2020 Graduation Essay Awards

The British and American Cultural Studies Program makes awards each year to 4th year students for the best graduation essays. All seminar supervisors may submit selections of the year's best work. The awards recognize excellence in research and writing. The research activities of the three English seminars supervised by Professors Armstrong, Boulanger and Piccolo are summarized below along with each professor's selection of the best research essay for 2020. BACS would like to congratulate this year's winners. A larger selection of graduation essays in Japanese and in English can be found in the BACS 2020 Graduation Thesis Collection.

Professor Armstrong's Seminar

Immigration, education and film were the focus of research in my seminar this year. Ryuji Hirano examined the contemporary situation of migrants in the European Union. He chose two films, a Spanish comedy entitled Off Course (2015) and the hit French comedy-drama The Untouchables (2011), to illustrate the situation of migrants. Ryuji's analysis highlighted the increasing number of migrants who must rely on social support or who

experience problems finding unemployment because of language barriers or discrimination. Alice Oshima also chose film analysis as the focus of her research, selecting Albert and David Maysles' celebrated documentary Grey Gardens (1975). Alice examined Grey Gardens in comparison with the 2015 mockumentary "Sandy Passage," part of the series Documentary Now! created by Fred Armisen, Bill Hader and Seth Meyers. Alice argues that, for the most part, the mockumentary imitates in order to celebrate the style and themes of the original. Jurina Yamamoto, who will teach at junior high after graduation, chose to examine the use of active learning in junior high English classes. Jurina conducted interviews with teachers at her school in order to learn their opinions about and approaches to active learning. She concludes her essay by offering three activities to foster active learning in English classes. Naoko Agata read widely for her essay on film adaptations of Broadway musicals, a topic that has not received much attention from film scholars. Naoko's aim was to identify the factors that make for a successful film adaptation, citing a combination of fidelity and originality as well as storytelling, casting, and spectacle. Successful films such as Chicago and Mamma Mia! are discussed along with less successful ones, such as Cats. Kana Mizuno also read widely for her examination of multiculturalism and immigration policy in Australia. Kana cites Australia as one of the most successful multicultural countries for its system of immigration that links entrants to Australia's labour needs. Kana's background details the country's shift from a White-only policy immigration to an

embrace of multiculturalism following the Second World War before focusing on the various categories by which Australia accepts immigrants. She concludes by listing some of the social and economic benefits that immigrants have brought to Australia. For her extensive research, solid conception and organization, and strong work ethic, Kana's essay "Multiculturalism in Australia: Migration Policy and Its Economic Benefits" is this year's best graduation thesis in my seminar.