



JMU ARTS AND LETTERS
UNDERGRADUATE
RESEARCH
CONFERENCE
MARCH 29, 2025

JMU
College of Arts
and Letters

Sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters at James Madison University, this conference features more than 70 students presenting outstanding examples of undergraduate scholarship in the humanities, social sciences, and communications fields.

REGISTRATION

Opens at 8:30am, Taylor 307

Continental Breakfast, Taylor 306

SESSION #1

9:00am - 10:00am

Gender and Sexuality in Historical & Comparative Contexts Taylor 302

Moderator: Karina Kline-Gabel

Impacts of Labor on Women Within Communist China

Shelby Herrold, History, Bridgewater College

Case Studies of Feminism during the Second Sino-Japanese War:

How Survival Took Precedence over Suffrage

Sebastian Kochall, History and Political Science, Bridgewater College

Ancient Echoes — An Examination of Sexuality in Religion and Art within Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt, and Archaic Greece to the Greek City States (Athens and Sparta)

Annabel Thrush, History, James Madison University

Addressing Contemporary Challenges Taylor 305

Moderator: Aram Shahin

The Climate Change Crisis: A Public Health and National Security Threat

Elsa McKenney, International Affairs and Spanish, James Madison University

Why JMU Should Establish a Peer Support Hotline to Address Substance Abuse Among Students

Ciara Sinclair, Justice Studies, James Madison University

Instructions in the New Age: Assessing Bias across LLMs through Technical Communication Skills and Accuracy

Marina Hlouverakis, Writing Rhetoric and Technical Communication, James Madison University

Freddie Tavakoli, Writing Rhetoric and Technical Communication, James Madison University

LeeAnne English-Stewart, Writing Rhetoric and Technical Communication, James Madison University

Cole Knudson, Writing Rhetoric and Technical Communication, James Madison University

Undergraduate Research Labs in Psychology, Communication Studies, and Anthropology

Taylor 400

Moderator: Lindsey Harvell-Bowman

Exploring Terror Management Lab: The Positive Impact of Studying Death

Anna Robinson, Communication Studies, James Madison University

Emma Minstretta, Psychology, James Madison University

Emmy Reagan, Communication Studies, James Madison University

Madeleine Magnant, Psychology, James Madison University

Feminist Approaches to Researching the Gendered Microbiome in a Qualitative Lab

Seneca Humphries, Anthropology, James Madison University

Eva Snyder, Anthropology, James Madison University

Annie Kate Walsh, Anthropology, James Madison University

Contemporary Modes of Rhetoric: Sound Writing and Feminist Rhetoric

Taylor 402

Moderator: Jen Almjeld

Oliver

Sarah Rush, Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication, James Madison University

Vessels: Poet Versus Page

Grace Keeler, Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication, James Madison University

From Jingles to the Top 100: Have We Lost Our Quirk?

Sophie Bockman, Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication,
James Madison University

Girls. Period.

Genevieve Bavisotto, Olivia Brown, Ella Stotzky, Eva Catapano, Carolyn Salata, Alexa Perez, Alice Amaral, Ella Mearns, Hayden Bako, Cynthia Roberts, Haley Nguyen, Abby Camp, Sydney Shaver, Emmy Reagan, Ben Morris, and Colleen McGreal, Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication, James Madison University

SESSION #2

10:15am - 11:15am

History, Identity, and Philosophy

Taylor 302

Moderator: Alberto Urquidez

Britain in the Early Roman Empire: The Roman Perspective Through Publius Cornelius Tacitus

Edward Tomlinson, History and Philosophy, James Madison University

Is Water H₂O? A Dissection of Putnam's Twin Earth Thought Experiment

Sofia DeSimoni, Psychology and Philosophy, James Madison University

Our Relationship with the More-Than-Human World: Exploring How Students Perceive Their Ecocultural Identity and Discuss the Environment with Their Peers

Mary Mabry, Communication Studies, James Madison University

Housing Studies: Where We Live? How We Live?

Taylor 305

Moderator: Robin Leiter-White

A Needs Assessment for a Safe Parking Program in Harrisonburg/Rockingham County, VA

Rain Camerlinck, Sociology, James Madison University

An Archaeological Survey of a Missing Building at a Historic African American Property in Staunton, Virginia

Skylar Rogers, Anthropology, James Madison University

Hacking for Diplomacy and Diplomacy Lab

Taylor 400

Moderator: Bernie Kaussler

Investigating Chinese Subnational Influence in Central Europe

Alex Schwar, International Affairs, James Madison University

Andrew Gray, Political Science, James Madison University

Mia Buswell, International Affairs, James Madison University

Omer Mutlu, International Affairs and Political Science, James Madison University

SpecTrack

Rachel McCoy, Computer Science, James Madison University

Rafael Gould-Schultz, Computer Science, James Madison University

UAS Policy and Acquisition Expansion (UPAX)

Corinne Privitera, International Affairs, James Madison University

Thomas Brickhouse, Computer Science, James Madison University

Samuel Kolb, Public Policy & Administration, James Madison University

Nuri Songer-Johnson, International Affairs, James Madison University

Maddy Barchok, Political Science, James Madison University

Luke Hennessy, Computer Science, James Madison University

Intersections of Vulnerability: Addressing Diverse Challenges in Youth Justice

Taylor 402

Moderator: Rita Poteyeva

Reforming Foster-Care-to-Prison Pipeline in Youth Justice

Caroline Stoaks, Media Arts and Design, James Madison University

Girls in Gangs: A Call to Gender-Based Interventions

Maliyah Hickling, Inclusive Early Childhood Education, James Madison University

The Intersection of Race, Behavioral Health, and Youth Justice:

Examining Systemic Responses to Justice-Involved Youth Needs in King County, Washington

Makaela Parker, Justice Studies, James Madison University

The Criminalization and "Adultification" of Black Girls in the Juvenile Justice System: Understanding and Meeting the Needs of Crossover Youth

Kayleigh Bird, Social Work, James Madison University

SESSION #3

11:30am - 12:30pm

Reframing Francophone Africa: Challenging Colonial Legacies through Film

Taylor 302

Moderator: Amina Saidou

Power and Colonialism in *Chocolat*

Summer Khaswan, History, James Madison University

Symbolism Within *Chocolat*

Miah Michelle Hardy, Biology, James Madison University

Hybrid Identities: the Assimilation Between Colonized and Colonizer in the Film *Chocolat*

Ava Welsh, Psychology, James Madison University

Gender Roles: the Female Gaze in *Sugar Cane Alley*

Faith-Lyn Hay, James Madison University

Every Submission Has a Story: Publishing Undergraduate Research at James Madison University

Taylor 305

Room Moderator: Kevin Jefferson

Panel Moderator: Simon Van Nostrand, Modern Foreign Languages and Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication, James Madison University

Panelists:

Griffin Brilhart, Kailyn Brown, Kayleigh Terry, and Sara Curling, Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication, James Madison University

Power, Language, and Leadership Lab

Taylor 400

Moderator: John Scherpereel

Panelists:

Carter Dixon, Information Technology, James Madison University
Alida Schreuders, International Affairs, James Madison University
Noah Eckert, International Affairs, James Madison University
Meghana Kancharla, International Affairs, James Madison University

A Wittgensteinian Approach to Analysis of Animal Language

Taylor 402

Moderator: Alberto Urquidez

Panelists:

Sofia DeSimoni, Psychology and Philosophy, James Madison University

Oleksandra Popova, Philosophy, James Madison University

Poster Session

Taylor 404

Moderator: Robin Leiter-White

Solitary Confinement in the Juvenile Justice System

Mackenzie Weinkowitz, Justice Studies, James Madison University

Addressing Unique Pathways: Expanding Gender-Responsive Programming for Justice-Involved Girls

Molly Stein, Social Work, James Madison University

A New Paradigm for Youth Justice Reform: Providing Developmentally Appropriate Responses to Emerging Adults

Madison Rowe, Social Work, James Madison University

Existential Flourishing: Exploring Relational Cognition as a Mechanism to Produce More Meaningful Therapeutic Experiences

Lindsey Harvell-Bowman, Kenneth Critchfield, Paige D'Agostino, Sophia Bates, Alex Quinn, Erin Fuller, and Payton Stavalone, Terror Management Lab, James Madison University

Exploring Death Thought Accessibility Levels Among Young Adults When Writing About Close Relationships

Lindsey Harvell-Bowman, Kenneth Critchfield, Paige D'Agostino, Sophia Bates, Emily Ewing, Cody Lamb, and Mia Godfrey, Terror Management Lab, James Madison University

SpecTrack

Rachel McCoy, Computer Science, James Madison University

Rafael Gould-Schultz, Computer Science, James Madison University

A Menstruation Conversation: Memorable Messages and Menarche

Serena Philipsen, Communication Studies, James Madison University

Redesigning cities: Evaluating the Impact of 15-Minute Cities on Achieving UN's SDG 11

Tsion Deressa, International Affairs, James Madison University

Poster Sessions cont.

Taylor 404

Dougherty County

Delaney G. Campbell, History and Anthropology, James Madison University

Congress and Its Experts Project

American Political Reform & Innovation Laboratory (APRILab), James Madison University

LUNCH

12:30pm | Taylor 405

The Power of Undergraduate Research in Shaping Your Future

Panelists:

Alida Schreuders, International Affairs, James Madison University

John Scherpereel, Political Science, James Madison University

Edward Tomlinson, History and Philosophy, James Madison University

Alberto Urquidez, Philosophy, James Madison University

Best Paper Awards & Best Poster Award



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