

## Steinbrecher Fellows 2022-2023

**Maya Falb '23**

### *Perceptions of Intimate Partner Violence in Polyamorous Relationships versus Monogamous Relationships Across Sexual Orientation*

Abstract: I will be studying perceptions of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in polyamorous relationships versus monogamous relationships for my honors thesis. This will be completed by constructing and distributing a survey made through Qualtrics, with software from Prolific ensuring that the data is accurate and representative. I chose this topic because it is vastly under-researched. My academic/career goal is to help survivors of IPV, and I want to be as educated as possible on every population I could be serving. At the end of the project, I hope to produce an educational training and pamphlet that will be distributed to social service agencies that serve people experiencing IPV. Additionally, I hope to present my findings at Academic Spree Day in spring 2023 and use my thesis as a basis for future research I will be conducting in graduate school.

**Emery Jeffreys '23**

### *Understanding the Reentry Needs of LGBTQ+ People in Massachusetts*

Abstract: I will study the reentry needs of LGBTQ+ people involved with the criminal legal system in partnership with Black and Pink Massachusetts (BnPMA). While the past two decades have brought renewed academic interest in the criminal legal system, LGBTQ+ people are often left out of the literature. Given their status as people of marginalized sexualities and gender identities, studying this population can contribute sociologically significant findings, as LGBTQ+ people experience significantly higher recidivism rates than their heterosexual, cisgender peers (Kilgore, 2015). Utilizing anonymous surveys of incarcerated LGBTQ+ people and interviews with formerly incarcerated LGBTQ+ people, I will spend the summer collecting data for my honors thesis investigating the following research question: how do LGBTQ+ and incarceration status intersect to influence the experience of reentry for individuals in Massachusetts? By summer's end, I will have all survey data cataloged and 10-15 interviews transcribed as well as memos for each.

**Artemiy Leonov '24**

### *Exploring the Dual Nature of Habit Change: A Mixed-Method Study*

Abstract: Making a desired behavior habitual can be beneficial, since habitual actions require neither excessive self-control, nor external incentives to be maintained. Developing a new habit can be modeled as two processes: breaking an existing habit and forming a new, more desired one. Conventionally, those processes are prompted by a single set of strategies. However, their natures seem to be incompatible — breaking a habit requires increasing cognitive control, whereas habit formation decreases it. Our study proposes that distinguishing those stages would

yield a faster, thus, more effective, habit formation. This hypothesis and instructions for each of the stages will be tested on ten participants interested in developing a habit of regular exercising over the course of six weeks. If our hypotheses are supported, our method has implications for future habit-changing algorithms, improving upon existing sets of recommendations.

### **Eleanor Rueffer '24**

#### ***Worcester Art for the ESL Student***

Abstract: During the Steinbrecher Fellowship, I will compile accessible information about Worcester's public art for adult ESL (English as a Second Language) learners. I will create both a physical and virtual booklet, freely accessible, that will focus on clear and simple communication. In order to accomplish this, I will visit each location and write my own descriptions of each work as well as the public transportation I will use. I will combine these physical descriptions with other research I will be conducting, and then cross reference them with teaching resources. During my time teaching ESL students, I have noticed a lack of educational material geared towards adult learners, and often the only materials I have been able to find are either non-applicable or geared towards children. This project hopes to fill that gap and create community-oriented learning materials geared towards adult learners. By the end of the fellowship, I hope to have created accessible and informational learning materials that can be used both in individual and class settings.

### **Ben Wolff '23**

#### **Relations between Violence in Children's Television, Aggressive Affect Themes in Pretend Play, and Aggressive Behavioral Outcomes**

Abstract: I will be exploring the potential relations between violence and aggression in children's television, aggressive affect themes in pretend play, and aggressive outcomes in nonplay behaviors. I will conduct an experimental research study in which children will watch a TV show with either no, moderate, or high violent/aggressive content. Afterward, children will complete a pretend play task and a task measuring aggressive behavioral outcomes. The aim of this study is to better understand how violent content in television can affect aspects of children's behavior and whether play serves as a mediator between violence in television programming and aggressive behaviors. I hope to use this research to create educational materials for local caregivers and educators so that they can make more informed decisions about the television their children watch.