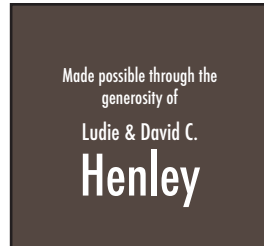


The Ludie and David C. Henley Social Sciences RESEARCH LAB



It has been a busy year for the Henley Lab! Our work has been cited widely in the news media, most recently by *CNN*, *the Atlantic*, and *NPR*, our students have been accepted into prestigious graduate and law schools, and our research has assisted the National Weather Service (Oxnard/Los Angeles), helping to make all of us safer from disasters. In addition, the lab provided support

five days a week to students who needed tutoring in SPSS and quantitative methods for courses that include this content. The Henley Lab developed resources to assist students and faculty in pivoting to a virtual environment, including videos and guides for remotely accessing and using SPSS.

2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Student Achievement and Research

Over the years, Henley Lab fellows have become known for getting into prestigious graduate schools and law schools such as Columbia, USC, UCLA and the London School of Economics (to name a few). They have also gone on to careers at the State Department, local government, academia, non-profits, and the private sector. This year's graduates continued this fine tradition. Paige Goedderz ('21) who majored in sociology and minored in Spanish, will be attending the USC Gould School of law in the fall. Reflecting on the importance of the Henley Lab to her education, Paige said, "The Henley Research Lab has truly been the leading opportunity of my undergraduate experience without a doubt. I was able to meet so many amazing scholars and faculty, research pertinent social issues, apply my academic studies to real life, assist my peers in their studies, and improve my public speaking skills when presenting findings at conferences. I truly believe that this has culminated in the chance to attend my dream law school: USC Gould School of Law where I will start in the fall of this year. I am so honored that Dr. Gordon accepted me into the Lab with open arms as a mentor almost 3 years ago and to Mr. and Mrs. Henley for funding such an incredible undergraduate research center."

The Henley Lab congratulates Shreya Sheth ('21), Peace Studies major and Honors program, for publishing her thesis in the *Regimes Museum Journal*. Her thesis

investigates the repression of civil liberties activists in Tunisia and Egypt after the Arab Spring.

Henley Lab alumnus Brett Robertson ('14) won the prestigious 2021 W. Charles Redding Outstanding Dissertation Award from the International Communication Association's Organizational Communication Division for his dissertation, *Developing Resilience through Communication and Community: Natural Disaster Preparedness in Retirement Communities* that investigates disaster preparedness in retirement communities. Robertson began his interest in natural disasters while conducting research as an undergraduate fellow in the Henley Lab. He is now an assistant professor at the University of South Carolina.

Alumnus, Kai Hamilton-Gentry ('18) co-authored a book, *Homeland Insecurity: Terrorism, Mass Shootings and the Public*, Routledge, with the Henley Lab director. The Henley Lab was a pivotal experience for Hamilton-Gentry. As he explains:

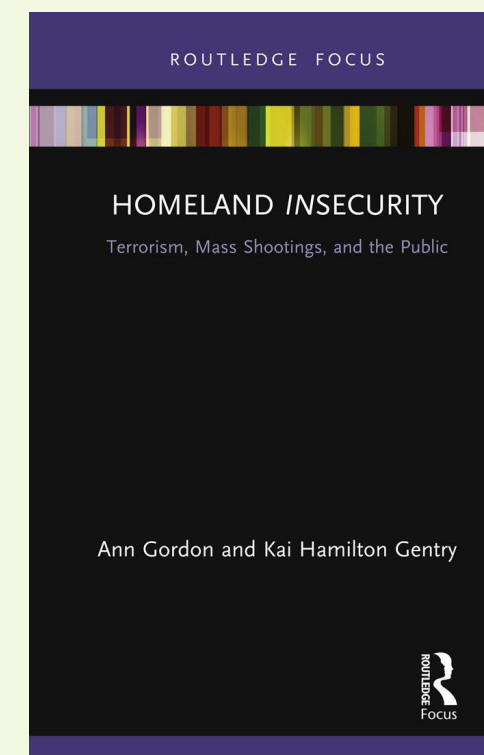
"Working in the Henley Lab was my first 'real' job that wasn't scooping ice cream at minimum wage. It was the first time I had found a job that had continuing benefits that weren't limited to the pay. I was given an opportunity to learn while I worked and that's a pretty incredible deal. This had immense value to me as someone who came from a single income family since it gave me the opportunity to support myself financially while continuing to learn out of the classroom.

2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS

I was surrounded by bright and ambitious colleagues as well as faculty that truly wanted the best for all of us. I felt that I was given the tools, encouragement, and confidence to find my own way whenever I could while knowing that support was just a few steps away. It was easy to be there and a joy to work in the Henley Lab for as long as I did. I consider myself lucky to have had such an impactful opportunity while still in school.

In fact, I think the Henley Lab had more of an impact in terms of career preparation than my degree did. As much as a degree gives you a foundation and gets your foot in the door, an experience like this is really what gets you through that door. I learned so much working in the Henley Lab and I am very thankful to have had Dr. Gordon there to guide me during my time as a Fellow and now as a newly published author. It was a surreal experience to write and publish a book over these last few years and it would not have been possible without the skills I learned during my time as a Henley Fellow.

"To all involved with the Henley Lab and especially Mr. & Mrs. Henley, I offer the heartiest of thank-yous that cannot express the gratitude I have and certainly does not repay the debt I owe you."



FEAR Survey

Each summer, a team of undergraduate researchers assembles to work on the Chapman Survey of American Fears (an in-depth examination into the fears of average Americans). The students work on group projects, such as researching new content areas for the FEAR survey, and they analyze the results of the survey. In the Henley lab, they receive advanced training in statistics, research methods, data analysis, and specialized software. All the data analysis for the FEAR survey is conducted in the Henley lab. Student researchers use FEAR data throughout the academic year in research projects and theses.

Henley Lab Loves Data

In addition to ongoing tutoring and workshops in quantitative methods and survey research, the Henley Lab serves as the gateway to the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) with access to a data archive of more than 250,000 files of research in the social and behavioral sciences. This year, we participated in International Love Data Week, with a full week of webinars ranging from an introduction to data on COVID-19, to *Digital Methods for Dance History: Finding Arts and Culture Data in Unexpected Places*, to utilizing data for senior theses.



Disaster Preparedness Research

The Henley lab is partnering with the National Weather Service (Los Angeles) on a project to develop and test public warnings about wildfires and debris flows. Working with talented students and faculty across Wilkinson, including the Babbie Center and Ideation Lab, the project aims to address the urgent need for effective public messaging and proposes concrete design solutions. Henley Lab students have been researching California wildfires and debris flows, and analyzing data collected by the Babbie Center. Ultimately, this work will lead to better communications with the public and has the potential to save lives in a disaster.