



2026 Research Showcase

Friday, April 24th, 2026



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
JAMES MADISON COLLEGE

Agenda

Friday, April 24th, 2026

James Madison College | Case Hall
Michigan State University

8:30 - 9:00 am

Presenter Check-In

Check-in and pick up name tag outside Club Spartan

9:00 - 10:15 am

Session One

Panels and thesis presentations throughout Case Hall

10:30 - 11:45 am

Session Two

Panels and thesis presentations throughout Case Hall

12:00 - 12:45 pm

Lunch Break

Lunch is provided in Club Spartan as supply lasts

1:00 - 2:15 pm

Session Three

Panels and thesis presentations throughout Case Hall

2:30 - 3:45 pm

Session Four

Panels and thesis presentations throughout Case Hall

Session One

9:00-10:15 am

Club Spartan

Libya Migrant Demographic Database and Mapping Project

- Ashleigh Blair
- Ella Cantrell
- Jacob Cox
- Frank Fabrizio
- Beata Helland
- Gabrielle Hewawissa
- Meghan Hunt
- Rachael Lee
- Jordan Lichy
- Emily Littlejohn
- Ashlin Stover
- Michaela Svensson
- Demetrius Tyson
- Katie West

Moderated by: Professor Bobby Brathwaite

JMC Library

American Liberalism and Conservatism

- Isabella Cucchetti | *Libertarianism: The Third Option in American Politics*
- Sophia Gianino | *The Diploma Divide: Educational Realignment and Contemporary American Voting Behavior*
- Andrew Rann | *Partisan Media During Unprecedented Events*
- Will Wright | *Congressional Committees and Party Leaders*

Moderated by: Professor Ben Lorch

Room 335A

American Liberalism and Conservatism

- Katherine Kling | *Importing Customary International Environmental Law through Domestic Institutions: the Precautionary Principle in India*
- Sameer Saraswat | *Heideggerian Environmentalism*

Moderated by: Professor Mark Axelrod

Room 335B

Senior Honors Thesis

Prestige, Perception, and Power: Explaining Saudi Arabia's Divergent Strategies in Syria and Yemen

- William Castanier

Session One

9:00-10:15 am

Room 336

The Care Economy and Inequality in Michigan

- Madeline Bist | *Mapping Inequality*
- Faith Greenwood, Saumya Johri, Nahlia Moncrief | *Women, Work and Household Balance in the Evolving Care Economy*

Moderated by: Professor Sejuti Das Gupta

Room 340

Student Use of and Perspectives on AI at MSU

- Adam Arnold
- JJ DeFeo
- Colin Reese

Moderated by: Professor Daniel Kramer

Room 342

Senior Honors Thesis

Insecurity of Identity: The Return to Confrontational Russia-West Relations in the Post-Cold War

- Benjamin Stewart

Session Two

10:30 - 11:45 am

Club Spartan

Sudanese Civil War Investigative Project

- Mia Allen
- Sanjna Bijoy
- Tessa Bunn
- Will Castanier
- Yousif Elya
- Jacob Herzig
- Kael Ligon
- Leo Shields

Moderated by: Professor Bobby Brathwaite

JMC Library

Democratization and Authoritarian Resilience

- Ben Gunther | *State Structure and Economic Management in Authoritarian-led Democratization: Mexico's PRI and South Korea*
- Bakary Toure | *Resource Wealth and Democratic Backsliding A Comparative Study of Ivory Coast and Senegal*
- Sam Wright | *Democratic Resilience in the Information Age*

Moderated by: Professor Myunghee Lee

Room 335B

Senior Honors Thesis

Enacting Karbala: South Asian Shia Diasporic Youth's Engagement with Religion and Politics

- Ahmed Amir

Room 336

Senior Honors Thesis

The Political Economy of Myanmar's Scam Compounds

- Zachary Oliver

Session Two

10:30 - 11:45 am

Room 340

U.S. Health Care Policy and Politics

- Carly Kalkauski | *Policy Recommendations for AI in Public Health: A Case for Cautious Optimism*
- Ella Schuler | *Pesticide Exposure Among Migrant Farmworkers: Health Impacts and Barriers to Medical Care/Insurance*
- Alex Walters | *McKinsey & Company as a Commercial Determinant of Health*

Moderated by: Professor Susan Stein-Roggenbuck

Room 341

Senior Honors Thesis

Break Every Yoke: How a revisitation of Liberation Theology provides a new understanding of Political Oppression and Economic Inequality in 20th Century Latin America

- Olivia Schaefer

Room 342

Law, Parties, and Administrative Politics in the U.S.

- Gabrielle Hewawissa | *U.S. Political Apathy: A Look at the Two-Party System and Digital Overstimulation*
- Julia Kirk | *Consumer Protection*
- Leah Willingham | *An American's Guide to Not Technically Breaking Nonprofit Finance Law*

Moderated by: Professor Jordan Cash

Session Three

1:00 - 2:15 pm

Club Spartan

The Political Populism and Economic Justice in Latin America Project

- Alahna Burns
- Aditi Dhar
- Abigail Dzikowicz
- Josephine Froman
- Ava Jackson
- Patrick Kochaney
- Ella Kramer
- Carson Perz
- Hana Thorson
- Edona Vuli

Moderated by: Professor Bobby Brathwaite

JMC Library

Cults of Personality in Dictatorships

- Bralyn Campbell | *Syngman Rhee in South Korea*
- Harry Cornell | *Nicolae Ceaușescu and Elena Ceaușescu in the Socialist Republic of Romania*
- Ben Gunther | *Lee Kuan Yew in Singapore and Jean-Bédél Bokassa in the Central African Republic*
- Jessica Hertell | *Miguel Alemán Valdés in Mexico*
- Reese Stoetzel | *Assad regime in Syria*

Moderated by: Professor Myunghee Lee

Room 335B

Senior Honors Thesis

Contemporary State and Private Militaries: Challenges and Politics

- Isabelle Radakovich

Session Three

1:00 - 2:15 pm

Room 336

Contemporary State and Private Militaries: Challenges and Politics

- Khushi Gooroochurn | *Women In Combat: The Integration of Women in the US Military, Effects on Cohesion, and Debunking Myths*
- Jacob Herzig | *The Friction Between Private Military Contractors and State Militaries During Combat Operations*

Moderated by: Professor Kirstin Brathwaite

Room 340

U.S., Chinese, and Russian Foreign Policy

- Chloe Francis | *China / Russia Research in the Western World*
- Ashlee Walker | *The Final Exit - U.S. Withdrawal from Afghanistan: Climax of American Distrust*

Moderated by: Professor Norm Graham

Room 341

Senior Honors Thesis

Striking Fire from the Earth: The Expropriation of the Texas Plains

- Henry Jerred

Session Four

2:30 - 3:45 pm

Club Spartan

How to Rig an Election: Power, Identity Politics, and the Viability of Democratic Institutions

- Frank Fabrizio
- Abby Nellis
- Isabelle Radakovich
- Isabel Stille

Moderated by: Professor Omowumi Elemo-Kaka

JMC Library

Remembering the Civil War and US Fascism

- Jamemah Dos-Reis | *The Paradox of Atrocity: Genocidal Reconstructive Illusions*
- Delaney Grant | *America's Dance with Fascism: William Dudley Pelley and the Silver Legion*
- Patrick Pajak | *The United Daughters of the Confederacy: A Legacy of Racial Oppression and Historical Revisionism*

Moderated by: Professor Eric Petrie

Room 335B

Senior Honors Thesis

Rooted in Hope: Persistence in Black Liberalism and Humanity in America

- Thea Walerski

Room 336

Senior Honors Thesis

Refuting Nietzsche's Immoralism Through Adam Smith's Moral Theory

- Nicholas Caruso

Session Four

2:30 - 3:45 pm

Room 339

Health Care in the Classroom and Clinics

- Caroline Beckrow | *Disparities in Breast Cancer Treatment and Survivorship Care in the United States*
- Lea MacGregor | *Health Policy: Comprehensive Sexual Education and Its Effects on Student Health and Well-Being*

Moderated by: Professor Susan Stein-Roggenbuck

Room 340

Senior Honors Thesis

Indian Independence: Lessons on Liberal Democracy in South Asia

- Prayag Shankar

Thank you

To our students,

You are the reason we host this event. Your passion, hard work, and creativity were on full display, and we are incredibly proud of all that you've accomplished. You are the heart of James Madison College!

To our guests,

Thank you for being here and sharing in this experience. Your support and engagement added so much to the day. We appreciate you and all you bring to our community.

To our faculty and staff,

Your dedication and ongoing support made today possible. Thank you for moderating panels and providing your guidance and expertise to our students.

To everyone,

Thank you for being part of the James Madison College community. What we have in Case Hall is truly unique and unmatched across campus. It's the collective contributions of each of you that make JMC so special both on campus and around the globe.



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