



COLLEGE of  
CHARLESTON

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

*HSS Scholar*

# Madeline Leibin

## MAJORS: PHILOSOPHY, RELIGIOUS STUDIES, AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

**Educational Highlights:** I have investigated the themes of identity, justice, diversity, and humanity in each of my three disciplines, but I've felt most productive when the divergent contents, theories, and methodologies have been weaved into a robust academic interdisciplinarity. As an International Scholar within the William Aiken Fellows Society of the Honors College, I've approached my studies with a global-mindedness, seeking to understand multi-dimensional systems in our social and political world, and how those create (and, conversely, are created by) the realities that are lived on the ground. My bachelor's essay in the Philosophy Department took on this scope—it analyzed conceptual paradigms for the universalization of basic rights in pluralistic societies, based on how we understand. Similarly, my capstone essay in Religious Studies, presented at the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion Conference and forthcoming in the inaugural edition of the *Religio Et Lex* Journal, evaluated how spiritual identities are comprehended within the legal canon, and how that allows individuals and communities to be fluid in their moral imaginations.



**Research Focus or Project:** In the summer after my freshman year, I studied in Belfast, Northern Ireland at Queen's University through a Fulbright UK-US Summer Institute. There, I was introduced to conflict transformation and human rights work. Upon my return to Charleston, I sought to get involved in Lowcountry initiatives for justice, within our landscape of Civil War and Civil Rights landscape divisions. I joined the Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM), an organization composed of 28+ religiously, racially, and socio-economically diverse congregations. We unite to identify issues in the community and we use our 'unity in diversity' to hold public officials accountable for just policies. Through this engagement, I have organized a platform for intersectional dialogue on campus, as well as an outlet to local activism.

**Future Plans:** Next year, I will pursue an International MA in Conflict Resolution & Mediation at Tel Aviv University in Israel. My studies and living expenses will be supported in full by the Rotary Global Ambassadorial Grant. Later I hope to matriculate into a law school in the United States and concentrate on human rights law.

*This award presented by Jerold L. Hale, dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Departments Philosophy & Religious Studies at the College of Charleston on the 11th day of May, 2018.*