Honors Project on Ethnolinguistic Conflict and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka Lillian Eckstein, Class of 2018

Through the support of the Peter J. Grua and Mary G. O'Connell Research Award, I conducted consequential, in-person, and independent primary research in Sri Lanka that provided data and qualitative evidence for my honors project titled "What Policies Cannot Express: An Examination of Sri Lanka's Continuing Inability to Bridge the Sinhala-Tamil Ethnolinguistic Divide through National Policies and Programs." Due to the nature of my honors project, the ability to travel to collect these data and interviews in-person was critical to my ability to execute meaningful analyses of the current political and sociocultural climate in the country post-conflict. Sri Lanka is a welcoming country to researchers but due to its hard-to-access location, history, and current nature of connection to the global world, my honors project would not have been properly supported nor as important of a contribution to the literature without the ability to conduct this research in December 2017 and January 2018.

Over the course of three weeks, I traveled to three different major cities in Sri Lanka