

AU Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

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Top Stories

Study Tackles Diversity in Public and Commercial TV Docs



[Real Screen](#) featured a study on leadership in documentary series on commercial and public television by the **Center for Media and Social Impact**. The new study finds that the PBS documentary series 'Independent Lens' and 'POV' lead the field for hiring minority and women directors, while HBO Documentaries and CNN Films excel in hiring female producers. [Indiewire](#) also featured the study. (10/23, 10/27)

Marriage Rates a Key Factor in a State's Economic Prosperity



[Statesboro Herald](#) featured the research of distinguished economics professor **Robert Lerman**. Lerman's research illustrates the links between marriage and a state's prosperity and shows how states with higher marriage and parental rates are economically healthier and more upwardly mobile than states with lower marriage rates. (10/23)

Lessons in Nonviolent Palestinian Resistance from the First Intifada

IN THESE TIMES School of International Service professor **Mubarak Awad** was interviewed by [In These Times](#) about his role as a main organizer of nonviolent resistance during the First Intifada. **Awad** said, "I wanted to challenge Palestinians to take responsibility for themselves and their situation. Resisting evil with the gun is one method, but we can also resist evil with nonviolent means." (10/26)

Additional Features

Remembering Ed Walker

[The Washington Post](#) News outlets remembered American University alumnus and WAMU-FM broadcaster **Ed Walker** who passed away at age 83 after a battle with cancer. [The Washington Post](#) said of **Walker**: "A lifelong radio connoisseur, Mr. Walker became one of its most skillful practitioners over his long career." [Associated Press](#) and [Washingtonian](#) also ran obituaries. (10/26)

Expertise

Indonesian President Joko Widodo Visits the U.S.



School of International Service professor **Vibhanshu Shekhar** spoke with [BBC News](#) about Indonesian President Joko Widodo's visit to Washington. **Shekhar** argued that with the country's plan to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership, Widodo was attempting to bridge the gap between his ambitions for Indonesia and Indonesia's present capacity. (10/27)

2016 Republican Candidates vs. the Media



Communication professor **Jane Hall** spoke to [International Business Times](#) about the third Republican debate and the candidates' criticism of the media. **Hall** explained there is a line between audience members' thirst for conflict and their tolerance for pushy interviewers. **Hall** also appeared on **CNN's Anderson Cooper 360**. (10/29)

The Myth of Basic Science

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. A [Wall Street Journal](#) review about innovation and technology mentioned research by economics professor **Walter Park**. The story

noted that statistics show many forms of publicly financed research and development (R&D) are near zero. **Park's** explanation for this discrepancy is that public funding of research almost certainly crowds out private funding. (10/23)

Winners Announced For Annual Photo Contest Highlighting Global Poverty

 For [The Washington Post](#), film and media arts professor **Leena Jayaswal** spoke about the winners of the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP) Photo Contest highlighting global poverty, saying “these photographs evoked emotions, from strength, to humor, to love.” (10/27)

The Costs of Maintaining Our Bases Overseas

 For [The Washington Post](#), anthropology professor **David Vine** spoke about the costs of maintaining America’s military bases abroad. The discussion was based on **Vine's** new book “Base Nation.” (10/23)

Bernie Sanders Lightens Up

 With the [Des Moines Register](#), professor of government **Jennifer Lawless** spoke about presidential candidate Bernie Sanders’ efforts to show a softer side saying, “it does seem quite real.” **Lawless** also discussed young people, politics and her new book “Running from Office: Why Young People Are Turned Off to Politics” at a public forum in Minneapolis covered by [Minnesota Public Radio](#). (10/23, 10/29)

Changes in U.S. Strategy in Syria

 For [BBC News](#), School of International Service professor **David Barno** spoke about the new U.S. strategy in Syria. **Barno** said that “the strategy over the last year has failed” and noted that the U.S. is now taking a more aggressive stance. (10/27)

Congress in Stealth Dogfight Over the F-35 Fighter

 With [Washington Examiner](#), **Gordon Adams**, emeritus professor in the School of International Service, spoke about F-35 fighter jets, saying that the military will most likely go through a “stretch and shrink” period, slowing the pace with which it buys the jets. (10/24)

Pakistan’s PM Nawaz Sharif in the U.S.

 School of International Service professor **Akbar Ahmed** spoke with [CCTV](#) about the relationship between the United States and Pakistan. **Ahmed** called Sharif’s trip successful in terms of symbolism and substance and said both countries “are keen to get this relationship back on track.” (10/23)

Campaign Spending for 2016 in Arizona Tops \$5.5 Million

 Government professor Candice Nelson talked with [Arizona Capitol Times](#) about campaign spending figures in Arizona, saying “You do need to gear up ahead of time and start hiring consultants.” (10/27)

Catholic Bishops Ask for Binding, Transformative Climate Treaty Ahead of COP21

 With [Mongabay](#), philosophy and religion professor **Evan Berry** discussed the request by Catholic bishops for a “transformative” climate treaty ahead of the Paris climate summit. **Berry** said he believes the time is right for religious leaders to engage in the complexities of climate change policy. (10/27)

Bonus Clip

SPA Students Discuss Election 2016



School of Public Affairs students talked with [Sinclair Broadcast Group](#) about their viewpoints for a story about millennials and elections. The story aired on local **WJLA-ABC7**, as well as **ABC**, **CBS**, and **FOX** affiliates around the country. "What is really going to galvanize voters our age is having somebody who is exciting," explained Pierce Fulkerson. "Politics isn't something we discuss," said Asha Smith. Instead, Smith said: "We discuss ideology." (10/27)