

Fisher Family CDDRL Honors Program 2019-20

Students

Inyoung Choi
Molly Culhane
Justin Daniels
Sophia Helfand

Maeve Givens
Naz Gocek
Nick Kingsley
Cole McFaul

Natasha Moolji
Miriam Noorulhuda
Bryce Tuttle
David Rios



Inyoung Choi

Major: History

Hometown: Seoul, South Korea & Champaign, IL

Tentative Thesis Title: Understanding the Public's Perception of Trust in the Media

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? A healthy democracy runs on open dialogue in the public and trust in the media

functions as a fundamental basis for these conversations.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? The interdisciplinary nature of the program attracts students from a variety of backgrounds – it's a huge privilege to be able to learn from my peers.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: I'd love to be a healthy and happy adult

What are you summer research plans? While I don't have formal research plans for the summer, I will be interning in broadcast journalism where I will be able to get hands on experience learning from a variety of mentors in the media industry. Following the internship, I hope to spend time reading related scholarship.

A fun fact about yourself: I really enjoy looking out the window during bus/car rides :)



Molly Culhane

Major: History

Hometown: Denver, Colorado

Tentative Thesis Title: Exploring Community Policing in Ireland and Possibilities for Alternative Policing in the United States

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? Democracy and the rule of law depend on institutional legitimacy, and in the United States, the police are often the institution with which people interact most directly. However, for a range

of reasons, including the racist historical roots of policing, modern police brutality, and police involvement in injustices such as mass incarceration and gentrification, American policing faces a crisis of legitimacy. My research looks at whether community policing is a worthwhile strategy for achieving a better police system, one that creates holistic community wellbeing and dismantles, rather than upholding, oppressive structures. Developing a police system that deserves public trust and legitimacy is a vital step toward true democracy and rule of law in the United States.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? I'm excited about the CDDRL program because of its interdisciplinary nature—I'm looking forward to learning from peers with different interests and perspectives.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: I have no idea right now.

What are your summer research plans? My thesis will be based primarily on research I did last summer. For my research, I spent a few months each in Dublin, Ireland and Denver, Colorado, conducting interviews with police officers (community-based or otherwise), public safety advocates, police reform activists, policymakers, and community members. In addition to interviews, I toured police stations, attended several police-related meetings in Dublin, and observed a day of police training in Denver. This summer, I'll be interning in D.C. and filling in the gaps in my research.

A fun fact about yourself: I was going to take a gap year and drive truck after high school, but I got rejected from truck school.



Justin Daniels

Major: French

Hometown: Baltimore, Maryland

Tentative Thesis Title: US Civil Society and King Leopold's Congo Free State: 1876-1908

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? Given that King Leopold II's Congo Free State was founded under the auspices of the international system, in the name

of bringing "civilization" to "Darkest Africa," the study of its relations with the US is one of development. Through the lens of the universities, museums, and businesses that urged recognition, and then, once news of the atrocities broke, reform, my paper unites questions of international politics, sovereignty, values, and American presence in a European world. As such questions remain relevant to American relations with African nations, I hope my thesis serves as critical understanding for a changing world.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? The chance to apply my literary and historical studies in the Francophone and Italophone worlds to purposeful research on the birth of free societies in a diverse cohort of my peers. Like CDDRL, I hope that my work now and in the future helps policymakers consider context in evaluating their proposals.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: Contribute to the flourishing of democracy worldwide, bridging cultural divides and uniting diverse perspectives, hopefully in the Foreign Service or Law.

What are your summer research plans? I plan to visit Belgium for research in the State Archives before going to Rome to intern in the Political/Military Affairs Office at the US Embassy.

A fun fact about yourself: I love singing '80s Italian music with my friends. "La Notte Vola" by Lorella Cuccarini is always a hit!



Sofia Helfand

Major: Political Science

Hometown: Riverside, CA

Tentative Thesis Title: The Political Costs of Racial Inequality in the United States' Criminal Justice System

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? I believe that examining the relationship between issues of systemic inequality in the criminal justice system and measures of democratic quality such as the strength of civil society, voter participation and political legitimacy could reveal

essential elements of the link between the rule of law and democracy. This would aid American legislators in gaining a better understanding of the ramifications of current criminal justice laws and find potential policy solutions that target these big issues. The insights gained from the study of the United States' criminal justice system would also have global impacts as it explores how advanced democracies can use the labels of justice and law to justify systemic oppression.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? I was attracted to the CDDRL honors program because my research proposal examines the interplay between a country's rule of law and democratic quality, and I wish to approach this idea through an interdisciplinary lens. Many of the faculty members of CDDRL are conducting incredible research and I want to be a part of an environment that pushes me to produce the best work that I possibly can.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: After Stanford, I plan on working for a few years before attending law school. I hope to one day be a civil rights or human rights lawyer!

What are your summer research plans? Over the summer, I plan on helping Professor Hakeem Jefferson conduct research about the psychology of punishment among minorities in the United States, a topic closely related to my project. I hope to conduct an extensive literature review and perhaps collect some data for my project as well during that time.

A fun fact about yourself: I have a Portuguese Water Dog at home who is terrified of water.



Maeve Givens

Major: Environmental Systems Engineering

Hometown: Stanford, CA

Tentative Thesis Title: Reconsidering the Fairness of Our Clean Energy Future

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? I hope to understand the extent to which certain demographic populations shoulder the grid's cost and answer the question of how we integrate more decentralized energy into our electricity system while mitigating harm to those unable to migrate to distributed renewables. Our energy system and its associated equity issues are fundamentally tied to

issues of governance, democracy, and development. By exploring the socio-economic justice elements of California's solar policy, I hope to help answer the critical question of how to create the most equitable energy policies that are both democratic and fair.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? I believe that CDDRL honors thesis program will be the ideal home for me to pursue my research project as it directly connects to interdisciplinary questions of governance and development. I also believe the program's structure was extremely compelling- I am so excited to learn from my amazing peers in the honors cohort.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: Scuba Dive the Great Barrier Reef

What are you summer research plans? I will be diving into my topic, gathering data sources, and doing background research.

A fun fact about yourself: I was on stage with Stevie Wonder.



Naz Gocek

Major: International Relations

Hometown: Ankara, Turkey

Tentative Thesis Title: The Right to be Heard: Evaluating the Feasibility of a European Humanitarian Visa

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? The migrant crisis shed light on the flaws of the European Union's approach to asylum. As arrivals soared, the Common European Asylum System proved inadequate; policymakers and leaders failed to develop an equitable and efficient system of processing

applications and distributing refugees. Since then, opportunistic populist parties have exploited these failures to promote divisive and often undemocratic policies grounded in Euroscepticism, racism, xenophobia and nationalism. Assessing potential changes to EU asylum policy is vital for democracy, development, and the rule of law. My topic will allow me to explore the complex relationship between asylum policy and populism, consider whether asylum should be an exclusive EU competence or a national responsibility, explore the factors that affect the feasibility and development of supranational policies, and evaluate proposals to create safer legal pathways for asylum seekers to reach the EU.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? The interdisciplinary cohort and structure of the program. I'm excited learn from, and contribute to, the work of my incredible peers who are working to answer questions about democracy, development and the rule of law across multiple disciplines and majors. I'm also looking forward to the weekly research seminars and workshops, as they will give me the opportunity to work with experienced faculty and peers with different perspectives on a regular basis, and help me improve my writing skills.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: I would like to pursue a Master's degree in Europe and learning more about European politics.

What are you summer research plans? I'll be interning at the Center on the United States and Europe at the Brookings Institution in DC. I'm eager to conduct research related to the EU and transatlantic relations.

A fun fact about yourself: I (still) don't know how to ride a bike, so I longboard around campus.



Nick Kingsley

Major: Political Science and Economics

Hometown: New York City

Tentative Thesis Title: The Determinants of Refugee Policy Liberalization: An Examination of Contrasting Policies in Uganda and Tanzania

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? The surge in arrivals of refugees to Europe in 2015 and 2016 has been described by the European Parliament as Europe's worst refugee crisis since the end of World War II. The problem has radicalized politics and strained EU institutions as asylum policies fail

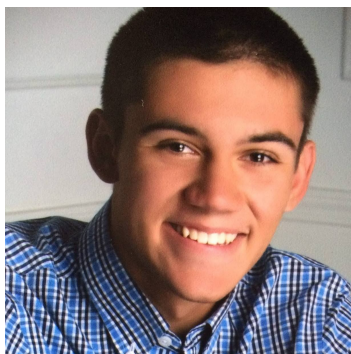
both refugees and citizens. However, a Eurocentric focus on refugees is myopic. The large majority (84%) of refugees worldwide are hosted by developing countries (i.e., low and middle-income countries). In these areas, refugees are viewed as a burden and often constrained by strict encampment policies which inhibit their success. An examination of the determinants and implications of a more liberal policy approach (such as that in Uganda) can offer important insights and inform future policymaking.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? The interdisciplinary nature of the program -- the unique opportunity to combine quantitative and qualitative analysis.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: I hope to work for Teach for America and then attend Law School

What are your summer research plans? This summer I received a grant through FSI to travel to Uganda and Tanzania to conduct research which will consist of two key components: first, an examination of archival documents from the period in which key laws were being passed -- both parliamentary records and news coverage; and second, qualitative interviews with a diverse group of subjects associated with policymaking or refugee work.

A fun fact about yourself: I have dual citizenship with Germany



Cole McFaul

Major: Political Science

Hometown: Stanford, CA

Tentative Thesis Title: China in Ghana: A Case Study in Governance, Attitudes, and Sovereignty

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? Chinese investment is up around the world, and it is critical to understand the effect of this increased presence on the

democratic institutions of a country in order to protect against the decay of those institutions.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? I think the CDDRL honors program is a tremendous opportunity to work with some of the preeminent thinkers on democracy while also developing one's own research skills throughout the year while working on the thesis.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: Not sure! I hope to cotermin in East Asian studies in a 5th year.

What are your summer research plans? I plan to travel to Beijing to conduct learn Chinese and interview some relevant subjects, and then go to Accra, Ghana for a month to conduct the majority of my interviews.

A fun fact about yourself: Growing up, I moved around a lot and never spent longer than three years in one place.



Natasha Moolji

Major: Economics and Political Science

Hometown: Montvale, NJ

Tentative Thesis Title: The Effects of Chinese Investment on Economic Development in Pakistan

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? Previously, the US and development institutions like the World Bank and IMF were the primary drivers of development around the world. As their influence in developing nations has waned, China's has only grown. If Chinese investment succeeds, it will have major implications for the model of development that countries pursue. Mainly, China's economic success disproves the traditional idea that with economic development comes political liberalization. Chinese investment in Pakistan is of particular interest given the sheer sum of money promised, as well as Pakistan and the US' increasingly fraught relationship.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? I am excited to learn from a group of students who are similarly excited about democracy, development, and the rule of law. I also cannot wait to get to know the faculty members of CDDRL.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: I am interested in exploring how public and private partnerships can facilitate sustainable development.

What are your summer research plans? I will be working at CERP in Lahore, Pakistan for one month.

A fun fact about yourself: I went to middle school in Dubai.



Miriam Noorulhuda

Major: History

Hometown: Castro Valley, CA

Tentative Thesis Title: The Effect of Conflict on Health Care Services in Afghanistan

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? While the world's attention is focused on the withdrawal of international forces, people in Afghanistan continue to die because they do not have access to adequate healthcare. Afghanistan's health system has been decimated by over 40 years of near constant conflict—its health indicators are among the worst in the world. Because of the lack of a strong government, many NGOs have assumed responsibility for the provision of healthcare services through contracts with donor agencies. I hope to

investigate the impact of civil conflict on the access and use of health care services and discover service-delivery strategies that adapt well to situations of insecurity through examining the historic shifts in health service delivery in Afghanistan, namely during the Soviet invasion, civil war, Taliban era, and the “post-conflict” Western intervention. I also hope to explore the politicizing impact on health and humanitarian aid considering the role the US plays in health and state-building interventions in Afghanistan.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? As someone with diverse academic interests (I’m majoring in history and doing pre-med), I was attracted to the program’s interdisciplinary nature. The CDDRL honors program allows me to combine my interests in history, human rights, and global health in ways other programs simply could not.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: I hope to go to medical school, as well as obtain a Masters in Public Health, so I can better contribute to global health efforts.

What are you summer research plans? This summer, I’m planning on hopefully doing global health policy research at Stanford. In addition, I plan on conducting archival research for my honors thesis.

A fun fact about yourself: I’ve traveled to all the continents besides Antarctica and Australia!



Bryce Tuttle

Major: Political Science

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Tentative Thesis Title: The American Laundromat: How US Corporate Law Facilitates Money Laundering from Kleptocracies

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? My topic deals directly with the international component of the rule of law and how one country's decisions (the US) can effect the rule of law in another. I also hope to explore how cracking down on money laundering can aid democratic transition and institutional development in kleptocracies.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program?

CDDRL's interdisciplinary nature and focus lend themselves particularly well to my topic which covers law, American politics, international relations and finance.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: I hope to go to law school and become a federal prosecutor on financial crimes.

What are you summer research plans? I plan to spend at least a week conducting interviews with professionals in the AML space to pinpoint the problems in the US system and gather qualitative data on the barriers to reform.

A fun fact about yourself: I once crashed Oxford Library's computer system.



David Rios

Major: Political Science

Hometown: Bay Area

Tentative Thesis Title: Exploring the breakdown of the 2012 peace deal between the Salvadoran gangs and the Salvadoran government

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? This topic has bearing on democracy because the Salvadoran government's failure to mitigate the gang problem has directly contributed to anti-democratic sentiment. In terms of

development, the turmoil from the gang war negatively impacts foreign direct investment in El Salvador. In terms of the rule of law, the government has employed extra-legal means to address gang violence, which has spillover effects on the broader legal system.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? The prospect of collaborating with motivated peers and professors on topics of interest and importance.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: No idea. lol

What are your summer research plans? I plan on doing research on American foreign policy in the Middle East at Stanford's Summer Research College.

A fun fact about yourself: I love basketball, hip-hop, friends, and family.