

Undergraduate Research Newsletter

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Wednesday Luncheon

Dr. Jean Wyatt, ECLS

Dietary Restrictions?
Email urc@oxy.edu



Can Reading Change the Reader? Narrative Structure in Toni Morrison's *Love*

Professor Wyatt argues that in her recent novel *Love*, Toni Morrison plays a narrative trick on the reader; the narrative structure misleads the reader about the answer to the most elementary question one can ask of a novel: What is this novel about? The conclusion of the novel forces the reader to rethink everything she thought she knew about the novel she has been reading. According to Professor Wyatt's analysis, the novel's narrative strategy is designed to lead the reader to reflect on, and perhaps change, the preconceptions the reader has brought to her reading - assumptions about the nature of love and about who qualifies to be a lover.

Samuelson Pavilion

Meagan McGinty Tackles Democracy, American Aid and Revolution in the Middle East

Follow Meagan's Blog at arabspringresearch.wordpress.com



Earlier this year, protests erupted in Tunisia and ultimately overturned the government. Shortly after Tunisia's success, a chain reaction of protest and discussion spread through the Arab world.

The question of why these protests germinated and the implications for U.S. foreign policy struck sophomore Meagan McGinty as worthy of investigation.. She is currently researching how U.S. promotion of democracy through the past several decades influenced the events of the Arab Spring. "I'm isolating programs that the U.S. has implemented in the last couple decades, and I'm going to assess the impact they've had on the Arab Spring," McGinty said. The programs she will be looking at include military and non-profit democracy-building initiatives.

The Arab Spring relates to McGinty's academic interests as a Politics major, but she is also concerned about its humanitarian costs. "Because the Arab world is going through such a major change, I wanted to look at what our role could be and what we should be learning from the uprisings," McGinty said. "Even though a lot of Americans are very optimistic about the possibility of democracy, [the uprisings] are really violent and it's not an ideal situation."

McGinty's research has budgetary implications as well. "We've always encouraged democracy promotion to combat anti-western sentiment, and sometimes it doesn't make a big impact, yet we devote a lot of resources to it," she said.

McGinty is also blogging about her research. As she reads articles she summarizes and adds her opinions in a blog post. Despite her foray into social media, McGinty thinks the importance of social networking on the Arab Spring is overblown. "People have always been able to organize and there has been a long history of protests in the Middle East."

Weekend Plans? Some ideas...

Improv Olympics West

Comedy up-and-comers flock to this week-long event in Hollywood. Workshops, sketches and group performances fill the week. \$5-\$25 Hollywood Blvd.

Pride Parade

Fri., Sat., Sun.
Santa Monica



Celebrate the LGBT community and watch fantastic headliners like Sam Sparro, Estelle, and Macy Gray.

Tony Awards

CBS
Sunday, 8:00 pm
Neil Patrick Harris hosts the Tony Awards for the second time since he received an Emmy for his job in 2009.

70° Weekend Weather

Friday 70°
Saturday 70°
Sunday 68°

Art in the Streets

Until August 8
MOCA
Check out the new Graff Art exhibit!

(details on the URC Facebook or our website)