

Grace Maginn
Graduation Year: Senior
College: Arts & Letters
Major(s): History
Minors(s): Art History
Scholar Group Membership: no

Did you received other funding for this project?: Department of History
Could you have completed this project without CUSE funding? No
More details on CUSE funding assistance?

Project Title: Images of War: Spanish Postcards in La Campaña del Rif
Project Location: The Maritime Museum, San Diego, California
ND Faculty Mentor: Professor Karen Graubart
Project Type: Conference - Presentation

Why did you undertake this project/experience? Deepen your knowledge of a topic or issue, Research/experience necessary for senior thesis or capstone project, Career discernment and/or preparation, Internationalize your Notre Dame experience

Did your funded experience help you:

[Deepen your understanding of your coursework or field of study]: Very Much
[Discern your interests and post-bac goals]: Yes
[Become confident in your ability to set and achieve your goals]: Very Much
[Gain a more nuanced view of local, national, or global communities]: Yes
[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]: Very Much

Tell us about your experience.

The presentation I gave for the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies annual conference was the culmination of nearly two years of research. My work deals with Spanish war postcards - looking at both their production and dissemination. In my work, I argue that both the production and dissemination of war postcards during the Rif War (a colonial war between Spain and Morocco in the 1920s) was both a highly intentional and strategic move on the part of the Spanish government. I seek to look at the ways the government used these postcards as a form of propaganda, to incite public support for the war efforts. In presenting my research at this conference, I was required to be academically professional, well-spoken and well-read. I was the only undergraduate who participated on a panel at the conference, and as such, I needed to prove that my work was academically serious. In presenting my research (in large part because of the CUSE grant I received), I was given practice in both learning how to give a presentation, as well as how to receive constructive feedback. My experience re-energized me, and made me incredibly excited to complete my thesis.

Describe the impact this project had, both on you as a student-scholar and on the people you worked with.

Presenting my research at this conference made me realize that I am not the only one interested in this topic. It was fascinating to see so many scholars from all over the world coming to San Diego to hear their peers speak. Although the presentation made me solidify my decision to generally stay out of the world of academia, it was still beneficial in that sense. Giving this presentation has helped me rethink my academic and career future.

Describe how this experience is connected to your plans as a student or future professional.

As I have previously mentioned, the paper I gave for this conference was just one chapter of my senior thesis, which deals with Spanish nationalism and identity as it relates to the Rif War. The presentation challenged me to truly articulate myself - to craft an argument that could be absorbed in a twenty-minute time frame. Presenting my research has truly put me ahead in my thesis writing, and I feel like I have much less work to do now that I have already spent time crafting a thesis statement.

What advice would you give other students who are planning to pursue similar projects?

Just write a grant! Notre Dame has a wealth of opportunities for you to pursue your academic passions. I only wish I had known about the awesomeness of grants sooner! The grant I received through CUSE allowed me to meet amazing scholars, graduate students, and young professionals in my field. It gave me the confidence to learn how to both present and receive constructive criticisms on my work. It has truly been an amazing experience that I could not have done without help from the Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement.
