

## Undergraduate Research Symposium May 18, 2018 Mary Gates Hall

### Online Proceedings

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#### POSTER SESSION 3

Commons West, Easel 9

2:30 PM to 4:00 PM

**Cultural Attitudes and Voting: How Close Ties to Asian Culture Affect Asian American Political Participation**

*Catherine Marie Ticzon, Senior, Spanish, Political Science*

*Mentor: John Wilkerson, Political Science*

*Mentor: Emma Rodman, Political Science, Center for American Politics and Public Policy*

Scholars continue to be perplexed by the low rates of Asian American political participation despite their relatively high levels of education and income, two factors which have been shown to be strong predictors of political behavior among whites, African Americans, and Latinos. What is different about Asian Americans that make them largely unaffected by these factors? If their low rates of participation remain unmoved, they risk being systematically neglected from the democratic processes of the government. This study hypothesizes that the deeply rooted Asian cultural values of respect for authority and hierarchy dampen defiance and encourage passivity, therefore causing Asian Americans who are closely tied to their Asian culture to be less politically active. This study will measure political participation through self-reported voting and registration, while using a series of variables to determine levels of engagement with Asian culture. The dataset used from National Asian American Survey captures Asian Americans' political attitudes and behaviors during the Presidential elections of 2008.