Neha Basu ‘24
India, Research
Majors: Psychology, Sociology

**Project Title:** *In Pursuit of Interstitial Spatial Justice: Street Vending in Kolkata*

Neha Basu ‘24 will investigate the nature of street food vendors’ interactions with the law and what the local vending landscape reveals about conceptions of public space, culture, and economic factors, as well how vendors in Kolkata navigate these regulations. She will utilize a participatory action methodology, interviewing local vendors and government officials, guided by legal archival research. This project builds on Neha’s past work with street vending communities as a CASA Research Fellow with the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice. Neha will graduate with a double major in psychology and sociology.

Sahar Dabirian ‘24
Spain (La Rioja), English Teaching Assistantship
Major: Public, Health Minor: Spanish

Sahar Dabirian ‘24 will teach English in the La Rioja region of Spain. As a child of Muslim immigrants in the United States, Sahar intends to provide representation of the "insider outsider" cultural experience while utilizing her multilingual background in English, Spanish, and Persian to celebrate diversity in the curricula. Sahar is graduating with a major in public health and a minor in Spanish. While at Pitzer, Sahar served as a Resident Assistant, President of the Middle Eastern Student Association and studied abroad through our Costa Rica program.

Ava Francis-Hall ‘24
Nepal, Research
Major: Political Studies, Minor: Economics

**Project Title:** *Politics of Care: Life for Returnee Migrants with Chronic Kidney Disease*

Ava Francis-Hall ‘24 will conduct a qualitative research study to investigate the economic and social conditions of returnee Nepali migrant laborers from Malaysia and Gulf countries diagnosed with kidney disease. Ava will examine this issue through the lens of dialysis infrastructure, personal dynamics of care, and family economics and community support. Ava’s project was informed by her time in Nepal through Pitzer's study abroad program. She will graduate with a major in political studies and a minor in economics.
Erica Hjelle ‘24  
Laos, English Teaching Assistantship  
Major: Psychology, Minor: Religious Studies

Erica Hjelle’s ‘24 experiences as a Pitzer student have shaped her desire to undertake an English Teaching Assistantship in Laos. As a psychology major with a religious studies background, Erica’s coursework in East and Southeast Asian religion have influenced her interest in the region, further inspired by her immersive cultural and English teaching experience in Pitzer’s Nepal program. In addition to teaching English in Laotian schools, Erica will organize language and cross-cultural activities by applying an individuality-focused pedagogy.

Skylar Masuda ‘24  
Turkey (Türkiye), Research  
Majors: Classics, Human-Centered Design  

Project Title: Return of Anatolian Artifacts to Turkish Museums: A Design Impact Analysis

What happens after looted artifacts are returned to Turkey? Skylar Masuda ‘24 plans to work with the Turkey Design Council to provide an interdisciplinary analysis of the display and community impact of repatriated artifacts. Through qualitative interviews with curators, museum educators, and community members, Skylar aims to pull together the stories of returned artifacts, their role in these museums, and their community reception. Skylar was a curatorial research intern at the Getty Museum. As a student of language, Skylar previously studied ancient Greek and is studying Turkish to enhance her cultural engagement through conversation, research, and travel.

Elizabeth (Ellie) Montoro ‘24  
Italy, Research  
Major: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics  

Project Title: Italian Policy: Impacts on Mass Maritime Migration in the Mediterranean

As a philosophy, politics, and economics major, Elizabeth Montoro ‘24 seeks to investigate how current Italian maritime policies related to mass migration in the Mediterranean impact NGO rescue vessels, volunteers, migrants, and Southern Italian residents. Elizabeth’s experiences as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard and as a legal intern at Centro Immigrazione Asilo Cooperazione Onlus in Parma, Italy provide her with substantive insight and expertise in international maritime law and migration. Ellizabeth spent 7 months studying Italian and will spend the summer at Middlebury Italian Language School to be optimally prepared for her research.
Lauren Robles ’24
Taiwan, English Teaching Assistantship
Major: Political Studies, Minor: Chicanx Latinx Studies

Lauren Robles’ 24 desire to become an English Teaching Assistant in Taiwan stems from her deep passion for learning as well as her positionality and experience working with students of diverse ethnic and learning backgrounds. For her time in Taiwan, Lauren has an interest in learning Mandarin while immersed in local culture. Lauren is graduating with a major in political studies and a minor in Chicanx Latinx studies. Having previously studied in Spain, this grant will serve in expanding Lauren’s knowledge of comparative politics that she intends to apply to a career in educational policy.

Laila Scarborough-Scharf ’23
Spain (Canary Islands), English Teaching Assistantship
Major: Critical Global Studies, Minor: Media Studies

Having previously studied abroad in Sevilla, Spain, Laila Scarborough-Scharf ’23 brings to her English Teaching Assistantship substantial country knowledge and experience in writing, tutoring, and teaching English to Spanish-speaking students. As a 2023 graduate of Pitzer’s critical global studies major with a minor in media studies, Laila is eager to incorporate media arts in the classroom as a foundation for cultural analysis and exchange through a collaborative classroom environment. Laila’s future plans include working in New York City with organizations that use media arts for advocacy and encourage intercultural dialogue through art and education.

Tommy Shenoi ’24
Italy (Casten Family Foundation Award at The University of Gastronomic Sciences)
Majors: Food & Agricultural Studies, Environmental Analysis

Tommy Shenoi ’24 was granted the Fulbright Casten Family Foundation Award for a Master’s in World Food Studies at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Pollenzo, Italy. The degree offers an interdisciplinary approach to gastronomy, international food policy, and food sustainability. A double major in environmental analysis and self-designed food and agriculture studies, Tommy proposed to research the effects of climate change on Italian fungi, including truffles and porcini mushrooms, and contextualize the influence of the Slow Food Movement.
Sarah Snyder ’24
Timor-Leste, English Teaching Assistantship
Majors: Environmental Analysis, Organizational Studies

Sarah Snyder ’24 will graduate with a double major in environmental studies and organizational studies. As a participant in Pitzer’s Southern Africa study abroad program, Sarah lived with host families in Tanzania and South Africa. In Timor-Leste, Sarah looks forward to engaging in cultural exchange with her students and volunteering at UmaAmerika. As a Head Fellow at Pitzer’s Robert Redford Conservancy, Sarah plans to continue her interests in environmental sustainability by exploring local agriculture systems, nature preservation, and resource extraction in the face of climate change. Following the ETA, Sarah wants to pursue a career in law to serve communities facing land-use, human rights, and environmental violations.

Robert (Bobby) Stitt ’22
Sri Lanka, Research
Major: Economics, Environmental Analysis, Minor: Studio Arts

Project Title: Efficient Solar Regulation: Bridging the Gap in Sri Lanka

Bobby Stitt’s ’22 project addresses energy efficiency issues in solar irrigation systems with the aim to empower farmers, optimize equipment manufacturing, and align government subsidies with efficiency goals. The project seeks to create a more sustainable solar irrigation landscape in Sri Lanka that reduces energy waste and promotes sustainability for farmers and the environment. Bobby graduated in ’22 with a double major in economics and environmental analysis, and a minor in studio arts. He comes to this project with strong academic and professional knowledge in environmental and development economics, and solar power and irrigation.