AU Newsmakers
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Top Story
American University Experts Weigh-In on Israeli Elections
News media relied on American University professors for expertise and analysis on the issues, candidates and results in pre- and post-election coverage.

International service professor Guy Ziv wrote an article for CNN about the dangers of incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s win, touching on further isolation between Israel and the United States and how Netanyahu’s flip-flops for a two-state solution only served to appease audiences. Ziv wrote that Netanyahu’s win shows his political instincts but comes “with a high cost for his country.” Ziv also wrote an op-ed previewing the election for the Philadelphia Inquirer and appeared on Al Jazeera America. (3/16 - 3/18)

Director of the Center for Israel Studies Michael Brenner spoke to Washington Jewish Week about the impact of right-wing voters’ tactical decision to vote for the Likud party propelling Netanyahu to a fourth term. (3/18)

Center for Israel Studies scholar-in-residence Dan Arbell appeared live from Jerusalem for CTV to discuss the impending election and the expected outcome. Arbell provided analysis of Netanyahu’s right-wing tactics and his chances for re-election. (3/17)

For a New York Times article about Netanyahu’s victory and the future of a Palestinian state, international politics professor David Bosco spoke about the International Criminal Court and a possible investigation of Israeli war crimes. Bosco also spoke to Slate. (3/18)

Communication professor Leonard Steinhorn spoke to the Boston Herald about Netanyahu’s victory and the Republican response, saying, “That’s the nature of the political machine, you take every opportunity to demonize the other side.” (3/18)
Additional Features

Global Focus: Women & Violence
For WAMU's The Kojo Nnamdi Show, sociology professor Gloria Young addressed the issue of progress made globally in ending violence against women. Young talked about gender roles and how societal inequality gives rise to violence against women. Young discussed her own research into militarization in societies in Mexico and Israel and how it factors into the problem. (3/17)

Discover the World of Communication
Northern Virginia Magazine featured the School of Communication’s Discover the World of Communication camp, which is a two- to four-week long hands-on workshop designed for high school-aged children who have an interest in journalism, professional newswriting and video game design. (3/16) *Link not available

Op-Eds

Congress Must Limit Obama's Military Adventures
In an op-ed for USA Today, government professor Chris Edelson argued that President Obama’s unilateral decision to begin military action against ISIL seven months ago was unwarranted under the existing Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) and that his newly proposed AUMF contains many "loopholes." Edelson argued that Obama’s actions have lacked legal authority and that Congressional approval is mandatory. Law professor Jennifer Daskal spoke to Politico about the AUMF. (3/15 - 3/18)

Media Portrayals of Female Scientists Often Shallow, Superficial
In an op-ed for Scientific American, communication professor Declan Fahy argued that the media practices gender inequality when referring to female scientists. As an example, Fahy pointed to neuroscientist Susan Greenfield’s treatment in two articles, twenty years apart, that both focused on her appearance. Fahy also wrote an article for the Conversation about U.S. de facto science laureates. (3/16 - 3/17)

Why Congress Should Act Like a Board of Directors
In an op-ed for Government Executive, Key Executive Leadership Programs' distinguished practitioner-in-residence Robert Tobias argued that Congress owes Americans “the same duty of care from Congress that stockholders would receive from a private sector board of directors.” Tobias argued that maximizing taxpayer value is impossible when agency performance results are not the primary criterion for Congress’ spending decisions. (3/18)

Expertise

Transparency of Government Information
More Nigerian-Americans Are Reaching Highest Levels of Sports

For a New York Times article about the rise of Nigerian-American athletes, international service professor Carl LeVan said that sports in Nigeria serve as a unifying force in a culturally diverse country. (3/18)

McConnell Urges States to Help Thwart Obama’s ‘War on Coal’

Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies director James Thurber spoke to the New York Times about the level of sophistication and direct involvement from Congressional leadership in the lobbying campaign to thwart President Obama’s climate change agenda at the local and state levels. (3/19)

The Source: Can Gaming Save The World?

Director of the AU Game Lab and Studio Lindsay Grace spoke to Texas Public Radio about how gaming can change society for the better. Grace discussed video games that helped solve medical and social impact problems. (3/16)

Michelle Obama Looks Overseas in Final Years as First Lady

SPA executive-in-residence Anita McBride spoke to Bloomberg about first lady Michelle Obama’s trip to Japan and Cambodia to promote the Obama administration's Let Girls Learn initiative, which aims to support efforts in countries around the world to keep teenage girls in school. McBride said that Obama’s being the nation’s first black first lady may have special impact on her message about race relations to developing countries. (3/16)

Kremlin Mystery

For NBC’s Today Show, international service professor Keith Darden discussed Vladimir Putin and the speculation around his whereabouts. Darden said strength is very important to Putin’s political prowess, and any suspicions of illness or control could weaken his image and standing. (3/15)

Paris Ghetto with Views but No Jobs Shows Decades of Failures

International service professor Cathy Schneider spoke to Bloomberg about discrimination and unemployment rates in Clichy-sous-Bois, France, saying that “minorities will always lose out when you have competition for the few jobs available.” (3/18)

An 'Upstream' Battle As Wikimedia Challenges NSA Surveillance

Law professor Stephen Vladeck spoke to NPR about Wikipedia’s lawsuit against the National Security Agency (NSA). Vladeck explained “Upstream” surveillance and the distinction between Wikipedia’s lawsuit and other NSA lawsuits. (3/15)

Paper Books, Alive and Well

Linguistics professor Naomi Baron’s research into college students’ reading preferences featured in a Chicago Tribune editorial about the future of paper books. (3/19)
Pi Day Math with Donna Dietz
Mathematics and Statistics professor Donna Dietz appeared on WTTG-FOX5 to discuss the significance of Pi Day. The five numbers of Pi (31415) correspond to March 14, 2015, which won’t happen for another 100 years. (3/14)

Wikipedia Entries Edited by Someone at NYPD Headquarters
Communication professor Andrew Lih spoke to New York Daily News about the NYPD’s editing of Wikipedia pages detailing numerous high-profile police brutality cases, saying, “Somebody interested in a fair treatment of history would look at these entries and feel uncomfortable.” (3/13)

House GOP Taps War Fund to Solve Defense Spending Cap
International service professor Gordon Adams spoke to Stars and Stripes about the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) budget, saying that it “would constitute the most cynical and fraudulent use yet made on the OCO budgetary gimmick.” Adams also spoke to Federal News Radio. (3/17 - 3/18)

Bonus
In Winning Patriot League, It’s A Banner Moment for AU Women
The Washington Post featured the AU Eagles women’s basketball team, its Patriot League Championship and its first trip to the NCAA tournament. WJLA-ABC7 also featured the team. (3/14 - 3/18)