

# Alexandra Rivera

Alexandra Rivera was an eager incoming freshman when she waitlisted herself for her first Japanese language course in 2015. Told to enroll in a prescribed set of classes, Alexandra was already pushing the limits of her academic plan. She began her first class of university with Japanese 111, and she concluded her undergraduate years as a Teaching Assistant for the department and an honorary undergraduate researcher for the Asian and Asian American Studies Graduate Symposium.

Alexandra Rivera graduated with her Bachelor's in English Literature with Honors, a specialization in English Education, and with a minor in Japanese Studies in 2019. Throughout her undergraduate years, she pursued the study of Dante's *Divine Comedy* and Japanese language. While the majority of these dual interests were pursued separately, Alexandra was committed to bringing her love of Dante and Japanese together. With the help of her professor and advisor, Eva Nagase, she was able to research and write a thesis on the manga adaptation of Dante's *Inferno*, whereby she discussed how works in translation and generic adaptation do not "lose" content in translation, but rather gain new meaning and cultural valences of interpretation to add even more depth to literary tradition.

Alexandra continued on to receive her MA degree in English also from SBU, while teaching at a high school on Long Island. She won the 2020 Flanagan Award for Best Essay by an MA student for her final paper written in a PhD course on Translation Studies, in which she translated and analyzed Osamu Daizai's *No Longer Human*.

Now, Alexandra has jetted off across the pond to undertake an MPhil in Medieval Literature from the University of Cambridge. She aspires to pursue a PhD in Medieval Literature and continue to discover, research, and teach new ways of connecting stories to cultural and linguistic practices across region and time.