



Claire Isabella Cohen '22. Claire has been conducting an exploratory study of trading card communities (TCGs) and partnered spaces, and the resulting impact on the communities erected by players. This study was focused on the significance of trading card game (TCG) *Magic: The Gathering*. Trading card games (TCGs) such as *Yugioh*, *Pokemon Trading Card Game*, and *Magic: the Gathering* are more popular than ever. *Magic: the Gathering* alone has over 35 million players worldwide. The communities centering around TCGs are massive and complex. Each game possesses its own complete culture, including language, humor, institutions, and lore. Claire has been studying the inner workings of these communities to identify the existence and significance of the community centered around *Magic: the Gathering*. The study consisted of semi structured interviews and data collection of public primary sources, which were coded and analyzed. The final product will be an honors thesis in Sociology.

Claire majors in Theater Arts and Sociology (faculty sponsor: Melissa Butler, Visiting Lecturer in Sociology)

Colleen Falconer '22. Colleen's research centers on sex worker organizing in post-recriminalization Rhode Island. This research stems from the backdrop of the American legal and criminal justice systems historical marginalization of sex workers, whether via regulation (or lack thereof), criminalization, police violence, and incarceration. Sex workers have faced discrimination on the basis of race, gender, class, ethnicity or otherwise, and are rarely protected by the law. Therefore, Colleen's study focused on the ways in which sex worker communities interact with the law and how they seek—through formal or informal channels—to change it. By working closely with COYOTE RI, an organizing group led by sex workers that advocates for their rights, Colleen has been examining the impact of sex workers on policy discussions around sex work in the state of Rhode Island, where indoor sex work was legal from 1980-2009. This project is part of Colleen's senior honors thesis, and will also provide insight on organizing strategies that seek legal recognition, protection, and respect for an outlawed and stigmatized industry.

Colleen majors in International Development Social Change and Sociology (faculty sponsor: Denise Humphreys Bebbington, Research Associate Professor in International Development Change Environment)

Raquel Jorge Fernandes '23. Raquel's project aims to discover what meanings Brazilian immigrants in Massachusetts give to their Brazilian identities as well as how they maintain this identity while living in the United States. In her focus on the Brazilian immigrant identity in Massachusetts, she is creating a documentary with a diverse group of Brazilian immigrants in Massachusetts to better understand the Brazilian immigrant identity in local immigrant communities. In framing her work, Raquel began by conducting a literature review of immigrant identity theories and qualitative methodologies. Her goal is to make a final product that promotes and values the diverse voices in the Brazilian immigrant community in Massachusetts—an increasingly large population that is often forgotten by academic studies. In completion of her literature review on immigrant identities and substantial self-written guidelines on

constructing a mindful and intersectional documentary, Raquel's project will culminate in the documenting and curation of a documentary expose of video and audio from the Brazilian immigrant community.

Raquel majors in Psychology and Screen Studies (faculty sponsors: Sarah Michaels, Professor in Education; Hugh Manon, Associate Professor in Visual and Performing Arts)

Thomas Mueller '22. Thomas's project is designed to inspire the love of jazz in generations of elderly citizens across the state of Massachusetts. Given diminished access to music performances during the pandemic, this project focuses on the highly restricted and fragile demographic of older music lovers and seeks to bridge the gap in access to this important musical genre. The project is divided into three stages. First, Thomas worked to compose and arrange a variety of jazz standards and originals for voice and various chamber instrumentations (piano, bass, etc.) with the help of professional composers at Clark. Once completed, the production stage was implemented with the songs being recorded at Mechanics Hall and finalized as a short film. Finally, during the promotion stage of the project involves outreach to senior centers across Massachusetts, radio stations, streaming platforms, and other media networks for distribution. The full project will be documented by ClarkNow (Clark's marketing publication) and will serve to highlight Clark's Theater and Performing Arts programs. This project provided hands-on experience in Thomas's three academic passions of music composition, management, and music production. This experience also serves to further his career as a musician, in facilitating well-rounded professional development and growth. Once completed, a short film compilation of the songs will be streamed across senior centers, the music will be available on multiple streaming platforms (Spotify, Soundcloud, iTunes.), and Thomas hopes to foster relationships with local radio stations.

Thomas majors in Management and Music (faculty sponsors: John Aylward, Associate Professor in Visual and Performing Arts; Paul Buono, Affiliate Professor in Visual and Performing Arts)

Kate Rivard-Lentz '22. Kate's project was built around the imperative topic of access to play among children experiencing homelessness. A contribution to her senior honors thesis, the project studies how various focus groups value and promote play for children experiencing homelessness and how these groups can utilize play to encourage positive developmental outcomes. To complete this research, Kate aimed to conduct a qualitative psychology study through interviewing individuals in various positions in homeless shelters around Worcester, including administration, volunteers, and caregivers. In her extensive research, she both pursued a holistic understanding of her subjects' values and outlooks on play, in tandem with how her subjects play contributed to overall child development—especially under the scope of children who are experiencing socio-economic adversity, such as poverty. Through the study, Kate has begun to garner experience in a variety of contexts relevant to her preparation for attending graduate school to study child clinical psychology and eventually pursue a career in the field. This project will culminate in a final deliverable of a presentation at a psychology conference, Fall Fest, as well as the creation of an informational flyer or pamphlet to be presented to shelters and caregivers about the importance and value of play.

Kate majors in Sociology and Psychology (faculty sponsor: Ana Kamille Marcelo, Assistant Professor in Psychology)