that often go unacknowledged. What's especially important about these traumatic moments in history is that their consequences reverberate in contemporary black life. This study looks into whether art in fine arts institutions is a proper tool to help illuminate black trauma. Is the message getting across? Are fine arts institutions the proper context for these messages? Are people receiving them? My research works to help answer these questions through the investigation of multiple disciplines and studies, such as Museum Theory, Art History, African American Studies, and studies about counter narrative.

Faculty Research Consultant: Professor Adriane Lentz-Smith

Librarian Research Consultant: Lee Sorensen



Annie Yang

Annie Yang is a current sophomore at Duke University from New Hyde Park, New York. She is considering studying linguistics, history, and creative writing. In her academic and personal work, she strives to operate at the intersection of these disciplines and social justice. Her research is a product of her desire to understand how her writing can contribute to activism. An avid cat lover, she adores spending time with her cat and befriending cats on Duke's campus.

The Perceptual, Emotional, and Personal Processes that Transform

Undergraduates from Students to Activists

Colleges and college students often have a reputation for activism. Students throughout the years have mobilized for a variety of causes from African American Studies to sexual assault prevention. Many students engage with social justice, some for the first time, in college. But of course, not everyone who goes through college becomes a student activist. Why do some students engage in activism while others do not? My research is interested in the personal and internal processes that college students undergo which contribute to the likelihood of their participation in activism. In order to understand these processes, I will focus on the personal accounts and reflections of people who participated in activism as college students.

Faculty Research Consultant: Professor Sarah Gaither

Librarian Research Consultant: Kelley Lawton