GCGC
GLOBAL CRISES GLOBAL CHANGE
A WESTMINSTER UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE

Dedicated to engaging the complex social, political and ecological crises in our world.

April 4th - April 6th
Westminster On the Draw Events Center

VISIT GCGCUNDERGRAD.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION
WHAT IS GCGC?

First held in 2016, the Global Crises and Global Change: Undergraduate Conference, was organized and run by undergraduate students from Westminster College. The 2018 Organizers continue the work of realizing the GCGC conference in the spirit of its founders’ intentions, goals, and hopes.

The members of this years’ organizing team have all presented research at past year’s conferences. This year, they intend to further expand the conference’s reach, hosting students and keynote speaker from local as well as out-of-state and even overseas.

With the help of our faculty advisors, Professor Leonardo E. Figueroa-Helland, Professor Abigail Pérez Aguilera and Professor Gary Marquardt, the 2018 organizers seek to facilitate a safe and stimulating environment to critically address and discuss some of the most challenging issues we see in our world today.

CONFERENCE GOALS

01. Create a safe space for students from all disciplinary studies, to utilize any medium of expression to present their work and research.

02. Engage in critical discussion on the many complex crises we see in our world today.

03. Seek to raise the overall awareness, understanding, and compassion for these issues, on both a local and a global level.

04. Create a stimulating environment to critically address and discuss some of the most challenging issues we see in our world today.

“One of the most vital ways we sustain ourselves is by building communities of resistance, places where know we are not alone.” - bell hooks
**ORGANIZER INFO**

**Josie Stoker** - Josie Stoker is a first-generation college student and McNair Scholar studying economics at Westminster College with a double-minor in political science and applied mathematics. Josie is a resident advisor at Westminster and also serves in student government on the Clubs Board. She also loves writing and is the Assistant Director of the Writing Center at Westminster College. After graduating, Josie hopes to enter a PhD program in economics in order to continue pursuing her interests in social science and mathematics.

**Cassidy Thomas** - Originally from Boise, Idaho, Cassidy recently graduated from Westminster College with a BA in Political Science and emphasis in global studies. He is currently in his first year of the Master of Arts of Community Leadership Program at Westminster College and plans on graduating in the Spring of 2019. He then hopes to attend a PhD program in either sociology or critical global studies. He has two forthcoming publications in the journal “Perspectives on Global Development and Technology” and an edited volume tentatively titled “Anarchist Political Ecologies: Urbanization, Degrowth, and Agricultures of Emancipation.”

**Cole Cooper** - Cole Cooper is a junior at Westminster College. He spent the first twelve years of his life living sustainably in a two room cabin in Eastern Utah through the help of an array solar panels to power their few electrical needs, and a garden filled to the brim with fruits and vegetables. At Westminster, he is a student of global environmental, justice, and political studies. Through his studies, he has developed a deep desire to understand the roots of the global crises we face today. When he is not in school he tutors refugees through the “walkways to Westminster” program offered by Westminster.
**FACULTY MENTORS**

Abigail Pérez Aguilera - Dr. Abigail Pérez Aguilera researches and writes about contemporary Indigenous movements, literature written by women of colour and its connections to environmental social movements, forced displacement, gender violence, and global politics. Her most recent work appears in Ecocriticism and Indigenous Studies: Conversations from Earth to Cosmos (ed. Joni Adamson and Salma Monani; Routledge, 2017). She is currently teaching at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Gary Marquardt - Dr. Marquardt, a former first generation college student, is currently an Associate Professor and Chair of Global Studies and History at Westminster College (Salt Lake City, Utah, USA). His research in African History and classroom pedagogy is wide-ranging and recently included published articles on disease and the environment in colonial South Africa and Namibia in the Journal of Southern African Studies and The Namibian. His current research challenges state narratives of power and control over black and white (im)migration in-and-to Namibia during the period of South African occupation. He also has a keen interest in teaching about social and economic justice histories of coffee, especially in the global south.

Leonardo E. Figueroa-Helland - Dr. Figueroa-Helland is Chair and Professor of Politics, Justice & Global Studies at Westminster College (Salt Lake City, Utah, USA). His work focuses on transformational alternatives to global crises based on transdisciplinary research that combines critical global studies, intercultural international relations, indigenous studies, global political ecology, agroecology, decolonial/postcolonial and depatriarchal/gender/two-spirit studies, and world-systems analysis. His writings have have been published in the Journal of World Systems Research (JWSR), Perspectives on Global Development and Technology (PGDT), Studies in 20th & 21st Century Literature (STTCL), Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies, the Journal of Critical Education and Policy Studies, the UNESCO Journal of Higher Education and Society, and the volume on Social Movements and World-System Transformation edited by Jackie Smith, Michael Goodhart, Patrick Manning and John Markoff.
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

APRIL 4TH - APRIL 6TH
AT WESTMINSTER ON THE DRAW

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4TH

Welcome 10:15am - 10:30am

Presenter Panel 10:30am - 12:00pm
Beyond Borders: Redefining Narratives of Refugee and Immigrant Women of Color

NGO & Activism Luncheon 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Opening Ceremony with Pratik Raghu 1:30pm - 2:00pm

Presenter Panel 2:00pm - 3:30pm
The Individual in a Society of Violence and Oppression

Keynote Speaker 3:45pm - 5:15pm
Daniel Jubelirer - Naropa University Peace Studies Graduate
Catalyzing Social Movements for Justice in the Unraveling of the Holocene: A Manifesto

THURSDAY, APRIL 5TH

Presenter Panel 10:00am - 11:30am
Imperialism, Genocide, and Systemic Oppression

Lunch Break 11:30am - 1:00pm

Keynote Speaker 1:00pm - 2:30pm
Dr. Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
Continental Imperialism and the US Way of War

Presenter Panel 2:45pm - 4:15pm
Global Crises and Multiple Oppressions: Focus on the Latin American Diaspora
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 6TH

Presenter Panel 10:30am - 12:00pm
Changing Landscapes: Questions of Air, Food, Land, and Water

Lunch Break 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Presenter Panel 1:30pm - 3:00pm
Migration, Coloniality, and Cultural Reproduction

Keynote Speaker 3:00pm - 4:30pm
Dr. Luis Fernandez
Populism: The Perils and Opportunities of Uncertain Times

* Panel and Keynote times are subject to change.
** IMPORTANT NOTE—The 2018 GCGC Undergraduate Conference is not on Westminster's main campus. It is approximately a half mile away at Westminster's “On The Draw” events center. The address of the conference location is 2120 S 1300 E, Salt Lake City, UT 84106.
PANEL 1:

Beyond Borders: Redefining Narratives of Refugee and Immigrant Women of Color

01. Ban Naes (Westminster College)
Letters to Abu Ghraib

This story revolves around three elementary school friends in Baghdad, Iraq during the height of the United States’ invasion in 2006. It goes through the daily lives of these students, as they go to school and feel the lasting effects of the war surrounding them. The story’s focus however, is not on the war, but the bond between their friendship and how they navigate their lives in Baghdad in the backdrop of the war, familial ties, history of their ancestral homeland, tradition, and magic. A fictional tale about the trauma of Abu Ghraib Prison and the atrocities that occurred during the war, the story’s ultimate focus is bringing the characters and their simple, naive ties and how they deal with loss, and gain hope.

02. Alaa Al-Barkawi (Westminster College)
Afternoon Tea with Saddam Hussein

This poetry depicts various moments in the aftermath of one family’s displacement throughout Saddam Hussein’s dictatorship in Iraq (circa 1989-1995). Loosely based on autobiographical accounts, Afternoon Tea with Saddam Hussein focuses on a young narrator, curious of the war and global movement of her family members as they navigate multiple landscapes including a ruthless government tyranny in Iraq, a desertland refugee camp in Saudi Arabia, and the cold dark spaces of a U.S. grocery store. This poetry will cover topics surrounding dual identity, nationality, U.S. imperialism, displacement and generational trauma.

03. Jessica Taghvaeiee (Westminster College)
The Hybrid: Who Am I and Where Do I Belong?

This personal essay reflects on my experience with assimilation in American society as a “hybrid” -- a mixture of multiple racial identities and cultures. As a Mexican-Persian American, I discuss the difficulty I have experienced in not only assimilation to American culture, but also my struggle in coming to terms with my racial/ethnic identity and being accepted into Mexican and Persian communities. I also incorporate the works of Richard Alba (2016), Melissa Herman (2016), and Derek Walcott (1974) to further analyze the complex social behaviors hybrids such as myself learn to embrace in order to survive and the constant battle of identification we experience on a daily basis.
04. Asma Dahir (Westminster College)
My Name

This poem shares the struggles and misconceptions that are said about all the identities that I possess. The poem explains how these misconceptions are misleading and is the result of young girl forcing to close herself off from society. Having multiple clashing identities, being a Black Muslim Women born to refugee parents living in America, I have struggled to understand what it is to be me. Along with the poem, I will be sharing a short narrative about how I have struggled trying to understand how to cope and overcome what is said about me.

PANEL 2:
The Individual in a Society of Violence and Oppression

01. Deanna Waldron (Westminster College)
Personal to Political: Using Art as a Method to Challenge Systemic Oppressions

Art challenges racism and sexism by addressing sexual violence against women of color and additionally challenges and disrupts dominant systems of oppressive organization in society, including colonialism, nationalism, patriarchy, and capitalism. The progressive and symbolic use of art can bring about social change and transformation by creating political momentum and developing political consciousness. Awareness of the strategic discourses, systems and processes, and actions and everyday behaviors that reinforce sexual violence offers a fissure for power relations to be seen and challenged. Taking the art into the community in the form of workshops with the art as a catalyst, this research aims to open discussion within community and challenge dominant discourses of colonialism and systemic oppressions.

02. Pedro Rico (Salt Lake City Community College)
Poverty: State, Love, and Limbo

My paper is on how policy determines the outcome of the poor. Including the effects, it has on human behavior. Pauperism: a struggle to maneuver through a system, which enacts policies that impede mobility. Our society continues to be influenced by laws that reinforce a puritan ideology. An ultimatum, state or love? The poor do not have the opulence of wealth to bypass these difficult decisions. Under our current laws, the notion of duty or personal happiness is designed so that you must pick the former, by choosing the latter you have agreed to a life of uncertainty.
03. Marina Ebrahim Mouris (The American University in Cairo)
Coptic Christians in Egypt

Egypt's Coptic population is the largest Christian community in the Middle East representing approximately 10% of the overall Egyptian population, according to The U.S Department of State Report about the Religious Freedom in Egypt in 2015. Although the Egyptian Christians endured persecution and violation of their rights, terroristic attacks on churches increased dramatically. Thus more Christian families have experienced the loss of family or struggle with a resulting disability sustained in an attack. Children are particularly traumatized from exposure to these inhuman experiences, leading to many psychological problems such as: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. This study explores the impact of the church attacks on the children, examining the claims by interviewing children and their parents.

04. Paige Sutula (University of Colorado)
Suicide: A Social Crisis

Suicide is a high impact issue in our society, ranking in the top 10 of leading causes of death in the US. Suicide is a taboo subject in society, and in direct consequence of that, people do not know how to handle the topic of suicide. Risk in our society can be defined as something of human value that has been put at stake. Suicide puts something of human value at stake -- human life itself. This paper will examine how our society talks about suicide in pop culture, review current and past prevention strategies, and make recommendations for suicide prevention efforts going forward.

05. Mohamed Ghonim (The American University in Cairo)
Muscular Dystrophy in Egyptian Society

Approximately more than 25 thousand young Egyptians as of 2015-2016 suffer from Muscular Dystrophy, a genetic disease that is not yet curable. Duchenne and Becker are killing forms of Muscular Dystrophy (MD) in which the patients pass away at the age of twenties, and sometimes before. They are called the slow killer. However, there is no formalized Muscular Dystrophy foundation in Egypt. How could organizing a Muscular Dystrophy center in Egypt help facilitate the lives of Egypt's invisible minority-- children with Muscular Dystrophy, to make their short time on earth more comfortable and help work towards a cure?
PANEL 3:

Imperialism, Genocide, and Systemic Oppression

01. Alex Johnson (Westminster College)
Westward Expansion and American Lebensraum

The history of the United States is often isolated and placed in a bubble that limits the discussion of its global influence. However, events in the United States during the early 19th century have influenced global policy nearly a century later. The processes through which the United States colonized, and annexed Texas holds a unique spot in global history. Specifically, these events and processes had influence on the German Anschluss of 1938. By examining the ideologies, and documentation around these movements the similarities and influence is clear. Though it may be uncomfortable, comparing these events is crucial and allows for an open dialogue through which history can be more appropriately viewed.

02. Gabriela Salas (University of Maryland-Baltimore County)
Sterilization, the “Only” Form of Contraception for Chicana Women

I explored the use of forced/coerced sterilization of women of Mexican origin in California throughout the late 20th century. Through this exploration, I analyzed the historic influence that the eugenics movement had on the use of sterilization, and the way in which policies regarding sterilization where written, as a form of population control of the Latinx community. Furthermore, I also analyzed the historic use of sterilization — along with the accompanying rhetoric surrounding the contraceptive use of sterilization — had an effect on the amount of Latina women that have voluntarily chosen to use sterilization as their contraceptive method.

03. Arcadia Payne (University of Utah)
Preventing Crisis: Identifying and Understanding Causes of Genocide in Unstable States

Genocide is a crime which the world deems unforgivable, yet it occurs repeatedly while the world watches. I hypothesized that common causal patterns, including economic collapse, severe in-group/out-group tensions, and political destabilization signify potential of genocide in fragile states. Through comparing the economic, social, and political environments in Armenia (ca. 1917) and Rwanda (ca. 1994) versus the American South (ca. 1870), I analyzed factors that led to genocide in Armenia and Rwanda and the lack thereof in the Reconstruction South. I concluded that economic collapse, social tensions, and political destabilization contribute to genocide, but must exist in conjunction with state-sponsored/state-legitimated violent extremist groups.
The creation of ‘other’ in the modern nation state inherently disenfranchises portions of the population. As we begin to realize and take action, members of society that were historically privileged, most notably white nationalists, double their efforts to maintain superiority within a society fixated on the concept of ‘normal.’ However, examples such as police brutality towards predominantly black men and the deportation of Latino men exemplify the stratifications that still exist within society as remnants of our colonial past and a present that is more concerned with profit than humanity.

PANEL 4:
Global Crises and Multiple Oppressions: Focus on the Latin American Diaspora

01. Kaitlin Bradley (Westminster College)
The Economic History of Venezuela Through the 20th Century: Re-Evaluating Venezuela’s Economic Crisis

This paper serves to deconstruct the traditional narratives surrounding the economic crisis in Venezuela. Currently, discussion heavily focuses on the structural adjustment policies implemented in 1989 with the aid of The World Bank. By instead focusing on the development of foreign involvement in the country through the 20th century, and how it relates to and sets a precedent for modern policy, we can gain a new understanding of how Venezuela’s long history of foreign intervention, reaching far beyond 1989, has contributed to its current crisis.

02. Lia Baez (Westminster College)
The Forgotten People: Discourses on Sex Work and Human Trafficking in the Caribbean

This article examines human trafficking in the Caribbean utilizing the dominant global discourse on human trafficking that has been set by the Global North. This precedent is in some ways a reproduction of colonial patterns that gender and hypersexualize the Global South. Furthermore, spaces, geographies, and ethnicities of the Global South are being sexualized for the pleasure of men (for the most part) from the Global North. I aim to challenge this discourse by highlighting the discourses of the countries in the region, which are focused on human rights as opposed to Criminal justice - a western model which criminalizes sex workers as human traffickers.
03. Marley Ixchel Dominguez (Westminster College)
Effects of U.S Imperialism on Environmental Activism in Central America: Through the Lens of Gender and Indigeneity

While environmental activism in Central America has its roots in fighting against U.S. imperialism and colonialism, this violent history has often been ignored in explaining Central America's environmental and political issues. It is even more rare to see the implications that gender and indigeneity have on environmental activism in Central America, and the distinct violence that indigenous women activists face being at the forefront of the movement. Thus my paper seeks to highlight the importance of a gendered and indigenous lens on environmental activism, and how U.S. imperialism's interference into Central American governments has affected the movement in distinct ways.

04. Danielle Martinez (University of Utah)
Social Media and Social Consciousness: An Analysis of Indigenous Instagram

Using the interconnected approaches of indigenous epistemologies, third world feminism, cosmopolitics, and colonality, as well as double consciousness; this project brings together seemingly disparate strands of inquiry to draw an analysis revealing the impact of social media as a tool for subversion and reclaiming of indigeneity. This type of research explores the current political rhetoric and importance of cultural preservation in light of appropriation, commodification, and exploitation of native/indigenous culture.

PANEL 5:

Changing Landscapes: Questions of Air, Food, Land, and Water

01. Kai Pakulski (Westminster College)
Land, Food and Water Crisis

Today, we find ourselves amid a multitude of converging crisis, at the center of which lies the crises of water, land, and food. Without food to eat and water to drink, humans cannot survive. Without the land or the waterways in which fish and other organisms live, food cannot be grown and harvested. The hegemonic world order of globalized capitalist industry takes the finite and fragile natural lifecycles of our planet for granted. These crises will be explored through the issues of land grabbing, water grabbing, ocean grabbing, and the broken global food system which has led to the major food and environmental injustices being faced across the world.
02. Cole Schreiber (Westminster College)
Kiribati and Migration with Dignity

This project aims to tell the story of an island nation that is disappearing using an academic research paper. The small island nation known as the Republic of Kiribati (pronounced Kiribas) is going to be the first nation to disappear due to climate change. There are 33 inhabited islands that make up the nation of around 100,000 people. Kiribati has no mountains to run to, it is a series of small atolls in the vast pacific. And the government knows this, thus they created the program known as “Migration with Dignity.”

03. Oakley Hill (Utah Valley University)
Calling All Communities

Since 2017, environmentally minded people in the United States have lived under a regime without carbon-reducing initiatives. This leaves them to answer an acutely important question—how do working class citizens reduce carbon emissions without the help of the national government? Herein the author argues that working class citizens should engage in carbon reduction strategies at the community and city levels, instead of national or individual levels. Individual-based approaches can only reduce national emissions by a maximum of 11%, which Philosopher Monica Aufrecht argues is not enough. If environmentalists want to drastically reduce US emissions, city and community approaches seem to be the most promising.

04. Tristan Palola (Westminster College)
Food Crisis, Land, Ocean, and Water Grabbing: An Analytical Discourse to Crises of the Anthropocene

This essay provides a comprehensive, analytical and critical overview to the crises of modernity and capitalism, specifically Ocean, Land, and Water Grabbing, and their relationships to food justice and (in) justices. In doing so, it looks at the relationship between Global North hegemony and its impacts on the Global South and the current issues that have arisen because of it. Key players and institutions as well as transnational corporations are looked at as factors for the crises. Further, this essay explores some solutions and alternatives to the crises of these unique challenges in the wake of the impending crisis of what is known as the “Anthropocene.”
PANEL 6:

Migration, Coloniality, and Cultural Reproduction

01. Mina Boules (The American University in Cairo)
Syrian Refugees in Egypt: How Does Success in Cairo’s Culinary Market Facilitate an Ability to Reclaim Cultural Heritage in Exile?

Legally, all recognized refugees in Egypt have the right to work. Thus when the Syrian crisis broke out in 2012 and sent, as of 2017, an estimated 120,000 to 500,000 displaced Syrians to Egypt, survival should not be problematic. But Egypt takes exception to the law and does not allow refugees to work in the formal economy. This research paper explores how Syrian refugees survive in Cairo, looking at the success of the Syrian food industry as a phenomenon that not only draws from a historic culinary tradition but that also enables displaced Syrians to reclaim cultural heritage.

02. Rachele Delva (Westminster College)
Kreyòl pale, Kreyòl konprann: Haitian identity and Creole mother tongue learning in Matènwa, Haiti

LKM, a small island school in the Matènwa community engaged in the reform of Haitian learning from a postcolonial education system to culturally relevant methods pedagogy, focuses on mother tongue instruction to legitimize the Creole language and new practices of cultural awareness to develop Haitian identity in students. Through observations, interviews, a focus group, and prolonged stay in the field methods, this research aimed to understand the impact of LKM’s learning on the primary school children, notably the 1st and 6th graders and to promote the hope that this learning model represents for the future of Haiti.

03. Lucas Draney (Utah Valley University)
The Principles of Inter-Cultural Violence and Peace

There are two principles that lie at the heart any cultural conflict: (1) dehumanization and (2) perception of oppression. As demonstrated in Mamdani’s book When Victims Become Killers, cultural conflict develops into structural and direct forms of violence, recognizing Galtung’s typologies of violence. Modernly this plays out as the license of the victim, as evident in trigger warnings, second-wave feminism, and other modern movements that seek to use forms of structural coercion. These issues can be resolved by through education; however, certain structural and paradigmatic flaws in US public education are preventing this dialectic movement to take place.
04. Andrea Cancino Sáenz (University of Utah)
Contradictory Rhetoric: Human Rights and Migration

The recent rise in migration in the U.S. and in Italy has led to polarizing language covering migrants. The United States and Italy are first world countries that claim to uphold values like Human Rights. Despite the favorable rhetoric, these countries still enact policies that actually undermine Human Rights. This contradiction is especially prevalent in the realm of migration. This paper uses news-media analysis of U.S. and Italian migration coverage which helps explain why these countries enact migration policies that contradict their value of “human rights”.

05. Nick Backman (Westminster College)
Reading Between the Lines: Labor Migrations and African Mitigation Techniques in Early Twentieth Century Southern Africa

My research examines early twentieth century labor migrations from the Bechuanaland Protectorate to German South West Africa. By exploring the relationship between labor migrations and the various ways that African populations mitigated colonial realities in a slightly different geographical space, this paper brings us to new conclusions regarding the focus of migrant labor within southern Africa. This paper explores the question of why African populations in the Bechuanaland Protectorate migrated to locations other than South Africa for work and the techniques utilized by such populations to mitigate colonial realities.
“The assumption that what currently exists must necessarily exist is the acid that corrodes all visionary thinking.” - Murray Bookchin