

*Politics of the Olive Branch* grew from an intentional four year research agenda surrounding environmental policy, international relations, peace and justice. During my first year at LMU, I learned through library research sessions with Dr. Linh Hua how I could capture the overlap of my majors – environmental studies and international relations, and apply the lense I wanted, a feminist, decolonised framework, with LMU Hannon Library’s tools. This independent project on Environmental Peacebuilding is in part the product of broader research conducted in other classes, including *Feminism, Justice and Decolonization* taught by Dr. Jessica Martinez-Tebbel, *International Security* taught by Dr. Jennifer Ramos, and *International Environmental Policy*, taught by Dr. Tyler Harlan. In these courses, I have focused final projects on what is now a section of my literature review and background content for *Politics of the Olive Branch*. With support from the library, as well as notable support from Dr. Morgan Gross, I have been able to built my research agenda in an organized manner throughout the past four years.

The process of what now exists as *Poltics of Olive Branch* was supported in two ways, the content and material gathered through courses, and the research skills and methods built through the LMU Hannon Library. My bibliography consists almost entirely of scholarly articles, and given the nature of environmental peacebuilding, is largely made up of a number of scholars talking back and forth (and oftentimes past) each other. I pulled heavily from LibGuides, using “environmental studies” “political science” and even “women and gender studies.” Databases such as Jstor were central to my research, as well as the ease of the library chat when there was a specific article that I wanted to gain access to, or a brief question that I had about the reputation of a journal. Through this process, I found the joy of joining academic discourse, recognizing scholars names in certain spaces, tracing research back to its origins, and tracking the evolution of a growing discipline.

The processes of researching and citing is an artform, and one that I learned could also reflect bias and prejudice. Through a library event on the *Politics of Citations*, I become much more thoughtful on the ways in which I cite, and what types of knowledge that I bring to my research. International environmental policy is a largely white and male dominated field. *The Poltics of Citations* and the legacies

of white language supremacy that I learned about through the library utterly transformed the ways in which I research, cite, and even write. *The Politics of the Olive Branch* is a project that recognizes the legacies of whiteness within academia and aims to center Indigenous and non-white research. Through the library, I learned in more depth the complicated space that LMU shares with Indigenous communities and the Tongva people. This is directly relevant to my project. At its core, this project pertains to humans' relationship - whether that is peaceful or violent - with land and natural resources. Through conversations with librarians, and supportive professors that have pointed me in the right direction, I have grappled with this both in my time at LMU and in this independent study project.

There is so much gratitude that is reflected in this brief essay and in my project as a whole. I am grateful first and foremost for the opportunity to study on this land that is rightfully that of the Tongva people. I have deep gratitude for the librarians and the LMU Hannon Library as a whole who have gently encouraged, challenged and supported my learning and research for the past four years, and I am so appreciate of the professors who have shaped my ability to write *Politics of the Olive Branch*. A sincere thank you, to all.