Top Story
John Kerry Nudges Middle East Peace Process: Could He Be Getting Somewhere?

International service professor Guy Ziv and Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies Akbar Ahmed discussed Secretary of State John Kerry’s efforts to revive the Middle East peace process. With the Christian Science Monitor, Ziv talked about Kerry’s efforts being guided by the two state solution and the influence the United States has in the talks. Ahmed spoke to Voice of America Television in three separate interviews about Kerry’s sixth trip to the Middle East this year. (7/15, 7/16, 7/17)

Op-Eds/AU Authors
Federal Law Provides a Backstop

For the New York Times, law professor William Yeomans wrote about prosecuting hate crimes according to federal laws when state laws make it less likely that hate crimes, such as racially-motivated violence, will be punished. (7/16)

Expertise
Cuban, U.S. Diplomats Increasingly Allowed to Travel

International service professor Robert Pastor spoke to the Associated Press about the bilateral easing of restrictions on travel for U.S. and Cuban diplomats. More than 170 outlets, including the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, San Francisco Chronicle and Fresno Bee republished this article. (7/15)

Idled Air Force Squadrons Resume Flights

International service professor Gordon Adams told the Wall Street Journal that recent sequester cuts would have little impact on U.S. military readiness because military teams are battle-hardened from a decade of war.* (7/15)

*Subscription required for access.

Cellphones and Texting Have Blown up the Dating Culture

Linguistics professor Naomi Baron talked to USA Today about why younger people prefer texting to phone calls. In a separate side-bar story, she discussed why people are increasingly using texts to communicate negative messages, such as breaking up with someone. The Gannett News Service distributed the main article, which resulted in more than 70 additional Gannett outlets republishing it. (7/18)
Partisan Rancor in the Senate and the Future of the Filibuster

James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, talked to NPR’s Diane Rehm Show about Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid’s threats to change filibuster rules because of Senate Republicans blocking a number of Obama administration cabinet choices. (7/16)

Female Image in Politics: How Much Does It Really Matter?

With WBEZ Radio Chicago, Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women and Politics Institute, discussed her recent research that found a female candidate’s appearance does not influence voter choice. (7/16)