PLEASE NOTE: Your answers need not fit into the space provided. You may include additional pages as necessary, not to exceed a total of 10 pages.

**Title of Proposed Research or Creative Project:** Identity and Memory in Post-Conflict Cambodia

1. **Describe the proposed research or creative project:**
   (PLEASE NOTE: Avoid jargon or terms unique to the discipline. If you must use such terms, please define them so all committee members can understand your proposal.)

   My project, “Identity and Memory in Post-Conflict Cambodia,” will explore the role of memorials in modern Cambodian society. The research that I will conduct in Phnom Penh this summer will be directed toward completion of my senior honors anthropology and HTC journalism theses.

   In the late 1970s, Cambodian society was wracked by the rule of the Khmer Rouge regime, which sought to create a classless society by force. Under this regime, roughly a quarter of the population was systematically killed or died from famine. In the years since the genocide, Cambodia has slowly recovered, but sites of significance, such as the Killing Fields at Choeung Ek near Phnom Penh, have been marked by memorials and museums.

   My goal is to understand how the population of Cambodia – more than 50 percent of which was born after the genocide – understands its violent past and how different age groups interpret the narratives and artifacts presented at memorials and memorial museums. This will explore generational differences in memory, identity and memorialization, and it will also look into how emotional proximity to the genocide affects interpretation.

   I will broadly survey memorials throughout Cambodia, focusing on those close to the cities Phnom Penh or Siem Reap. In particular this will include the Killing Fields, where millions of people were executed and is currently a tourist spot, but I will also explore additional national and local memorials. This list will be elaborated later in the “Methods” section.

   I will be conducting this research with the support of the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) in Phnom Penh, because OU has deep and extensive contacts within the organization. DC-Cam is a non-governmental organization seeking to discover the truth of what happened under the Pol Pot/Khmer Rouge regime with the goal of aiding in the nation’s movement toward recovery and reconciliation. The organization is world renowned and has worked with students and faculty from universities such as Yale and Rutgers. Most recently, Ohio University was added to that list, having only last summer signed a Memorandum of Understanding with DC-Cam. I will be the first Bobcat to take part in this collaboration. This relationship has been cultivated by Dr. Christine Su, director of OU’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies. I will also be working closely with Dr. Haley Duschinski and Dr. Bernhard Debatin to develop my anthropology and journalism theses respectively.

2. **Describe the end goal, specific aim or hypothesis of the proposed research or creative project:**

   I have two primary goals for this trip:

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1. Honors Tutorial College journalism senior thesis
2. Anthropology honors thesis

**HTC Journalism Thesis:**

One of the options for the journalism thesis is to do a professional project, which is what I will do. Once I return to Athens in the fall, I will work on a magazine that I will write, design and publish about identity and memory in post-conflict Cambodia. My summer research will have been directed toward the completion of ten to fifteen articles about memorial sites and museums, individuals and the intersections between history, identity and narrative. This will include descriptions of prominent and less-prominent memorials as well as feature interviews with locals regarding their interpretations of the sites. Although the articles themselves will be the primary focus of the magazine, I will also take photographs for it, and I will design and publish the magazine myself. With the permission of DC-Cam and the assistance of a translator, I hope to send copies of the final project in both English and Khmer for the organization’s use and reference. In a 20-page defense paper, which accompanies professional project theses in the journalism thesis guidelines, I will analyze these memorials using mass media theories, particularly those dealing with conflict reporting.

**Anthropology Honors Thesis:**

The anthropology honors thesis will be an ethnographic article at least 50 pages long that will answer the research questions:

- How does the general Khmer population use genocide memorials?
- How is the Cambodian genocide framed in memorials? How does this change in sites of national or local significance?
- What is the relationship between emotional involvement in a conflict and the use of memorials?

In my analysis, I will refer to Alexander Hinton’s work on the anthropology of genocide, Louis Bickford’s work on participatory justice and Paul Williams work on memorial museums.

3. **Describe the method you will use to accomplish the end goal or specific aim of the proposed research or creative project:**

This project will be conducted from mid-May through mid-August 2014 (three months) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and surrounding cities. My affiliation with DC-Cam will open up opportunities to connect with individuals who went through the Khmer Rouge regime and are willing to talk about it, which will aid in both research projects. Additionally, I intend to conduct research at the following memorial sites:

- The Killing Fields (Cheoung Ek)
- Security Prison 21 museum (Tuol Sleng)
- Phnom Oudong
- Champuh Ka’ek
- Kesararam
- Samdech Mony.

If it makes sense, this list may expand to include other sites and particularly local ones that may have been overlooked in my preliminary research. These sites are clustered around the cities Phnom Penh and Siem Reap.
HTC Journalism Thesis:

Journalism methodology draws from observation, interviews and factual research. I will gather interview information throughout the summer and write the articles and paper when I return to Athens in the fall. The magazine will comprise 10 to 15 articles and accompanying photographs that will feature individuals and memorial sites throughout the country. The specific topics of these articles will be determined halfway through the summer.

Through DC-Cam, I will set up interviews with older individuals to talk about their experiences under the Khmer Rouge and how they understand it now. I will also coordinate with a local youth organization to gain an alternative perspective, which is important in journalism. The Cambodian education system does not teach about the Khmer Rouge, so youths who do know about it likely learned from family members. I will ask the youths, like the elders, to articulate their knowledge and understanding of the regime and survey the memorials sites, if any, that are popular among youths. I will also set up interviews with people who maintain memorials. These interviews, if permitted, will be recorded for later transcription, and I will ask interviewees if they will accompany me to a nearby memorial site for photographs, which accompany the interview in the final magazine.

In addition to interviews, the journalism research will include an exploration into the history, design and function of memorial sites around the country. I will visit these sites and speak with those working there to develop feature articles on the sites. I will also write a brief history of the Khmer Rouge regime and Cambodia’s recovery, which will be featured near the front of the magazine. With the permission of DC-Cam and the assistance of a translator, I hope to send DC-Cam copies of the magazine in both English and Khmer for the organization’s use and reference.

The 20-page paper defending the magazine as a professional project will explore the methods I used to research for the article and develop the magazine. Additionally, I will use this space to analyze the memorials as a form of mass media and use theories relevant to conflict reporting to explore the local and international interpretations of the conflict and memorials. Two related theories that will guide my journalism thesis research are the hostile media effect and contrast/assimilation. These theories, developed throughout the years by journalism scholars, explain that emotionally invested audiences will interpret mass media as biased against their interests. I will test this theory as it applies to Cambodian genocide memorials.

This thesis will be conducted under the supervision of my director of studies, Dr. Bernhard Debatin, and an as-yet-undecided journalism thesis adviser.

Anthropology Honors Thesis:

Anthropology is built upon a foundation of participant observation, which means that the researcher interacts with the culture in order to understand it. Because of this, the most important component of my ethnography research will be to physically go to memorial sites around the country to observe and interact with memorial patrons.

Through DC-Cam, I will have the opportunity to form relationships with individuals who are willing to talk about their experience under the Khmer Rouge. Additionally, I have asked Dr. Christine Su to help me contact local youth and senior organizations, where I can join as a participant-observer in daily activities. Ideally, I would like to accompany these groups separately on field trips to memorial sites, and if no such trip is set up, I will speak with the organization directors to try to organize one. On these trips, I will be able to observe with the benefit of familiarity. I will also conduct formal, semi-structured interviews with
individuals from these groups, where I will ask specifically about the way their personal histories and the narratives of memorials interact. These interviews will be recorded with consent of the interviewee. In addition to working with these two groups, I will physically travel around the country to memorial sites, where I will conduct additional interviews when the opportunity arises. I will approach groups of individuals, introducing myself in the context of my research, and ask if I may observe them as they use the memorial. These trips, while less formal, will ground me in multiple research sites.

All research for both projects will be conducted with prior IRB approval.

4. Describe the significance of your research or creative project. Why is it important to the discipline?

Post-conflict truth recovery organizations are often the only of their kind in the country they work. Because of this, much of their criticism comes from the international community. Additionally, there has been little investigation into the Cambodian population’s interpretation of memorialization. I hope to fill this gap in the literature. I want to contribute to an analysis of the post-conflict work in Cambodia as both an anthropologist and a journalist by aiding in the understanding of age difference in identity and memory. This will aid truth recovery organizations – in particular DC-Cam but also others – by providing a critique of their work and bridging a generational gap in the memorialization of traumatic events. Through these analyses the international community can become more sensitive to age and emotional proximity in developing memorials that will be meaningful to everyone in a post-conflict region.

5. (Answer ONLY if your project is part of, or fits within the research being conducted by a faculty member or your faculty advisor.) Describe specifically how our project fits within or is distinguishable from your faculty member’s research.
Requested Funding

Please note:
- If you request funds to purchase expensive equipment, such as computers, hardware, printers, cameras, etc., you must justify that the equipment does not exist elsewhere on campus for your use. If such equipment is funded, it will not become your personal property; it must remain in the academic department.
- If you request funds to pay for tuition at another institution, you must justify why your project cannot be completed unless you attend another school.
- If you request funds for a hotel room while at a conference or for research-related work, the committee will award funding for only two nights in a hotel.
- If you request funds for travel to present your research results or creative activity, indicate the name and date of the conference and provide specific travel plans.

Itemize each amount needed for each purpose. Be specific!

This is a budget for three months in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airline tickets</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>This is the lowest cost for a flight from Cincinnati to Phnom Penh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and water</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation (intra- and inter-</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>A portion of my project will be conducted at memorial sites around the country, so I will need to travel at points. Additionally, I want to be able to visit those who agree to be a part of my project where and when it makes sense for them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>city)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living expenses</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>This will be for day-to-day necessities aside from food and water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Fund</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>In case something out of my control requires money, such as getting injured, I want to be able to take care of it quickly and easily.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4300</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: If you are requesting travel funding only, please explain how you funded the other parts of your research project.

Have you requested funds for this project from your department or college? _x_ yes ___ no

Are you receiving funding for this project from your college, school, department or any other source? __ yes ___ no  If yes, amount you will receive:  __unknown for now________

I will pursue additional funding from the following sources:

- HTC Dean’s Discretionary Funding (max: $1000)
- Office of Education Abroad Merit OR Need-Based Travel Grant (max: $2000)
- Rotary International Scholarship (requested information)
I anticipate applying for other small grants and fellowships as they arise.

Provide an expected timetable for research (e.g., when it will start, how long it will take, when it will be completed?)

The majority of my research will be completed from May 10 through August 10, 2014 (three months), and, once school begins, any supplementary research will be conducted remotely.

Spring Semester 2014
- Develop anthropology research proposal under the supervision of Dr. Haley Duschinski
- Develop journalism research proposal under the supervision of Dr. Bernhard Debatin

May 10 through August 10, 2014 (three months)
- Conduct anthropology and journalism theses research in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Fall Semester 2014
- Data analysis
- Draft anthropology thesis chapters under the supervision of Dr. Haley Duschinski
- Draft journalism thesis articles under the supervision of as-yet-unknown journalism thesis advisor
- Create mock-up of journalism thesis magazine under the supervision of as-yet-unknown journalism thesis advisor
- Draft journalism thesis chapters under the supervision of as-yet-unknown journalism thesis advisor

Spring Semester 2014
- Finalize anthropology thesis under the supervision of Dr. Haley Duschinski
- Finalize journalism thesis under the supervision of as-yet-unknown journalism thesis advisor
- Finalize journalism thesis magazine under the supervision of as-yet-unknown journalism thesis advisor