



Undergraduate Research Symposium May 17, 2019 Mary Gates Hall

Online Proceedings

SESSION 10

MCNAIR SESSION - POLITICAL DIVIDES: QUESTIONS ABOUT IMMIGRATION, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND REPRESENTATION

Session Moderator: Gabriel Gallardo, Geography
MGH 288

12:30 PM to 2:15 PM

* Note: Titles in order of presentation.

Parallels in the Detainment of People of Color in the US: From Japanese Incarceration to Immigration Detention Centers

Mariela Galvan, Senior, Education, Communities and Organizations, American Ethnic Studies
Mary Gates Scholar, McNair Scholar

Mentor: Shelby Lunderman, School of Drama

The United States' participation in "othering" is nothing new. Government policies for centuries, including executive orders, have long targeted minority populations living in or seeking refuge within the U.S. These populations are often the scapegoats in politically turbulent times and are treated as such in order to not deal with greater issues. During World War II, Japanese Americans—including citizens and legal residents—were sent to internment camps not knowing when they would return home. This was the "solution" to war hysteria post-Pearl Harbor. Similarly, current immigrants from non-European populations are targeted by ICE and taken away from their families with no promise of return. Although the rationale is complex, this rhetoric often revolves around jobs and criminality despite any significant statistical back-up. My presentation seeks to compare these two situations: what is currently happening with Latin American and Southeast Asian immigrants in the U.S. to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. These families, whether nearly 80 years ago or today, have and are being systematically stripped of their livelihood and humanity for the sake of political scapegoating. Through intensive archival research—including collecting historical photographs, first-person accounts, and government propaganda of and against those incarcerated in the Japanese Internment Camps and current U.S. detention centers—, I examine the similarities in

these families' plights, the situations' causes, and their inevitable long-term impacts. Through this analysis, I seek to interrogate the broader structure of U.S. immigration policies and our place in these events as global citizens. It is only through such analysis that we can begin to understand the cyclical nature of rhetoric and trauma and have a chance to stop it.

SESSION 2S

THE POWER OF MEDIA REPRESENTATIONS AND DIGITAL ARCHIVES

Session Moderator: Carmen Gonzalez, Communication
JHN 175

3:30 PM to 5:15 PM

* Note: Titles in order of presentation.

The Impact of the Media's Rhetoric

Min Su Kim, Junior, Pre-Major
Mary Gates Scholar

Mentor: Shelby Lunderman, School of Drama

Unwanted Invaders. The "Others". Deceitful Criminals. Victims of Injustice. These themes were not ripped from the headlines of newspapers describing immigrants today, but rather are found in newspapers from the 1880s and the 1940s to describe Asian-American immigrants to the United States during two separate times of crisis- Chinese Exclusion and Japanese Internment. This project explores how print media has constructed the accounts of immigrants by seeking the answer to the question: What rhetoric have newspapers used to portray Non-European immigrants to the United States? Articles from three time periods (1880s, 1940s, today) were selected and the rhetoric used within these sources were divided into four descriptive categories: Unwanted Invaders, The "Others," Deceitful Criminals, and Victims of Injustice. Quantifying the use of particular phrases within these categorical themes led to an analysis of the intersection between language and media, and how media repertoire has changed in regard to its identification and treatment of immigrants. Preliminary findings indicate that the description of immigrants by media sources has shifted over time, from "deceitful criminals" and "unwanted invaders," to "victims of injustice." This

historical analysis of the common rhetoric used throughout these three separate times of crisis characterizes how media has continued to shape the lens that we view and have viewed immigrants through, which allows us to better understand and address the current state of the immigration crisis.