Jim Brown's research is in number theory, with a particular emphasis in modular forms and arithmetic geometry. He has an interest in supervising undergraduates in research projects in number theory and closely aligned areas. Brown's research has been supported in the past by a National Security Agency Young Investigator Grant as well as a Research Training Group grant in Coding Theory, Cryptography, and Number Theory. Read Jim Brown's Oxy Story profile for more information!

"When most people hear math they either recoil in horror or immediately think of calculus. However, math is extremely useful in your everyday life and a lot of it is not anything like calculus. In this talk we'll discuss how math is used to keep your secrets safe!"

Video available for viewing on SRP 2020 Summer Research Program

CTSJ Webinar: DACA and COVID - Legal and Economic Impact on Immigrant Communities
Monday, June 22nd at 12 pm PST
Maritza Agundez (Oxy Alum), Managing Attorney CHIRLA (Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights)
Register in advance for this webinar here.

Socially distanced On-Campus Event!

Succulent Potting with the URC
Friday, June 26th at 6 pm on the lawn between Haines and Chilcott
email Emma at eharwood@oxy.edu if interested! 9 spot maximum. Open to students in/near LA or living on campus. Masks required.

succulents, pots, soil, and snacks provided by the URC
I am fascinated by film because of the ways one can study the unlimited possibilities of such a powerful medium that reaches millions of people. After declaring as a MAC production track major at Occidental, I found my interest in the making and studying of documentary-based and journalistic forms. In Spring 2020, I had the opportunity to document and study the ethics behind argon oil production in Morocco. To further extend my enthusiasm for this genre this summer, I am exploring the rapidly changing forms and functions of nonfiction media through work and research at KCET (Community Educational Television). Examining KCET is crucial at this time, as it is re-merging with KOCE and PBS SoCal, and is currently seeking to reimagine the relevance of public television.

What is KCET?

KCET is an LA based content channel, which features shows that are focused on the LA experience. However, with LA’s prominence as a global city, the high production value of the shows means they stand to have reach and relevance beyond LA. Historically, KCET has been and still is a leader in innovative programming models. It has been innovating transmedia models for over a decade. It was one of the first outlets to produce docuseries programming, now a model used on streaming services like Netflix and Hulu.

What are your driving research questions and how will you answer them?

Why is KCET rejoining with PBS SoCal during a time when broadcast is fading? Identify some ways that the company can find success in this age of the technological revolution. How is KCET navigating the increasingly blurring distinctions between documentary and journalism through their docuseries programming? How can KCET address local, LA-based stories and issues while also producing content that will appeal to a national, and potentially international audience who will be able to access the content via streaming platforms and apps?

In order to answer my research questions, I will intern at KCET to better understand how the company functions. KCET is a good fit for this research topic because I will be able to hop between all the departments, such as research and development, production, post production, marketing and community outreach.

Why is this research important to you?

This topic sparks my interest because of the changing media landscape that I’ve witnessed throughout my life. I remember my parents flipping through broadcast channels as a child. It is now fascinating to see that what was so popular and influential in the early 2000’s is now fading out. Among today’s generations, PBS is thought of as an old broadcast channel that is only watched by older, white, upper middle class audiences. In KCET’s re-merging with PBS SoCal, it will be interesting to see how they will reimagine and reassert its vitality for a more diverse and inclusive audience demographic. One day, I’d like to make socially engaged media that actually reaches, entertains and impacts diverse audiences. Working with KCET will help me better understand how to achieve this vision.

I think this fellowship will force me to work outside of my comfort zone because it will help me think more critically about how content is being distributed, and how broadcast media sites are surviving, since the issue is so relevant at this time. I am also passionate about working in a progressive environment where people are pushing boundaries, taking risks, and asking critical questions.

If you are interested in being featured in a the URC newsletter, please email Emma at eharwood@oxy.edu

CONTACT US!

urc.oxy
urc@oxy.edu
(323) 259-1414