

AU Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

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Top Story

Amb. Akbar Ahmed Speaks About Modernist Versus Radical Islam



For [CNN International's Amanpour](#), School of International Service Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies **Akbar Ahmed** appeared with the United Kingdom's Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks to discuss religious moderation and intolerance.



Ahmed also appeared on [WAMU's Diane Rehm Show](#) as heard on NPR to discuss ISIS' destruction of historical sites in Syria. **Ahmed** explained that ISIS' destruction of sites based on idolatry are extreme and not representative of the majority of those who follow Islam. **Ahmed** said, "Muslim rulers who ruled in the same area for a thousand years before these statues were smashed would've smashed them much earlier." (8/26, 8/27)

Additional Features

Do America's Military Bases Abroad Help or Hinder Global Security?



For [NPR's All Things Considered](#), Anthropology associate professor **David Vine** discussed his book *Base Nation*. **Vine** argues that the United States has become too dependent on overseas bases that instigate serious opposition abroad. He also urges government officials and the public to take the protests seriously. (8/23)

Faculty Authors

Getting the WHO to Take the Reins in Global Pandemics

HealthAffairsBlog

For [Health Affairs](#), School of International Service's Global Governance, Politics and Security Program director **Michael Schroeder** argues that the World Health Organization has a leadership role during health emergencies and needs to address its credibility problem especially after the Ebola outbreak last year. **Schroeder** suggests the WHO leadership should develop a vision detailing its role in global public health and take incremental steps to redefine its mission. (8/24)

Expertise

Putting Women in the Spotlight

The Washington Post

Performing arts professor **Caleen Jennings** talked with the [Washington Post](#) about participating in the Women's Voices Theater Festival, an unprecedented wave of world premiere plays by women, saying, "I sense things are changing. There are men here who get it, and have for a while." (8/26)

Speak and Spell



For a **WIRED** magazine article about the use of dictation software on mobile phones, Center for Teaching, Research and Learning director **Naomi Baron** discussed how digital communication increasingly is making prose informal. (8/26) *Link not available

Amid New Austerity Measures, Puerto Rico Pushes to Restructure Debt



School of International Service's distinguished economist in residence **Arturo Porzecanski** appeared on [PBS NewsHour](#) to discuss Puerto Rico's financial crisis and austerity measures underway. **Porzecanski** explained why it would be dangerous to allow the government to declare bankruptcy on its municipal bonds. (8/22)

Scandals: Bill Clinton Versus Hillary Clinton



With [Sinclair Broadcasting](#), history professor **Allan Lichtman** discussed Hillary Clinton's campaign approach, saying, "She's trying this kind of Ronald Reagan approach, which is to kill controversy with humor. Hillary doesn't have that skill." (8/21)

Ice Bucket Challenge Success Impressive, But Hard to Repeat, Experts Say



Communication professor **Scott Talan** spoke with [Sinclair Broadcast Group](#) about the success of last summers' ALS Ice Bucket Challenge and how this year's version of the challenge has not garnered nearly as much interest.

Talan said "the odds of success are small as there isn't a new part to it" and as such "the expectations should be kept low." (8/24)

Why Aren't GOP Women Turning Their Backs on Donald Trump?



For [MSNBC](#) online, Women & Politics Institute director **Jennifer Lawless** discussed why conservative women supporting GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump are unphased by his remarks aimed at women. **Lawless** explained that Republican candidates do not have a strong record on women's issues and when pressed Trump's "soaring rhetoric on women" stands out. (8/26)

Bonus

The 50 Healthiest Colleges in America



[Time Labs](#) reported that **American University** was ranked among the top 10 colleges for healthy eating according to a GrubHub analysis of delivery orders made to more than 100 colleges in academic year 2014-15. (8/26)