MEET THE 2019-2020 OSRC RESEARCH/CREATIVITY ASSISTANT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

ANGEL-REINE PINK is a 23-year-old junior transfer student at John Jay College of Criminal Justice majoring in Security Management and minoring in Cybercrimes, aspiring to receive her MA in Forensic Psychology. Angel-Reine graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice and a 3.6 GPA. She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS). She was born in Brooklyn and currently resides in the Bronx with her three-year-old daughter. She aspires to gain her JD in Criminal and Family Law. As she ventures through her academic achievements, she is aware of many of the obstacles she has faced and will continue to face as an African American woman in America. She is currently volunteering at Legal Hand in Highbridge, an impoverished area in The Bronx. As a Vice President of Community Relations at NSCS, she worked with Active Minds, a suicide prevention organization. As a youth specialist in some of the poorer urban areas of NYC, she has real life experience with how African American oppression can alter the path chosen by a young black girl or boy.

Angel-Reine, mentored by Dr. Charles Davidson, has proposed a very specific topic for her research study – the systemic inequities that hinder Black women in the professional legal workplace. She has faced inequities in the workforce and believes that, as she climbs to greater heights, these inequities will continue to be present for herself and others. The intended impact of this research study is to produce awareness of the factors that account for the lack of representation of African American women in the legal profession and the factors that account for why. The study will also highlight systematic barriers that plague African American women through social injustices, racism and discrimination geared towards the oppression of the African American community. She intends to look at the history of America and how it, as a whole, continues to intentionally oppress Blacks in America.

ASHLEY DHILLON is a first-generation college student born to Indian parents. She is a forensic psychology BA/MA student pursing a dual thesis/externship track. She currently serves as a research assistant in Dr. Rebecca Weiss' forensic assessment lab where she conducts research on political engagement of and impact on John Jay students. She will be presenting a poster of this political study at the 2019 American Psychological Association Conference. She will also be interning at the Institute of Contemporary Psychotherapy in the summer of 2019. In the future, Ashley hopes to attain a doctoral degree in clinical psychology with a focus on forensic populations. When not studying or working, she can be found practicing yoga, binging Netflix, or reading a book.

As a recipient of the Office of Student Research and Creativity scholarship, Ashley will dedicate her time toward conducting research for her master's thesis on personality traits within the mental health practitioner community that can help determine successful treatment. Under the advisement of Dr. Rebecca Weiss, she aspires to contribute to the growing literature addressing the impact of personality variables on positive therapeutic relationships and successful therapy. Some personality characteristics have been shown to manage clinicians' burnout, aiding both client and clinician. Specifically, the research will examine the balance between empathy and adaptive levels of distance or callousness. The findings may lead to a re-examination of traits typically associated with psychopathy.

BIANCA HAYLES is a first-generation college student pursuing a bachelor's degree in Political Science: Urban Politics and Public Policy, with a minor in Philosophy at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She has been very active on campus since arriving at John Jay. She has been a representative in Student Council, the inaugural Vice President of the UNICEF club, the Secretary of the Mock Trial Association, and is an alumna of the APPLE Corps program and Pinkerton Fellowship on campus. Bianca aims to empower youth to take initiative to move their lives in a positive direction through her ability to foster engagement, build relationships, and implement restorative and holistic approaches. Currently, she is a Ronald H. Brown Fellow and the Chief of Staff to the Student Council Treasurer. After graduation, Bianca plans to attend Law School and work directly with justice-involved youth, within her own nonprofit she yearns to create in the near future.

With her Undergraduate Research/Creativity Assistant Scholarship and under the tutelage of Dr. Kevin Wolff, Bianca plans to conduct research on the Department of Education (DOE) policies' impact on differently-abled youth. Her research will be titled: "Shift your mindset: Youth aren't the issue, adults are!" Within her research, she will attempt to answer the question of how the Department of Education's structural policies negatively impact differently-abled youth in urban communities in NYC. She hopes that the outcome of this research will yield better guidance for communities to support differently-abled youth and mold an education system that is equitable for all.

CARISSA STUMP is a senior studying Forensic Psychology. She is a member of the John Jay Honors Program and the Habitat for Humanity Club. In her freshman year, she began working as a research assistant in the Memory and Cognition Lab at John Jay. During the spring semester of her junior year, she studied in Stockholm, Sweden. During her studies abroad she worked directly with labs in both Gothenburg, Sweden and Edinburgh, Scotland. Following her undergraduate degree, Carissa plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Psychology and Law.

Carissa's research will focus on applied cognitive research as it relates to the United States criminal justice system. For her current project, Carissa will be studying under the supervision of Dr. Charles Stone and will be studying pretrial publicity. As a part of her Honors Capstone project, Carissa will test to see if jurors comply with anti-media instructions given by judges. She will then test to see the effects of jurors failing to comply with the instructions. This may include a biased verdict as well as source monitoring errors.

DANIELLE E. GARY is a graduate of Hostos Community College (CUNY) and The City College of New York (CUNY), having earned an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts & Sciences and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, respectively. She is currently pursuing her Master of Arts degree in Forensic Psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Danielle continues to work with Hostos Community College Assistant Professor Dr. Eugena Griffin, researching andragogical versus pedagogical approaches to higher education and cultural inclusion within the course curriculum. She is also a research assistant in the Substance Use Research Center at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. At John Jay she works in the laboratory of John Jay College Assistant Professor Dr. Rebecca Weiss. Her research mentored by Dr. Weiss seeks to demonstrate a relationship between experienced traumas and academic achievement. After graduating from John Jay in the spring of 2020, she intends to pursue a Clinical Psychology Ph.D. in the fall.

DEVON KAAT is an undergraduate sophomore from rural Wisconsin, currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology and a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics at John Jay. Having been recognized as a presidential scholar upon enrollment, Devon is also a member of the John Jay Honors Program. During his freshman year, he worked in Distinguished Professor Dr. Saul Kassin's research lab studying coerced/false confessions as a research assistant. He participated in the 2019 National Model United Nations conference, researching and collaborating on current international issues. For the summer of 2019, Devon was accepted into a Crime Analytics Research experience for Undergraduates (REU) under the National Science foundation at University of North Carolina, Charlotte for research in Artificial Intelligence-Based Video Surveillance Analytics.

Devon's research will focus on aspects of educational psychology and policy. Specifically, he will study the effects that age, reputation, and expectations may have on student success as well as any implications for educational policy. His research will look into the relative age effect, and the exponentially increasing consequences that disadvantaged students face over time. Additionally, he will be investigating the Matthew Effect as it pertains to successful students - documenting the exponentially increasing privileges that advantaged students accumulate over time. Through this research, he anticipates to highlight pervasive underlying effects in academic settings, and propose solutions aimed at reducing the inequitable and unbalanced portions of conventional educational policy.

EMILIA FITTIPALDI is a senior at John Jay College majoring in International Criminal Justice and minoring in Interdisciplinary Studies. She is a member of the Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society and served as the Vice President of Intervarsity Christian Fellowship during her sophomore year. She has experience with information security resulting from her work as an intern for K2 Intelligence. She currently works part time at Chick-fil-A as a team leader. Her skills include leadership, team building, and public speaking.

Emilia's research will focus on the causes of terrorism. There are several hypotheses regarding the causes of terrorism that scholars have investigated in-depth. For her project, under the leadership of Dr. Peter Romaniuk, she will employ Marc Sageman's Social Identity Perspective (SIP) to analyze what leads people to political violence. Sageman's perspective consists of several components such as a material identity and a politicized social identity. She will apply his perspective and theories to an East African terrorist group called Al Shabaab.

ERIKA DIAZ Ortiz graduated from Williams College with a Bachelor's in Psychology and English in 2017. She is currently a Master's student in the Forensic Psychology program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Erika is intent on pursuing a career at the intersection of psychological and legal research, working to advocate for the reform of existing policies that contribute to the unfair treatment of individuals in the criminal justice system. Currently, she is a research assistant in Dr. Emily Haney-Caron's lab, supporting her research on juvenile Miranda rights, the ultimate goal of which is to promote policy change that will better serve and protect at-risk justice-involved youth.

Erika's research shares this goal, as she seeks to examine social stigmatization experienced by adolescents as an unforeseen consequence of justice involvement. Her study seeks to address gaps in the literature regarding the effect of justice system involvement, short of conviction, on assessments of guilt, and how such assessments may then influence the treatment of current and former suspects or defendants. Erika aims to investigate the potential policy implications of this and similar work and, consequently, intends to communicate the significance of those psychological findings to policymakers in the pursuit of effecting positive change.

GENEVIEVE BIGGERS is originally from a small town in Oklahoma and moved to the city five years ago. She returned to college after working at an insurance company in Midtown Manhattan for two and a half years. She is currently a junior majoring in History with a minor in English. She plans to go on to graduate school and eventually get her doctorate to become a college professor.

In completing this project, Genevieve will follow the basic methodological standards of an academic historian. The first task will be a review of current scholarly texts on the topic of ancient religion. Then, she will collect and analyze a body of historical documents pertinent to her research question. Fortunately, all relevant texts have English translations and are readily available from NYC libraries. Dr. Matthew Perry's principal role as mentor will be to help train Genevieve in the scholarly conventions regarding primary and secondary source analysis. Prospective historians need to be able to locate copies of relevant documents and to discern their historical context. They also need be able to engage critically with scholarly apparatuses in secondary texts, including footnotes, source lists, and appendices. Finally, Genevieve will assemble her findings into a research paper suitable for presentation in an undergraduate-themed venue.

KARIM ADNANE is a senior at John Jay College majoring in Economics and Forensic Accounting. Since his freshman year, Karim has been a member of SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge) and has also been involved in various events on campus. He interned at the Office of the New York State Comptroller as part of the Future Forward Internship Academy and was a finance intern at the Center for Employment Opportunities. Currently, Karim is the President of the Economics Club and a member of the Omicron Delta Epsilon International Economics Honor Society.

Being a recipient of the OSRC 2019-2020 Undergraduate Research/Creativity Assistant Scholarship, and under the guidance of mentor Dr. Michelle Holder, Karim will explore the effects of welfare-related transfer payments on disadvantaged communities. This research will include a comparative analysis between EITC/TANF benefits and other transfer payment programs in the United States. He will also contribute to Dr. Holder's research project on The Role of Gender/Race Wage Gaps on Corporate Profitability in the U.S. Karim anticipates that the results of his research will better inform society on transfer payment policies and debates surrounding Universal Basic Income.

KARLA GALIANO HERRERA is a native of Honduras and currently double majoring in Latin American & Latinx Studies and Law & Society. She is a recipient of the DREAM.US scholarship and the Rosado Fellows Program. As she begins her journey to go to law school, her experiences, not just having DACA but being the daughter of low-income Latinx immigrants, can help her contribute to the law school environment as well the legal field. Her background will allow her to fight for and bring forward the experiences of those who may not have the means or platform to represent themselves. Given that her main interests are to provide health and legal aid to those who are undocumented, as a legal representative, she will be able to support undocumented families, marginalized communities, and help solve immigration, public health, and policy related issues.

Intending to expand on her research, and with a career in law in mind, Karla will further analyze the differences in public health disparities in the state of New York compared to New York City, focusing on reproductive health services and the role linguistic, cultural, and environmental factors play for undocumented and low-income Latinx women. With the help of her mentor, Dr. Maria Rossi, Karla aims to use the data and experience to support and develop legislation and policies aimed at decreasing the barriers and limitations for individuals in need of access to health care. Additionally, she would like to bring her research to the attention of public health organizations to make these changes possible and be able to develop and advocate for policies and regulations that promote greater access to more affordable and higher quality health care services.

MARIEN MORALES is a New York City Latina. She is a junior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice double majoring in forensic psychology and Latin American studies. She graduated from Bronx Community College with a 3.98 GPA in Criminal Justice. She is currently part of the Prison to College Pipeline program, which she joined through an amazing study abroad experience in Cape Town, South Africa. Marien is a former intern, and currently a volunteer for The Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), also known as Pastors for Peace.

Marien's research focuses on female incarceration globally. She is currently studying the principle drivers leading to incarceration, as well as the effects it has on them while in prison and once released. Marien's research has revealed that many of the women being incarcerated have committed their crimes due to economic needs and traumatic experiences such as sexual abuse and domestic violence. During her second year as a OSRC scholarship recipient, she will continue to research global programs involving both current and previously incarcerated women. With women being the fastest growing prison population around the world, she is striving towards creating her own initiative which will reduce the rate of recidivism by providing support for women during and after their time in prison. The primary focus of this research will be on resources required for these women to be productive members of society and to prevent the further dislocation of families globally.

MIKELINA FRAN GJERGJ was born in Shkoder and raised in Tirane, Albania. She transferred with an Associate Degree from Brigham Young University, Idaho. Mikelina is currently a junior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice majoring in Law and Society, with a minor in Anthropology. She is a fellow with the 2019 Ron Moelis Social Innovation Fellowship, a recipient of the Alfred Siegel Scholarship, the president of the student organization Immigrant Female Justice Alliance, and a member of The National Society of Leadership and Success. In addition, Mikelina is a volunteer leader with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and worked as an immigration advocate intern at Her Justice. She plans to pursue a law degree, and simultaneously a PhD in Anthropology. Mikelina sees herself advocating on behalf of immigrant women and teaching/ lawyering for gender justice.

Mikelina's research project, guided by Dr. Preet Kaur Virdi, places Albanian immigrant women who have experienced or experience intimate partner violence at the center of her study. She is interested to explore their perceptions of domestic violence and the correlation of these perceptions to their help-seeking behaviors. Mikelina's thesis focuses on exploring whether levels of reporting domestic violence from these women are disproportionately low.

SHARON BAYANTEMUR is a senior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice majoring in Forensic Psychology, with a minor in Philosophy and certificate in Dispute Resolution. She is fellow with the Siegel Fellowship Program, which focuses on strategic and nonprofit communication, and a member of the John Jay College Honors Program. Sharon is also lab manager of Dr. Charles Stone's memory lab. As part of the lab, she works on projects examining the retrieval-induced forgetting (RIF) paradigm in the context of mock jury deliberations, and the influences shaping details remembered versus forgotten by jurors of the trial and the subsequent verdict.

Currently, Sharon is working on her senior capstone project under the supervision of Dr. Charles Stone. Her research focuses on how conversations between co-witnesses may cause them to forget key information surrounding the crime, specifically when conversing with an in- or out-group member. Given the weight placed on eyewitness memory accounts as evidence in the US criminal justice system, inaccurate and incomplete accounts can result in miscarriages of justice. In an effort to provide a better understanding of the factors that shape eyewitness accounts, the present results will provide researchers, practitioners, and law enforcement officers with critical insights into the cognitive and social processes that shape the way eyewitnesses come to remember and forget details surrounding a crime when conversing with in- and out-group members.

VICKY QIU is a graduate student in the Criminal Justice Master's Program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She was born in China and migrated to the United States in 1999. She served in the U.S. Army from 2010-2019 and currently works in the John Jay College Academic Advisement Center.

Vicky will be working with Dr. Valli Rajah this coming year on an exploratory research project which will focus on Chinese victims of sex trafficking who are located in New York City. The purpose of the research is to better understand what works in the context of social service collaboration with police on sex trafficking crimes and how victims themselves perceive NYPD intervention.