

Wesleyan Engaged Projects

Fall 2020

Bryan Chong 2021

The Impact of COVID-19 on Demand for Statewide and Municipal Public Services

The topic for my EP is to explore how the pandemic has been affecting the demand of statewide government services vis a vis local and municipal governments in the state of Connecticut. With Connecticut leading the country in income inequality, the challenges working people face every day have only been exacerbated by the disruption of public and private services. As federal inaction hamper the ability of states to coordinate widespread support for citizens, communities and municipalities have stepped up to the task, whether formally through government or informally through citizen action and mutual aid. Through researching local and statewide news, interviewing local and statewide elected officials, volunteering to support Middletown residents and triaging constituent needs requests at the Lt. Governor's Office, I hope to develop a report on how the Connecticut state government and local governments have succeeded and can do better in supporting their residents under this crisis. Especially considering the few opportunities to learn about local and state government in both the Government department and the Allbritton Center, I hope this hands-on experience will supplement my academic expertise from classes in federal politics and national trends. I intend for the audience of my final project to be elected officials in and representing Middletown, the Wesleyan Democrats, other progressive grassroots organizers in Connecticut, as well as anyone else whom could use this information to better help those around us who are suffering the most right now.

Stephanie Corrales 2022

Reproductive Health for Women of Color in Los Angeles, California

For my engaged project, I will study reproductive and sexual health for women of color, specifically undocumented women, in Los Angeles, California. Years ago, women in my town were illegally sterilized without their knowledge and consent. This has led to distrust between women and health care providers. I plan to create content that can teach women of color about sexual health, how to talk to providers. It could be as simple as showing images of what breast abnormalities look like, where to get free condoms, low to no-cost services, etc. Throughout my process, I will ask women of color what they prefer and want to see more of, as they are the target audience. Ultimately, I want women to feel comfortable talking about their bodies and their needs.

Brody Dozoretz 2022

LGBTQ+ Representation in Media

My Engaged Project will lead me to research LGBTQ+ representation in journalism, television, and film by working with GLAAD. My intended final project will be to analyze this research and come up with a video guidebook for how we can better support and represent the gender queer community on social media- a topic that GLAAD has not yet covered. This Engaged Project speaks directly to my university major which looks at identity in media. I came out four years ago and I am passionate about trans advocacy especially given the current state of our country. This project will allow me to make an impact now and will lead me to more forms of advocacy in the future.

Julio Evans 2021

Gentrification in Bushwick

This Engaged Project will center around the transforming neighborhood of Bushwick in the city of Brooklyn, New York through economic and political shifts catalyzed by gentrification. I will analyze the ways in which Bushwick, over the course of years, has transformed both visually through its shops and businesses, but also ethnically through its population. My final project will be a film like production that depicts the effect of Gentrification in Bushwick in a way that is bluntly visible and able to be critiqued. To gather this information, I will be conducting interviews and searching throughout the Web (Facebook groups) to get in contact with longstanding residents of Bushwick willing to share their experiences but also their pictures. As someone born and raised in Bushwick, it is important that this work be done by a resident rather than an outsider because this allows me (the researcher) to have personal connections and understandings of the changes throughout the neighborhood: how does the change in parks effect, influence the memories of its previous stance, does riding down certain streets still feel the same, etc.. That being said, my final audience would be residents of Bushwick in order to make them feel heard and represented, but also to political representatives like Assembly members (Maritza Davila) who are in charge of protecting and serving our neighborhoods.

Corey Fausto 2022

How One Man's Power Can Disrupt Everything

In a world where the music industry and its high end labels capitalize the most off of artists' success and talent, there is one artist on the verge of changing that spectrum for the better of the individual artist. Grammy and Billboard winner, Aubrey Drake Graham, has the opportunity of a lifetime in this coming year to become fully independent from Republic and Young Money Records. His independence will blast his prosperous career into a never ending flow of income that no artist has ever reached until he does. I would like to focus on first, how Drake reached

this point; as well as all the legal issues he dealt with whilst being in these specific labels. Further moving to what his independence will cause for the music industry as a whole and for those heavily involved in this area. At Wesleyan, I have been blessed to be in the Music major, and this will definitely support me in bettering my understanding of what really goes on behind the scenes of the music industry. Music just being important to me is an understatement. It keeps me going day in and day out, and having the chance to create something of this sort will allow me to help other upcoming artists see the business works and why at times it can be good or bad to sign to a label. My collaborators will range from students at Wesleyan that I am very fond of and have knowledge in the music game. For instance, Danny Banks and Isaiah Miller. The audience intended is for those upcoming artists who don't know whether or not to sign with a label, and for those who are interested in music and would like to gain knowledge that isn't known by the public.

Breeze Floyd 2022

Developing Successful Campaigns that Reach All Voters

As a government major, I am interested in political campaigns. I want my engaged project to explore campaigning, considering new challenges faced by campaigns due to COVID. How can campaigns successfully reach all voters during COVID, and how can citizens get involved to help? My research strategy will include reading academic work and speaking with people who have actively campaigned, including people currently involved and working through COVID specific issues. I am pursuing a data analysis minor, so I hope to find and work with recent datasets that might reveal some solutions. I want my final project to be a website where I will compile relevant information. Although I will examine the 2020 elections, the website will also include information appropriate for future campaigns. The audience for my site would be anyone looking for ideas to reach disenfranchised voters successfully or campaign in uncertain times, or citizens interested in getting involved. This topic matters to me because many people are overlooked in the political process, resulting in under-representation. At a time when our election process is facing increased vulnerability, finding creative new ways to get people involved and fight voter suppression is vital.

Margarita Fuentes 2021

Mapping Fat Liberation via Mixed Media

I want to learn about the Fat Liberation Movement and how it arose and as I learn of the movement to chart that history through art and educational social media graphics. For the last couple of years, I have been looking into this movement and understand what fatphobia and anti-fatness means. My learning journey has come through social media accounts run by fat

activists and educators, I plan to use these accounts as a diving off point to look into articles and books to understand this history. My idea of publicizing this journey is to question small fat people and "straight size" people on their biases on fatness, especially in regards to health and access. Body shaming and anti-fatness is not only an issue of a lack of self-confidence but also a lack of understanding how anti-fatness is an institutional problem-based in anti-blackness and ableism. It connects to my major especially because we always question hegemony and discourse, and I hope my project further breaks up and criticizes these structures. My collaborators will be my fellow fat, POC friends and I hope my audience will be fellow radical people who want a world with liberation in mind.

Gita Ganti 2021

The Magic of Telomere Biology: A Closer Look At How Telomere Analysis Technology Has Changed Our Health Systems

This past summer I had interned for a biotech company in Madrid that studies life expectancy using telomere analysis technology. I had worked in the company's commercial sector, and helped them target companies from across the world that can serve as potential clients. This opportunity has inspired me to delve deeper into the world of telomeres, and understand just how they have revolutionized our public health system. For my Engaged Project, I plan to complete a research project on how telomere biology has impacted our public health systems since the early twentieth century. I plan to present my research through two parts: a research paper and a mock-up of a graphic novel. It is a bit too ambitious for me to complete an entire graphic novel during this time, however, I hope that I can have an outline and few sketches to present. Hopefully, I will be able to work more on this graphic novel in the future. I hope that my Engaged Project will underline the importance of bridging science and creativity. I believe that my work in my SISP and Psychology courses has prepared me to take on this Engaged Project, and I hope that this project will only mark the beginning of my research in how telomere biology has impacted our health systems, as I plan to pursue this topic further in graduate studies.

Iiyannaa Graham-Siphanoum 2021

An In-Depth Analysis of Springfield Public School Funding and How it Fosters Systemic Inequity

For my engaged project, I would like to conduct an in-depth investigation and analysis of how funding for public schools in Springfield, Massachusetts are allocated. Springfield has the lowest median household income in the state and the second-highest poverty rate which affects how public schools in the district are funded. Public school funding is derived from federal, state, and local sources with a majority of funding coming from local sources such as property tax.

However, since Springfield is a low-income district, public schools receive much less funding than wealthier districts such as its neighbor, Longmeadow. This issue becomes even more problematic when you take into consideration that Longmeadow is 90.2 % white while Springfield is only 62% white with a significant black and Latino population. As someone who was born, raised and educated in Springfield for the majority of their life, this injustice is one that is very personal to me.

My goal for this project is to examine and establish the link between local property tax, redlining, and housing inequality in connection to public school funding and the overall maintenance of the cycle of poverty. Through using Springfield and Longmeadow as a case study comparison, I hope to not only prove that egregious education inequality exists but also demonstrate how it is created and sustained. At the conclusion of this course, I plan to produce an opinion editorial that can be adopted by policymakers and leaders in my district to enact change in the Springfield public school system.

Vincent Henrich 2022

Newark Water Association

My EP relates to the Non-Profit that I started over the summer called Newark Water Association. The Newark Water Association was designed to support those in need who do not have access to clean, safe water. Our job is very simple, we get water to them. My intended final project is to create a public journal (maybe in blog form) documenting my progress from now until Thanksgiving. This connects to my Government Degree because I will build relationships with politicians while conducting business. This connects to my Civic engagement Minor because it is civic engagement in true form. I also may pursue a certificate in English because of my love for writing and that is where the journal comes in. this journal will allow me to document my journey, reflect on choices made, and clear my mind for what needs to get done. This is a habit that I hope to start and continue through my business ventures in life. This topic matters to me because I have always been one to help those who have less than me and study those who have more. I believe that there are rights, human rights, that should not be denied ever, especially in this country. If I have a way to help, no matter how big or small , I feel obligated to do so.

Bergeline Hilaire 2023

Financial Literacy of FGLI Students at Wesleyan

The generational wealth gap among FGLI BIPOC Wesleyan students is my EP topic. I am interested in partnering with uAspire a Boston based organization and Gordon Career Center to discuss the project. I am unsure of my final project but I am looking into workshops for first-year

students on zoom or in person. Possibly make pamphlets on financial literacy to place in the resource center.

I will be dissecting the meaning phrase "trying to build generational wealth". The term is popularly used among generation z. The terminology seems to be the same rhetoric as "America is the land of opportunity". In high school, you're told to attend college. I have had conversations with my freshmen peers at Wesleyan campus about post-graduate plans. Most of my conversations have been with other FGLI BIPOC students. Yet when comparing my conversations with students who are not in the same economic bracket it is different. Every conversation is different yet not held with students who this is not a concern for. How does one make enough money to secure generations? Is this a selfish question to ask? The trajectory of all the Wesleyan Graduates is undetermined but successful in their ways. I would argue that we prepare the Wesleyans BIPOC FGLI students to know to make informed financial decisions and promote change. There are resources for students to get into college but there are not that many students to stay in and continue education. The retention rate of black college students would increase by a milestone with graduate preparatory financial literacy programs. This would not dismantle the institutional racism although it would promote equity in giving students a fair chance.

Jaylah Humphrey 2021

The Entanglement Between Black Women and Their Hair

For my EP, I would like to explore the complicated relationship that Black women, like myself, have with our hair whether that is focusing on natural hair, protective styles, or studying decades of Black hairstyles and how they either align with or reject the pressures of European beauty standards. With this project, I intend on investigating the various ways that Black hair/ hairstyles influences the lives of Black women deeper than just their physical appearance and self esteem. Specifically, our Black hair influences our health and willingness to exercise, how we physically sleep and for how long, the not so endless job opportunities that are offered to us, our participation in any and every extracurricular activities/ social events, and so much more. The relationship between Black women and our hair matters to me because it controls my life daily, and it is fundamental to my identity and experiences as a Black woman. Even though Black hair is so heavily influential and is constantly consumed by pop culture and mass media, I wanted to disclose how much Black hair impacts Black women socially, economically, and politically. As a Sociology and an AFAM major, this topic gives me the perfect opportunity to utilize what I know about social constructs and the history of Black culture within the U.S. to present a refreshing and personal perspective. My collaborators will be other Black women as well as non-Black women for their testimonials and currently my audience consists of all women between the ages of 16-25. Finally, my final project will be a video series sort of like diary entries from all

my collaborators and possible women from my target audience. I intend on posting this series on the YouTube platform or making an official instagram page to invite more engagement.

Alla Kiperman 2021

Theatre: a mental wellness oasis for artists and non-artists in times of a global pandemic

I would like to explore theatre and theatre making as a tool for mental well-being during COVID-19. As the pandemic hit, and many got trapped and isolated indoors, I noticed that something that really helped me personally nourish my mental well-being during lockdown, was the creation of monologues and movement improvs. Theatre empowers, and I would like to create a safe space for monologue writing, movement and theatre. In terms of research and strategy, I am looking to research scientific evidence for theatre being therapeutic, how and why, and in what form. I would also like to collect information from individuals that have been participating in theatre during the pandemic and hear their experiences and the impact that theatre has had on their mental state. I find that often times performance comes with a certain pressure for results, judgement and constraint. Even the traditional way to be in a theatre piece often comes with a lot of mental pressure and stress. Most obvious example: auditions. We pour out our heart and soul to mere strangers, just to be told in most cases that we are not enough. For this project, I would like to create a space where everyone is enough. Just as they are. I'd like to alleviate the pressure to be a certain way and achieve any particular results, and truly focus on the process itself. We will work at our own pace without any set expectations, explore, devise, write, tell stories, move. I just ask for two things: truth and respect. To be truthful with oneself about where one is today and how one is feeling, and truthful in the work. Respect towards oneself and others. Ultimately, I am interested in documenting this process in the form of a blog/online website and eventually culminating the work throughout the semester in an online performance piece (if that of course will feel appropriate in terms of what we end up creating.)

Cleo Kromelow 2023

Innovation, Adaptation, and Reimagination: Covid-19 and the Collaborative Arts

For my Engaged Project, I would like to explore how artists are innovating and continuing to produce collaborative work in our socially distant world. My research relies on firsthand accounts. I am interested in interviewing people across the creative spectrum-- actors, musicians, writers, filmmakers, and other artists who depend on physical connection. I will then use their experiences to inform my investigation on how we can use art to fabricate the physicality of togetherness from a distance. Academically, my project relates to my passion for documentary. I have a background in film, and imagine that my final project will be a short documentary piece. This project also has immense personal significance to me. As a musician and filmmaker,

collaboration has always been essential to my creative process. When COVID-19 forced us to leave campus in March, I was in the middle of writing an album with my band. It was devastating to put the project on pause. After a few weeks away, we tried experimenting with ways we could record the album remotely. The COVID-19 situation forced us to innovate, but we were able to record most of our album virtually. This endeavor inspired this project and got me thinking about how other artists are overcoming coronavirus-related challenges. I anticipate my audience being anyone from art enthusiasts to fellow creators. People cling to art during times of crisis and I think it would be interesting to illuminate the newfound challenges to the art world presented by COVID-19.

Nyaiah Lamb 2021

What It Means To be Black at Wes

My EP will be a reflective ethnography on being black at Wes. As a black student, I am constantly reminded of what it means to be black in a white space that was not meant for me. From parties to academic settings, this question of what it means to be black is always present. I would like to write an ethnographic piece about the black experience particularly in Wesleyan and then how that extends out to the larger society. I will mainly be focusing on and using many reflexive ethnographic works about the black experience for my research, such as *Real Black: Adventures in Race Sincerity* by John L. Jackson. I will also be reading and researching many theories about culture, Truths, the self, and racial sincerity. This topic matters to me as a black woman, especially in the times that we are in now. Most of the time I feel as if I was not meant to succeed at Wesleyan and many of my peers feel the same way. I want to know why/how that is and the experience that we create to cope and defy those constraints that we have, but also recognizing that some students are not able to do so and get left behind. My general audience will be Wesleyan, but I am hoping that this resonates with other black students and people in white spaces. I will have the Dean, my former advisor, and my peers collaborating with me with this project. The ethnographic research will be presented through an art installation. I am still working through the medium I will use, but it most likely will be paint on canvas.

Jiwan Lee 2021

Impacts of Media on Consumer Decision-Making: Save Itaewon

In May 2020, when South Korea seemed to have the coronavirus pandemic under control, a sudden outbreak set off in Itaewon—a district in Korea known for its vibrant nightlife and international fair. The media used this event to target Itaewon as the ‘hub of coronavirus.’ Since the lockdown has been lifted, restaurants and nightclubs owners at Itaewon are trying to get back on their feet. However, small businesses in the area are still challenged by the lack of

customers and are closing down. It is clear that the media has a long-term impact on the decision-makings of consumers.

I would like to research the effects of media on the market, focusing on how Itaewon businesses were gravely impacted by the media's portrayal to make Itaewon sound like the epicenter of the spread. I plan to conduct interviews with consumers and business owners of Itaewon for primary data, as well as rely on reading materials to back up my arguments on how much impact the media has on the consumers. This topic connects to my major (Economics) by studying the effects of media on consumer decision-making. This topic matters to me because I am very interested in how the media plays a role in the economy. Also, there are so many great businesses in the area that are unable to stay afloat and I want to help the businesses prosper once again.

For my project, I plan to create a video documentary to help raise awareness of the current situation in Itaewon. My collaborators are the business owners at Itaewon and my family members. The targeted audience of my project will be the South Korea residents because they are the ones that could help restore Itaewon.

Sophie Linett 2021

A Sense of Place: Place-Based Curriculum Design

I would like to spend the semester designing a place-based, outdoor education curriculum that includes both experiential learning in outdoor settings around campus as well as readings on the historical and philosophical background of outdoor education and on human connection to the more-than-human world. My mentor will be a retired professor at Prescott College, Doug Hulmes, who is deeply engaged in the field of experiential outdoor education. The experiential component of the course will include working on Long Lane Farm and Wild Wes, going for hikes in the vicinity of Middletown, journaling, and potentially a few-hour nature solo. The theoretical component will include exploring the history of outdoor recreation, human relationships to nature, and experiential education theory. My final project will be a curriculum designed to help Wesleyan students explore these issues and connect to natural spaces around campus. My research strategy will involve delving into written works, as well as exploring places and activities that can help students connect to the place they are in. The deeper environmental philosophy questions I hope to explore I have been exposed to through a traditional academic approach, but the lens of outdoor education and experiential, non-theoretical engagement in questions of human relationships to nature is not something I can get through a normal Wesleyan course. I see relationships with natural spaces as key to having effective ecologically focused action, as it comes from people with a genuine stake in the ecological crisis and the way Western civilization is harming the planet.

Nathali Madrid 2021

Providing Adequate Health Services to Students through Schools

Particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, the country as a whole has seen the disparity of healthcare access and the negative impact it has on low-income communities and communities of color. While I have been fortunate enough to have access to healthcare, I have distinct memories as a child wherein my classmates and I did not receive adequate health care at school. For my project, I want to create a proposal for the City of Union City, New Jersey that plans to integrate a health center into the fourteen public schools that comprise the Union City School District. I want to draw from the Community Health Center in Middletown as they provide services to students through School-Based Health Centers. I want to see the impact that these health centers have had on the health of their students in addition to adapting the model to fit a larger, poorer, and predominantly immigrant population. While I am taking four credits this semester, my academic work is heavily related to my research and goals for this project. I am currently enrolled in SISP 236, which will look at race and healthcare access as well as healthcare activism. Additionally, I hope to enroll in PSYC 246, which will focus on the design and evaluation of population health interventions, and PSYC 271, studying human development with consideration of social context, ethnic groups, and cultures.

Kaitlyn Major-Hale 2023

Why are all the Black Girls Sitting Together in the Student Commons?: An Exploration Into the Social-Emotional effects of Racial Dynamics in Private Schools

Since graduating from the Grace Church School, a private school in downtown Manhattan, and getting the chance to reflect on my experience I have constantly landed on the question of how do black students navigate and in essence “survive” through their predominantly white institutions? From my own personal experience of entering in 7th grade through Prep for Prep, the first things that come to mind are assimilation, code-switching, and growing thick skin, however I know it is more nuanced than just that. My experience as a black girl in private school is fairly common and its roots can be traced back to the desegregation of Private Schools. For my project I would not only like to delve deeper into the post-modern effects of desegregation of Private Schools, but also how those practices force black students to develop tactics that allow them to survive in an environment that was made to reject them. Through engaging with contemporary sources, such as Be The Dream by Gary Simons or Dear White People that touch on black students in elite environments and pairing them with historical context on school desegregation practices I believe I will be able to gain a deeper understanding of the black private school experience from a more nuanced standpoint. In the end I would love to host a large webinar tailored to black private school students and alum and invite admin to give

students context about the schools they are attending but also open up a space for them to freely discuss their actual experiences which they aren't normally given the space to do.

Maddie Nagler 2022

Finding Those People

My proposed Engaged Project is a videography series entitled Finding Those People. The goal of the series is to highlight the nuances of modern relationships. How they all share similarities, yet are each unique in their own way. Through honest conversations these episodes, each six to ten minutes in length, aim to show the power one individual can have on any one person's life.

This coming fall I hope to produce a Wesleyan-specific module of the series. I plan to interview students, professors, roommates, and staff in order to explore how personal relationships are impacted by COVID-19. For example, this may include interviewing two friends who were originally supposed to room together on campus, but are now physically separated due to international travel restrictions. My goal is to make this as inclusive a process as possible and to accurately reflect the racial and socio-economic diversity of the Wesleyan community.

As a psychology and film double major, this project perfectly encapsulates both of my interests. Of course, there is the videography aspect of recording, producing, and editing, however, the concepts of emotional impact and how distance affects relationships are important psychological studies I want to learn more about through this project.

My research process will primarily surround the concepts of storytelling. How can I most powerfully tell the story of these two people? What questions evoke the most thoughtful answers? In doing this, I will need to have a foundational understanding of the psychological concepts mentioned as well.

Lydia Paddock 2021

Sustainable Fashion Lab Course Development

My Engaged Project will explore access within education. The project I will take on this semester is the expansion of the Sustainable Fashion Lab pilot course that I helped create and teach over zoom this summer. I will work with the lead instructor Inayah Bashir (a co-sponsor to my EP) to expand our 2-week pilot course to a 10-week lab this fall. Our mission is to create a course that is accessible to about 20 students of diverse socio-economic statuses and geographical locations.

As I pursue the brand-new Education Major and a future in teaching, this question on how to develop courses and the most effective ways to teach them will be vital for my academic pursuits. As an educator, it is essential to understand the theory behind the best practices in education, while being connected to the hands-on experience and reality of working with students.

I am exceedingly passionate about the topic of accessible education. I strongly believe that United States' current schooling system is elitist, segregated, and out of touch with the purpose of education. MeshEd's mission to provide rich, individualized education experiences through their Project-based Learning method is exactly the type of education model I want to continue to explore.

Sadie Robb 2021

Scapegoat: A Podcast About Wildlife Policy and Stewardship

This summer I did fieldwork for my senior Anthropology thesis. I'm studying the Olympic Mountain Goat Controversy--a five-decade battle over the fate of mountain goats, a non-native species, in Olympic National Park. The culmination of the controversy began in 2018--half the goats were captured and translocated to the Cascades, and the other half will be exterminated. My thesis explores human-nonhuman entanglements in the time of the Anthropocene, and what our treatment of animals in wildlife policies reflects about the way we view our own roles and responsibilities in the context of human-induced environmental damage.

Humans introduced goats to the Olympics, who are now causing damage to endemic plants. However, human impact in the park (especially during the pandemic) has been much more damaging. The goats are being labeled culprits, distracting attention and funds from addressing the root of the problem: human activity. As an anthro major, I'm interested in how to make the work of Anthropology accessible to non-academic audiences, because ethnography is a very powerful tool in understanding how people build/understand their worlds, and useful in informing our everyday lives/actions. I want to explore my thesis topic--with a greater focus on concrete issues rather than theoretical--in the form of a podcast. I'd like it to be something that explores a few case studies of scapegoating wildlife policies, and then takes a more practical approach, like raising awareness of human impact on parks, what people can do to be better stewards of our wilderness spaces, etc.

Sophie Scobell 2022

Traditional Chinese Medicine: What's stopping its use in Western practices for aging-associated diseases?

I am very interested in the intersection of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and Western medicine (WM) and how each practice treats aging associated diseases. Academically, studies in traditional Chinese medicine perfectly combine my two majors: Biology and East Asian studies--with a focus on China. On a more personal level, after observing friends and family members struggle through aggressive Western treatments (chemotherapy and radiation) for cancer, I understand the need for holistic medicine where WM and TCM complement each other.

My initial research will consist of looking into the individual histories of WM and TCM as well as the build up of the tensions between TCM and WM that exist today. Next, I will look into the common scopes of treatment for prostate cancer and breast cancer in both the United States (largely WM) and in TCM practicing hospital wards in China. Then, I will look into the role of hormones in both diseases, and in both forms of treatment. Finally, I will interview an practicing oncologist in the United States who uses WM.

My intended final project will be a series of mini-papers addressing each point of my research plan thus far with the intended audience being practicing doctors of Western medicine as well as the aging populations that may be interested in seeking out a more holistic approach to medicine. Throughout my research, however, I want to explore any other final project formats that may be more impactful.

Emily Sheppard 2022

Main Street - A Lifestyle Blog

My final project will be a lifestyle blog website. There are millions of life-style brands out there, Goop, Seventeen, and HypeBae to name a few. None, however, have been tailored to universities. I am planning on creating a lifestyle blog that has different subsections for different universities â€“ a page for Wesleyan, one for Bowdoin, Brown, etc. The pages will cover all things from restaurants in the area, student-run businesses, and activities close to campus. While at Wesleyan I have been studying design, and have actually created a brand of my own in the past. I have the experience and knowledge to create a website but what I do not have experience in is proper writing and communication skills for business communication. Over the course of the semester I plan on studying communication - and specifically, women in the communication industry. My topic matters to me for two reasons. First, I think that it is so important that Women inspire Women assume positions of power and follow their dreams. Business has been a field that is historically dictated by men. Second, I think that this website will be helpful for Wes students who might feel trapped within the new normal that they might be facing in college right now. At Wesleyan, students are restricted to a 25 mile radius. There is a lot of discovery and excitement that can happen within 25 milesâ€|and students should know that!

Lauren Stock 2021

Better Theater: Creating Accessible Experiences in the Performing Arts

In this Engaged Project, I plan to explore and develop a guide for universally applicable accessible theater practices. While many artistic spaces are accustomed to ADA requirements that dictate ramps/elevators to get between floors or going out of the way to make additional accommodations upon requests, currently most artistic spaces do not design their experiences to be universally accessible to casts, crews, or audience members. This includes both physical disabilities such as those who use wheelchairs or are blind or deaf as well as those who are neurodivergent (on the Autism spectrum or have other social or sensory challenges).

In conjunction with my thesis, a production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and a paper exploring physical contact in public spaces, I would like to use the Engaged Projects curriculum to put a unique focus on tangible accessible practices that can not only be applied to my thesis production but also shared through the CFA and to the greater arts community leading a charge towards more accessible arts. Especially in a time when most audiences are empty and theaters are being forced to reassess and redevelop the ways in which we make art, it is crucial that the experiences we create coming out of the pandemic are more accessible, more engaging, more welcoming, and all-around better experiences for all people of all abilities and identities at all points in the artistic process.

Akaash Waghmode 2021

COVID-19 101 for dummies

I would like to produce a presentation as my engaged project that aims to succinctly but thoroughly cover important aspects related to public health that a non-academic audience should know about the coronavirus: its origin (based on the current best scientific evidence), its methods of spreading, how best we can protect ourselves, regional and global virus spread demographics and statistics, and a section at the end called “mythbusters”, where I would like to present and debunk the most prominent myths being spread about the coronavirus using science and evidence as backup (such as the proposition that wearing masks somehow restricts the wearer’s ability to breathe normally).

Moreover, I feel that this connect to my academics in several ways: first, as a PSYC major, human behavior is intrinsically fascinating to me, and I have not been able to wrap my head around why it is that so many people across the globe have chosen to take this pandemic less seriously than they ought to in the form of ignoring expert advice, flaunting regulations, and refusing to wear masks when in the presence of others.

For my research, I will refer to the databases and websites of the CDC and WHO, the research article database PubMed for information about the scientific specifics of the virus and ongoing research to understand it, and a multitude of other governmental and scientific websites. This list will change as the demands for what is and is not included in my presentation change.

Tyler Wang 2021

Physiological, Psychological and other benefits of Powerlifting-based Strength Training for Improved Metabolic Health, Body Composition, and Mental State.

My research strategy will include reading over scientific studies on strength training (ex: MASS research and via Wesleyan's library search), gather informative videos created by fitness content creators (ex: YouTube), as well as collecting accredited blog posts regarding the benefits of strength (specifically powerlifting) training.

I plan on obtaining a MA/MS in Exercise Physiology or Kinesiology, thus I believe that this experience will benefit me in learning more about exercise science and physiology. Considering my lack of proper academic background in this field, with me being a Psychology major.

My topic matters to me as well as the world because being a powerlifting athlete as well as a certified personal trainer, I believe that the general public needs to change their attitudes and methods towards weight loss and "getting in shape". Strength training and "lifting heavy" may sound scary, but I plan on proving that it is relatively safe and the most effective way for one to get "in shape".

My audience can be anybody who is interested in the science behind exercising and the internal changes that occur, as well as the general public who are not experts in exercise science but are willing to adopt a new (and best way) to achieve their desired fitness level and physique.

The end product of my EP will be a mixture of blog posts and informative videos (which will be attached within the blog posts). The videos will include short informative segments of illustrations (ex: similar styles to "Casually Explained" or "Crash Course"), while the written portions of blog posts will consist of introductions and contents that need to be explored in more detail (as well as if the subtopic needs to be backed up with scientific study results from researches).

Cambria Weaver 2022

Exploring Black Middletown History

In "Black Middletown Lives" last semester, I learned new research skills and applied them towards developing a website on the Beman Triangle, a huge site of African-American history in Middletown and broader New England. I am eager for another opportunity to apply these skills, particularly primary source research with resources such as the Russel Library Archives. Aside from continuing my research into the Beman Triangle and historical Black Middletown residents, I want to contribute to the town I will call home for these four years by developing a curriculum to share Beman Triangle history with Middletown school children. Developing this curriculum will allow me to 1) Inform White, Black, and other ethnicities of students about the rich African-American history of the town, deepening their understanding of both the obstacles Black people faced in New England and the resourceful, community-driven strategies they used to overcome these obstacles, 2) Provide children with skills they can use for their own local history research by including primary sources in the curriculum, and guiding them through the process of historical inquiry that I have taken 3) Contribute to my own personal growth as an Education and Religion studies major by sharpening my curriculum-development skills and diving into the spiritual community of the local AME Zion Church, which played a significant role in the Beman Triangle historically.

Andi Wiley 2022

Healthy Eating, Affordability and Wellness: Happi Healthi

I plan to focus my project on the intersection between healthy eating, affordability and wellness, fueled by my knowledge and interest as a Psychology and Economics double major. I am on the soccer team at Wesleyan, which has heightened my interests for exercise in addition to my lasting passion for cooking and food in general. I actually started a health and wellness food instagram at the start of this year, which has greatly enhanced my passion for the subject. Ultimately, I plan to create some form of ebook and/or website resource combining recipes, information/facts and organizational tools in addition to reinventing (if/as needed) and expanding upon the instagram site for an audience of young adults in and right out of college.

Jangho Yun 2023

Apartment Guard

My EP will be a documentary on the life of an apartment guard in Seoul, South Korea. With most of the population in Seoul living in apartments, every resident is familiar with the friendly, elderly face of their apartment building guard/caretaker, yet knows little to nothing about their day to day responsibilities. However, in light of recent news surrounding the suicide of one

abused apartment guard, people are beginning to learn the untold realities of their harsh work conditions and unfair compensations.

Prior to conducting interviews, I will research online for relevant articles and stories of apartment guards and their little known lives. I will continue the research into physical interviews with apartment guards not only in my apartment complex but neighboring ones as well. Once I have learned enough to storyboard and plan my film, I will begin shooting with my subject.

My hope is to inform a Korean audience (all of whom are apartment residents) on the controversial subject of apartment guard wages and job expectations as well as shed light onto their unknown day to day lives. It also concerns a global audience as we increase our efforts to ensure fair and humane treatment for all workers, particularly those in blue-collar jobs. This topic also connects to my academics as in a film sense, it involves my pursuit for telling visual stories that people haven't yet but need to hear.
