6TH ATHENS SOCIAL SCIENCES FORUM

EXPLORE. CHALLENGE. REDEFINE.

Friday, November 13

Student Lounge & DC
The American College of Greece
Gravias 6, Ag. Paraskevi 153 42 | 10:00 – 19:00

Saturday, November 14

ACG Plaka Building
Ipitou 17b, Plaka/Athens 105 57 | 10:00 – 17:30

Organized by:

Sociology Society, Deree – The American College of Greece
International Honors Society, Deree – The American College of Greece

In collaboration with

Student Association for International Affairs (SAFIA)

Acknowledgements

This event was organized by:

The International Honors Society Governing Body

- Mariza Berberi
- Katerina Koukouvitaki
- Nikolaos Moutousis
- Elizaveta Telnykh
- Mostafa Elabasi
- Eirini Tsigani

And the Sociology Society Governing Body:

- Klara Maria Limollari
- Magdalini Toccou
- Penelope Liverakos
- Jenny Kentrou
- Maria Dorountoudaki
- Rosa Vardaxis

Support

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Volunteers

Special thanks to all the volunteer students whose work ensures the forum runs smoothly.

Finally we thank all participants, moderators and attendees, whose contributions, ideas and questions gave this forum its life.

We hope this booklet serves as a lasting record of the ideas and conversations it brought together.

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER - ACG

10:00-10:30 Opening of registration - Student Lounge

10:30-10:45 Welcome and Opening Remarks – Student Lounge

10:50-12:20 | Parallel Sessions

Session 1: *Gender, Sexuality and Power* (Location: Student Lounge)

Moderator: Styliani Kouli

Efstratia Koutla, "An Exploration of the Elusive Nature of Situationships in Young Adults in Greece"

Magdalini Toccou, "Sexualizing and Objectifying Barwomen: A Case Study"

Panagiota Beseri, "The Construction of Motherhood in Emecheta's The Joys of Motherhood: A Componential Analysis"

Asmitha Ponnam Rao, "Honor Killings in South Asia: A Feminist Criminological Analysis of Patriarchal Violence and Control"

Session 2: *State, Law and Rights* (Location: DC 601)

Moderator: Irene Tsigani

Emily Silva, "In Defense of Catherine the Great"

Aleksandra Ostrowska, "The Right to Die: Euthanasia in the Sociological Analysis and Legal Framework of the ECHR"

Danai Kavvadia, "Το Σύνταγμα της Δημοκρατίας της Φινλανδίας - ανάλυση και σύγκριση με το Σύνταγμα του 1814 της Νορβηγίας"

Athanasios Koranis, "Survival, Weapon, Citizenship: Antigone's Mourning Voice Against Necropower"

12:30-13:20 Coffee Break – Student Lounge

13:30-15:00 | Parallel Sessions

Session 3: *Media, Emotions and Mental Health* (Location: Student Lounge)

Moderator: Roza Vardaxis

Menglin Roza Wang, "Humor as Coping and Performance: A Semiotic Analysis of Depression-related TikTok Memes"

George Lionis, "Digital Storytelling for Student Wellbeing: A Co-design Thinking Approach"

Ioannis Gkinopoulos, "Photographing Mental Health: Exploitation and Therapy"

Antonia Parisi, "Emotional Capitalism and the Commodification of Feelings in the Self-Help Industry"

Session 4: *Colonial Power and Resistance* (Location: DC 602)

Moderator: Mariza Berberi

Athylia San Gil, "The Stirring Place: Social Mobilization and Identity in a Decolonizing Methodological Lens in the Case of Prutehi Guahan" *(online – MS Teams)*

Roza Karteri, "The Ailing, Immobile Body: Subaltern Erasure in the Capitalist Neocolony"

Styliani Kouli, "Sociological Analysis of the Algerian Liberation Front (FLN): Constructing Nationalist, Anti-Colonial Identities in the Struggle for Independence"

15:10-16:40 | Parallel Sessions

Session 5: *Thesis Research* (Location: Student Lounge)

Moderator: Magdalini Toccou

Konstantinos Chelios, "Moments of Change in Group Psychotherapy: Exploring Therapeutic Factors and Relational Processes"

Marina Tsekoura, "How do emerging communication professionals evaluate the credibility of health information that mimics legitimate scientific communication formats?"

Styliani Kouli, "A Foucauldian Analysis of Tattooing as a Contemporary Form of Inscribed Confession"

Session 6: *Creative Projects* (Location: DC 603)

Moderator: Nikos Moutousis

Vasiliki Papa, "An Original Sketch: "Antigone": The Modern Form of Resistance"

Athanasios Koranis, "Washing the Unwashable"

Paniz Mokhtarpour, "Spectrum of Everyday"

Dimitris Papalampros, "Inspiration Over Information"

16:50-18:30 Activity & Documentary – Student Lounge

18:30-19:00 Closing Remarks - Student Lounge

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER – PLAKA BUILDING, EVENTS HALL

10:00-10:30 Registration – Events Hall

10:30-10:45 Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:50-12:20 | Session 1: *Identities in the Making*

Moderator: Asmitha Rao Ponnam

Vasiliki Papa, "Antigone's Queer Lineage: Gender, Desire, and Non-Normative Kinship"

Aleksandra Ostrowska, "Challenging the 'Stereotype Z': Higher Education Professors' Perceptions and Assumptions About Generation Z Students"

12:30-14:00 | Session 2: *Contested Faiths: Religion, Politics and Belonging*

Moderator: Miranda Tzenaki

Anastasia Mouratoglou, "Feminism Is a Scam: A Comparative Analysis of Christian Nationalist and Christian Fundamentalist Influencers on Gender Roles, Abortion and Womanhood"

Magdalini Toccou, "Neo-Paganism as Alternative Religiosity and Lived Religion in Late Modernity: The Case of The Pagans of Greece"

Nour Al-Tzaratli, "The Adaptive Pluralistic Secularism Model"

Katerina Maria Harvalias, "Religion and Muslim Immigration: Organic Cultural Clash or Constructed Political Tool?"

14:10-15:10 Coffee Break

15:20-16:50 | Session 3: Visual Representations of Society

Moderator: Klara Maria Limollari

Vasiliki Tzellou, "Pandemic Spectacles: Photography, Propaganda, Mass Hysteria and Social Bias during the Spanish Flu and COVID-19"

Paniz Mokhtarpour, "Poverty as a Consequence of War: A Photographic Study of Don McCullin, Steve McCurry and Sebastião Salgado"

Katerina Koukouvitaki, "The Suburban American Dream: Nightmare or Utopia? Examination of Suburbs in Edward Scissorhands (1990)"

Angelos Ioannidis, "Planet of the Apes (1968) & Rise of the Planet of the Apes (2011): The Fight for Rights"

17:00-17:30 Closing Remarks

Presenters

Presenter	Session	Day & time
Al-Tzaratli, Nour	*Contested Faiths: Religion, Politics and Belonging*	Sat 12:30
Beseri, Panagiota	*Gender, Sexuality and Power*	Fri 10:50
Chelios, Konstantinos	*Thesis Research: Graduate and Undergraduate Theses*	Fri 15:10
Gkinopoulos, Ioannis	*Media, Emotions and Mental Health*	Fri 13:30
Harvalias, Katerina Maria	*Contested Faiths: Religion, Politics and Belonging*	Sat 12:30
Ioannidis, Angelos	*Visual Representations of Society*	Sat 15:20
Karteri, Roza	*Colonial Power and Resistance*	Fri 13:30
Kavvadia, Danai	*State, Law and Rights*	Fri 10:50
Koranis, Athanasios	*State, Law and Rights*	Fri 10:50
	Creative Projects	Fri 15:10
Kouli, Styliani	*Colonial Power and Resistance*	Fri 13:30
	Thesis Research: Graduate and Undergraduate Theses	Fri 15:10
Koukouvitaki, Katerina	*Visual Representations of Society*	Sat 15:20
Koutla, Efstratia	*Gender, Sexuality and Power*	Fri 10:50
Lionis, George	*Media, Emotions and Mental Health*	Fri 13:30
Mokhtarpour, Paniz	*Creative Projects*	Fri 15:10
	Visual Representations of Society	Sat 15:20
Mouratoglou, Anastasia	*Contested Faiths: Religion, Politics and Belonging*	Sat 12:30
Ostrowska, Aleksandra	*State, Law and Rights*	Fri 10:50
	Identities in the Making	Sat 10:50
Papa, Vasiliki	*Creative Projects*	Fri 15:10
	Identities in the Making	Sat 10:50
Papalampros, Dimitris	*Creative Projects*	Fri 15:10
Parisi, Antonia	*Media, Emotions and Mental Health*	Fri 13:30
Ponnam Rao, Asmitha	*Gender, Sexuality and Power*	Fri 10:50
San Gil, Athylia	*Colonial Power and Resistance (online)*	Fri 13:30
Silva, Emily	*State, Law and Rights*	Fri 10:50
Toccou, Magdalini	*Gender, Sexuality and Power*	Fri 10:50
	Contested Faiths: Religion, Politics and Belonging	Sat 12:30
Tsekoura, Marina	*Thesis Research: Graduate and Undergraduate Theses*	Fri 15:10
Tzellou, Vasiliki	*Visual Representations of Society*	Sat 15:20
Wang, Menglin Roza	*Media, Emotions and Mental Health*	Fri 13:30

Abstracts

Student: Nour Al-Tzaratli, ACG, International Relations and European Affairs, Undergraduate 5th year
Title: The Adaptive Pluralistic Secularism Model
Type of Submission: Research Course Essay
Abstract: This paper argues that adaptive secularism is a flexible yet moral framework that goes beyond universal secular doctrines. This paradigm preserves democratic ideals of neutrality, freedom of conscience and equal protection while honoring various cultural and historical contexts when it comes to worldwide conflicts between repressive secularism and religious fundamentalism, Adaptive pluralist secularism reshapes the significance of national symbolism and identity while also permitting open religious expression without state favoritism. This proposed framework can decrease radicalization and avoid the exclusion and alienation of minorities by striking a balance between pluralism and fundamental ethical principles, guaranteeing that secularism remains as an inclusive base for harmonious coexistence.

Student: Panagiota Beseri, ACG, English Literature and Linguistics, Undergraduate 5th year
Title: The Construction of Motherhood in Emecheta's The Joys of Motherhood: A Componential Analysis
Type of Submission: Research Course Essay
Abstract: This study examines how motherhood is constructed through gendered kinship relationships in Buchi Emecheta's The Joys of Motherhood (1979), with particular attention to the social and cultural expectations surrounding women's roles in the Nigerian society, specifically in the Igbo society represented in the novel. Drawing on componential analysis (CA) of the semantic components associated with five kinship terms, son, daughter, mother, husband and senior wife, this study examines the cultural and gendered hierarchical complexities that are associated with motherhood. While previous literary critics have illustrated social pressures that Nigerian women encounter, as well Emecheta's act of answering back and exposing the patriarchal inequalities, less attention has been paid how the semantic features of kinship terms can reveal these inequalities. Specifically, the analysis identifies and compares core semantic features, such as gender and kinship relations, and supplementary components associated with the cultural context of Igbo society including authority, social pressure, respect and cultural values. By examining these features in relation to textual examples from the novel, the study investigates how kinship meanings reflect gendered hierarchies. The findings demonstrate a contrast between the privileged position of sons and husbands, and the social pressures imposed on daughters and mothers. They also reveal the ambivalent position of the senior wife, whose authority and respect within the household remain constrained by her relationship with her husband. Finally in terms of methodology, this the study demonstrates the contribution of CA literary analysis. Specifically, it can reveal that every word carries meaning consisting of one or more semantic components and that applying CA to a literary text can potentially unveil the complex social hierarchies, in this case within the Nigerian families.

Student: Konstantinos Chelios, ACG, MSc in Counseling Psychology and Psychotherapy, Graduate (Master's) / Recent Graduate
Title: Moments of Change in Group Psychotherapy: Exploring Therapeutic Factors and Relational Processes
Type of Submission: Master's Thesis

Abstract: Transformative experiences are often described as pivotal moments of change in psychotherapy, yet relatively little is known about how such experiences are perceived within group settings. This study explored how group members and therapists describe moments of change in group psychotherapy and examined the therapeutic factors and relational processes associated with these experiences. Eight semi-structured interviews were conducted with four former group members and four licensed group therapists. Data were analyzed using reflexive thematic analysis, while descriptive counts were used to illustrate the prominence of Yalom's therapeutic factors in participants' accounts. All eleven of Yalom's therapeutic factors were identified in participant narratives, with universality and cohesion emerging most frequently. Moments of change were described as emotionally significant relational experiences characterized by shared humanity, recognition, and meaning-making. Five relational processes were identified: emotional holding, risk-taking and courage, internalization of the group, therapist emotional presence, and liberation from shame. Findings suggest that moments of change emerge through the interplay of relational safety, attuned therapist presence, and courageous interpersonal engagement. The study highlights relational processes through which established therapeutic factors become experientially meaningful and contribute to psychological change within group psychotherapy and may be associated with psychological insight.

Student: Ioannis Gkinopoulos, ACG, Psychology, Undergraduate 4th year
Title: Photographing Mental Health: Exploitation and Therapy
Type of Submission: Honors Research Course Essay
Abstract: Photographing Mental Health: Exploitation and Therapy is a short critical essay examining the relationship between photography and mental illness. It argues that photography has both negatively and positively interacted with it. It has historically perpetuated the negative stigma of mental illness by unrealistically portraying its sufferers, but also, that it has contributed in denouncing unethical conditions in twentieth century mental health institutions. It also acknowledges that when the photographers themselves are the sufferer of these conditions the medium can help fight against that discrimination and can be incorporated into clinical practice. The essay does this by examining the work of important past photographers and culture critics, with a particular focus on Susan Sontag and Diane Arbus, along with the more contemporary work in Greece of Theodore Nikolaou. The essay also takes time to inundate the reader to the nuance of calcification of mental health which is necessary to understand how that nuance has moderated its relationship with photography.

Student: Katerina Maria Harvalias, ACG, International Relations and European Affairs, Undergraduate 5th year
Title: Religion and Muslim Immigration: Organic Cultural Clash or Constructed Political Tool?
Type of Submission: Research Course Essay
Abstract: This paper examines the role of religion in Muslim immigration and integration across Europe, questioning whether tensions between Muslim migrants and host societies arise organically from cultural and religious differences or are politically constructed and amplified by political elites. Drawing on Samuel Huntington's Clash of Civilizations thesis, which argues that post-Cold War conflicts are increasingly shaped by cultural and religious divisions, this paper critically evaluates whether such divisions are inevitable or strategically reinforced for political gain. Through qualitative analysis of Muslim integration and immigration debates in European countries, the study explores how political elites frame religious and cultural differences as threats to national identity, social cohesion, and security. Particular attention is given to the political mobilization of fear, xenophobia, and public perceptions of Muslim communities.

The central argument challenges Huntington's assumption that civilizational differences inherently produce conflict, suggesting instead that political actors play a significant role in transforming existing cultural differences into sources of societal division. Ultimately, this paper contributes to broader discussions of immigration, political identity, and the instrumentalization of religion in contemporary European politics.

Student: Angelos Ioannidis, ACG, Cinema Studies, Undergraduate 4th year
Title: PLANET OF THE APES (1968) & RISE OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (2011) - THE FIGHT FOR RIGHTS
Type of Submission: Research Course Essay
Abstract: The project is a comparative study between the original Planet of the Apes 1968 and its 2011 reboot remake. It's about the differences and similarities between those two movies with the common premise of a planet ruled by apes. The paper explores through comparison the way in which the different times during which each of the two movies was made affects the thematic uniqueness of their stories yet also what binds them together.

Student: Roza Karteri, ACG, International Relations and European Affairs, Undergraduate 3rd year
Title: The Ailing, Immobile Body: Subaltern Erasure in the Capitalist Neocolony
Type of Submission: Honors Research Course Essay
Abstract: This paper examines how global capitalism, neocolonialism and racial hierarchies reinforce subalternity through the reproduction of disease in the context of the 2010 UN-induced Haitian cholera outbreak. Drawing on Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's concepts of subalternity and epistemic violence and Achille Mbembe's theory of necropolitics, the Haitian subaltern is epistemically marginalized by global power structures while physically debilitated by disease within the state of exception, resulting in social and physical immobility. The convergence of epistemic exclusion and physical debility situates the Haitian subaltern within a necropolitical order in which disease reproduces structural violence. The Haitian zombie emerges as a form of local cultural resistance against the necropolitical and epistemic violence of neocolonial capitalism and racist governance. Embodying the liminality between life and death, the zombie exposes the dynamic between debility and oppression while challenging the racial dimension of disease and poverty. The paper concludes that the reproduction of disease by intersecting systems of power introduces a state of physical debility to subalternity which the zombie locally challenges. This case study is essential for identifying the epistemic and physical effects of the capitalist and neocolonial systems in the Global South and deconstructing racial associations of poverty and disease.

Student: Danai Kavvadia, Πάντειο Πανεπιστήμιο Κοινωνικών και Πολιτικών Επιστημών, Διεθνείς και Ευρωπαϊκές Σπουδές, Undergraduate/3rd
Title: Το Σύνταγμα της Δημοκρατίας της Φινλανδίας - ανάλυση και σύγκριση με το Σύνταγμα του 1814 της Νορβηγίας
Type of Submission: Προπτυχιακή Συγκριτική Εργασία ως Εξέταση στο πλαίσιο Μαθήματος
Abstract: Η υπό αξιολόγηση εργασία επιχειρεί μια εμπεριστατωμένη συγκριτική ανάλυση των Συνταγμάτων της Δημοκρατίας της Φινλανδίας (2000) και του Βασιλείου της Νορβηγίας (1814). Αρχικά, λαμβάνοντας υπόψη την κοινή τους ιστορική πορεία κάτω από τη σουηδική επιρροή, τα δύο κράτη ταξινομούνται στην ενιαία Σκανδιναβική οικογένεια δικαίου, συνδυάζοντας στοιχεία ηπειρωτικού και κοινοδικαϊκού συστήματος. Στη

συνέχεια, εξετάζονται οι θεμελιώδεις διατάξεις τους, η δομή και η οργανωτική όψη τους, όπου αναδεικνύονται η διάκριση των εξουσιών και οι δομικές διαφορές που απορρέουν από το πολίτευμα. Ιδιαίτερη έμφαση δίνεται στην εγγυητική όψη και την προστασία των θεμελιωδών δικαιωμάτων, υπογραμμίζοντας ειδικές συνταγματικές προβλέψεις, όπως η θρησκευτική παράδοση και τα δικαιώματα των αυτόχθονων Σαάμι στη Νορβηγία, καθώς και το ιδιαίτερο καθεστώς αυτοδιοίκησης των Νήσων Åland στη Φινλανδία. Επιπροσθέτως, αναλύονται οι ρυθμίσεις που αφορούν τις διεθνείς σχέσεις, την εθνική άμυνα και τις πρόσφατες συνταγματικές αναθεωρήσεις των τελευταίων ετών. Η μελέτη ολοκληρώνεται με τελικά συμπεράσματα, καταδεικνύοντας πώς η ιστορία, η κουλτούρα και οι αξίες του κάθε λαού διαμορφώνουν τις ιδιαιτερότητες εντός του ευρωπαϊκού συνταγματικού πολιτισμού.

Student: Athanasios Koranis, ACG, Biomedical Sciences, Undergraduate 4th year
Title: Washing the Unwashable
Type of Submission: Honors Creative Project
Abstract: Can injustice ever be cleansed or does memory preserve what political authority attempts to erase? Washing the Unwashable is an interdisciplinary creative project that reinterprets Sophocles' Antigone through six handmade, eco-friendly soaps, transforming an everyday object of purification into a medium of philosophical and political inquiry. Each soap embodies a central conflict within the tragedy: mourning, guilt, resistance, state authority, divine law and collective memory. Combining chemistry, symbolic ingredients, color, scent and tactile experience, the project explores the contradiction between physical cleansing and moral responsibility. Inspired by Creon's declaration that his hands are clean, it questions whether individuals and political institutions can absolve themselves of injustice simply by claiming innocence. Drawing on Aristotle's concept of catharsis, Judith Butler's theory of grievability, Achille Mbembe's necropolitics and feminist interpretations of mourning, the project extends classical tragedy beyond theatrical spectatorship into participatory, sensory reflection. Thus, the work argues that while physical stains may disappear, the ethical consequences of political violence cannot simply be washed away. By transforming cleansing into an encounter with memory and responsibility, it demonstrates how creative practice can challenge historical erasure and encourage reflection on justice, citizenship and resistance.

Student: Athanasios Koranis, ACG, Biomedical Sciences, Undergraduate 4th year
Title: Survival, Weapon, Citizenship: Antigone's Mourning Voice Against Necropower
Type of Submission: Honors Course Essay
Abstract: Who has the right to mourn and what happens when political power determines whose lives and deaths deserve recognition? This critical essay examines how contemporary adaptations of Sophocles' Antigone transform mourning from a private expression of grief into an act of political resistance against state violence, colonial oppression and historical erasure. Through a comparative analysis of Athol Fugard's The Island, situated within apartheid South Africa and a Palestinian adaptation of Antigone staged in Ireland, the study investigates how theatrical performance challenges the political regulation of death, memory and belonging. Drawing on Achille Mbembe's concept of necropolitics, Judith Butler's theory of grievability, Chantal Mouffe's agonistic art and feminist interpretations of mourning, the analysis explores how marginalized communities reclaim visibility and dignity through collective remembrance. The central argument is that these adaptations move beyond the traditional conflict between individual conscience and state authority, transforming Antigone's defiance into a broader struggle for recognition, justice and political agency. Thus, the essay

demonstrates how performed mourning functions simultaneously as a strategy of survival, an instrument of resistance and a demand for citizenship, revealing the enduring relevance of ancient tragedy to contemporary struggles over human dignity.

Student: Athanasios Koranis, ACG, Biomedical Sciences, Undergraduate 4th year
Title: Washing the Unwashable
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Student: Katerina Koukouvitaki, ACG, English and American Literature, Undergraduate 3rd year
Title: The Suburban American Dream: Nightmare or Utopia? Examination of suburbs in Edward Scissorhands (1990)
Type of Submission: Research Course Essay
Abstract: The critical essay explores how the notion of the American Dream has shaped the urban planning of the American cityscape, particularly through post-WWII suburbanization. While suburbia projected a seemingly homogenous image, it carried an inherent undercurrent of social segregation and exclusion for those who could or did not want to ascribe to it. Applying a spatial and visual film analysis of Tim Burton's Edward Scissorhands (1990), the essay exemplifies how suburbia—created as a utopia of social homogenization and material happiness— transforms into a nightmare of conformity, alienation, and exclusion through geographical stratification. By contrasting Gothic architecture with the rigid suburban grid, the essay demonstrates how otherness continues to manifest itself within suburbia, offering a provocative, utopian counter that questions its norms.

Student: Styliani Kouli, ACG, Sociology, Recent Graduate
Title: A Foucauldian Analysis of Tattooing as a contemporary form of inscribed confession
Type of Submission: Undergraduate Thesis
Abstract: This thesis examines how tattooing can be understood sociologically as a contemporary technique of the self and as an inscribed form of confession. Drawing primarily on Michel Foucault's lectures on the hermeneutics of the self, and specifically on the concepts of exomologesis, exagoreusis and technologies of the

self, the study asks how tattooed individuals use tattooing to confess, verbalize and regulate personal truths. The research situates tattooing within the sociology of the body and engages with theoretical debates on embodiment, identity and social control. Methodologically, it adopts a qualitative and interpretive design combining semi structured in depth interviews with tattooed individuals and tattoo artists, participant observation in two tattoo studios, photographic discourse analysis of tattoo designs, and observation at the Athens Tattoo Convention. The findings suggest that tattooing operates as a confessional and autobiographical practice through which pain is framed as necessary and cathartic, identities are narrated and archived on the body, memories are preserved, and social bonds are formed. At the same time, tattoos remain subject to internalized social regulation, audience management and commodification. The study concludes that tattooing both recalls and transforms historical confessional practices, making the body a site of liberation, discipline and self-articulation.

Student: Styliani Kouli, ACG, Sociology, Recent Graduate
Title: Sociological analysis of the Algerian Liberation Front (FLN): Constructing nationalist, anti-colonial identities in the struggle for Independence
Type of Submission: Undergraduate Research Course Essay
Abstract: This paper offers a sociological analysis of the Algerian Liberation Front as a nationalist movement that drew upon and reshaped identities formed through colonial domination. It examines how cultural memory, urban space, religious practice, and everyday defiance contributed to a collective identity opposed to French rule. The paper reviews historical conditions from 1830 to 1954 and considers the FLN's organizational structure, guerrilla tactics, propaganda, and use of material and symbolic resources. It then evaluates competing sociological explanations, including Fanon's account of decolonization and violence, Tilly's political process and mobilization approach, and resource mobilization theory as applied to Pontecorvo's The Battle of Algiers. The paper also analyzes gendered dimensions of the struggle, especially the tactical and symbolic roles of Algerian women and the veil, while noting that these shifts did not dismantle patriarchal structures. Through Cohen's critique of strategy and identity paradigms, the paper argues for a synthetic and context sensitive framework that avoids Eurocentric reductionism. It concludes that the FLN case demonstrates the need to understand colonial resistance through the interrelation of identity, strategy, gender, and historical memory.

Student: Efstratia Koutla, ACG, Psychology, Recent Graduate
Title: An Exploration of the Elusive Nature of Situationships in Young Adults in Greece
Type of Submission: Honors Thesis
Abstract: Situationships, the latest form of casual relationships, have gained mainstream recognition, particularly in the technology-facilitated dating era, yet its emotional ambiguity is mirrored in the lack of a stable definition. This study explores how young adults in Greece perceive, experience and define situationships, investigating how individuals negotiate emotional investment through the scope of Social Exchange Theory. Using a qualitative approach, this research analyzes academic literature and conducts interviews with heterosexual young adults. Findings suggest that situationships are widely recognized and socially normalized in younger generations yet remain characterized by ambiguity surrounding commitment and relational expectations. Participants' personal accounts highlight the role of emotional investment in shaping relational power, but also how gendered differences affect the way ambiguity, autonomy, and emotional needs are

experienced and interpreted. By focusing specifically on the Greek context and culture, this study aims to provide new insights in the prevalence and sociocultural significance of situationships among young adults in Greece, who are placed at the intersection between traditional views around commitment and evolving dating norms.

Student: George Lionis, ACG, Graphic Design, Undergraduate 5th year
Title: Digital Story Telling for Student Wellbeing: A Co-design Thinking Approach
Type of Submission: Research Course Essay
Abstract: This paper presents an interdisciplinary co-design approach that integrates an environmental mastery intervention, grounded in Ryff's psychological wellbeing framework, with Design Thinking methodology (DT) and Digital Storytelling (DS). The outcome of this process was a digital story featuring a fictional anthropomorphic chameleon as a metaphor for adaptive environmental action. The pilot study, conducted with higher education (HE) students, revealed positive emotional responses and a high engagement with the digital storytelling intervention. Findings highlight the potential of co-designed digital storytelling as a novel approach to enhancing student wellbeing in HE.

Student: Paniz Mokhtarpour, ACG, Biomedical Sciences, Undergraduate 3rd year
Title: Spectrum of Everyday
Type of Submission: Honors Creative Project
Abstract: Spectrum of the Everyday explores how dominant colors influence attention and shape the way viewers perceive ordinary scenes. Inspired by William Eggleston's statement, "I am at war with the obvious," the project asks how color can transform everyday environments into visually meaningful photographic experiences. I created a series of seven photographs, each representing one color of the rainbow: violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange, and red. Rather than focusing on a single-colored object, I selected scenes in which multiple elements work together to establish one dominant color. Using Photoshop, I extracted two color spectra from each photograph and translated them into color swatches. I paired the images with similarly colored cardboard and arranged them in a scrapbook in rainbow order. This presentation connects each photograph to its extracted colors and allows the viewer to experience the series as a gradual visual journey through the spectrum. The project combines documentary photography with a material exploration of color, showing how color can guide the viewer's first impression and influence the meaning assigned to a scene. It invites audiences to look more attentively at familiar surroundings and reconsider the visual details that shape everyday perception.

Student: Paniz Mokhtarpour, ACG, Biomedical Sciences, Undergraduate 3rd year
Title: Poverty as a Consequence of War: A Photographic Study of Don McCullin, Steve McCurry and Sebastião Salgado
Type of Submission: Honors Research Course Essay
Abstract: This essay examines how documentary photography represents poverty as a consequence of war, conflict, and forced displacement. It focuses on three photographs: Don McCullin's Starving Twenty-Four-Year-Old Mother with Child, Biafra (1968), Steve McCurry's Afghan Girl (1984), and Sebastião Salgado's Benako Camp, Tanzania (1994). The central question is how different photographic approaches shape the audience's understanding of the human consequences of conflict. Through a comparative visual analysis, the essay

considers each image alongside ideas from Susan Sontag on the representation of suffering, Ian Jeffrey on documentary photography, and Thomas Sowell on inequality. The analysis identifies three distinct approaches: McCullin presents the physical effects of famine through an intimate image of a mother and child; McCurry personalizes displacement through the gaze of an individual refugee; and Salgado depicts the collective scale of forced migration and humanitarian crisis. Together, the photographs show how poverty extends beyond economic deprivation to include hunger, displacement, insecurity, and the disruption of individual and community life. The essay argues that documentary photography can make distant crises more immediate to viewers, challenge explanations that treat poverty as individual failure, and encourage reflection on the political and historical forces shaping human suffering.

Student: Anastasia Mouratoglou, ACG, International Relations & European Affairs, Undergraduate 5rd year
Title: Feminism Is a Scam: A Comparative Analysis of Christian Nationalist and Christian Fundamentalist Influencers on Gender Roles, Abortion and Womanhood
Type of Submission: Honors Thesis
Abstract: With Christian nationalist and fundamentalist women turning to social media to present and promote their ideologies, the role of these platforms as a place for political and religious ideological promotion is becoming increasingly apparent. This thesis aims to investigate this phenomenon, providing insights into how women participate in promoting conservative views regarding issues of gender roles, abortion and womanhood within platforms catered to Generation Z users, such as TikTok and Instagram (Fromm, 2025). By conducting a content discourse and critical discourse analysis on 84 social media posts by 4 Christian nationalist and 3 Christian fundamentalist influencers this research addresses the question of what narratives do Christian nationalist and fundamentalist women influencers use to frame womanhood, traditional gender roles and abortion views as forms of female empowerment and how do these narratives reinterpret feminist ideas? This thesis contributes to the growing body of literature on female participation in the dissemination of conservative narratives in digital spaces; by providing a comparative analysis of Christian nationalist and Christian fundamentalist influencers an identifying the discursive strategies they use to frame traditional gender roles and abortion as forms of empowerment. The analysis shows that both Christian nationalist and Christian fundamentalist influencers employ shared narratives such as, “leadership and submission”, “double standard of femininity, “victimhood”, “moral and legal expectations,” “moral superiority”, “Us vs. Them” and “warped feminism”, to promote and reinforce traditional gender roles and anti-abortion narratives. Simultaneously it also generated valuable insights into the differences between their discourse. Christian nationalists focused more on political issues, such as abortion, while fundamentalists emphasized more private matters such as gender roles within the family and understandings of womanhood, highlighting the distinction between the public and private orientations of the two ideologies.

Student: Aleksandra Ostrowska, ACG, Sociology, Undergraduate 5th year
Title: Challenging the ‘Stereotype Z’: Higher Education Professors’ Perceptions and Assumptions About Generation Z Students
Type of Submission: Research Course Essay
Abstract: The paper "Challenging the ‘Stereotype Z’: Higher Education Professors’ Perceptions and Assumptions About Generation Z Students" aims to explore the views held by professors about Gen Z as a social group. The main research question is: “How do professors’ perceptions of Generation Z align with or

challenge societal stereotypes?". The paper also examines the expectations, interactions and teaching methods in the classroom. The research is based on in-depth, semi-structured interviews with the college's lecturers and students, as well as by participant observation. Four interviews had been conducted; two with higher education lecturers and two with full-time Gen Z students, in order to get acquainted with a broader perspective. The findings show that professors are aware of the public discourse and the circulating stereotypes concerning Gen Z individuals. Professors ultimately try not to engage with them or make them affect their perspectives or attitudes. They note the presence of positive features of Gen Z and how the interactions with them can be enriching. Students claimed that some of the stereotypes about their social group may be true, however at the same time they shed a new light on various issues, narratives and topics. The work aims to fill the gap in the existing research about the interactions and higher education professors' perspectives of new generations entering academic institutions. The paper is an attempt to further understand the changes in academic system, challenges tied to new generations and ideas, as well as to explore and understand the validity and strength of existing stereotypes.

Student: Aleksandra Ostrowska, ACG, Sociology, Undergraduate 5th year
Title: The Right To Die - Euthanasia in The Sociological Analysis and Legal Framework of ECHR
Type of Submission: Course Final Assignment
Abstract: The paper topic regards the right to euthanasia in terms of sociological perspective, as well as legal framework of European Convention of Human Rights (ECHM), with examples of past cases. It is being argued that both, euthanasia and assisted suicide should be considered legal, in cases of chronic, untreatable physical or mental diseases, with applying appropriate safety measures. The sociological aspect of the work include data from various surveys taken across Europe, considering attitudes and perceptions towards euthanasia. The research shows no collective European pattern in those perceptions, as countries like Netherlands of Denmark show much higher positive attitudes than Turkey. However, at the same time, it has also been shown that often there is no conflict between culture, religion and positive perceptions of euthanasia. Moreover, Article 2 and 8 of the ECHM can be a basis to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide, by securing the autonomy of individuals in the member states. Article 2 - The Right to Life - is not an immediate basis to refuse the right to euthanasia, while Article 8 ensures The Right to Private Life. By introducing appropriate safety measures, psychological evaluations and ensuring independent judgement, euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Student: Vasiliki Papa, ACG, Biomedical Sciences, Undergraduate 3rd year
Title: An Original Sketch: "Antigone": The Modern Form of Resistance
Type of Submission: Honors Creative Project
Abstract: This creative project explores the enduring relevance of Sophocles' Antigone by connecting the ancient tragedy to contemporary forms of resistance, activism, and struggles for human dignity. Through an original digital sketch, my work attempts to show how Antigone's defiance of political authority resonates with modern individuals who challenge unjust systems in defense of fundamental human rights. The composition places the heroine's act of burying her brother alongside a contemporary activist. Their juxtaposition highlights the shared struggle for recognition, justice, and the right to mourn, while the surrounding figures represent social and political pressures that accompany acts of resistance. The project adopts a visual and interpretive approach, drawing on Judith Butler's: "Antigone's Claim" to explore questions of dignity, and whose life is considered worthy. The artwork was developed through successive stages of digital sketching. Ultimately, the

project argues that Antigone's resistance transcends its historical context, remaining relevant in contemporary struggles against exclusion and injustice due to abuse of power. By bringing classical tragedy into dialogue with present day activism, the work demonstrates how artistic reinterpretation can make enduring ethical and political questions accessible to modern audiences.

Student: Vasiliki Papa, ACG, Biomedical Sciences, Undergraduate 3rd year
Title: Antigone's Queer Lineage: Gender, Desire, and Non-Normative Kinship
Type of Submission: Honors Course Essay
Abstract: This essay considers Antigone as a figure that challenges conventional understandings of gender, family, and social belonging, instead of viewing her as a symbol of familial duty or political rebellion. It explores how she disrupts normative kinship structures and exposes the mechanisms by which societies determine relationships and identities as legitimate. Her refusal to conform to expectations of feminine obedience and her commitment to burying Polynices despite state prohibition, highlights how Antigone's actions create a form of resistance against patriarchal societies and political authority. My thesis presents that Antigone embodies a queer form of resistance because she challenges the socially acceptable gender roles and family structures, as seen by her attachment to Polynices, as well as her rejection of the social expectations placed upon a woman. It becomes apparent that kinship is not simply natural or universal but shaped by systems of power and social norms. Based on Sophocles' classic "Antigone", I will engage with texts such as Judith butler's "Antigone's claim", supported by queer and feminist contemporary perspectives, like Anne Carson's "Antigonick", Gebler's "I, Antigone", and other modern adaptations. Butler's theoretical framework functions as a guide for my analysis of Antigone's disruption of traditional kinship and sovereignty, while I explore how Antigone's resistance is perceived in contemporary themes of gender, identity and belonging. The main questions I seek to answer through this work are why Antigone's relationship with Polynices is considered a threat to political authority, how her rejection of "traditional" femininity challenges patriarchal structures, and how contemporary adaptations transform Antigone into a figure of queer and feminist forms of resistance. Bridging ancient tragedy and modern reinterpretations allows me to argue that Antigone remains a challenge to the boundaries of who is allowed to define family, love and social legitimacy.

Student: Dimitris Papalampros, ACG, Operations Management, Undergraduate 4th year
Title: Inspiration Over Information
Type of Submission: Honors Creative Project
Abstract: This creative project asks whether generative AI can be directed, not just prompted, to produce an image that faithfully represents a personal idea: a contemporary industrial wine bar in Athens, seen late at night from the street, that captures the disconnection of people in the modern city. Drawing on my experience in hospitality and in linear drawing, I combined four style references: Edward Hopper's Nighthawks (viewpoint, isolated figures, brightly lit interior), Charles Demuth's My Egypt (industrial structure and strict geometry), Man Ray's Decanter from Revolving Doors (geometric abstraction and primary colours), and Daniel Buren's signature vertical stripes (colour and rhythm on the walls). Using Leonardo AI, I developed the image through ten documented generations, critiquing each output and refining the prompt, the reference images and the model. Early versions produced generic, futuristic or 1940s-style bars. Applying the tool's Describe with AI function to photographs of real Athens wine bars, and switching from the Lucid Realism to the Nano Banana model, resolved the viewpoint, the figures' gestures and the wine-bar details. The project shows that AI output

depends on human knowledge of art history, precise language and iterative critique: the machine renders, but the person must know why.

Student: Antonia Parisi, ACG, Sociology, Undergraduate 4th year
Title: Emotional Capitalism and the Commodification of Feelings in the Self-Help Industry
Type of Submission: Research Course Essay
Abstract: Since the beginning of the 21st century, the self-help industrial complex has become one of the most economically significant and culturally pervasive sectors of late modernity. What began as a few personal development books, has now expanded into wellness programs, life-coaching, mood pills and supplements, and the list keeps growing. This now-massive industry hides a profound sociological paradox: an industry focused on emotional healing is designed to operate and sustain itself, on the perpetuate suffering of the individual. This paper examines the self-help industry as a sociological phenomenon that reveals how emotions and capitalism are connected in the neoliberal system. The industry's popularity raises important questions about why individuals turn to self-help, why emotional suffering becomes such a profitable market, and what happens when social problems are translated into personal responsibilities.

Student: Asmitha Ponnam Rao, ACG, Psychology, Undergraduate 4th year
Title: Honor Killings in South Asia: A Feminist Criminological Analysis of Patriarchal Violence and Control
Type of Submission: Research Course Essay (JS 3038 Criminology)
Abstract: Honor killings, defined as the murder of individuals, predominantly women, for perceived violations of honor of the family or a community, are among the most severe forms of gender-based violence in South Asia. GrThey are often dismissed as, or reduced to, a cultural practice; however, this paper challenges that framing. Using a feminist criminological framework, this paper contends that honor killings in South Asia are a structural means of controlling women's autonomy, sexuality and choices. Through the analysis of the Nirupama Pathak, Manoj-Babli and Kohistan cases, it demonstrates that such violence is triggered by women's assertion of autonomy, sanctioned and organised collectively through families and informal adjudicatory bodies such as panchayats and reproduced by state institutions that consistently fail to prosecute perpetrators. Perpetrators see themselves as moral actors restoring order, a moral inversion possible only where women's autonomy is already framed as a threat to patriarchy. Legal reform is necessary but insufficient; future research should integrate political economy, examining how caste and class shape who commits this violence and who is protected.

Student: Athylia San Gil, ACG, Sociology, Recent Graduate
Title: The Stirring Place: Social Mobilization and Identity In a Decolonizing Methodological Lens in the Case of Prutehi Guahan
Type of Submission: Senior Year Thesis
Abstract: This dissertation seeks to investigate the socio-cultural, environmental, and political impacts that the indigenous-led activist groups (with a great emphasis on Prutehi Litekyan) have worked towards in Guam against the United States military buildup of a new Marine Base and Firing Range on the sacred village of Litekyan, through a theoretical lens of Smith's Decolonizing Methodologies (2021) and Manuel Castells' Power of Identity (2009). The objectives include examining how Prutehi Litekyan: Save Ritidian constructs and mobilizes an individual and collective identity in opposition to US military expansion, and to assess the socio-

cultural, environmental, and political impacts of the movement on the broader CHamoru and Guam community. The research design and methodology employed were semi-structured interviews, participant observation, document and discourse analysis, and a small online survey. Through thematic analysis, themes prevalent in the data were sociocultural dimensions: understanding the relationship with or against the military and how it all starts with the youth, environmental degradation: understanding Guam's current environmental state as a 'museum of once was' and finally interconnecting everything together as a viewpoint for Guam's role in regional geopolitics in the US' war game

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Student: Emily Silva, ACG, International Relations & European Affairs, Undergraduate 3rd year
Title: In Defense of Catherine the Great
Type of Submission: Research Course Essay
Abstract: Was Catherine's regression to conservatism due to self-interest or authentic belief that Russian citizens would be better off under monarchical rule? History regards Catherine the Great as a tyrant who abandoned her enlightenment ideals when her right to rule was threatened, yet when looked at with context from her personal letters and memoirs, these allegations are not so black and white. Evidence suggests that the reign of terror and fear of societal collapse led her to abandon her enlightenment values for complete repressive control in order to protect Russian citizens from catastrophic societal deterioration. These claims stem from censorship imposed during the French Revolution ideals, as well as letters to other monarchs where she proclaims her support for absolutism and anti-revolutionary parties. This paper demonstrates that Catherine's shift to conservatism was a reaction to genuine fear of chaos rather than self-serving tyranny, and her core enlightenment ideals stayed intact.

Student: Magdalini Toccou, ACG, Sociology, Undergraduate 5th year
Title: Neo-Paganism as Alternative Religiosity and Lived Religion in Late Modernity: The Case of The Pagans of Greece
Type of Submission: Research Course Essay
Abstract: This paper examines neo-paganism as lived religion, focusing on ecological feminism, alternative spirituality, and resistance to centralized religious authority. The study empirically analyzes Pagans of Greece, a hybrid, decentralized neo-pagan community active both online and offline. The case is sociologically significant for examining the re-construction of religious meaning beyond institutionalized beliefs, embodied practices, symbolic rituals, and collective identity. Goddess spirituality and ecofeminism reconfigure the legitimization of the sacred through femininity, nature, and mythological acts. Drawing on neo-pagan scholarship, Habermas's secularization thesis, Geertz's interpretative theory, Luckmann's invisible religion, and ecofeminist spirituality, the study shows how the community constructs collective identity, sacred authority, and feminist-ecological meanings within capitalist metropolitan modernity. Methodologically, it combines online ethnography of the group's Facebook presence with two semi-structured interviews with female members. The findings illustrate the community's private, anti-hierarchical, decentralized, and hybrid character, pluralistically enacted through Wiccan and varied pagan perspectives. Participants' narratives reveal tensions between spiritual visibility and concealment amid stigmatization linked to the Orthodox Church's cultural dominance and social media's misinterpretations of paganism. Despite standardized practice, belonging and collective validation remain central to members' religiosity. The findings support the secularization thesis of religion's transformation into post-traditional, alternative forms rather than its assumed decline or disappearance. Feminist-ecological

perspectives align with liberal feminism's challenge to patriarchal, instrumentalized religion, while emphasizing symbolic gender unity. Neo-paganism thus operates as resistance to institutionalized, monotheistic religions, demonstrating a socially embedded yet contradictory form of meaning-making, spiritual practice, solidarity and cohesion within capitalist metropolitan modernity.

Student: Magdalini Toccou, ACG, Sociology, Undergraduate 5th year
Title: Sexualizing and Objectifying Barwomen: A case study
Type of Submission: Research Course Essay
Abstract: This qualitative research examines how barwomen experience, interpret, and negotiate objectification and sexualization within nightlife industry. Drawing on three semi-structured, open-ended interviews and participant observation at a bar in Athens' city center, the study examines how male clients' verbal and nonverbal behaviors construct and legitimize an objectifying culture in which sexual harassment becomes normalized with ambiguous boundaries. By applying feminist sociological theory, Butler's gender performativity, de Beauvoir's "Other", Bourdieu's conceptualization of masculine domination and symbolic values and scholarship on emotional labor, the study illustrates how objectification towards barwomen affects their agency and self-perception. The findings support the gendered character of nightlife industry, with women disproportionately being assigned to roles that prioritize attractiveness and customer satisfaction over professionalism, leading to personal devaluation, self-objectification, and psychological internalization of sexualizing norms as unavoidable 'part of the job'. The study concludes that barwomen are viewed as 'services', hence reflecting the overall institutionalized patriarchal power structures rather than merely isolated incidents. Finally, the study contributes to re-framing women's legitimized sexualization as a main sociological problem, specifically referring to barwomen, a group which is largely overlooked in academic research.

Student: Marina Tsekoura, ACG, Communication, Recent Graduate
Title: How do emerging communication professionals evaluate the credibility of health information that mimics legitimate scientific communication formats?
Type of Submission: Undergraduate Thesis
Abstract: This study investigates how emerging communication professionals evaluate the credibility and truthfulness of health information that mimics legitimate scientific communication formats in AI-mediated digital environments. As artificial intelligence increasingly enables the generation of convincing scientific articles and visual content, understanding the criteria audiences use to distinguish truthful from fabricated information becomes increasingly significant. The study adopted a mixed-methods approach, combining a critical AI literacy workshop involving postgraduate communication students with an online survey completed by 95 participants from diverse professional sectors, primarily communication and healthcare. During the workshop, participants evaluated a fabricated medical press release, while the survey examined three AI-generated health communication materials: a blog entry, an informational leaflet, and a public health campaign. Findings indicate that credibility judgments primarily derived from peripheral cues, particularly professional layout, organizational references, scientific terminology, and statistical data, while authentication actions remained limited. Despite participants' professional backgrounds, difficulties in understanding research methodology and identifying fabricated scientific evidence emerged. Suspicion increased when numerical claims appeared exaggerated or visual design seemed unprofessional. Overall, the study underlines the importance of strengthening critical AI

and health literacy, alongside systematic source verification, to prevent misleading health information from shaping public perceptions and behavior.

Student: Vasiliki Tzellou, ACG, Communication, Undergraduate 3rd year

Title: Pandemic Spectacles: Photography, Propaganda, Mass Hysteria and Social Bias during the Spanish Flu and COVID-19

Type of Submission: Honors Research Course Essay

Abstract: This project examines how documentary photography shaped public perceptions of disease during the 1918–1920 Spanish Flu pandemic and the COVID-19 pandemic. It explores how photographs transform public health crises into visual narratives that influence collective fear, political discourse, social prejudice, and cultural memory. Through a comparative visual analysis of historical and contemporary pandemic photographs, the project draws on the theoretical frameworks of Susan Sontag, Walter Benjamin, John Berger, Sigmund Freud, and Guy Debord to investigate the relationship between photography, representation, and power. It also considers how disease naming, media circulation, and the rapid dissemination of digital imagery contribute to the construction of social blame and otherness. The analysis argues that, despite significant differences in communication technologies, both pandemics reveal recurring visual patterns through which suffering, medical authority, vulnerability, and collective anxiety are represented. However, the digital environment of COVID-19 intensified the speed and scale of image circulation, allowing fear and competing interpretations to spread rapidly. Ultimately, this project argues that documentary photography functions not merely as a historical record of pandemics but also as a powerful cultural and political medium that shapes how societies interpret crises and construct collective memory.

Student: Menglin (Roza) Wang, ACG, Psychology, Undergraduate 4th year

Title: Humor as Coping and Performance: A Semiotic Analysis of Depression-related TikTok memes

Type of Submission: Honors Thesis

Abstract: This study investigates depression-related humorous TikTok memes produced between 2019 and 2021 as semiotic constructions that may contribute to emotional relief. Drawing on Relief Humor Theory and Semiotic Theory, it bridges perspectives from psychology and media communication studies to examine how humor mediate psychological distress surrounding depression within digital environment. A qualitative content analysis was conducted on three highly engaged TikTok videos selected through keyword searches to analyze the visual, textual, and auditory signs that structure humor and meaning in these memes. The findings revealed that interaction of multimodal elements is essential to the construction of humor and appeared to facilitate emotional relief. Humor was primarily constructed through irony and exaggeration, while depression presented within everyday settings and through critiques of societal misunderstandings. Overall, the study contributes to interdisciplinary discussions of mental-health communication in digital environment by exploring the symbolic expression through which TikTok memes may function as emotional relief.