AU Newsmakers
November 20 – December 4, 2015
Prepared by University Communications
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Top Stories
AU Experts Discuss ISIS, Aftermath of Paris Attacks, and Immigrant Integration

Tricia Bacon, justice, law and criminology professor, spoke with NPR’s Marketplace about the increased security around U.S. soft targets. Bacon discussed that some of the changes won’t be visible, like increased video surveillance and plain clothes security. (11/23)

For the Baltimore Sun, law professor Edward Correia penned an op-ed about how to defeat ISIS. Correia writes, “ISIS cannot be defeated solely by militarily action because ISIS is primarily an idea, not a group of individuals.” For The Hill, Johanna Mendelson Forman, School of International Service scholar-in-residence, discussed refugees, writing that it is “time to have a national conversation about identity.” (11/27, 11/25)

For Sinclair Broadcast, public & strategic communication professor Scott Talan talked about members of hacker group “Anonymous” that started a campaign to get Twitter accounts associated with ISIS shut down. Talan spoke about the prominence of ISIS on social media. (11/25)

Lt. General David Barno, distinguished practitioner-in-residence, and Nora Bensahel, distinguished scholar-in-residence in the School of International Service, talked with Military Times about how the Paris attacks would affect the U.S. military response. Bensahel also spoke to The Hill about the political left’s concern about President Obama’s desire to escalate military action against ISIS. (11/30, 12/3) *Military Times link not available

For AFP, public communications professor Leonard Steinhorn spoke about how the Paris attacks have magnified the differences between Democrats and Republicans. Steinhorn said that the attacks made the threat of ISIS more tangible and real in the American political debate. (11/20)

Akbar Ahmed, professor in the School of International Service, spoke with International Business Times about the sociological differences between American Muslims and European Muslims, as the former group is more integrated, affluent and hopeful than the latter. Ahmed was also featured on Huffington Post Live to discuss the role that the Muslim community can play in countering extremism. (11/21, 11/20)

David Lublin, professor of government, spoke with Hearst Television about how the anti-Muslim rhetoric of candidates can have a polarizing effect on public opinion. Lublin voiced the concern that the rhetoric may be elevating political theater, instead of addressing the security threat. (11/20)

Jordan Tama, professor in the School of International Service, spoke with ABC News10 (San Diego) about the State Department travel alert and the
likelihood of other large-scale, coordinated attacks by ISIS. (12/2)

Additional Features

Crave Coffee Too Much? Talk Therapy May Help

*HealthDay* featured the research of Psychology Professor Laura Juliano. Juliano’s research found that brief “talk therapy” can help over-consumers of caffeine reduce their consumption. This story ran in more than 100 outlets online, including *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *U.S. News & World Report*. (12/1)

How ‘the Force’ Can Affect an Actor’s Box Office Potential

*GeekWire* featured Kogod School of Business research about how landing a role in a Star Wars film can propel an actor’s career and star power. Kogod and 2U, an education and technology company supporting the Analytics@American online master’s program, created the research. Kogod analysts predicted a film’s success based on past data from previous iterations of the film, including how well the genre performed, the popularity of starring actors, and box office receipts. (12/1)

Faculty Authors

There’s a Moral Order Baked Into that ‘Star Wars’ Galaxy

Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, associate dean for curriculum and learning in the School of International Service, wrote an article for the *Washington Post Monkey Cage blog* about the number of analogies being drawn between our times and that of the distant Star Wars galaxy. Jackson notes numerous ways in which the political opining about the upcoming film are not fully accurate. (11/26)

Three Offsets for American Landpower Dominance

Scholar-in-Residence at the School for International Service, Benjamin Jensen, authored an article in *War on the Rocks* about military strategy. Jensen writes about “the importance of having a credible conventional deterrent for nuclear exchange in a crisis with Russia.” (11/23)

Expertise

Election 2016

Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women and Politics Institute spoke with *Fox Business* about Hillary Clinton. Lawless said that some of the electorate sees her as unlikeable, not because she’s a woman, but because she’s Hillary Clinton. Lawless also spoke with *CNN* about Donald Trump still leading in the polls, saying that until the first votes are counted, there is no way to know the strength of Trump’s ground game. (11/30, 12/1)

Browning Meat at High Temperatures May Be Harmful

Matthew Hartings, chemistry professor, spoke with *NPR* about the possible carcinogenic effects of blackening meat at high heat due to the compounds created in this process. Hartings said that cooking meats for longer but on lower heat should be safer. (11/23)

Domestic Terror Not Defined
William Yeomans, a law fellow, spoke with Associated Press about how to define domestic terrorism. Yeomans said that there has been quite a lot of interest in defining domestic terrorism as terrorism, but that it is also a very partisan issue. (12/1)

Penalty Against Lobbying Firm Sends a Message

Director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies Jim Thurber spoke with The Chicago Tribune about the significant impact of a penalty against a large Washington, D.C.-based lobbying firm. Thurber argued that the fine, while not significant in size, was notable because the lobbying industry is unfamiliar with such penalties. (11/30)

Donors Gave A Super PAC $6 Million. Candidates Actually Got About $140,000

For the Los Angeles Times, government professor Candice Nelson discussed how one super PAC raised $6 million but only gave 2 percent of that sum to its cause to defeat Obamacare. Nelson said the super PAC did field a resourceful list of donors for Ben Carson’s campaign. (11/25)

Wikipedia Made $77 Million Last Year. Why is It Begging You to Donate Money?

Communication professor Andrew Lih spoke to The Washington Post about Wikipedia’s misunderstood December fundraising drive. Lih said Wikipedia is not in trouble, is making more money than ever before, and is at no risk of going away. (12/3)

Refugee Refusal Compared, Contrasted to That of WWII

History professor Allan Lichtman spoke with the Associated Press about his book “FDR and the Jews.” Lichtman said that while no historical comparison is perfect, restrictions on Jewish refugees during WWII were impacted by anti-Semitism, but also fueled by fears that Nazis would be hidden as agents among the refugee population. This claim is similar to the argument against the admission of Syrian refugees. This story ran online in nearly 400 outlets. For C-SPAN, law professor Stephen Vladeck argued that history does not validate claims that refugees are a security risk. Max Paul Friedman, history professor, also spoke with Sinclair Broadcast Group about Syrian refugees. (11/21, 11/28, 11/27)

U.S., U.K. Tout 1815 Pact as ‘Brexit’ Question Looms

Gautham Rao, assistant professor of history, spoke with Politico Europe for a story about trade relations between the United Kingdom and United States. Rao discussed how relations are in far better shape today than they were more than 200 years ago. (12/3)

Pandora Buys Rdio. What’s an Artist to Do?

John Simson, executive-in-residence at the Kogod School of Business, spoke with Forbes about the recent acquisition of Rdio by Pandora. Simson said that some artists could stand to make more, if the rate for streaming their material turns out to be higher. (11/30)

Lifers are Taxing State Prison System

Robert Johnson, professor of criminology, spoke with the Philadelphia Tribune about the effects of life sentences. Johnson said that statistically, inmates who reach their 40s, 50s, 60s and beyond see their risks of offending again drop dramatically as they mature and their bodies weaken. (11/23)
The 'Patti Pie' Effect: How a Viral Video Hit a Sweet Spot for Walmart

Pallavi Kumar, communications professor, spoke with HLN about the trend of social media-driven sales of R&B singer Patti LaBelle’s Walmart-distributed sweet potato pie. Kumar said, “Marketers are smart -- if they see something take off in one sphere, they will see how many more platforms they can launch the same campaign in to get maximum value and ROI.” (12/1)

Rebranded Modern Slavery Fight Struggles for Definition

For Reuters, Law Professor Janie Chuang warned about oversimplifying the term ‘modern slavery.’ Chuang argued that modern slavery is a term without a legal base. (11/26)

Appeals Court Mulls Scope of Military Tribunals, al-Qaida Aide’s Conviction

For The Washington Post, law professor Stephen Vladeck spoke about a federal appeals court review of a case involving military tribunals. Vladeck weighed in on the power of military tribunals. (12/1)

Bonus Clip

Was That Consent?

EmpowerAU, a student-proposed program on safer sex, was featured in The Rival. The program was implemented for the freshman class this year by OASIS (Office of Advocacy Services for Interpersonal & Sexual Violence). (11/30)