Past PSSP Scholars

2016-17

Marly Carlisle, ’17 (Political Science, with honors in Education)

The goal of Marly’s thesis research was to provide specific policy recommendations to improve the San Francisco Unified School District’s current policies for identifying, tracking, and providing services to homeless and highly-mobile students.

Ashley Jowell, ’17 (Human Biology)

Ashley’s research sought to understand the effects of rural to urban migration of Maasai women on their health and wellbeing. Using qualitative data from interviews, Ashley’s research explored how these women perceive their own ethnic identity, and the impact of identity upon health and resilience, in light of their relocation.

Oranicha (Natty) Jumreornvony, ’17 (Human Biology)

Natty worked with the Disabled People Operated Medical Transportation Service (DPOMTS) in Thailand to increase healthcare access and quality for disabled patients. She collected in-depth qualitative data to generate robust descriptions of the structural and sociocultural factors that underlie the effectiveness and barriers of DPOMTS on addressing challenges disabled people face in Thailand.

Vy Luu, ’17 (Sociology, with honors in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity)

Vy’s research explored the educational experiences of Southeast Asian American youth and how community-based programs have supported their development. Vy partnered with Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) to conduct a community-based participatory research project on the educational experiences of Southeast Asian American youth.

Vanessa Ochavillo, ’17 (Human Biology)

Vanessa worked in partnership with the Pilipino Association of Workers and Im/migrants (PAWIS), a workers’ rights organization, to fight against social and economic injustice faced by Filipino workers in Santa Clara County. She was inspired by her work with PAWIS to explore the elements of an organization that create a supportive community and will meet the needs of Filipino immigrant caregivers.

Allison Perry, ’17 (Anthropology)

Allison worked with city-owned and NGO-run community gardens in Seattle, WA, to identify how the construction of a community garden creates change in a community. Allison explored the types of discourse surrounding community gardens including: environmental sustainability, food and social justice, neighborhood cohesion and sociality, public health, outdoor recreation, urban greening, and beautification.
Christopher Rodriguez, ’17 (Human Biology)

As a part of his thesis research, Christopher interviewed fifteen interpersonal violence survivors who were housed in a women’s shelter in Peru. His thesis work explores the women’s perspectives on receiving medical, legal, and/or social assistance and illuminates the obstacles that prevent interpersonal violence survivors from taking advantage of local resources. The findings from this study were designed to provide shelters with information to reformat and reorganize their services to better help interpersonal violence survivors.

Jade Verdeflor ‘17 (Human Biology)

The purpose of Jade’s research was to explore the mental health of Filipino American caregivers because of the potential for compounded stressors as well as potential barriers to utilization of mental health services. She conducted interviews and focus groups with Filipino caregivers, focusing on perceived workplace stress, how caregivers attempt to manage their stress, and barriers to accessing the mental health resources. The goal of the research was to make suggestions informing mental health prevention strategies for this population and offer recommendations to community organizations dedicated to Filipino workers and immigrants on how to best holistically support their members.

2014-15

Monica Dey, ’15 (Human Biology, with honors in the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law)

Monica’s research evaluated the efficacy of information and communication interventions (particularly mobile) on sexual and reproductive health behaviors in the larger East African region.

Nicole Follman, ’15 (Anthropology)

Nicole’s research focused on understanding the nature of the sustainable food movement in central Iowa.

Henry Garcia, ’15 (Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity)

Henry’s research involved Latino parent engagement and education in the context of the Familias Unidas a través de la Lectura y el Aprendizaje (Families United though Literacy & Learning) literacy program in Hoover Elementary School in Redwood City.

Megan Lu, ’15 (Economics)

Megan’s honors thesis research was designed to use statistical analysis on currently available data on inequalities in the American educational system in order to explore dimensions of racism in policymaking and real estate as an underlying factor causing inequalities of wealth.
Ivan Marquez, ’15 (American Studies)

Ivan’s research integrated data from reports, studies, and policy recommendations from government agencies and health policy institutions to ultimately address the following question: What are the implications of current policy recommendations on the future of CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program) and how do they address CHIP’s structural inefficiencies in a manner that will sustain the program’s long-term viability?

Katherine Nasol, ’15 (International Relations, with honors in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity)

Katherine’s research was meant to document and analyze the migration journeys of trafficked Filipino workers in the Bay Area, East Coast, Los Angeles, and Hong Kong.

Stephanie Navarro, ’15 (Human Biology)

Stephanie’s research was designed to analyze budgets of school based health centers and interview community members and key stakeholders to answer the question: How can sustainability be achieved in school-based health centers (SBHCs) in San Diego? School-based health centers are clinics that work alongside school nurses offices to provide complete pediatric care to students.

Clarisa Reyes-Becerra, ’15 (Human Biology, with honors in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity)

Clarisa’s research focused on the disparate rates of mental health issues among young Latina girls, the importance of which is evidenced by a report from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention that shows, for the past three decades, young Latinas are the most likely to report depressive symptoms.

2013-14

Hana Al-Henaid, ’14 (Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity)

Hana’s research investigated institutional responses to victims of sexual violence during the civil uprising in Libya that began in 2011.

Brianna Kirby, ’13 (Anthropology; ’14 MA, Anthropology)

Brianna’s research explored the participant effects that emerged during the process of a participatory photography project with children and youth.

Sabrina Layne, ’14 (Human Biology)

Sabrina’s thesis explores the complex process of accessing public healthcare in Manenberg, South Africa, as well as patient-provider dynamics.
Talia Mahony, '14 (Human Biology)

Talia’s research examined what motivates people to take on and remain in emergency care provision roles. The study also explored what providers believe supports or challenges their ability to provide high quality, compassionate care and what changes providers think could help the current emergency care system work better.

Maia Mosse, '14 (Human Biology)

Maia’s research investigated the learning that results from pre-medical students observing doctor-patient interactions as they engage in service-learning.

Nina Papachristou, ‘14 (International Relations)

Nina’s thesis argues that just outcomes can be achieved for asylum seekers, if policy reforms incorporate an understanding of the tensions between a government that needs to keep immigration levels low and asylum seekers who want maximum social and legal protections.

Najla Gomez Rodriguez, ‘14 (Civil Engineering, with honors in Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies)

Najla’s thesis argues that student activists need an intersectional analysis of organizing in order to form a sustainable activist coalition that is capable of making demands of both the institution and the student body.

Kira Seiger, ‘14 (Human Biology)

Thesis title: “Access to Fertility Preservation Counseling for Female Breast Cancer Patients Treated at Stanford”

Claire Zabel, ‘14 (Earth Systems, with honors in Ethics in Society)

Claire’s thesis argues that the current severity of climate change has created a moral imperative for climate engineering research to continue.

2012-13

Emily Cohodes, ‘13 (Psychology)

Emily’s research investigated how exposure to graphic footage documenting treatment of food animals affected participants’ animal consumption and implicit and explicit attitudes toward animals.

Lea Gee-Tong, ‘13 (Human Biology)

The objective of this study was to explore if there is a different mean level of trust in a personal primary care physician between patients of different sexual orientations, gender identities, and
racial/ethnic backgrounds, and to explore the most commonly cited factors related to trust in primary care physicians that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) respondents cite.

**Meghan Gewerth, ‘13 (Archaeology)**

Meghan collected and analyzed ethnographic data about events and exhibits that contain artifacts from San Jose, California’s Market Street Chinatown that burned down in 1887.

**Caroline Hodge, ‘13 (Psychology)**

Caroline’s research explored the psychological differences between two different mindsets about nature, finding that interdependent rather than the pristine mindset produces greater levels of environmental concern.

**Julian Jaravata, ‘13 (Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity)**

Julian’s research explored what participants learned and valued about civic engagement through their involvement with Anakbayan, a Filipino youth-led, grassroots organization that fights for the welfare of its local communities as well as the need for genuine social change and democracy in the Philippines.

**Nicole Kramer, ‘13 (Political Science)**

Nicole’s research explored whether California initiative process’s role in determining criminal justice legislation for the state can be justified.

**Tiffany Kung, ‘13 (Human Biology)**

Tiffany’s thesis investigated the benefits and negative consequences presented by visiting students in global health education programs, through qualitative interviews with local doctors, social workers/NGO directors, home-stay families, and program coordinators in Bolivia and India.

**Todd Phelps, ‘13 (Psychology, Native American Studies)**

Todd’s research aimed to investigate if a culturally relevant depression scale could be constructed and deemed reliable from definitions given by Native American youth living on reservations throughout South Dakota.

**Michael Tayag, ‘13 (Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity)**

Michael’s research examined the short-term impact of the Caregiver Research (CARE) Project in an effort to understand whether, within the context of a grassroots workers' rights organization, community-based participatory research (CBPR) methodology can successfully organize, politicize, and build the leadership of worker participants.
Van Anh Tran, ‘13 (Public History)

Van’s research examined how memory shapes historical understanding, and how stories of Vietnamese youth contribute to the historical consciousness of the Viet Nam War.

Sean Valle, ‘13 (Biosynthetic Engineering)

Sean’s thesis investigated ethical questions raised by genetic determination technologies.

2011-12

Stacey Christiansen, ‘12 (Human Biology)

Stacey’s research investigated parents’ speech to 18-month-old infants during mealtimes, examining both similarities and differences in child-directed speech among families varying in socioeconomic status.

Rahael Gupta, ‘12 (Human Biology)

Rahael’s thesis explored how Mexican American migrant farm workers living in Oregon perceived diabetes, its causes, its consequences, and its therapy.

Jaclyn Le, ‘12 (Political Science)

The purpose of Jaclyn’s thesis was to explore the specific history of the continuums-of-solutions model as a school-based social intervention in the United States. The study examined four cases of continuums that integrated social and academic services in a comprehensive way.

Caity Monroe, ‘12 (History)

Caity’s thesis explored the changing nature of tension over land and local militia violence in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as the relationship between land, ethnic identity, and the increasingly important role of state weakness.

Lauren Platt, ‘12 (Human Biology)

Lauren’s thesis aimed to evaluate the accuracy of the QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In Tube (QFT-GIT) assay when adding Pathogen Associated Molecular Patterns (PAMPS). The QuantiFERON®-TB Gold is a test used to diagnose latent tuberculosis.

Tenzin Seldon, ‘12 (Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity)

Tenzin’s research focused on the experiences of Tibetans youth living as refugees in Dharamsala, India.
**Naomi Shachter, ‘12 (Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity)**

Naomi’s research investigated how race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, and neighborhood context influence student understandings of civic engagement and service-learning.

**Mia Shaw, ‘12 (Human Biology)**

Mia’s research explored the sex education experiences of eighty-six African-American undergraduates from six different universities.