

Margins II

A Journal of Exploratory Research and Analysis

The nine research articles published here represent the Capstone Research efforts of recent graduating seniors in the 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, they should not be confused with the stirrings of sound research practices themselves. 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 interest and its attendant beliefs. We thank our faculty mentors, over a hundred so far, who have worked with our Capstone students over the years to frame and conduct interesting and effective research projects.

In the course of acquiring new perspective in life, we may find ourselves experiencing new attunements, attitudes and convictions. A closer look may even reveal how well these orientations sensitize or desensitize us to blind spots in our understanding. Are there perhaps some issues, concerns, opportunities and challenges that are relevant to our lives, but that we can only appreciate *from different angles*? As we grow older in life, we are fortunate if we discover new points of entry to our surrounding world, but only by closing off

or eclipsing *other* points of entry will these points of entry actually open up for us.

To see the world in a new light, to acquire new *entries* to the world, means to listen more attentively and to become responsive in new ways. The capacity for us to respond to issues and concerns otherwise masked from view demands a special openness and attention to experiences that may otherwise seem strange and challenging. We seldom see the world in a new light without first having the curiosity--and the willingness--to explore surprising, unexpected, easily marginalized phenomena--nor without first learning to discern otherwise hidden facets of our filtered social and personal constructions.

We trust the articles collected here will draw your interest and curiosity to margins of human experience where new angles of entry await us--soliciting us, encouraging us, challenging us--*to respond*. The goal of these writings is to increase awareness of what is actually *at stake*, and to integrate this into the formation of a compelling set of research questions. Several articles take the next step and present findings based on analysis of critical feedback and exploratory questions, and several articles take a further step and suggest how these findings might influence positive developments. The process guiding these efforts strives to raise *curiosity* to the level of *sound research*. By drawing you into these inquiries, we hope to spark your interest in exploring margins of your own experience.



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Gary Williams (Psychology), Gerard Wellman (Politics & Public Administration), Hakhshanesh Zangeneh (Philosophy), James Tuedio (Philosophy) and Staci Gem Scheiwiller (Art).

Thanks to Steve Arounsack (Anthropology) and Tim Held (Library) for guiding the work of our juniors.

Faculty teaching in the Honors Program this year included:

Bobby Seals (Ethnic Studies), Therese Lunt (Theatre Arts), Arnold Webb (English), Ellen Bell (Anthropology), Sari Miller Antonio (Anthropology), Steve Arounsack (Anthropology), Jeffrey Frost (Anthropology), Zac Gershberg (Communication Studies), Andy Dorsey (English), Janey Youngblom (Biology), Shea Mester (English), David Kangas (Philosophy), Chris Nagel (Philosophy), Jim Tuedio (Philosophy), Jennifer Ringberg (Anthropology), Gary Soiseth (Political Science), Tom Carter (Computer Science), April Upton-Benton (Communication Studies), Richard Randall (Political Science), Tim Held (Library) and Andy Young (Philosophy).

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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*Marmot Pass Trail, Olympic National Park
Olympic Peninsula, WA*

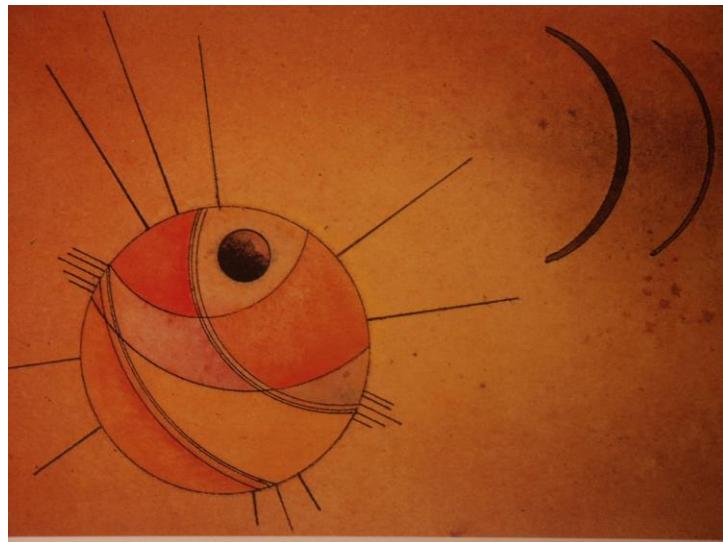
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*Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Cambria, CA*

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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.