

Political Science Capstone Presentations

May 9th at 6:00 in Xavier 201

May 11th at 6:00 in Xavier 201

Amelia Brummel (6:10-6:25)	<i>Crisis at Europe's Borders: How the Dublin System Affects Refugee Rights and Well-Being Relative to Alternative Refugee Allocation Policy</i>	Sara Christensen (6:10-6:30)	<i>The Impact of State Versus Federal Funding on Higher Education Access and Affordability</i>
Christine Consulta (6:25-6:40)	<i>Women in ISIS: Unmasking the Motives Behind Social Media Recruitment</i>	Amanda Curran (6:30-6:50)	<i>What We Can Learn from Trump's First 30 Days: An Analysis of Executive Orders from 2001-2017</i>
Brooke Wolfe (6:40-7:00)	<i>Fear of the Other's News: What the Death of Martin McGuinness Means for Legacy Politics in Northern Ireland</i>	Kate Hammermaster (6:50-7:10)	<i>NGO Effectiveness with Foreign Military Intervention: The Reduction of Communicable Disease During a Conflict</i>
Wilde Constanse Gundersen (7:00-7:15)	<i>The U.S. Supreme Court and Guantanamo Bay: A Content Analysis Studying Whether a Potential New Case on Guantanamo Bay Would be Influenced By The New Dynamics of the U.S. Supreme Court.</i>	Theo Hofrenning (7:10-7:30)	<i>Rudeboy Remember: Role of Memory in the Rastafari Movement</i>
Rachel Monahan (7:15-7:30)	<i>The Netherlands Multi- party Political System Tends To Foster Less Polarization Than Their Two-party Counterparts</i>	Tori Sullivan (7:30-7:50)	<i>Fake News, Alternative Facts, and Phony Media: How Individual Media Preferences Are Perpetuating Misinformation in the Political World</i>
Bennon VanHoof (7:30-7:45)	<i>Washington State Dairy Farming: The Regulations that Contribute to the Success and Decline in Production</i>	Olivia Cook (7:50-8:05)	<i>Gender Quotas in Namibian Politics</i>
Leah Sweeney (7:45-8:00)	<i>Political Rap and Hip-Hop as a Means of Political Influence</i>	Haley Zepernick (8:05-8:20)	<i>Lone Wolf Terrorism: Understanding the Role of Isolation in Producing Terrorists</i>
Nathan Parker (8:00-8:15)	<i>Violence in Syria</i>	Mollie Smith (8:20-8:40)	<i>Protector or Terrorist?: A Feminist Analysis of the Security Crisis in Northeast Nigeria</i>
Chelsey Murray (8:15-8:30)	<i>Impacts of Forced Migrants: The Syrian Refugee Crisis</i>		

Abstracts

Amelia Brummel, *Crisis at Europe's Borders: How the Dublin System Affects Refugee Rights and Well-Being Relative to Alternative Refugee Allocation Policy*

Currently, Europe is undergoing a migrant crisis. With thousands of refugees fleeing war-torn regions in the Middle East and Northern Africa, states in the European Union are overrun with the responsibility of taking in these migrants. While current refugee allocation policy falls under the umbrella of the Dublin System, debate over the efficacy of the Dublin System has recently come into question within the study of forced migration. This research aims to address how the Dublin System affects both the basic human rights and well-being of incoming refugees while asking; does the Dublin System need to be replaced with an alternative system of migrant allocation? Additionally, this research aims to expand upon possible alternatives to the Dublin System, chiefly considering how the "Green Alternative" or a more public goods-focused approach to refugee allocation might impact refugees resettling within the EU. Empirical examination of refugees entering and resettling in the European Union and study of progressive refugee regimes across the international sphere, coupled with theoretical analysis of how the Dublin System meets standards for refugees set out by supranational organizations, provides the basis for this research. Finally, preliminary research on refugee resettlement trends within the EU has determined correlation between Dublin's various nonrefoulement and burden-sharing policies and the well-being of incoming refugees, suggesting an alternative approach to refugee allocation mirroring the "Green Alternative" or a public goods-focused framework may very well be justified.

Christine Consulta, *Women in ISIS: Unmasking the Motives Behind Social Media Recruitment*

In our current society, we constantly hear about women being recruited to join ISIS but how and why have they been so effective. In my research I have analyzed two different videos, one male and one female. I conducted a content analysis and categorized the information found in the videos under one of the following categories: finances, personal status, travel, religion, and nationalism. Next, I created a bar chart so that one could see a side by side comparison of what drove each gender to join. Due to the political tension and islamophobia, I hypothesize that personal status, religion, and nationalism as the most important key factors in joining ISIS. However, there are a couple obstacles in this research because I am unable to interview a recruit in order to confirm my research, although, this barrier does not alter my results. In conclusion, I found that not only was my hypothesis correct but also discovered the different influencers according to gender. Overall, my results can be used as a way to educate what is beneath the surface of social media recruits so we know how to better combat the increasing numbers of recruitment.

Brooke Wolfe, *Fear of the Other's News: What the Death of Martin McGuinness Means for Legacy Politics in Northern Ireland*

In 1998, the Belfast Agreement, more commonly known as the Good Friday Agreement, was signed by politicians and representatives from opposing communities involved in the sectarian conflict named the Troubles. The agreement proposed a ceasefire of all paramilitary organizations by drafting a power-sharing government in which neither the Republic of Ireland nor the United Kingdom gained absolute claim over Northern Ireland. The agreement was met with overwhelming support from citizens, while still leaving a negative legacy. The country would be left with a new political formation governing a divided society attempting to move towards an un-agreed upon idea of *peace*. This power-sharing government unintentionally flaunted ingrained differences that worked against forward progress of the country. I will explore the identity of current colonial legacy and how that leads citizens to sacrifice their safety to perpetuate the honor of the past. This cycle actively resists the mentality of peace and replaces the title of Northern Irish citizen with "Irish Republican" or "British Nationalist". This tension works to limit the potential of the peace agreement, the validity of the power-sharing government, and the country at large.

Wilde Constance Gundersen, *The U.S. Supreme Court and Guantanamo Bay: A Content Analysis Studying Whether a Potential New Case on Guantanamo Bay Would be Influenced By The New Dynamics of the U.S. Supreme Court.*

Over a decade has passed since the last time the U.S. Supreme Court took on a case regarding the legality of the detention center on the U.S. Naval Station in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The detention center is still open, but the number of detainees has decreased as more and more have been released. On March 29, 2017 the Court announced that they would review two cases from Guantanamo Bay. Guantanamo Bay have been one of the most disputed topics in this decade, and for the past decade, at the very best it is a rather dark era of American modern history. With the appointment of Neil Gorsuch and a changing political climate, can this influence the decisions of the upcoming cases? This will be an examination and content analysis of previous cases concerning Guantanamo Bay, along with examinations of cases decided by Neil Gorsuch on the Tenth Circuit prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court as well as Justice Gorsuch ideological stands, and views on Guantanamo Bay as this will be significant. Three theoretical models on judicial decision making will be presented, and two will be used to prove the hypothesis.

Rachel Monahan, *The Netherlands Multi-party Political System Tends to Foster Less Polarization than Their Two-party Counterparts*

To explore how the Netherlands multi-party system tends to foster less polarization than their two party counterparts I will consider a variety of literature. The composition of the literature on this topic I have categorized into six groups; party competition, economic outcomes, policy motivated parties, coalition forming, and the causes of increased polarization. This research is intended to explain in what aspects a multi-party system can be applied to a two-party system, if it can be applied at all, and if it fosters less polarization in the process. To approach this I will look at the polarization of the Dutch political system pre 2001 and post 2001, in order to determine the long-term consequences of election on polarization in the Netherlands. The 2001 election is especially important because Lijst Pim Fortuyn entered the Dutch parliament, which prompted divides between various political parties. It is important to consider that political party dynamics are old and there are several other factors that lead to increased polarizations, but this research strives to uniquely devise larger implications about the long lasting effects that political polarization in Netherlands creates and the affects it has on foreign governments.

Bennon VanHoof, *Washington State Dairy Farming: The Regulations that Contribute to the Success and Decline in Production*

Since 2013 Washington State has lost 64 dairy farms and has seen an increase in the size of Dairy farm per cow. Policies throughout the United States and in Washington have created an easier path for big production farms to continuously grow and has forced small family owned farms out of business. Reviewing outside studies on Dairy farming in the United States and overseas has explained the reasoning behind the growth and expansion of large farms with 1000 or more cattle and the decline of farms with 300 and less cattle. Research suggests that there are good reasons for the decline in the number of farms, and the policies and regulations in Washington State support our continual decline in dairy farms and a rise in number of cattle. Dairy farming in Washington contributes 5.2 billion to our state's economy per year, as the importance of regulation and policy impact production on a daily basis. To look further into the subject will give an answer as to why farms are vanishing and urban lifestyle continues to grow.

Leah Sweeney, *Political Rap and Hip-Hop as a Means of Political Influence*

Today in a world with a growing means of unconventional media sources, research should begin to examine the role music can play in influencing political views and perspectives. For this research project, I have been looking specifically at politically charged rap and hip-hop and its ability to engage its listeners in a broader conversation. I contrast this with conventional means of media such as newspapers and online editorials, to see the ways in which rap and hip-hop music forms a connection with its listener the way other forms cannot. I hypothesize that rap and hip-hop have tremendous ability to influence ones feelings about its government in ways other media sources cannot.

This purpose of this study is to investigate the reasons for escalation and protraction of violence in Syria. To answer this question I examine the nature of Syria's violence. Most scholars evaluate the situation as a Civil War that began in 2011, though it is important to also evaluate the violence in Syria as a class struggle. To measure violence I account for battle deaths as well as human suffering that stems from violence, which is the more significant factor in regards to Syria. Other than death, human suffering accounts for forced displacement, and destruction of entitlements of goods and public services that can have a tremendous effect on human suffering as many dependent on entitlements are already near the poverty line. Evaluating Syria's violence as a civil war accounts for some of the causes of protraction and escalation of violence, foreign intervention, and fracturing of opposition forces. However, evaluating Syria as a class struggle is also important to see how the nature of a capitalist world-economy has fueled a gradual liberalization of Syria's economic policy, inevitably increasing human suffering and in turn violence. Immense public and private interest has amassed in Syria and intertwined over its six years of violence. Evaluating Syria only as a Civil War is problematic because the regime is no longer the most powerful force in its bloc, increasingly clinging to the might of Russia and Iran to preserve it. Syrian elites as well as elites from states in the semi-periphery and the core impose inherently unequal systems of exchange that inevitably increase human suffering for Syrians.

Chelsey Murray, *Impacts of Forced Migrants: The Syrian Refugee Crisis*

Limited literature has been provided on the Syrian Refugee Crisis, except what has been covered by the mainstream media. Most of the media's coverage of the refugee crisis, has been focused on the civil war and forced migrants who are fleeing the war zone. In addition, debate among individuals has begun regarding if the United States and nations in the European Union should accept refugees or create designated areas where they will reside until the civil war ends. Although the media is keeping the public informed about the Syrian Civil War, they have not discussed the implications of those Syrians who are being forced to flee for safety. Are those who are fleeing having an impact on nations who have allowed them to stay? This paper is designed to answer the question for those nations accepting Syrian refugees have there been negative/positive outcomes economically? By using the Syrian refugees as a case study, the hypothesis of this research, in a comparison of nations, (Jordan, Lebanon, Germany) those accepting Syrian refugees have had more negative economic outcomes than those who have not.

Sara Christensen, *The Impact of State Versus Federal Funding on Higher Education Access and Affordability*

With the expectation that an individual will obtain a college degree becoming increasingly the norm in the United States at the same time as funding sources change or decline, this research seeks to understand how funding sources and objectives impact the accessibility and affordability of post-secondary education. While previous work on higher education funding has focused primarily on the kinds of funding mechanisms utilized and the demographic characteristics of those institutions and individuals funded through these mechanisms, this research attempts to expand the literature by exploring how various funding mechanisms impact a student's ability to obtain a college education. Specifically, the research seeks to answer the questions of whether the affordability and accessibility of higher education is most improved when funding comes primarily through the federal government or state controlled appropriations. To answer this, regression analysis was conducted on a time-series data set from 1980-2014 compiled from the Department of Education which included measures of federal, state, and institutional funding levels, enrollment levels, tuition rates, demographic and economic characteristics, and indicators for the political party in power at both the federal and state levels. Regression analysis was utilized to first investigate the significance of these variables in relation to college accessibility as measured by the number of degrees awarded at post-secondary degree granting institutions in a given year. Analysis was then conducted with regard to the relationship between these variables and college affordability as measured through net cost and average financial aid per student. Regression analysis revealed that a number of variables including the amount and type of funding had significant impacts on the overall affordability and accessibility of higher education. These results provide important findings to be considered as budget allocations are made through the federal government and the states in order to ensure that the overall accessibility and affordability of higher education is maximized.

This study seeks to provide an analysis of trends in how executive orders are used throughout a president's tenure in office, and determine if there are any trends in the first 100 days of a president's term that can offer insight into the rest of their tenure. A content analysis of 590 executive orders from three presidents, Presidents Bush, Obama, and Trump, seeks to answer these questions by looking at trends in the purposes of executive orders (major policy promotion, routine/administrative purposes, or symbolic purposes). Types of major policy orders are further examined, and coded for what type of policy area is discussed (domestic, economic, foreign policy or national security). Analysis is focused on significant time periods in the presidencies; the first 100 days, and by election cycles (midterm and general). The findings indicate that the primary purpose of executive orders throughout a president's term is to introduce major policy goals, with a specific focus on domestic policy. The first 100 days is found to be used primarily for introducing major domestic policy goals. A comparison of President Trump's executive orders to his two most recent predecessor's shows that he continues this pattern, and that he has issued the most executive orders and the most policy orders during his first 100 days. This research provides insight into how a new president uses the tools of the office to shape the new administration's image, as well as how executive orders are used to continue to the administration's goals throughout their terms.

Kate Hammermaster, *NGO Effectiveness with Foreign Military Intervention: The Reduction of Communicable Disease During a Conflict*

Non-Government Organization (NGO) involvement in countries afflicted with war is a common, even expected occurrence. It is hard to measure what success in these situations looks like, so this paper focuses on NGO involvement concurrent with a foreign military force. This paper isolates Iraq and Sudan during two separate time periods, 2001 - 2006 and 2014 - 2016. During the time periods selected, Iraq was occupied by United States military forces, and Sudan was undergoing a civil war with no foreign involvement. By conducting a qualitative analysis about the kind of involvement by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the increase or decrease in communicable diseases common in those regions, the success of an NGO can be evaluated.

Theo Hofrenning, *Rudeboy Remember: Role of Memory in the Rastafari Movement*

This research is an in-depth investigative analysis of the lyrical content on three reggae albums from the late 1970's: Equal Rights by Peter Tosh, Survival by Bob Marley, and Two Sevens Clash by Culture. It seeks to map the various ways in which the Rastafari movement has utilized memory as a tool to build a shared political identity across the African diaspora. This study hopes to further the understanding of social movements like the Rastafari as dynamic and influential political forces that utilize a variety of methods to sustain themselves and spread their message. While there is existing research into the history, sociology, and politics of this movement, there is ample room for its continued examination within the framework of memory studies and their political implications.

Tori Sullivan, *Fake News, Alternative Facts, and Phony Media: How Individual Media Preferences Are Perpetuating Misinformation in the Political World*

Political news media is under duress following the 2016 Presidential Election. Despite the fact that the media is one of the fastest growing institutions in society, it is facing many problems in regard to legitimacy and trustworthiness. This study analyzes the way that college-age individuals collect, analyze and interpret news stories by conducting a survey on media preferences and an experiment that tested individuals ability to detect fake news. After surveying 52 undergraduate students in the northwest, it was revealed that most participants consume news media on a daily basis, using primarily online mediums and social networking sites to keep themselves updated on current events. Participants reported using traditional forms of media as well, such as print and television media, but this occurs less frequently. Despite the fact that many participants considered themselves to be interested and invested in following political media, a significant amount of respondents had trouble distinguishing between real and fake news. This study responds to the increasing interest in the power of news media and the growing body of research surrounding the trend of fake news.

Globalization has profoundly impacted the current political structure in Namibia. Namibia's complex relationship with globalization began with Germany's initiation of colonial rule in the territory, which lasted until 1990, sparking a liberation movement. During this time women's involvement in independence initiated their participation in government and the leading political party adopted government gender quotas. I will explore reasons behind gender quotas, their success rates, and the absence of race quotas in a postcolonial society.

Haley Zepernick, *Lone Wolf Terrorism: Understanding the Role of Isolation in Producing Terrorists*

Lone wolf terrorism has been a growing topic in the United States in recent years. It is a major concern to authorities because of the spreading number of these individuals that are committing solo terrorist attacks. The goal of this study is to determine the characteristics that lone wolf terrorists' tend display in their childhood in order to recognize these same traits in today's children. The hypothesis of the study is that each of these perpetrators will have similar childhood characteristics relating to those of a loner. This study takes a quantitative approach to research by investigating reliable news sources in order to look deep into the lives of three different terrorists. I will first and foremost be defining what the characteristics of a loner are. I then will be looking into reliable news sources to find whatever information I can about the perpetrators' early years. This study includes the terrorists from three solo acts of terrorism including the Aurora Movie Theatre Shooting, the Sandy Hook Elementary Shooting and the Orlando Nightclub Shooting. The results from this study will help to spot these troubled children early on and get them the help they need before it is too late.

Mollie Smith, *Protector or Terrorist? A Feminist Analysis of the Security Crisis in Northeast Nigeria*

Since human rights violations committed by the Nigerian military have become public within the past few years, little feminist or Nigerian scholarship has focused on the significance of their actions in context of the Boko Haram terrorism conflict. Though feminist international relations theory has long criticized the state's assumed role as the masculinized protector, this theory has yet to have been applied to the war on terror in Nigeria. For my capstone, I applied feminist international relations theory to the Nigerian context and questioned whether the sexual-based violence committed by the terrorist organization Boko Haram and the Nigerian military are similar and, if so, if they could both be considered terrorists. Because the term "terrorist" carries a lot of weight in modern day politics, calling the Nigerian military a terrorist would significantly change how they are treated by international organizations and other states. In order to test my question and hypothesis, I gathered information about the sexual violence committed by each side using NGO reports and both local and international news accounts. I then used feminist international relations theory to infer the intention behind sexual assault from each side. Once I determined this, I compared the intent to a definition of terrorism in order to determine whether each group was acting as a terrorist. I found that while some evidence suggested that the Nigerian military was using sexual violence as a terror tactic, there was not enough information to make an substantial judgement. On the other hand, it was clear that Boko Haram was using gender-based violence to terrorize local communities. Though my hypothesis was incorrect, more research should be done on the actions of the Nigerian military and the security crisis in northeast Nigeria.