

**Casey Brennan**

Hometown: Suwanee, Georgia

- Major: Sociology
- Minors: History and Science, Technology, and Values
- Advisor: Mim Thomas

Inclusion of Disability on Notre Dame's Campus and in Notre Dame's Inclusion Statement

This project aims to discuss the University of Notre Dame's Inclusion Statement. The thesis discusses inclusion and students' thoughts on it on campus and in the inclusion statement.



**Megan Gallagher**

Hometown: Goshen, Indiana

- Majors: Psychology and Sociology
- Advisor: Anna Haskins

Out of Sight, Out of Mind: The Effect of Suspension and Expulsion on Students' Feelings of Connection to School

My project aims to look at the relationship between suspension or expulsion and feelings of school connection using data from the Future of Families and Child Wellbeing Study and quantitative methods. I ask how suspension or expulsion at year nine of the study impacts feelings of connectedness at year 15. I hypothesize that suspension or expulsion at year nine will significantly decrease students' feelings of connectedness to school at year 15, controlling for individual and school-level attributes. Additionally, I aim to explore the moderating impact of teacher care on school connectedness for students who experience exclusionary school discipline.



**Ainsley Gibbs**

Hometown: Ashland, Oregon

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Sociology
- Advisor: Katie Bugyis

Laboring in the Light: *The Rule of St. Benedict* as a Guide for Lay Life

How do Benedictine monastic values play into lay life? What are the currents of the *Rule of St. Benedict* in this world outside of enclosure? In this creative project, I draw on Benedictine spiritual literature and my experience at the Abbey of Regina Laudis to create a repository of stories and ponderings. I transpose the main elements of Benedictine life into ways of living in the secular world. I focus on stability, enclosure, obedience, humility, manual labor, prayer, and conversion.



**Angel Lai**

Hometown: Wuhan, Hubei, China

- Majors: Economics and Sociology
- Advisor: Jeff Denning

Ōlelo Hawai'i: Factors Shaping Hawaiian Language Class Take-Up in Hawai'i's Public High Schools

There has been an increasing demand for language classes in the U.S. in the past decade. Most existing literature explores the effects of nationwide language policies, and only a limited number of them focus on understanding factors that shape program availability. My paper fills this gap by exploring factors that affect both school- and student-level Hawaiian class take-ups in Hawai'i's public high schools using a longitudinal dataset. I utilize predictive analysis and fixed-effect models and find that both school size and race remain the most significant predictors.



**Chiara Lorico-Rappa**

Hometown: Las Vegas, Nevada

- Majors: Psychology and Anthropology
- Minor: Sociology
- Advisor: Susan Blum

Educational Paths in Higher Education: Influences and Choices

I interviewed adults to analyze the major factors that influence one's academic path.



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**Mary Quirk**

Hometown: Louisville, Kentucky

- Majors: Sociology and Peace Studies
- Minors: Catholic Social Tradition and Energy Studies
- Advisor: Elizabeth McClintock

Parsing Perspectives: Understanding Stakeholder Points of View in the Context of American Transitional Housing

Through a series of qualitative interviews with staff, alumni, and alumni who became staff of transitional housing programs from around the United States, this research investigates how the perspective of each stakeholder group aligns with and/or differs from the others. The ultimate goal of this work is to enable any differences in perspective to be understood and communicated so that housing programs can better serve their participants.



**Paula Velazquez**

Hometown: Amarillo, Texas

- Majors: Psychology and Sociology
- Advisor: Maria McKenna

Fatherhood Behind Bars: The Journey of Identity, Separation, and Reintegration

This project explores how incarceration affects the identities of fathers, especially their roles as providers and caregivers. It was inspired by how prison conditions disrupt parenting, making it difficult for fathers to stay connected with their children and maintain family relationships. Through interviews with formerly incarcerated men, the study examines the emotional toll of separation, the psychological impact of being unable to parent, and the role of prison programs like parenting classes, education, and counseling. It asks whether these programs support reintegration or deepen isolation. This research calls for policies that recognize fatherhood and invest in resources to strengthen family bonds during and after incarceration.



**Mary Grace Walsh**

Hometown: Midlothian, Virginia

- Majors: Sociology and Theology
- Minor: Health, Humanities, and Society
- Advisor: Erika Summers-Effler

Shame to Game: Identity Formation Behind and Beyond the Paralympic Veil

My thesis explores how paralympic athletes undergo complex emotional and social identity transformation throughout their journeys in para sport. Drawing on 10 days of ethnography at the Paralympic Trials and Games, along with 20 interviews with Paris 2024 Paralympians, I argue that para sport mitigates unacknowledged shame stemming from interactions with nondisabled people, helping athletes integrate disability into their identity with pride. By validating the disabled identity and fostering team solidarity, para sport shifts the focus from disability to athleticism, reducing internalized ableism and shame while transforming athletes' locus of control and sense of self.

