1st Annual Washington DC-Area  
International Affairs Undergraduate Research Conference  

Schedule of Events  

Friday, April 26 (SIS Building, Atrium)  

3:00 - 3:20 Arrival & Registration  

3:20 - 3:30 Welcome (Dr. James Goldgeier, Dean, School of International Service)  

3:30 - 4:30 Expert Roundtable: Undergraduate Research and the Study of International Affairs  
   - Dr. James Goldgeier, Dean, School of International Service  
   - Lindsay J. Hundley, College of William & Mary (2011)  
   - Dr. Holger Schimdt, School of International Service  
   - Dr. Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, School of International Service (panel moderator)  

4:30 - 5:00 Publishing & Undergraduate Research: Introduction of International Affairs Quarterly  

5:00 - 6:00 Reception (w/ catered refreshments)  

Saturday, April 27 (SIS Building, Abramson Family Founder’s Room, Terrace Level)  

9:00 - 9:15 Welcome & Announcements (coffee & pastries)  

9:15 - 10:30 Panel I: Security  
   Chair: Hannah Monroe-Morse  
   Discussant: Dr. Jason Rancatore  
   - Conor Hughes, American University (School of International Service), “Denuclearization: A Models Based Approach”  
   - Alexander Alba, American University (School of International Service), “The Chinese Dragon’s Achilles Heel”  
   - Nick Taber, American University (School of International Service), “Commercial Interests, Political Influence, and the Arms Trade”  
   - Nathaniel Austin, George Washington University (Elliott School of International Affairs), “In the Same Vein: Reconsidering the Economic and Security Implications of Chinese Rare Earths”  

10:30 - 10:45 Break (coffee & tea)
10:45 - 12:00  Panel II: Social Movements & Development  

Chair: TBA  
Discussant: Dr. Aaron P. Boesenecker  
- Michelle Tham, American University (School of Public Affairs), “Middle Class Growth and the Level of Activism in China: A Regional Level Approach”  
- Courtney Joline, George Washington University (Elliott School of International Affairs), “Facebook and the Development of a Youth Political Consciousness in Post-Revolutionary Tunisia”  

12:00-1:00  Lunch (provided to participants, moderators, discussants, & other volunteers)  

1:00 - 2:15  Panel III: Civil Conflict & Its Aftermath  

Chair: TBA  
Discussant: Horia M. Dijmarescu  
- Erin Oakley, American University (School of International Service), “The Longest Civil War: Explaining Regenerative Capacity in Karen State”  
- Vriddhi Sujan, George Washington University (Elliott School of International Affairs), “Reintegration of Burmese Army Child Soldiers”  
- Amelia Whitehead, Georgetown University (School of Foreign Service), “Choosing Sides: A Disaggregated Look at the Effect of External Support on Conflict Severity”  
- Sam Kierstead, American University (School of International Service), “Drugs Are Bad—As Long As They Are Illegal: Imperfections in Afghan Counternarcotics”  

2:15 - 2:30  Break (coffee & tea)  

2:30 - 3:45  Panel IV: Gender, Technology, & Economic Development  

Chair: TBA  
Discussant: Efe Sevin  
- Canyon Bosler, American University (School of International Service, Economics, Mathematics & Statistics), “Access to Credit and Migration in Uganda: Complements or Substitutes”  
- Mary Ann Aabye, American University (School of International Service, Economics), “Factors Affecting Mobile Banking Technology Use”
• Rebekah Yurco, George Washington University (Elliott School of International Affairs), “The Economic Impact on Women’s Rights in China”

• Yuliya Khromyak, American University (School of International Service), “Gender Parity in Education and Availability of Contraception: The Road to Economic Development”

3:45 - 4:00 Break (coffee & tea)

4:00 - 5:15 Panel V: Identity & Development

Chair: TBA

Discussant: Claire Baumann

• Matthew Zonis, American University (School of International Service), “Bamboozled: Inquiry Into the Kenyan Slum Experience Through Spoken Word”

• Minjun Chen, American University (School of International Service), “Effect of Gangnam Style on Creating a Pan-Asian Community in the United States and Implications for East Asian Reconciliation”

• Andrew Menefee, American University (School of International Service), “The Political Economy of Race: Comparing the Role of Social Services in the Persistence of Racial Inequalities in Brazil and the United States, 1870-1940.”

• Rolando Cuevas, Caroline Gomez, Lisa Lumeya, & Miyako Takashima, American University (School of International Service), “Soaring Eagle and Hidden Dragon: A Comparative Study of Developmental Aid in Latin American from the U.S. and China”

5:15 - 5:30 Break

5:30 - 6:00 Awards & Closing Reception (w/ catered refreshments)