Top Stories
American University Experts Weigh-In on Supreme Court Rulings

News media relied on American University professors for analysis and discussion about last week’s Supreme Court (SCOTUS) decisions. Several of AU’s experts from across schools provided pre- and post-ruling analysis.

Law professor Stephen Vladeck appeared on CNN’s Newsroom to discuss the SCOTUS decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act. Vladeck also spoke to CNN about Chief Justice Roberts’ stern dissent after the same-sex marriage decision. (6/25 - 6/26)

Law professor Stephen Wermiel appeared on WTTG-FOX5 to discuss the SCOTUS decision on the Affordable Care Act and the possibility of the SCOTUS ruling in favor of same-sex marriage. Wermiel appeared on a separate WTTG-FOX5 segment about the SCOTUS decision on same-sex marriage. (6/26 - 6/27)

Prior to the same-sex marriage ruling, law professor Amanda Frost appeared on WJCL-ABC22 to discuss the significance of Justice Kennedy’s influence and his legacy. (6/26)

For Sinclair Broadcasting Group, history professor Allan Lichtman discussed SCOTUS’ 5-4 ruling legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide, saying that this ruling is an “example of how public attitudes can fundamentally change.” (6/26)

In an op-ed for Reuters, law professor William Yeomans argued that Chief Justice Roberts’ vote to uphold the Affordable Care Act is a “big gift to Republicans,” as Republicans realized a SCOTUS ruling against the law would result in a collapse of the healthcare system. (6/26)
Assistant professor of government Chris Edelson spoke to CNN Politics about Chief Justice Roberts’ “cautious approach deferential to the legislature” and reluctance to “disturb decisions by elected officials. (6/30)

American University Experts Discuss U.S.-Cuba Embassies Announcement
In response to the announcement that the U.S. and Cuba will fully restore diplomatic relations and open embassies in one another’s countries, news media called on American University experts.

In an op-ed for Fox News Latino, government professor William LeoGrande discussed the advantages, beyond symbolism, of re-opening the embassies in Cuba and the United States. LeoGrande stressed that the issues between the countries are multi-faceted and will take time to overcome. LeoGrande also spoke to Fox News, the Sun Sentinel, the Washington Examiner and Deutsche Welle. He also appeared on Associated Press Radio and Voice of America. (7/1 - 7/2)

Los Angeles Times
Center for Latin American and Latino Studies fellow Fulton Armstrong spoke to the Los Angeles Times about the challenging process that lies ahead, saying that “If we do U.S.-Cuba relations right, it will set a new tone for U.S. ties throughout Latin America.” Armstrong’s quotes also syndicated to the Boston Herald and the Dallas Morning News. (7/1)

Center for Latin American and Latino Studies director Philip Brenner spoke to WUSA-CBS9 to discuss U.S.-Cuba restored diplomatic relations, saying that “it’s only a crazy person who keeps doing the same thing over and over again…this is a policy that hasn’t worked.” Brenner said that it’s the regular Cubans who suffer from the embargo. (7/1)

Faculty Authors

GOP Should Thank Supreme Court for Gay Marriage Decision
In an op-ed for The Hill, justice, law and criminology professor Jon Gould argued that Republican presidential hopefuls should be thankful for the Supreme Court’s decision in Obergefell v. Hodges making same-sex marriage the law of the land. Gould exhorts Republicans to abandon opposition to same-sex marriage because “the ship has sailed, the fat lady has sung, and the game is over.” Gould also spoke to The Hill for an article about the Supreme Court’s most recent turn led by Chief Justice Roberts. (6/27 - 7/1)

Prejudice Is a Powerful Force
In an op-ed for The Hill, communication professor Leonard Steinhorn argued that America needs to confront racial prejudice and how white prejudice unfairly handicaps black Americans. Steinhorn calls for a change of attitudes and institutions that has placed black Americans at a huge disadvantage. (6/30)

3 Things Cities and HUD Can Do to Stop Gentrification That Segregates
In his Next City commentary, Metropolitan Policy Center director Derek Hyra argued that diversity segregation is a major challenge in gentrifying neighborhoods such as in DC’s Shaw neighborhood. Some community members in these mixed-income, mixed-race neighborhoods are being economically and politically excluded, Hyra explained. He proposed three solutions to ameliorate the problems. (6/30)
New Assault Reporting Law Should Improve Prevention

In an op-ed for the Baltimore Sun about Maryland’s new sexual assault reporting law for colleges and universities, Community-Based Research Scholars program director Jane Palmer and her co-author explained the importance of the new reporting procedures to more accurately gauge the frequency of sexual assault and the effort to develop institution-specific, student-informed solutions to improve prevention and response on Maryland college campuses. (6/29)

Expertise

Like Greece, Cash-Strapped Puerto Rico Needs a Fiscal Lifeline

School of International Service International Economic Relations Program director Arturo Porzecanski appeared on NPR’s All Things Considered to discuss the twin debt crises in Puerto Rico and Greece. Porzecanski also spoke to the Wall Street Journal about Puerto Rico. For the Boston Globe and Boston Herald, Porzecanski spoke about Greece’s financial crisis, saying that “If this is a divorce, and not a separation, then Greece must have a new currency.” (6/29 - 7/1)

Pop Culture Trends in Video Gaming

For WAMU’s The Kojo Nnamdi Show, director of the AU Game Lab and Studio Lindsay Grace discussed the future of video gaming. Grace discussed the transition from violent to virtual reality and video games’ social impact. (6/30)

A Lost 1961 Documentary on Homosexuality Is Rediscovered

For NPR’s Code Switch, film professor Bob Connelly, in CAS’ Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies department, discussed the rediscovery of “The Rejected.” Connelly, who for years has taught the film by using a transcript he found at the Library of Congress, shared his thoughts on how the essential discovery will help a new generation understand what that time in history was like for gays and lesbians. (7/1)

7 'Most American' Cars

Kogod School of Business professor Frank DuBois spoke to CNNMoney about the decrease in American-made cars. DuBois said that it is attributed to the North American Free Trade Agreement and the outsourcing of auto parts manufacturing to Mexico. (6/1)

Sizing Up the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program

In an article about the effectiveness of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, CNBC cited economic professor Kara Reynolds’ co-authored study that found that participants earned 30 percent less from TAA training than they did in their previous positions. (6/26)
White House Ends Tourist Photo Ban after Four Decades

Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies executive-in-residence Anita McBride appeared on CBS This Morning to discuss the four-decade long ban being lifted on photography in the White House, saying that the White House is a “living, breathing place” that evolves the way society evolves. (7/2)

Two Explorations of Nature and Centuries-Old Gender Stereotypes

Associate art history professor Helen Langa spoke to the Washington Post about a National Museum of Women in the Arts nature exhibition “Organic Matters – Women to Watch 2015” and the history of gender stereotypes, saying that “women have always been seen as closer to nature.” (6/26)

Latino Community Responds to Donald Trump’s Firing

School of Communication professor Carolyn Brown spoke to WMAL radio about Donald Trump’s firing from NBC and the impact of his words on the Latino community. Brown said “going after immigrants to gain attention is low-hanging fruit” and that his firing “represents the increasingly larger voice Latinos in this country have.” (6/30)

200 Years of ’Sex’ in America, in 1 Chart

For an NPR History Dept. article about language Americans have used to talk about sex over the last 200 years, American Studies instructor Stef Woods addressed how language has changed just as American attitudes have changed. (6/30)

Escapees’ Fraternizing with Prison Workers Doesn’t Surprise Experts

Law professor Brenda Smith spoke to the New York Times about the employees who aided in the New York prisoner escape. Smith said that there is a story like this in every prison and that “these high-profile cases should be teaching moments.” (6/30)

Wal-Mart Puts Itself in the Game

Professor of government David Lublin spoke to Arkansas Democrat-Gazette about Wal-Mart’s increased political voice on controversial issues such as same-sex marriage and the Confederate flag debates. Lublin said that “they don’t want to be seen as a Republican store or Democrat store…they want to be seen as a great American store.” (6/28)

The Heat Discusses the U.S. Presidential Elections

Communication professor Jane Hall appeared on CCTV America’s The Heat to discuss the 2016 presidential campaign. Hall and the other panelists spoke about the potential of a Bush vs. Clinton election, the two-party election system and campaign finance. (6/30)