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AU Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

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Top Story

American University opinion leaders provided U.S.-Cuba bilateral relation analysis on op-ed pages and in feature articles.

Stop Punishing Cuba's People



School of Public Affairs professor of government **William LeoGrande**, in his op-ed for New York's [Newsday](#), argued that the U.S.' outdated embargo against Cuba is hurting the Cuban people on moral and practical grounds rather than providing any chance for regime change having failed to do so for 50 years. **LeoGrande** urged Congress to take action to undue the embargo now that relations are normalized and the U.S. flag flies once again over the embassy in Havana. (8/14)

Cuba Confidential: Inside the Crazy Back-Channel Negotiations that Revolutionized Our Relationship with Cuba



LeoGrande also co-authored an article for [Mother Jones](#), adapted from the new, updated edition of his co-authored book with Peter Kornbluh, *Back Channel to Cuba: The Hidden History of Negotiations Between Washington and Havana*, explaining the

complicated negotiations to achieve a diplomatic rapprochement with Cuba leading up to the December 17, 2014, announcement that the U.S. and Cuba were normalizing relations. (8/12)

U.S.-Cuba Relations Will Pay Dividends in W. Hemisphere



In an op-ed for [Orlando Sentinel](#), history professor **Max Paul Friedman** and School of International Service alumnus and former SIS professorial lecturer **Tom Long** discussed the softening of U.S. relations with Cuba, noting that rapprochement

with Cuba better positions the United States among its neighbors in the Western Hemisphere. (8/14)

Additional Features

Europe's Growing Migrant and Refugee Crisis



For [The Diane Rehm Show](#) on NPR, history professor **Alan Kraut** discussed Europe's influx of migrants fleeing conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa. **Kraut** said "Now is a time when we really need some creativity and some innovation" in addressing the crisis. (8/10)

Blood from Gay Donors in Art Exhibit Protesting FDA's Ban



[Associated Press](#) featured a story about the forthcoming “Blood Mirror” exhibit at **American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center**. The central artwork will be a 7-foot-tall, interactive, monolithic sculpture made of blood and created in

protest of the FDA's ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men. Museum director **Jack Rasmussen** said the exhibit draws attention to “what is no longer really acceptable – that you can discriminate against people by virtue of their sexual orientation.” The story posted in more than 300 outlets. [WRC-NBC4](#) also ran a segment. (8/13)

Faculty Authors

Falling Short of the Kennedy Mystique



In his [War on the Rocks](#) op-ed, School of International Service dean **James Goldgeier** argued that a disparity exists between President John F. Kennedy's and President Barack Obama's speeches given at American University, saying that “President

Obama will continue to fall short of the Kennedy mystique until he can prevail not through negotiation, but through resolution of a major conflict through an exhibition of strength.” (8/12)

Expertise

The Rise of Phone Reading



For the [Wall Street Journal](#), Center for Teaching, Research and Learning director **Naomi Baron** discussed the future of using phones to read books. **Baron** also spoke to [WFHB's Interchange](#) and [KCBS-AM](#) about GIFs and reading in a digital world. (8/11 - 8/12)

Why Women Should Thank Trump



Government professor **Jennifer Lawless** spoke to [TIME](#) about presidential candidate Donald Trump's comments about Megyn Kelly. **Lawless** said that Trump has “opened the door” for scrutiny of the GOP field on women's issues.

Lawless also spoke to [New York Daily News](#) about Trump's comments. (8/10 - 8/11)

Netscape Changed the Internet—and the World—When It Went Public 20 Years Ago



Communication professor **Joseph Campbell** spoke to [Quartz](#) about Netscape and its contribution to the world. **Campbell** talked about Netscape's graphics interface that made the web accessible to everyday people and referred to the Internet provider as a “gateway to the early web.” (8/9)

The Top Secret Pentagon Project That Had Its Own Super Bowl Commercial



School of International Service professor **Gordon Adams** spoke to [Bloomberg](#) about the cost of the government's new bomber plane.

Adams predicts the speculated price of \$550 million per plane will double because the government won't purchase as many as previously thought. (8/11).

Fact-Checking the GOP's Relationship with Women



For [Politifact](#), government professor **Karen O'Connor** discussed the GOP's losing streak for female votes, saying that “women were very angry,” after the Clarence Thomas hearings held by the all-male Senate Judiciary Committee's questioning of Anita Hill (8/6)

U.S. Hopes for Diplomatic Breakthrough with Venezuela, Though Critics Call Effort a 'Joke'



Center for Latin American and Latino Studies director **Eric Hershberg** spoke to [Fox News Latino](#) about the United States' efforts to stabilize relations with Venezuela. (8/12)