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**Other Research by McNair Scholars  
at the University of Oregon**

**Abstracts**

**The Cost of Being Close:  
Self-Other Overlap and Domestic Violence**

**by J. Anna Bell**

Psychology and Sociology  
Honors College

Faculty Mentor: Sara Hodges  
Psychology

The social psychological concept of self-other overlap describes how identities and cognitive representations of people tend to merge as they become closer to one another. Because greater self-other overlap tends to be associated with such positive characteristics as closeness and intimacy, it has generally been considered a desirable trait in relationships. However, these positive characteristics of self-other overlap have yet to be explored in situations that are less than ideal, such as relationships involving domestic violence. This study explores the possible negative consequences of having self-other overlap in these relationships, including greater difficulties removing oneself from the relationship, getting over the abusive partner, and having lower levels of well-being.

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# **Coal Subsidies: International Consequences from Perceived National Prerogatives**

**by William Clark**  
Political Science

Faculty Mentor: Ronald Mitchell  
Political Science

Over the last century, United States resources have been heavily subsidized, lending large advantages to producers and encouraging the over-development and consumption of energy resources. Recent economic pressures and security concerns are creating increasing calls for a rise in offshore drilling and measures to supplant imported energy resources with domestic coal as a source of affordable fuel and electricity. At the same time, apprehension about climate change has led to proposals that suggest reducing our reliance on coal because of the immense carbon and toxic emissions associated with its use. This study evaluates subsidy theory and the extent of U.S. coal subsidization as well as the domestic and international environmental impact on global carbon emissions that could result from widespread subsidy removal.

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**Southern Women and the U.S. Civil War:  
Did War Weariness  
Influence the Secession Effort?**

**by Dusty Dodd**

History

Faculty Mentor: Jack Maddex

History

What role did Southern women play in the Civil War and its outcome? Historians of women's lives show that whether women were of the planter class, yeoman class, or landless, the social identity of Southern white women depended on male family members. According to diaries, letters, and journals, women watched with trepidation as the events of the Civil War changed their lives. Diarists such as Mary Boykin Chesnut, Kate Cumming, and Parthenia Antoinette Hague show the trials women faced. At the beginning of the war, women felt mixed emotions concerning Southern patriotism. By the end of the war, diaries and letters reveal that women had changed their outlook. Women began to encourage their men folk to come home from the battle fronts.



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# **Marked Migrants: Race, Ethnicity, Disability, and the U.S. Immigrant Medical Inspection, 1878-1924**

**by Jenette Eccleston**

History and Women's and Gender Studies

Faculty Mentor: Elizabeth Reis

Women's and Gender Studies

Faculty Mentor: Peggy Pascoe

History

During the final three quarters of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the United States federal government enacted a web of immigration control measures that connected public health concerns to the economy and the racial identity of Americans. Immigration laws required migrants to undergo medical examinations carried out by the U.S. Public Health Service to reduce the threat of an epidemic. Yet, public health policies embedded in immigration law quickly moved beyond the detection of communicable infections. The United States Bureau of Immigration required a doctor to give a medical opinion about the body and mind of each migrant examined. Each medical opinion became the basis for assessing whether the migrant would be able to create a stable socioeconomic future, a judgment that reflected popular attitudes about helplessness and disability. Public health policies also reveal differential racial treatment that depended on changing and culturally imbued definitions of race.

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# **Responses to Unpredicted Punishment Measured Through Event-Related Potential in Association with Depression**

**by Basim Farah**

Psychology

Faculty Mentor: Edward Vogel

Psychology

Faculty Mentor: Kristina Hiatt Racer

Child and Family Center

Understanding how depression affects mental responses is vital for creating and implementing effective therapy techniques for those suffering from depression. This study uses event-related potentials (ERPs) to examine the relationship between self-reported depression levels and responsiveness to reward and punishment cues. Fifty-six University of Oregon undergraduates (thirty-four female and twenty-two male) were recruited to participate. The Child and Family Center, a UO affiliate, has gained approval from the IRB and collected data for analysis. The general assumption is that individuals with higher levels of depression experience a bias towards expecting negative events. Accordingly, the working hypothesis predicts that individuals with higher levels of depression will exhibit a less negative ERP response to unpredicted negative events.



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## **On Bad Faith and Authenticity in Youth Athletics**

**by Jarrod Jonsrud**  
Philosophy

Faculty Mentor: Beata Stawarska  
Philosophy

A recent decline in the numbers of youths participating in sports may be attributed to a number of factors, but some youths seem to develop a lasting hostility toward sport when they experience malicious situations brought on by the need to win. Violent conflicts arising from parents and coaches who instill a win-at-all-costs attitude in their players have led the National Alliance for Youth Sports, the governing body for all youth leagues across America, to respond by de-emphasizing the competitive aspects of their youth programs. Though this response seems a logical one, there may be harmful repercussions to the potential development of the child. I will engage sport from the existentialist perspectives of authenticity, freedom, responsibility, and bad faith. I then explore the problems caused by an over-emphasis on winning. Learning to recognize the existential benefits of sport may provide a way to preserve the competitive model in youth athletics while offering the authentic participant a more meaningful mode of existence.

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# **Nigella Devours: Unabashed Appetite for Pleasure in American Food Discourse**

**by Marcella Ovalle**

English

Faculty Mentor: Kathleen Karlyn

English

Since the 2001 release in the United States of her cookbook, *How to Be a Domestic Goddess: Baking and the Art of Comfort Food*, British cookery writer and television host Nigella Lawson has steadily contributed directly to American food discourse and indirectly to feminist inquiry. Joanne Hollows and Charlotte Brunsdon argue that Lawson detaches cooking from domestic drudgery by exhibiting cooking as a leisurely process that constructs one's own pleasures. Simply put, in pursuit of pleasure, Lawson cooks to eat, but she also publicizes otherwise privatized pursuits. Currently, her shows *Nigella Express* and *Nigella Feasts* run in syndication on television's The Food Network and she seasonally contributes to National Public Radio's *Morning Edition* and the *Kitchen Window* podcast. This article examines Nigella Lawson's work to explore how pleasure operates in American food discourse.

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