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John Wesley Powell Student Research
Conference

2020, 31st Annual JWP Conference

Apr 4th, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Committee Thanks and Introduction

Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Acknowledgements

In light of the rampant spread of the coronavirus, this year's conference is cancelled. However, with the publication of this booklet we recognize the engaging research projects and the work so many Illinois Wesleyan students have already undertaken.

The John Wesley Powell Research Conference Committee would like to acknowledge the contributions of several individuals.

This conference could not have been a success without the contributions of Amy Jo Perez, Associate Provost's Office, and Jenny Hand, Institutional Research and Planning, in organizing many aspects of the conference and assembling and printing the program booklet.

The invaluable assistance provided by Bob Kelch and his staff at Sodexo Campus Services in setting up breakfast, luncheon and other refreshments is gratefully acknowledged.

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The photography and videography coverage by Nick Helten and Michael Limacher.

The Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee:

Carolyn Nadeau (chair), Todd Fuist (fall), Given Harper (fall), Seung-Hwan Lee (spring), William Munro, Gabe Spalding, Aaron Wilson (spring) and Rebecca Roesner (ex officio)

Annual Intellectual Theme

All participants that feel their work fits with the theme will be designated with the logo below.

FACT OR FICTION

Fact or Fiction

Learning to discern fact from fiction is a truly interdisciplinary challenge that requires the full array of skills developed through a liberal education. Mathematics and economics teach us quantitative literacy so we are not so easily misled by biased data. The sciences teach a tried and true method for evaluating scientific facts. Psychology helps us to understand the underlying cognitive processes that make it so hard to see through fake news with which we agree. Philosophy pushes us to consider epistemological questions about the nature of all knowledge. When studying actual works of fiction, we often learn something about how to be our best selves in the real world, while history shows us that fake news and propaganda are nothing new and have been contended with before.

<https://www.iwu.edu/annual-theme/2019/>