Sofia Filippa

**Major:** International Relations; Creative Writing (minor), Economics (minor)

**Hometown:** Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Thesis Title:** Legal Pluralism and Indigenous Women's Reproductive Rights in Guatemala

**Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law?** This topic explores the importance of and effect that health policies have in the field of democracy, development and the rule of law. Having full access to and knowledge of reproductive rights is essential for the life of every individual and a key element in policies oriented towards sustainable development. Simultaneously, utilizing legal pluralism as an analytical framework allows for a study of indigenous women as agents in the making and applying of law and norms, rather than as passive receivers.

**What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program?** The opportunity to learn about the intersection between policy implementation and academic research. CDDRL will allow me to explore my interest in the ways that academia can contribute to making a pragmatic impact in international development, especially in the field of gender equality in Latin America. I was also drawn to the program’s interdisciplinary focus, which fosters the exploration of an issue from multiple approaches, rather than from individual or set angles, thus generating a more complex analysis and thus a deeper understanding. I am also excited to be part of an intellectually exciting community formed by fellow students and expert faculty.

**Future aspirations post-Stanford:** My dream after Stanford is to go back to Latin America, my home region, and work in the design and implementation of development policies through grass-root organizations and NGOs in the field of gender equality. I also plan to go to graduate school and get a Master's degree in International Development.
What are you summer research plans? During the beginning of the summer I will be part of FSI’s Field Research Internship in Guatemala. I’ll be part of a group formed by students and professors conducting research in San Lucas Tolimán, where we’ll have the chance to interview community members and local health promoters. Afterwards I hope to stay in Guatemala to conduct further fieldwork in indigenous communities alongside different organizations, such as ALIANMISAR and Population Council.

A fun fact about yourself: I like writing short stories, I have an obsession with gum and green grapes and I enjoy following the ATP and WTA tennis tournaments on T.V.

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Seunghwa Madeleine Han

**Major:** International Relations, English

**Hometown:** San Ramon, CA

**Thesis Title:** Investigating Political Rhetoric: A Case Study of Political Efficacy in South Korea

A Fun fact about yourself: These days, my free time is spent learning about traditional tea ceremony.

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**Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law?** Democratic development is an integrative process, encompassing institutional change and indicators of democracy that are more challenging to assess—political efficacy being among them. South Korea, in particular, has been widely recognized for its rapid democratic transition in recent decades. Yet: Levels of political efficacy among South Korean citizens remain somewhat, and perhaps surprisingly, low. To begin addressing this question, I plan to investigate how different sectors of South Korean society—particularly the political regime and citizens—see themselves as actors in a democratic society by examining and comparing their political rhetoric.

**What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate program?** The interdisciplinary nature of the CDDRL undergraduate program appealed to me. I look forward to engaging a multi-perspectival approach to my thesis, as well as working with a diverse cohort of faculty and students across departments.

**Future aspirations post-Stanford:** I hope to keep exploring, thinking, learning, connecting, growing. I would like to eventually develop my interests in the implications of globalization, international correspondence and law before returning to graduate school.

**What are your summer research plans?** I am looking forward to spending the summer as a Stanford in Government (SIG) fellow at the East Asia Institute in Seoul, South Korea. I hope to conduct interviews for my thesis during my time abroad.
Amanda Jaffe

Major: Public Policy

Hometown: Orange County, California

Thesis Title: Examining the Possible Casual Factors Behind the Growth of Anti-EU Sentiment Throughout Europe

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? Through writing this thesis, I hope to explore and comment on the existence of democracy within supranational governing institutions like the EU. For these institutions to exist and be beneficial to their members, they need to learn from past mistakes and change based on the growing needs of their citizens. I ultimately seek to discover how the EU can better govern all citizens that fall under its jurisdiction, even minorities in underrepresented member nations.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? The CDDRL undergraduate honors program was the perfect fit for me as I was looking for an interdisciplinary program with a strong international focus. Since I want to conduct original research for my thesis while overseas this summer, having strong mentorship and resources available is extremely important to me. I also think the opportunities specifically available through this program, like traveling to DC for the CDDRL Honors College and working under the guidance of expert faculty, will greatly improve the quality of my thesis. I know pursuing a thesis through CDDRL will allow me to not only find the answer to a question of great personal interest, but will also help me become a well-rounded Stanford student ready to succeed in a career in policy.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: Following Stanford, I’m planning to attend law school and obtain a degree in international law. I hope to apply these skills to a career in foreign policy.

What are your summer research plans? This summer, I will be a research intern at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Belgium and plan to conduct thesis research on the EU while I am there. I hope to travel to other member nations as well, specifically the UK, and investigate the current sentiment towards the EU within these nations.

A fun fact about yourself: I’m a second generation American, as my grandparents immigrated to the US from Norway, and many of my relatives still live overseas.

Whitney McIntosh

Major: International Relations, English

Hometown: Melbourne, Australia

Thesis Title: The Discourse of Security in France During the Inter-War Years (1919-1925)

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? The way that we use the term ‘security’ has
evolved throughout the 20th century, gathering new referents and meanings over time. ‘Security’ is now almost ubiquitous, used in household phrases from ‘national security’ to ‘international security’, which is an outcome of the multitude of new threats that we face from globalization in the modern era. Tracing the notion of ‘security’ back through the 20th century, we find that it only began to emerge as a dominant concept following the armistice of World War I, and specifically in France. Examination of how the Western world began to think about security will give us greater insight into how the discourse of security shapes and has shaped national and international politics, particularly the way that states interact and respond to threats in our world today.

**What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program?** Being part of the CDDRL honors program is an incredible opportunity to conduct interdisciplinary research, using a variety of methodologies and working with faculty from diverse fields. I am particularly looking forward to being a part of a supportive research community, where I can work with a mentor, gain feedback from my peers, and work with CDDRL faculty.

**Future aspirations post-Stanford:** After Stanford, I hope to pursue graduate studies in international development, and then go on to work in the field.

**What are you summer research plans?** I undertook research for my honors thesis last summer through a Global Mentored Fellowship Grant from FSI. I travelled to Paris to conduct archival research at a number of archives in Paris, including the Archives Nationale, Bibliothèque François Mitterrand, and Ministère des Affaires Etrangère. At these archives, I was able to uncover a multitude of letters between diplomats and political leaders, memoirs written by past presidents, and documents relating to security pacts, all of which will be helpful for my research next year. I will again be in Paris this summer, so will have the opportunity to gather more documents if need be.

**A fun fact about yourself:** I have some experience in circus arts, and particularly acrobatics. I love tumbling, and working with others to learn cool tricks!

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**Amanda McLean**

**Major:** Political Science

**Hometown:** Vancouver, Canada

**Thesis Title:** The Impact of Governmental and Constitutional Design on Development in Ethnically Fractured African Countries

**Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law?** This topic is important as it expands on existing research that examines the impact of ethnic fractionalization on African countries. There is currently large amounts of debate in the development community regarding the best approach to addressing ethnic fractionalization in many countries, and whether "inclusivity" or "tolerance" policies better stimulate development. This project attempts to expand current understanding of these issues using aggregate data analysis and individual case studies.
What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? The CDDRL undergraduate honors program appeals to me due to its interdisciplinary nature and the freedom it provides to explore my areas of interest. CDDRL's faculty mentorship and support network create a rich environment in which my academic curiosity can grow into meaningful research.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: After my undergraduate career I plan to complete a co-terminal Master's program in Communications, focusing on the intersection between political communication and data analytics. I then hope to work and travel before attending law school.

What are your summer research plans? This summer I will be working in the Political Psychology Research Group at Stanford, focusing on a partner project with the data analytics company FiveThirtyEight that examines the effect of polling firm bias on their algorithm's prediction models. I will also be working on my thesis topic, and hope to conduct field research in September before resuming my studies.

A fun fact about yourself: I have one blue eye and one green eye.

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Sri Muppidi

Major: Economics; Creative Writing (minor)

Hometown: Pleasanton, CA

Thesis Title: Impact of Remittances on Girls' Education in Households in Telangana, India

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? This is an important topic because India is the largest receiver of remittances, having received over $72 billion in 2015. I hope to examine the effect of remittances on individual households and attempt to understand households' expenditures on education. I am particularly interested in understanding the impact of remittances on girls' education since it has great potential in driving development.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? I'm interested in the CDDRL undergraduate honors program because it offers an amazing support network, and I hope to learn as much as I can from my peers, mentors, and professors. I am also excited about the interdisciplinary class seminars, and I look forward to learning about different perspectives on issues related to democracy, development, and the rule of law.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: I hope to continue working in the field of development, specifically on issues related to women empowerment, and I hope to live in India at some point in my life. I also want to continue writing, and eventually, I hope to open up a coffee shop.

What are your summer research plans? I'll be working at the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor at the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C.

A fun fact about yourself: I have a cat named Garfield. He's very cute.
Kate Nelson

**Major:** Human Biology  
**Hometown:** Norwalk, CT  
**Thesis Title:** Demand-side factors affecting vaccine uptake in Tanzania

**Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law?** Tanzania has made significant strides in reducing childhood mortality, in large part due to extensive vaccination campaigns. I plan to examine the factors contributing to this success, which hold important implications for expanding coverage in other countries as well as for expanding coverage of the relatively new rotavirus and pneumococcal vaccines. Low coverage rates persist even when health technologies are accessible and affordable, indicating a need to address demand-side factors. Identifying these factors will allow countries to develop targeted incentives to reach the populations that remain unvaccinated and to meet development goals.

**What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program?** I became interested in the CDDRL honors program because of the opportunity it offers to explore my interests in global health and policy from an interdisciplinary perspective. I am also looking forward to working with my peers in the CDDRL cohort and their diverse research interests.

**Future aspirations post-Stanford:** After Stanford I hope to have the opportunity to work internationally on global health issues while thinking about the best way to design and implement global health policies. I then hope to pursue a graduate degree in health policy.

**What are you summer research plans?** I will be on campus for part of the summer doing background research and getting started on my thesis. I will also be interning part time for a global health NGO and will hopefully be traveling to Tanzania.

**A fun fact about yourself:** I love restoring and tinkering with antique typewriters and have a small collection at home.

Yisroel Quint

**Major:** Slavic Languages and Literatures; History (minor), Political Science (minor)  
**Hometown:** Bronx, New York  
**Thesis Title:** “Singapore of the Middle East?": The Failure of the 2005 Israeli Disengagement From Gaza

**Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law?** When Israel announced that it would unilaterally disengage from Gaza, there was excitement at the opportunity to develop the Strip and create a Singapore in the Middle East. The international community believed the Disengagement was the
first-step in working towards a two-state solution and saw a chance to continue building Palestinian governance institutions. Additionally, the U.S. promoted democratic elections in the Palestinian Territories, which would take place 5 months after the Disengagement in January 2006. However, Hamas ended up winning the elections, and the disengagement did not lead to the building of a flourishing economy and democracy, but instead to an area with extreme poverty, terrorist threats, and conflict between Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Israel that has resulted in thousands of rockets being fired into Israel and the death of thousands of Palestinians. This thesis will explore why the disengagement had these catastrophic outcomes, the problems created by the elections, and other failures in economic and institutional development.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? The CDDRL honors program presents an amazing opportunity to work closely with leading professors in the field, students with similar interests, but widely different areas of expertise, and to work in an interdisciplinary field that will encourage me to view this topic through a different lens. These professors and students provide an amazing support group for the process of independent research, which I had hoped to do since I entered Stanford.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: I want to continue exploring and trying to influence policy decisions regarding the two regions I am most passionate about, the post-Soviet space and the Middle East. Whether I will do so from inside the government, working for an NGO, or from a university is still up in the air.

What are you summer research plans? I will be in Israel interviewing politicians, journalists, and academicians who were involved in, covered, or have researched the Israeli Disengagement from Gaza.

A fun fact about yourself: I took the Trans-Siberian Railroad across Russia and I feel most at home when wandering around old Soviet buildings, in Russian bathhouses, and on the outskirts of small towns in Siberia.

Oscar Sarabia

Major: Public Policy

Hometown: Sacramento, California

Thesis Title: Quantitative and qualitative comparative analysis of migration policy among the United States, Canada, and Sweden

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? Migration policy is contentious international issue that has taken center stage in today’s political discourse. Often, migration policy is made on political and economic fears rather than evidence based research. Through the increase of globalization, the fear based migration policies in place in many countries will no longer work as we become more integrated. Although each country is unique it its own right, the success of some migration
policies in other places can be used as a model develop a more constructive set of laws in the United States.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? The CDDRL program offers a unique opportunity to perform qualitative and quantitative research on my topic of interest. Additionally, the interdisciplinary nature of the program is conducive to input from different fields and puts topics in an international framework. Finally, the CDDRL honors program will allow me to integrate the international and human rights perspective to my current research.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: Beyond Stanford, I will be attending law school to learn the legal theory necessary to become an effective attorney who can work in a field that affects real policy, specifically in migration policy.

What are you summer research plans? This summer I will be interning at the ACLU Immigrants’ Rights Project in San Francisco, CA. Furthermore, I will be reviewing literature, conducting research of each country, and gathering data for my thesis.

A fun fact about yourself: I was born in Mexico City and love trying new food, so let me know if you know of an interesting and delicious dish.

Jessica Spicer

Major: International Relations; Dance (minor)

Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Thesis Title: Perspectives on the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? Impunity is commonly cited as the primary obstacle to upholding rule of law. In Guatemala, prior to the introduction of the Commission, impunity rates for murder were around 97%. Now, according to the Overseas Security Advisory Council, they have dropped to about 70% in 2012. The commission, also known as CICIG, provides a novel mechanism for reducing impunity that preserves state sovereignty. It is regarded as successful by Guatemalan leaders and international actors, and CICIG is extremely well liked among the Guatemalan people. U.S. state officials even believe that CICIG’s methodology could have applications in other high impunity countries such as Honduras or El Salvador.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? The professors in this program are one of a kind. I had the opportunity to read some of their works and connect with a few of the professors, and I was deeply impressed by their knowledge base, contributions to the field, and accessibility to undergraduates. I am so thankful that I get the opportunity to be mentored and guided by world class scholars as an undergraduate student.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: In the future, I would like to pursue my dream of being a professional artist. I am deeply interested in interdisciplinary versus transdisciplinary art, and I believe that changes in technology and marketing are making art accessible and understandable
to everyone. With this change in scope, I would like to explore how we can turn non-art consumers into conscious consumers of art.

**What are you summer research plans?** This summer I will be working at Warner Music Group in Los Angeles with a cohort of Stanford students looking to impact the changing music industry.

**A fun fact about yourself:** I was an Air Force Junior ROTC Corps Commander (TX 882nd), and Air Force Academy Nationals Unarmed Drill Team National Champion (2013).

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**Debnil Sur**

- **Major:** Computer Science; Mathematics (minor); Electrical Engineering (coterm)
- **Hometown:** Sunnyvale, CA
- **Thesis Title:** Detecting Collective Action and Oppression through Image Data

**Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law?** My thesis aims to develop a method to rigorously measure the location and scale of collective action events and their repression in authoritarian regimes, through a case study of China. Past studies of Chinese censorship have found that the government lets criticism exist but actively censors records of protests, marches, and other forms of collective actions. In response, citizens have started sharing images and videos on social media sites to report collective action. Advances in artificial intelligence allow the automated collection and analysis of this unstructured image information, thus significantly improving our understanding of collective action and repression in China. It would also make an important methodological advance in the use of images as social science data: while text-to-data has rapidly spread in popularity, social scientists have not utilized recent, rapid advances in computer vision at all. Thus, this also serves as a proof-of-concept for the utility of advances in computer vision and machine learning to make inferences in the social sciences.

**What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program?** I have a deep interest in both applied mathematics and the study of politics. My coursework has let me engage the first deeply but often foreclosed delving into the second. The multidisciplinary nature, outstanding faculty, and general flexibility of the CDDRL honors program lets me unite these interests, meet a peer group interested in political questions, and improve my abilities as a researcher and thinker.

**Future aspirations post-Stanford:** I plan to attend graduate school and continue working at the intersection of artificial intelligence and political science. I think artificial intelligence has enormous potential ramifications for the future of world governance and would like to play a pivotal part in ensuring a successful, ethical development.

**What are your summer research plans?** I'll be working on my thesis on campus over summer. I'm really looking forward to several months to immerse myself in all stages of my work: collecting images, designing models, and (hopefully) analyzing results!
Alina Utrata

Major: History
Hometown: Burlingame, California
Thesis Title: Impact and Perceptions of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in Bosnia

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? Since the ICTY was first established in 1993, there has been a proliferation in the use of international tribunals and hybrid courts as a method of addressing post-conflict situations. The international community ascribes many important functions to these courts, including fostering peace, establishing the truth about atrocities, contributing to reconciliation, and making a positive impact on transitional justice. However, the actual impact of tribunals on the communities whose crimes they prosecute is often unclear. My thesis will examine the perceptions and history of the ICTY in Bosnia to evaluate the Tribunal’s impact on the country.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? The CDDRL program offers a fantastic opportunity to delve into rule of law issues. I am particularly excited about the interdisciplinary nature of the program and the opportunity to hear criticisms and feedback from a variety of perceptions.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: I want to work on human rights and addressing conflict and mass atrocities in the future. Hopefully my thesis will provide me with some insights on how to best contribute to this field. I also have an eye towards law school.

What are you summer research plans? This summer I will be in Phnom Penh, Cambodia conducting trial monitoring of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia through the Stanford WSD HANDA Center for Human Rights and International Justice.

A fun fact about yourself: When I was thirteen I wrote many stories about magical creatures and my novella about vampires can still be checked out from my middle school library.
David Wintermeyer

Major: Mathematical and Computational Sciences; History; Archaeology (minor)

Hometown: Indianapolis Indiana

Thesis Title: Grappling with issues of language, literacy, and heritage in post-Mandela South Africa

Why is this topic important to the field of democracy, development, and the rule of law? I am interested in questions of language, literature, and heritage. South Africa faces tremendous challenges in terms of language and heritage, as it seeks to form a "rainbow nation," including in some measure Afrikaaner language and culture into a society that recently used that culture and language as a vehicle of oppression. Questions of language and heritage connect to the longterm success of Democracy and Development in South Africa, as a true democracy must incorporate all parties, even those that previously imposed a very not inclusive democracy.

What attracted you to the CDDRL undergraduate honors program? I love the interdisciplinary nature of CDDRL. Being a humanities and tech double major, CDDRL gives me a platform to combine my many interests in an internationally focused framework.

Future aspirations post-Stanford: I hope to spend my 20s traveling and exploring different cultures before returning to the United States and teaching high school English.

What are you summer research plans? I will be pursuing my research remotely from Seattle, where I will be working full time as a software development intern for Amazon.

A fun fact about yourself: I am a huge sports fan and especially love basketball.