

**Sara Stanton: Student Research Conference**

**Images of Vermont:** *Constructing Statehood through Pastoral Charm*

**Advisor:** Luis Vivanco

**Abstract:** Vermont conjures pastoral images of red barns nestled between miles of rolling hills, bales of hay, cornfields, trees in various states of foliage and perhaps a cow or two. These seemingly inherent, organic images were, in fact, a deliberate advertising strategy conceived in the late nineteenth century by the Vermont Board of Agriculture to attract tourists and year-round residents. This full-length ethnographic documentary will explore this history, how Vermont artists and businesses continue to create and promote pastoral images of Vermont's landscape and how these images influence the picture-taking practices of locals and eco-tourists. I will accomplish this through archival research, interviews and participant observation. In essence, this project will explore how images construct particular symbols and identities of statehood and the role of these images in shaping tourist experience.