

**David Harris Flaherty Undergraduate Student Library Scholarship 2019**

**Recipient By Megan Ingram, Faculty of Social Sciences**

**Award-winning Essay**

As a third-year student pursuing my Honours degree in Sociology with a minor in Film Studies, the nature of my program is often, for lack of a better word, dishevelled. The discipline of Sociology is inherently interdisciplinary and when combined with an interdisciplinary minor, the opportunities for research prove to be seemingly unlimited. UVic's libraries and incredible librarians and staff have helped me find direction on numerous occasions: grounding my education, narrowing my theses, and providing tailored suggestions for research. Additionally, the libraries have provided me with textual and filmic academic resources that have been the foundation of my research. These factors have led to some of my best academic and creative work, as well as providing satisfying learning experiences in and of themselves.

In the Winter 2018 semester, I had the pleasure of taking AHVS 312 "Gender, Identity, and Film" with Dr. Lianne McLarty. The course, interdisciplinary in nature, touched on sociological, feminist, and film theories that I'd never heard of, as well as opening my eyes to the world of intersectional representation in media. For the term paper, we were assigned to write on any films listed as options on the syllabus, and incorporate whatever relevant theory we saw fit. Naturally, due to the sheer amount of options, I had no idea where to start. Resultantly, I headed to the Music and Media desk where I promptly checked out three potential films and asked to use a viewing room. This service proved invaluable to my eventual thesis as I was able to view the films on a large screen and notice details that proved to be intrinsic to my argument that I would not have been able to pick up on should I have watched the films on my small laptop screen.

Upon returning the films I ended up having a discussion with one of the staff members at the Music and Media desk who had been a TA in a previous film course I had taken. Based on the films I'd viewed they suggested a couple of books by Mary Anne Doane to add to my reference list including *Desire to Desire* (1989) which contained theory that became the foundation of my paper on maternal melodrama tropes in contemporary coming of age films. I retrieved the book from the library shelves, found several more sources through Summon 2.0, and set to work. I spent hours in the library taking advantage of Biblio's tea, and the dual monitor desks in the library itself. Upon completing the paper, I reworked my thesis with Tracy at the CAC and submitted the final draft to my professor with confidence.

The paper ended up landing me a directed study with Dr. McLarty on representations of law enforcement personnel in media that I will be completing in the Spring of 2020, and I have no doubt that the library will again provide me with the resources and support that I need in order to have the most fulfilling experience that I can.