

# *EXPOSURES II*

## *A Journal of Exploratory Research and Analysis*

The research articles published here reflect the Capstone Research efforts of graduating seniors from the CSU Stanislaus University Honors Program. The articles present projects conceived from personal academic interests and mentored by faculty who are familiar with the research and scholarship driving these efforts of discovery.

While the stirrings of personal interest are a crucial element in the cultivation of sound research practices, we should not confuse these stirrings with the stirrings of sound research practices. The stirrings of sound research emerge only from a special growth in perspective, and the goal of good mentoring is to awaken these stirrings and override the restrictive limits of personal interests and attendant beliefs. We thank our faculty mentors, over a hundred so far, who have worked with our Capstone students over the past fifteen years to help them frame and conduct effective research projects.

In the process of acquiring new perspective in life, humans cultivate new orientations — new attunements, attitudes and convictions. Orientations provide a format for exposures. As researchers, we need to explore how these orientations operate to sensitize or desensitize people to blind spots in their understanding. Are there not issues, concerns, opportunities and challenges relevant to our lives that we can only appreciate *from somewhere else* —

*from some other orientation?* Growing older in life, good fortune is discovering new points of entry to our surrounding world. But we assimilate to new points of entry only by closing off or eclipsing *other* points of entry.

To see the world in a new light, to acquire new *exposures* to the world, means listening more attentively and becoming responsive in new ways. The capacity to respond to issues and concerns otherwise masked from view demands a special openness and attention to experiences we find strange and challenging. We seldom see things in a new light without first having the curiosity and disposition to explore surprising, unexpected, easily marginalized phenomena — nor without learning to discern otherwise hidden facets of our filtered social and personal constructions.

We trust this collection of articles will stir your interest in some timely topics. The goal of these writings is fourfold: to increase awareness of what is actually at stake, integrate this into the formation of compelling research questions, present findings based on analysis of criticism and formation of exploratory questions, and suggest how these findings might influence more positive developments. These articles reflect efforts to raise intellectual *curiosity* to the level of *sound research* with respect to topics and issues we hope will spark interest and further developments in the minds of our readers.



## Acknowledgements

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### *Faculty teaching in the Honors Program this year:*

*Andy Young (Philosophy), Richard Randall (Political Science), Arnold Webb (English), Ellen Bell (Anthropology), Andrew Dorsey (English), Sari Miller-Antonio (Anthropology), Jennifer Cooper (Biology), Chris Nagel (Philosophy), Tom Carter (Cognitive Studies), Michael Tumolo (Communication Studies), Ian Albright (Philosophy), Daniel Horvath (Communication Studies), Shea Mester (English), Bobby Seals/Fela Uhura (Ethnic Studies), Jennifer Ringberg (Anthropology), Therese Lunt (Honors), Rich Wallace (Anthropology), and Tim Held (Library).*

Seniors in the Honors Program are encouraged to tackle complex problems using methods, insights and knowledge drawn from relevant disciplines. Honors Program faculty and capstone research mentors offer critical feedback and guidance along the way.

The main objective is for students to explore, gather, and analyze information effectively, and to share their reflections on the implications of what they have discovered. Group discussions help to promote thoughtful questioning and critical analysis. The primary goal is to communicate knowledge, judgments, and original perspective cultivated on the basis of careful inquiry, exploration and analysis.

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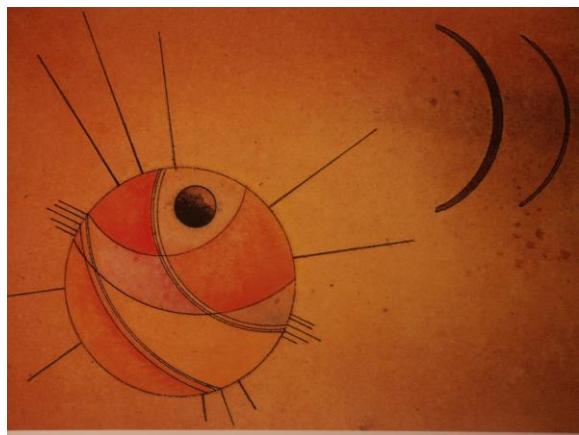
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## HONORS PROGRAM COMMUNITY STATEMENT

The Honors Program at CSU Stanislaus is a community of scholars bound together by vital principles of academic openness, integrity, and respect. Through focused study and practice involving exploration and discovery across a variety of disciplines, the Honors Program upholds these principles of scholarly engagement and provides students with the necessary foundations for further research and inquiry.



Our interdisciplinary curriculum is integral to this work, and is intended to facilitate creative understanding of the irreducible complexities of contemporary life and knowledge. Personal and intellectual honesty and curiosity are essential to this process. So, too, is critical openness to difficult topics and respect for different perspectives, values and disciplines. The Honors Program aims to uphold these virtues in practice, in principle, and in community with one another.