Past PSSP Scholars

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 through Literacy & Learning) literacy program in Hoover Elementary School in Redwood City.

Megan Lu, ’15 (Economics)

Megan’s honors thesis research, entitled “The Shared Causes of Residential Inequalities and of Educational Inequalities,” 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)

- Thesis title: "Resources and Opportunities for Communities Facing Gender Based Violence in Libya"

Holly Fetter, ’13 (Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity; ’14 MA, Sociology)

- Thesis title: "White People's Pathways to Racial Justice Activism"

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

- Thesis title: "Dismantling the Frame: The Transformative and Exploratory Effects of Photovoice Engagement with Children"

Sabrina Layne, ’14 (Human Biology)

- Thesis title: "Community Perspectives on Public Healthcare Services in a South African Township"

Talia Mahony, ’14 (Human Biology)

- Thesis title: "Understanding Motivation in Professional and Lay Emergency Medical Care Providers: A Case Study of an Urban South African Township"

Maia Mosse, ’14 (Human Biology)

- Thesis title: "What and How Pre-Medical Students Learn About Doctor-Patient Interaction through Service Learning"

Nina Papachristou, ’14 (International Relations)

- Thesis title: "Keeping Our Promises to the Persecuted: Justice for Asylum Seekers in the United States"

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

- Thesis title: "Intersectionality as a Tool for Student Activism"

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)

- Thesis title: “Engineering Earth: The Ethics of Manipulating the Climate”

2012–13
Emily Cohodes, '13 (Psychology)

- Thesis Title: “If Slaughterhouses Were Made of Glass: Effects of Exposure to Graphic Footage of Factory Farming Practices on Omnivores' Consumption of Animal Products and Attitudes toward Animals”

Lea Gee-Tong, '13 (Human Biology)

- Thesis Title: “A Mixed Methods Study of Trust in Primary Care Physicians Among Patients of Different Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities, and Racial/Ethnic Backgrounds”

Meghan Gewerth, '13 (Archaeology)

- Thesis Title: "Events and Exhibits: Ethnographic Observations of the Market Street Chinatown Archaeology Project"

Caroline Hodge, '13 (Psychology)

- Thesis Title: "The Nature of Nature: How Thinking of Nature as Separate from or Interdependent with Humans Impacts Concern About Environmental Issues"

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

- Thesis Title: “Global Ends, Local Means: Lessons about Filipino Youth Activism and Civic Engagement in Anakbayan”

Nicole Kramer, '13 (Political Science)

- Thesis Title: "Direct Democracy and Criminal Justice Policy in California"

Tiffany Kung, '13 (Human Biology)

- Thesis Title: "Voices of International Host Communities: The Impact of Global Health Education Programs"

Todd Phelps, '13 (Psychology, Native American Studies)

- Thesis Title: "Constructing a Culturally-Relevant Depression Scale for Native American Youth Living on Reservations"

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

- Thesis Title: "By the People, For the People: The Role of Community-Based Participatory Research in Building Leadership and Capacity of Workers"
Van Anh Tran, ’13 (Public History)

- Thesis Title: "Hawks, Doves, and the Refugee Flight: Implications of Historical Memory and Learning about the Viet Nam War Among the Second Generation"

Sean Valle, ’13 (Biosynthetic Engineering)

- Thesis Title: "One Baby, Two Baby, Red Baby, Blue baby: Genetic Determination and Reproductive Freedom"

Iberia Zafira, ’13 (Earth Systems)

- Thesis Title: "Voluntourism Program Design for Diamond Head State Park in Honolulu, HI"

2011–12

Stacey Christiansen, ’12 (Human Biology)

- Thesis Title: "How Parent’s Speech to Infants Varies with Socioeconomic Status and Relates to Children’s Language Outcomes"

Rahael Gupta, ’12 (Human Biology)

- Thesis Title: "Deconstructing Illness Experience: Exploring How Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers in Oregon Perceive Diabetes"

Jaclyn Le, ’12 (Political Science)

- Thesis Title: "The Short-Lived Community School: Limits of Schools as Social Interventions, 1889-2012"

Caity Monroe, ’12 (History)

- Thesis Title: "History, Violence, Land: Explaining Local Conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo"

Lauren Platt, ’12 (Human Biology)

- Thesis Title: "Sensitivity and Specificity of QuantiFERON-GIT with Addition of Pathogen Associated Molecular Patterns (PAMPS) in Diagnosing Active Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection"

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

- Thesis Title: “Transnational Identity: Intergenerational Differences in the Indian Tibetan Diaspora"

Naomi Shachter, ’12 (Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity)

- Thesis Title: "Exploring the Civic Identity Development of Diverse Youth in Service-Learning"
Mia Shaw, ’12 (Human Biology)

- Thesis Title: “The Birds, The Bees, And Everything In Between: Exploring the Factors That Influence the Sex Education Experiences of African-American Youth”

2010–11

Autumn Albers (Human Biology)

- **research interest/question:** What are the beliefs surrounding condom use on a small rural island in Papua New Guinea?

Aurora Kazi Bassett (Urban Studies)

- **research interest/question:** What are the conceptions of community that Sangath puts forth in its training of lay workers? What choices do they make as they try to balance community-specific outreach and ways to make their packages transferable to other parts of India and the rest of the developing world?

Eunice Buhler (International Relations)

- **research interest/question:** How has the institution of the European Union impacted child labor laws and practices in E.U. member states or candidate states, specifically in Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey?

Manny Fassihi (Religious Studies)

- **research interest/question:** Can a practice rooted in a spiritual tradition be put to secular use in a public educational context?

Ned Henningsen (History)

- **research interest/question:** I am researching the history and effectiveness of an organic farming cooperative in Sicily that operates on land confiscated from the mafia. How did this emerge and how successful has it been as a form of antimafia?

Lucinda Lai (Human Biology)

- **research interest/question:** What are the barriers to organ donation in Thailand?

Yu-Jin Lee (Human Biology)

- **research interest/question:** My research revolves around global disease eradication of poliomyelitis. I have two goals in my research:

Lucy Martinez (Human Biology)

- **research interest/question:** English exposure and its impact on the language development of Spanish-speaking toddlers
Marloes Sijstermans (Human Biology)

- **research interest/question:** What pedagogical practices promote democratic expression of multiple points of view in the classroom?

Charlie Syms (East Asian Studies/Feminist Studies, MA Sociology)

- **research interest/question:** LGBTQ activism and community organizing in South Korea

2009–10

**Nimi Mastey** (Human Biology)
Thesis Title: Coarse Gravel, Skipped Heartbeats: My Mothers’ Memoirs

**Sarah Golabek-Goldman** (History)
Thesis Title: Polish Historical Memory of the Holocaust

**Vanisha Gandhi** (Human Biology)
Thesis Title: “I Can Learn Something for Myself”: Effects of a Summer Enrichment Program on the Academic and Psychosocial Development of Adolescents in Rural India

**Katie Martinez** (Urban Studies)
Thesis Title: Participation, Politics, and Planning: The Impact of Unrepresentative Citizen Participation in Palo Alto, California

**Sara Heaps** (Human Biology)
Thesis Title: When Adherence to Political Tradition Goes Too Far: An Egalitarian Case for Rethinking Federalism and Local Control in the Distribution of Educational Resources

**Marlene Orozco** (Sociology)
Thesis Title: Crossing School Borders: Undocumented Latino Immigrant Parents and Their Integration into the American School System

**Francesca Mazzola** (Political Science)
Thesis Title: The Emergence of Civil Society in a Post-Communist Hungary and Poland: An Analysis of Charitable Donation Policies

**James Xie** (Computer Science)
Thesis Title: Barriers and Facilitators of Personal Health Record Adoption: A Study of Families with Children with Special Healthcare Needs

**Jessica Jones** (Human Biology)
Thesis Title: Investigating the Relationship between Support for Parents after a Child’s Traumatic Brain Injury and Subsequent Child and Family Outcomes

**Brindha Saravanabavanandhan** (Human Biology)
Thesis Title: Defining Our Biological Clock: Empowering Women in the Struggle Against Infertility

**Samantha Astudillo** (International Relations)
Thesis Title: “Tragos Amargos”: A Lesson on the Cultivation of “Community”
Katey Mulfinger (Human Biology)  
Thesis Title: Salvaging the Failed Paradigm: Theory and Policy Recommendations for an Equitable Education System  
2008–09

Meredith Bell, Peace and Conflict Studies  
Thesis Title: "De Lawd" and the Locals: Structure, Leadership and Two Organizations’ Efforts to Develop a Grassroots Movement for Civil Rights and Equality in the Jim Crow South

Anjali Dixit, Biological Sciences  
Thesis Title: Living a Contradiction: Power Inequities and Health Attitude-Behavior Discrepancies in the Bay Area Indian Immigrant Women's Community

Kelley Fong, American Studies/History  
Thesis Title: "I Do What I Can": How Homeless Parents Interpret and Support Their Children's Education

Scott Keyes, Political Science  
Thesis Title: Why Do States Adopt Election Day Voter Registration?

Stany LeBlanc, Urban Studies  
Thesis Title: Partnership for Success: The Effects of Parents and Parental Initiative Programs on Student Educational Aspirations and Achievement

Jessie Liu, Human Biology  
Thesis Title: Maternal Beliefs and Behaviors in the Prevention of Childhood Diarrhea in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Tomi Onatunde, Individually Designed Major  
Thesis Title: Preventing Brain Drain: Understanding the Key Factors That Affect a Medical Doctor's Decision to Practice in a Specific Community

Andrea Romero, Political Science  
Thesis Title: Cultivating Success Through Community-Based Health Initiatives in Developing Countries: A Lesson from Mozambique

Theresa Zhen, Economics/Sociology  
Thesis Title: Language, Social Capital and Information Channels for Chinese Immigrant Families in Chinatown, San Francisco

2007–08

Diana Austria, Human Biology  
Thesis Title: From Their Own Voices: Understanding the Impact of Pre-College Pipeline Programs Aimed at Promoting Diversity in the Health Professions

Andrew Barragan, Political Science  
Thesis Title: Guest Workers: Welcome Guests or Willing Slaves?

Alyssa Battistoni, Political Science  
Thesis Title: Broken Levees, Broken Contract?: Examining Nonprofit and Government Roles in Disaster Management Through the Lens of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans
Maura Burk, International Relations  
Thesis Title: Microfinance and Women’s Empowerment: Money Cannot Break Systemic Gender Biases: A Case-Study of Intra-Household Resource Allocation in Gulu, Uganda

Niccolina Clements, Human Biology  
Thesis Title: Support Systems of Adolescent Girls in East Palo Alto: Redefining the Family

Deshka Foster and Stacie Vilendrer, Human Biology  
Thesis Title: Principal Factors Influencing Treatment-Seeking Behavior for Childhood Malaria in Tanga, Tanzania

Siobhan Greatorex-Voith, Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity  
Thesis Title: Class & Inequality in Higher Education: The Experiences of Low-Income Students in Elite Higher Education Contexts

Hannah Larkin,Anthropological Sciences  
Thesis Title: Aboriginal Involvement in Western Australian Land Management and Conservation

Meiyang Liu, Human Biology  
Thesis Title: The Effect of Medical Interpreter Training and Experience on Mandarin-Speaking Patients’ Satisfaction and Comprehension of Clinical Encounters

Elizabeth Pratt, Education  
Thesis Title: “It’s Safe to Learn Here:” Adolescent Development at Breakthrough Collaborative Summer Schools

Takeo Rivera, Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity  
Thesis Title: The Language You Live In: Youth Poets and the Staging of Self

Ted Sands, Urban Studies  
Thesis Title: Demystifying Silicon Valley’s Urban Legend: An Economic Examination of Industrial Land Conversations

Debbie Warshawsky, Urban Studies  
Thesis Title: This is My Ghetto: Exploring the Emergence and Efficacy of Community Organizing in East Harlem’s Public Housing

Aaron Zagory, Ethics in Society  
Thesis Title: In Defense of Sitting: An Argument on Behalf of a Second Class Against the Palo Alto Sit-Lie Prohibition