Top Story

Why the Islamic State Leaves Tech Companies Torn Between Free Speech and Security

Investigative Reporting Workshop fellow Fauzeya Rahman worked with Washington Post on a report on ISIS and other terrorists groups that use social media to spread propaganda and to recruit individuals. This article also explores the dilemma social media companies face when confronted with freedom of speech and censorship issues related to terrorist content. Rahman transcribed hours of interviews with social media executives, congressional committee members, "dark web" intelligence experts and others. She also summarized the House hearing on the Paris attacks, developed interview questions, and participated in an interview with Congressman Ted Poe (R-Texas), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferaion and Trade. (7/15)

Additional Features

In The Galleries: An Artist’s Past, Present and Future

The Washington Post featured a review of the art exhibit “Realism Transformed: John Winslow's Wild New World” at the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center. The museum retrospective showcases Winslow's 40-year career as a Washington, D.C. artist. The reviewer noted the directness of Winslow's early work “has been supplanted by a multifaceted approach.” (7/10)

Faculty Authors

Don’t Discount Civil Society in Iran Deal

In his EurActiv op-ed, School of International Service assistant professor Robert Kelley argued why civil society will play an important role in implementing any nuclear deal with Iran. Specifically, Kelley explained that the political elites can "look to civil society to reduce tensions that otherwise run amok in the theatre of politics.” (7/13)
Expertise

Bill Cosby's Art Collection to Remain on View at Smithsonian

American University Museum director and curator Jack Rasmussen spoke to Associated Press about cultural institutions that stand by controversial celebrities, as the Smithsonian will not remove an exhibit on loan from Bill and Camille Cosby. Rasmussen said, "You'd be sort of stomping all over the curatorial integrity of what you've put up." The article syndicated more than 200 times. (7/12)

Long-Term Success of Iran Deal Will Not be in Obama's Hands

Los Angeles Times

School of International Service dean James Goldgeier spoke to the Los Angeles Times about President Obama's signature foreign policy achievements over the last several months including the rapprochement with Cuba and this week's nuclear deal with Iran. (7/15)

School of International Service professor Gordon Adams spoke to Fiscal Times about the risks Israel would face in taking unilateral action to preemptively strike Iran. (7/16)

Nuclear Institute Studies director, Peter Kuznik explained to U.S. News & World Report anything "that strengthens Rouhani's hand, strengthens secular forces, and strengthens pro-peace forces in Iran is a very good step." (7/14)

Starbucks and Other Corporations to Announce Plan to Curb Unemployment of Young People

The New York Times

Economics professor Robert Lerman spoke to the New York Times about a plan to find jobs for 100,000 unemployed young people over the next three years. Lerman discussed how summer jobs and in-school jobs have declined for workers age 16 to 19 and that "the lack of work experience translates into weaker outcomes even after they finish their schooling." (7/13)

The Potential Pitfalls of Prison Reform

Department of Justice, Law, and Criminology professor Jon Gould appeared on MSNBC's The Cycle to discuss President Obama's calls for criminal justice reform. Gould discussed the tensions from racial disparity, the severity of solitary confinement, and the unlikely allies from the left and right calling for prison reform. Gould also spoke to the Los Angeles Times about how President Obama can influence the debate and national discussion on criminal justice reform that is largely in the hands of the states. (7/15 - 7/17)

A New Tax Break for Married Couples

Executive Director of the Kogod Tax Center Don Williamson shared his expertise with Yahoo! Finance for a story about the new IRS rules detailing a generous estate- and gift-tax break for married couples. Williamson highlighted the importance of filing an estate-tax return within nine months of the death of a spouse in order to take advantage of portability. (7/13)
300 Chinese Americans in D.C.’s Chinatown Fighting to Stay

For the Washington Post, Metropolitan Policy Center director Derek Hyra discussed the role of micro-segregation in the gentrification process in Chinatown where long-time Museum Square apartment residents are facing eviction. School of International Service professorial lecturer Easten Law’s recollections of visiting his grandmother in the area are also described in the article. (7/17)

How Not to Do a Twitter Q&A

For Federal Computer Week, Public & Strategic Communication professor Scott Talan analyzed the Labor Department’s Twitter Q&A session. Talan explained why the Twitter session failed to meet expectations. (7/13)

Sanitizing History

History professor Peter Kuznick spoke to WTTG-FOX5 about the efforts to change the name of Jefferson Davis Highway as part of a growing trend surrounding Confederate symbols across the nation. Kuznick said, “What we’re doing now is coming to grips with our history. I think this is a healthy process.” (7/14)

Trimming the Fat: America’s First Diet Craze

For Back Story, American Studies assistant professor Katharina Vester discussed the influence of an 1863 pamphlet on steps for losing weight on today’s fad diets. Vester reflected on how dietary trends reflect larger historical changes. (7/10)