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Research Update - July 2023

Office of Research

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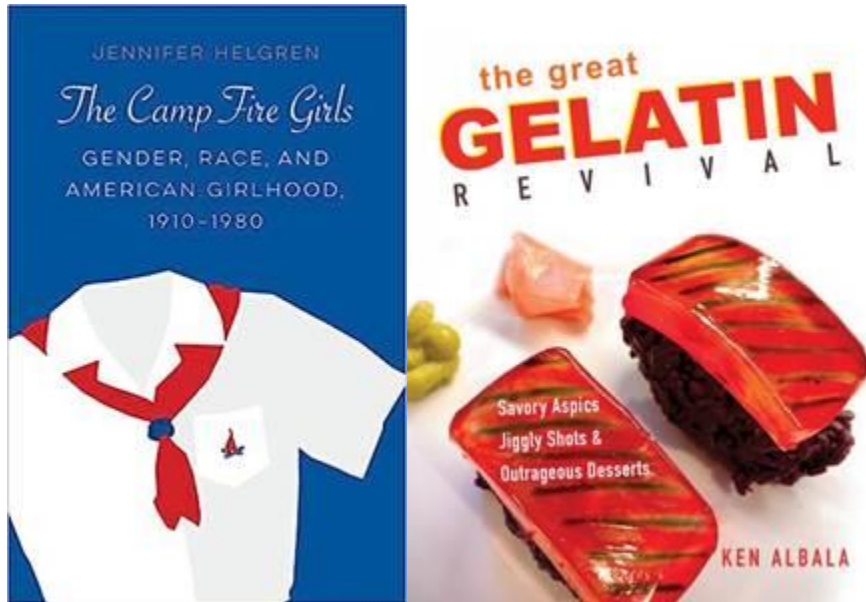
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UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC

Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

Monthly Newsletter



Faculty Highlights

Congratulations to faculty in the College of the Pacific on recent or forthcoming book publications.

- Jennifer Helgren (History) published *The Camp Fire Girls: Gender, Race, and American Girlhood, 1910-1980*, in 2022.
- Ken Albala (History) published *The Great Gelatin Revival: Savory Aspics, Jiggly Shots, and Outrageous Desserts*, in 2023.
- Dari Tran (Political Science) has an edited book under contract with Lexington Press: *Pandemic at the Polls: How the Politics of COVID-19 Played into American Elections*.

These recent books have already received favorable reviews and media attention. They are thought-provoking and address important social issues.



Congratulations to the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Recipients!

The SURF grants support students working with faculty mentors on scholarly projects during the summer. Six students are currently conducting summer research with SURF grants.

1. Jenny Dagnino, advised by Ryan Hill. “Evaluating Climate Changes Impacts on Susceptible Macroinvertebrate Species in Natural Alpine Springs of the Sierra Nevada”
 - Jenny will conduct fieldwork and laboratory analysis to investigate how climate change is affecting the spring dwelling caddisflies in the Sagehen Creek Basin. This species is particularly sensitive to temperature, water quality, and groundwater age. Her research will provide insights into long-term effects of climate change on groundwater-dependent ecosystems.
2. Kayleigh Fick, advised by Laura Gutierrez. “Eva Perón: Political Domination Through Love, Rhetoric, and Feminism”
 - Kayleigh’s project will demonstrate that Eva Perón’s feminist legacy remains pertinent in Argentine culture today because of her amazing rhetorical capabilities and genuine love for the working class. Her goal is to produce a spatial visualization using ArcGIS StoryMaps plotting Eva Perón’s feminist journey (speech locations, locations from her childhood and modern monuments) on a map of Argentina.
3. Brittany Ho, advised by Vivek Pallipuram. “Rate My Feedback: An NLP-Based Machine Learning Framework to Analyze and Construct Professor-Specific Suggestions from Student Written Evaluations”
 - Her project leverages natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning to analyze and extract valuable insights from student-written evaluations of professors. She aims to provide personalized suggestions to instructors, based on the feedback received, thereby improving the quality of teaching, and enhancing the overall learning experience at a university.
4. Abigail Miller, advised by Patricia Shands. “Diversification of Pedagogy: Music for Clarinet by American Women Composers of the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries”
 - Abigail will examine musical compositions written by women in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries for solo clarinet and small ensembles to create the foundation from which to expand knowledge of the repertoire by women

composers for the clarinet. For most of Western musical history, women were prevented from composing and performing by societal pressures, so one goal of the project is to support music by underrepresented composers. The project will culminate with a performance of some of the works in a lecture recital at Pacific.

5. Ananya Srivatsan, advised by Skylar Carlson. “Tapping into the Potential of the Fungal Metabolome via Coculture and Chemical Elicitors”
 - Her summer project uses 18S rRNA sequencing to create a fungal library from environmental samples collected from fresh and saltwater environments. To investigate the natural products produced by these fungi, she will treat a subset of a fungal library with transcriptional inhibitors to test the extracts for antimicrobial, antifungal, and anticancer activity.
6. Jenna Williamson, advised by Xiaojing Zhou. “Decolonizing the American Literary Cannon Through Native American Storytelling and Counter-Narratives”
 - Jenna will study writings from major American Transcendentalist authors and compare their works with contemporary Native American authors in order to reimagine the American literary canon from an ecocritical lens. Ecocriticism is an interdisciplinary method of study that examines literature and global responses to ecological crises. The goal of the summer research project is to gain a stronger understanding of American colonial settlers and modern conceptions of the Anthropocene.

iMERS July Grantsmanship Bootcamp

Join the National Institutes of Health (NIH) SuRE Resource Center's free online two-day grantsmanship training for faculty and research administrative staff leading up to the SuRE-First R16 application deadline of September 28th. The presenters will focus on key elements of R-series applications and discuss strategies to help you prepare a competitive application.

To register: [Read more](#) |

Webinar on National Science Foundation (NSF) Major Research Instrumentation Grants

The Division of Molecular and Cellular Bioscience will answer questions about this equipment program from 2-3 p.m. ET, July 12. Registration is required.

[Read more](#) |

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If you would like our office staff to come give a presentation on our services, please email Emily Novick at enovick@pacific.edu. Or visit us on the 3rd floor of the library.