

<b>Name:</b> Daniel Schaefer		
<b>Project Title:</b> <i>Una vijita al djudeo-espanyol</i> : Analyzing the language and culture of Sephardic communities in Sarajevo and Thessaloniki		

### Abstract

Judeo-Spanish is the historical language of Sephardic Jews, the descendants of Jewish populations expelled from the Iberian Peninsula following the Alhambra Decree of 1492. They formed various communities throughout Europe and the Middle East, though particularly in parts of the former Ottoman Empire. Among these are the cities Sarajevo, Bosnia and Thessaloniki, Greece. In the time between the Alhambra Decree and the twentieth century, these communities flourished in the areas of trade, commerce, literature, and arts, leaving in these cities marks of their presence and maintaining their version of the Spanish language.

However, tragedy and warfare has endangered Sephardic culture and the Judeo-Spanish language over the past century: Much of Thessaloniki's Jewish population was deported, fled, or perished as a result of Nazi occupation, and Bosnian Jews have been imperiled by authoritarian governments and civil war. In the modern day, fears of appearing outwardly "Jewish" in such tumultuous historical contexts and the prominence of surrounding local languages have pushed Judeo-Spanish towards language decline: Most native speakers are elderly and transmission to children for more than liturgical purposes is increasingly uncommon. This project, therefore, seeks to, (1) collect linguistic data, particularly verbal elicitations for phonological and grammatical analysis, in order to assist in the production of a large-scale, comparative grammar project between dialects of Judeo-Spanish, and (2) create a documentary detailing the history of Sephardic

communities in these cities, focusing on modern-day experiences and cross-cultural interactions. Traveling to Sarajevo and Thessaloniki will enable these projects. More specifically, linguistic, and particularly phonological data will be collected on native speakers in each city to establish a phonemic inventory for these dialects and create a public database for those interested in researching and learning Judeo-Spanish. The documentary will highlight Sephardic culture with the goal of promoting public awareness and dispelling misconceptions and prejudices.

Mickey Nguyen

**Title:** Relationship Between Buddhism, Mindfulness, and Patient-Caregiver Connection: An Ethnographic Study of a Buddhist Orphanage

**Abstract**

My project will explore the link between mindfulness practices and healing communities. Though classic scientific research has made great strides in developing new treatments for medical diseases, little research exists to identify markers of high-quality health care, such as empathy, attentiveness, and emotional support. To address this lack of research, my study will explore other approaches to caring for vulnerable populations that transcend medical knowledge and clinical expertise.

The question guiding my research is as follows: How might caregivers' practice of mindfulness affect their ability to build healing relationships with their patients? Mindfulness is defined as the process of bringing one's complete attention to the present moment. If mindfulness is about being fully present and accepting, then being more mindful can help caregivers listen more deeply and engage more empathetically with their patients.

To carry out my project, I will spend two months at a Buddhist Orphanage in Vietnam. The goal is to gain insight into the Buddhist nuns' daily mindfulness practices, and see how these techniques might enhance the care they ultimately provide to especially vulnerable children. Questions I will address include: How does Buddhism and mindfulness affect how the nuns discipline children with disruptive behaviors? How does a mindful, spiritual environment help orphans overcome adverse childhood experiences?

Through snapshots of the daily ways in which Buddhist nuns nurture orphaned children, this ethnography offers the opportunity to refine and critique the constructs of our healthcare system and the social expectations of high-quality patient care. By addressing the link between Buddhist traditions and caregiving relationships, we are taking a crucial step towards forming a community of helping professionals who are committed to compassionate care and emotional connection.

**Drew Sanclemente**

Abstract

**It's All About the Climb: A Trek of Self Discovery, Accessibility Changes, and Empowerment**

With the help of the Plastino Scholars Award, I will travel to Tanzania to summit Mount Kilimanjaro. While summiting I plan to utilize a pulse oximeter to record heart rate and peripheral oxygen saturation in order to measure the effects of altitude on an individual who is comfortable and acclimated with such a grueling trip (expedition guide) compared to an individual who is not acclimated and is not used to such grueling conditions. This climb provides a unique opportunity to test these variables as the porters and guides summit the mountain as their full time jobs. As a student, although physically fit enough to summit, the altitude and exertion would provide unique challenges to me. Comparing the data collected during and post climb allow me to make an accurate conclusion about the effects of climbing on the circulatory and respiratory systems, which could greatly benefit future climbers. The trip would last 21 days accounting for the ten day summiting experience with an additional ten days spent volunteering in NGOs like the Arusha Women Legal Aid and Human Rights Organization. I will utilize this time to learn about the impact of sexual and physical violence of women in Tanzania and to host a seminar in relation to my personal experience with sexual violence and the Time's Up movement in the US. By doing so, I will be able to spread the message to the empowered women of Tanzania that the world is with them, backs them, and they are supported globally.

**A Call to Memory, a Call to Conscience, and the Principle of Moral Growth: Complexities in  
Holocaust and Genocide Education**

2018 Plastino Scholars Program

Olivia Mann

REVISED: February 18, 2018

### **Abstract**

The nuances of Holocaust and genocide education in rural, predominately Christian areas are worthwhile considerations. It is my belief that as generations grow up and new ones are born, as the distance from the Holocaust increases, it is necessary to reform the methods in which its history is taught. Traveling to the Jewish History Museum/Holocaust History Center in Tucson, AZ, the Mizel Museum in Denver, CO, the Institute for Holocaust Education in Omaha, NE, and the Children's Holocaust Memorial in Whitwell, TN will aid me in discerning if religious identity occludes Holocaust and genocide education. To investigate the relationship between religious identity and Holocaust and genocide education, I intend to conduct interviews with museum professionals, mainly museum curators and museum educators, at the Jewish History Museum/Holocaust History Center in Tucson, AZ, the Mizel Museum in Denver, CO, the Institute for Holocaust Education in Omaha, NE, and the Children's Holocaust Memorial in Whitwell, TN. In addition, I will take part in a guided tour meant for K-12 students. If possible, I will also sit in on a field trip to the museum. In a political climate inching closer to a potential standardization of Holocaust and genocide education in school districts, investigating the nuances of Holocaust and genocide education in rural, predominately Christian areas will inform legislators on if religious identity militates or confounds Holocaust and genocide education. "A Call to Memory, a Call to Conscience, and the Principle of Moral Growth: Complexities in Holocaust and Genocide Education" will take place over Winter Session 2019, lasting approximately two weeks.