Podium Presentation
Ethics of Immigration and the Effect of Coercion on Establishing Border Policy
Noah Blake
Faculty Mentor: Abraham Graber
Philosophy

A common controversial topic in both politics and news today is the topic of immigration border policy. This is the decision by individual countries to decide whether or not they establish an open border or closed border policy. Open borders allow all foreigners the ability to enter into a country and gain citizenship while closed border policies deny foreigners the ability to easily enter into another country and gain citizenship. There are several arguments for and against both open border and closed border policies, but before these policies are even established it must be defined who is involved in the process of forming these policies. There are some arguments that say it should be the job of each country’s government to form border policy, but there are also those that say it should be a collaborative effort between both the members of the country establishing policy and the foreigners affected by this policy. Political philosopher Arash Abizadeh makes the argument that closed borders are coercive to foreigners, thus we have to allow the ones we are coercing to participate in establishing border policy. Abizadeh’s main critic is David Miller who argues against this claim. The purpose of my research is to make an argument analysis of this issue in its entirety in order to shed light onto the ethics behind establishing border policy. I first break down both Abizadeh’s argument and then Miller’s counterclaim, then I assert my own argument against Miller’s counterclaim to protect Abizadeh’s main argument.