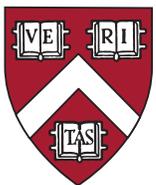


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STUDENT DIRECTORY



**MELLON MAYS UNDERGRADUATE
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

LORENA (LORE) AVILÉS TRUJILLO

Adams House | Class of 2017

Hometown: Park City, IL

Concentration(s): Sociology; Ethnicity, Migration, and Rights

Research Interest/Area: Migrant Smuggling in the Mexico-U.S. Border

Identifying as a first-generation, low-income Latina, Lore is passionate about equity in access and opportunity. Lore's background and her ancestors serve as her greatest inspiration to excel and to pursue both a career in academia and the legal field, paying particular attention to human rights violations, such as immigration.



MARYSSA BARRON

Mather House | Class of 2017

Hometown: Little Rock, AR

Concentration(s): Social Anthropology

Research Interest/Area: The Lions We Save: Hunting, Tourism, and Land Reform in South Africa

Hi Mellons! My name is Maryssa Barron. I was born and raised in the deep woods of NorthEast Texas. I grew up wandering creek beds and the woods behind my house with friends--building forts and pretending to be an explorer. Now, I'm an anthropology student in Mather House, exploring the world in hopes of gaining a better understanding of the human experience. I try to get out as often as possible--whether it's hiking, ice climbing, or enjoying an hour or two reading in the Yard. I plan to pursue graduate work in environmental anthropology.



CHERLINE (CHER) BAZILE

Adams House | Class of 2017

Hometown: Spring Hill, FL

Concentration(s): English

Research Interest/Area: Trauma in the Quotidian of Contemporary American Literature

I like books. I'm writing a creative thesis consisting of short stories that work against a linear, narrative arc that molds uncomfortable stories into tales of resilience or lessons learned. I am interested in how trauma embeds itself in the quotidian and hope to reshape how Americans write about trauma by using nontraditional frameworks of thinking about the self. I hope to continue writing after Harvard and to spread the life-changing nature of literature to others through teaching.



IKO'TSIMISKIMAKI (EKOO) BECK

Pforzheimer House | Class of 2017

Hometown: Park Missoula, Montana

Concentration(s): Social Studies

Research Interest/Area: Violence against Native American women, the impact of the Violence Against Women Act on reservation jurisdiction, and American Indian Migrant Farmwork in the 1950s and 60s

I was born in Chicago but grew up in Montana, splitting my time between my hometown of Missoula and the Blackfeet Reservation, where my mother's family lives. My main interest is to contribute positively to Indian Country, and I am passionate about environmental justice, justice for victims of sexual abuse or domestic violence, and the recognition of tribal sovereignty in the United States. I am a member of the Blackfeet Tribe, and I am a proud Metis, and Turtle Mountain Chippewa Cree woman.



AISHA BHOORI

Pforzheimer House | Class of 2018

Hometown: Middletown, NJ

Concentration(s): English

Research Interest/Area: Imaginary Homelands: Literary Representations of South Asian and Muslim Diaspora

In his essay, "Imaginary Homelands," Rushdie observes that "the past is a country from which we have all emigrated, that its loss is part of our common humanity." As a scholar/poet/storyteller, I want to examine literature with a with a heightened sense of both this "common humanity," but also the ways in which my brown skin and Muslim identity estrange me from it.



THERESA (TEZ) CLARK

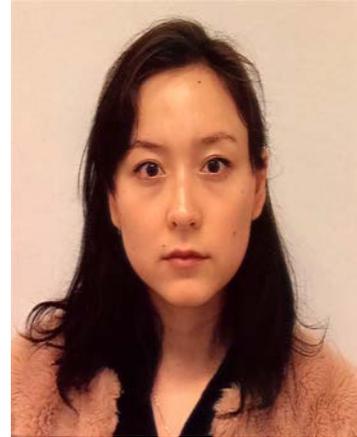
Adams House | Class of 2018

Hometown: Tokyo, Japan

Concentration(s): Philosophy

Research Interest/Area: Intuitions and Metaepistemology

Tez (she/her/hers) is a Tokyo native with a passion for understanding the ways in which we come to know and hold justified belief. In her free time, she enjoys thinking about Asia-American issues, and particularly how they intersect with queer and women's issues. Before becoming a Mellon Mays fellow, Tez was pursuing and interest in journalism, and has worked for national publications such as Vox.com.



GEORGE (MILES) COUNTS

Quincy House | Class of 2018

Hometown: Charlestown, SC

Concentration(s): History and Literature

Research Interest/Area: "Blackness" and "Southernness" as Constructed in American Popular Culture

I am a proud African-American from South Carolina, with extensive family ties all throughout the Southeast. As a result, I am interested in studying how "Blackness" and "Southernness" have been literarily constructed as identities within the larger sphere of American popular culture. When not studying or researching, I write about family, history, masculinity, and national belonging.



OLUTOYIN (OLU) DEMUREN

Quincy House | Class of 2018

Hometown: Virginia Beach, VA

Concentration(s): Environmental Science and Public Policy

Research Interest/Area: Socioeconomic and ecological effects of tourism on emerging economies

Born of two Nigerian immigrants, I grew up in Southeastern Virginia, surrounded by a variety of beautiful ecosystems that I felt charged to protect. This love for the environment has fed into my other passions for intersectional justice on this campus and in the world. Through my research, I hope to address the ideas of sustainable tourism development from an interdisciplinary context, and ensure that the sustainability of human communities receives as much focus as environmental sustainability.



CARLOS FLORES

Dunster House | Class of 2018

Hometown: Whittier, CA

Concentration(s): Government

Research Interest/Area: The role of International Systems in the administration of justice for grave human rights violations

I was born in Los Angeles, but I lived a significant portion of my life in Honduras, where most of my family continues to reside. I have been interested in government (my concentration at Harvard) and human rights ever since the Honduran military overthrew the government in 2009 and a wave of violence engulfed the nation. I currently work as a journalist for several Honduran media outlets. My long-term research examines the role of impunity in perpetuating serious human rights violations.



EDEN GIRMA

Cabot House | Class of 2018

Hometown: Madison, WI

Concentration(s): Astrophysics and Math

Research Interest/Area: Spacetime singularities and the quantization of gravity

Eden is an aspiring mathemagician/science-sharer/universe-explorer who seeks to one day elucidate the most enigmatic properties of physical reality, and through a radical education that unites science and imagination, empower other students of color to do the same.



MADISON JOHNSON

Pforzheimer House | Class of 2018

Hometown: Columbus, Georgia

Concentration(s): History and Literature

Research Interest/Area: Representations of queer and trans black people in film, theatre, and fiction

Madison is a queer black writer, artist, and activist from Columbus, Georgia. Madison values active listening, grandmothers, and gospel music. Madison's work centers queer and trans black voices, and Madison is particularly interested in representations in film, theatre, and fiction of queer and trans black people in the American South. Everything Madison writes is always in danger of becoming a think-piece about Beyonce.



NANCY KO

Kirkland House | Class of 2017

Hometown: Brooklyn, NY

Concentration(s): Sociology; History and NELC

Research Interest/Area: In the Shadows: Jewish Involvement in the Constitutional Revolution of Iran, 1905-1907

Proudly hailing from Brooklyn, NY, Nancy has traveled across the Middle East and Europe to study and conduct research on Mizrahi Jewish history and has worked with archival material in Arabic, Hebrew, and French. As a Mellon Mays fellow and a fellow at the Safra Center for Practical Ethics, Nancy is passionate about the diversification of the fields of area studies and history and is committed to understanding the ethical implications of historiography. An avid knitter and marathoner, Nancy has extensive editorship experience and currently sits on the editorial board of Tempus, Harvard's undergraduate history review.



IMAN MASMUDI

Mather House | Class of 2018

Hometown: Charlotte, NC

Concentration(s): Social Studies

Research Interest/Area: Changes in Pedagogy of Post-colonial Islamic Religious Education and its links to modern Islam

Iman Masmoudi is an undergraduate at Harvard College. She grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina in a Tunisian family, and travels home to Tunisia every summer. She speaks Arabic, English, and Russian. She's studying Social Studies with a focus on Islamic history, and is also very passionate about social justice and Islamic education reform. On campus, she works several jobs and is very involved in development and community organizing with the Harvard Islamic Society. She has two hilarious older brothers and one wonderful older sister who is sometimes funny too.



KAIPO MATSUMOTO

Adams House | Class of 2017

Hometown: Ewa Beach, Hawai'i

Concentration(s): History and Literature

Research Interest/Area: 19th and 20th century Hawaiian history and literature

Welina pumehana. Eia au he kupa, he mamo, he 'ōiwi, a he aloha 'āina a Hawai'i. Mai Hawai'i, lāpana, Kelemānia, a me Kina mai ko'u mau kūpuna. Ma hope o ko'u puka kula 'ana, makemake nō au e lilo i mahi'ai a polopeka ho'i ma Hawai'i. I enjoy sharing stories, playing music, surfing, farming, reading, writing, cooking, drinking 'awa, and exploring ways to reverse the colonial legacies of the ongoing U.S. occupation of Hawai'i.



KAI MCKINNON MATEO

Cabot House | Class of 2018

Hometown: Oceanside, CA

Concentration(s): Social Studies

Research Interest/Area: Filipino Unions and the Politics of Race in the California Farm Workers Movement

I was born and raised in San Diego County. Before coming to Harvard, I studied and worked at Deep Springs, an alternative liberal arts college in the White Mountains. At Harvard, I have dedicated myself to my intellectual work and to political organizing.



YUSUPH MKANGARA

Quincy House | Class of 2017

Hometown: Columbus, OH

Concentration(s): Sociology and African Studies

Research Interest/Area: Attitudes on education amid migration and globalization

I rep Columbus, OH, Dar es Salaam (sorta), and Kazan (really sorta). I am simultaneously nervous and looking forward to craft my thesis project. For my last year at Harvard, I plan to connect more with people and to support my friends every chance I get. I will probably return to academia down the line but in the interim, I hope to take some time off to do some work with more immediate impact.



WILLIAM (WILL) OH

Currier House | Class of 2018

Hometown: Santa Clarita, CA

Concentration(s): History and Literature; Social Anthropology

Research Interest/Area: How reconceptualizing physical spaces can shape narratives of migration, violence, trauma in modern world

I am the proud son of two Korean American immigrants who calls the greater Los Angeles area my home. As a student, I am fascinated by how our narratives shape, and are affected by, the physical space and materiality that make up our daily realities. Through my research, I hope to bring a critical, intersectional lens to knowledge production that strives to rewrite dominant narratives of power and create spaces that affirm and recognize that all persons are worthy of dignity and love. I am excited to be part of this community, and hope to be part of a compassionate social justice that heals and restores.



CRISTINA PARAJÓN

Kirkland House | Class of 2018

Hometown: Managua, Nicaragua

Concentration(s): Sociology and Government

Research Interest/Area: Latin American Women's Rights and Self-efficacy; Reproductive Health and Rights; Foreign Aid in Developing Countries

I was born in New Mexico but moved to the beautiful, tropical Nicaragua when I was 5 years old. Despite its beauty, Latin America-- and my country especially-- is afflicted with economic and social inequality. I was always aware of this fact while I straddled two worlds: the poor rural areas (where I spent my summers) and the privileged city (where I went to school). My identity has always been a mix of cultures as ethnically I am Nicaraguan, Scottish, and Taiwanese. While at Harvard, I discovered all the classes I chose to take happened to be sociology. Now as a concentrator, I hope to use my classroom knowledge to research barriers to empowerment between girls and boys in rural Nicaragua. In my free time I love to play frisbee, paint, bike, and dance. My dream for Latin America would be to see education transformed for greater class and gender equality.



CARLOS SNAIDER

Cabot House | Class of 2017

Hometown: Boulder, CO

Concentration(s): Sociology; Music and African American Studies

Research Interest/Area: Creative Music and the Aesthetics of Black Radical Tradition

I am a Puerto Rican and Ecuadorian who grew up in Texas, Ecuador and Colorado. Each of these influenced my interest in culture, place and identity, even though I do not call any of them home. In my first two years at Harvard I learned the importance of my roots and voice, and have dedicated myself to investigating models of people who have stood up to oppressive circumstances to express themselves via art. My experiences playing improvised music from a young age taught me how music, politics, and spirituality are intertwined, and as a result I am always looking to put my own music in dialogue with my scholarship.



ITZEL VASQUEZ-RODRIGUEZ

Kirkland House | Class of 2017

Hometown: Lakewood, CA

Concentration(s): Sociology; minor in Economics

Research Interest/Area: The Disproportionate Effects of the California Drought: The Case of East Side Porterville

I'm a proud Native Chicana from Southern California. I'm interested in questions of culture, ethnicity, and race, especially as they relate to the Latinx experience in the U.S. and education. On campus I manage the Varsity Track and Field team and am part of various cultural organizations and PBHA programs. As of now, I'm thinking of getting into higher education, education administration, or perhaps even policy, so that I can work to institute real change within the U.S. and around the world.

