Undergraduate Research Opportunity

PROJECT

Fishing & Travel Writing in the 19th & 20th Centuries

Prof. Tobias Harper
History

For this project, “Fishing and Travel Writing in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries,” students will search for and read fishing stories from travelers in the British Empire. There is a vast enthusiast fishing literature in English, most of it from the last two hundred years. This project is part of a history of fish and fishing in the British Empire in an effort to see how ideas, laws, and fish themselves moved around the world in the nineteenth century, driven by the high cultural priority given by elites in the British Empire to fishing as recreation and certain kinds of fish as status symbols.

STUDENT

Research assistant’s duties:
Students will search for and read fishing stories from travelers in the British Empire, interpreted broadly - British travelers going to other parts of the world; people from the empire traveling to Britain or other places; and people from outside the British Empire traveling within it. The final product will be a report in the form of an annotated bibliography, listing sources with a description of the source and tags with keywords.

Required skills or qualifications:
Familiarity with doing historical research in primary source databases desirable though not required.

Skills student will acquire:
Experience of using primary source databases; skim-reading for research; knowledge of scientific and cultural networks in the British Empire.