



# AU Newsmakers

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## Top Story

### A Suffering City That Belies the Dreams of Its Founding



In Sunday's [Washington Post](#), Akbar Ahmed, Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies, reviewed *Instant City: Life and Death in Karachi* the new book tracing Pakistan's history. "Jinnah [founding father of Pakistan] had a vision of Pakistan as a modern Muslim state, providing full rights and protection to women and minorities attracting respect for the constitution. The tension between this ideal and reality of an imploding society is reflected by the ethnic and political violence in Karachi today," he wrote. On [BBC World's The Forum](#), Ahmed discussed his forthcoming book about Pakistan. (10/16, 10/15)

## Additional Features

### JSTOR for Life



An [InsideHigherEd.com](#) article listed **American University** among 19 universities selected for a popular pilot program through which alumni of those schools receive free access to JSTOR, the online academic journal archive. "Just the potential of engagement it affords me is worth the price of admission," said university librarian **William Mayer**, who also called the program "another creative way for libraries to leverage their resources as a tool for engagement with their alumni base." (10/17)

### Roskam, Podesta Exhibitions at the American University Museum



[Washington Post](#) columnist John Kelly marveled at documentary photographer Louise Roskam's photos of 1940's Washington, D.C., now at the **American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center**. "The detail is incredible. Discarded orange peels on the pavement in front of Shulman's look as bright as the day they were tossed there," Kelly wrote. In addition, [TheHill.com's Washington Scene](#) talked to D.C. power couple Heather and Tony Podesta about the exhibition of works from their personal collection, also on display. (10/18, 10/13)

### "Tommy" Offers an Education in Musicals



In its local theatre column, the [Washington Post](#) featured the Department of Performing Arts' forthcoming performance of The Who's *Tommy*. "There's a social aspect to this show. [It's] the human story of a child who is told that he is less than, that he will never achieve anything," said **Javier Rivera**, assistant professor of theatre and the play's director. (10/18/11)

### Lost in Detention Examines Immigration Policy Enforcement



SOC's [Investigative Reporting Workshop](#) partnered with [PBS' Frontline](#) in a year-long investigation of U.S. immigration policy enforcement and alleged abuse at immigration detention centers. *Lost in Detention*, the documentary, aired Tuesday night. The Workshop's comprehensive coverage featured assistant professor of journalism **Carolyn Brown**, associate professor of film and media arts **Larry Engel**, and center staff **Margaret Ebrahim** and **Catherine Rentz**. [New York Daily News](#), [PBS' Newshour](#), and [New America Media](#) also featured the collaboration. (10/18)

## Op-Eds/AU Authors

### In Defense of the Back-Room Deal

#### **The New York Times**

In his op-ed for the [New York Times](#), **Jordon Tama**, assistant professor of international relations, defended why “super committee” (the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction) members need to hold private meetings. “Private meetings are essential to give the committee’s six Republicans and six Democrats the freedom to step away from party orthodoxies, conduct serious negotiations and search for common ground, rather than engage in political posturing,” wrote Tama. [TheAtlantic.com](#) and [Washingtonpost.com’s Wonkblog](#) named Tama’s op-ed one of the best columns of the day. (10/19)

### How Libya made Humanitarian Intervention Less Likely



In an opinion piece for [ForeignPolicy.com](#), **David Bosco**, assistant professor of international politics, wrote about the operational doctrine called “responsibility to protect” (R2P) which guided the international intervention in Libya and its structural problems. “The problem is that R2P’s success will always be ambiguous and debatable, dogged by ‘what if’s,’” wrote Bosco. (10/20)

### Trying to Lift the Gloom over Housing

#### **The New York Times**

In his letter to the [New York Times](#), **Robert Lerman**, professor of economics, shared his suggestion for reinvigorating the housing market. “A far less expensive strategy to boost demand for owner-occupied dwellings and help the neediest families is to create one to two million homeownership vouchers patterned after the rent voucher system,” Lerman wrote, pointing out that the solution offered in a previous article by a Harvard economist was too costly and unfair to taxpayers who avoided mortgages they could not afford. (10/19)

## Expertise

### Freelancer Heard on NPR Stations Fired for Protest



**Patricia Aufderheide**, director of the Center for Social Media, spoke with the [Associated Press](#) about NPR freelance radio host Lisa Simeone, who was fired from her job as host of *Soundprint* for helping to organize a Washington, D.C., protest. “I’m a little baffled about why somebody who was not a news reporter would not be able to take a stand on a topical issue that wasn’t in their sphere of professional activity,” said Aufderheide. More than **100** outlets, including the **New Jersey Star-Ledger**, **npr.org**, and **Yahoo! News**, republished the article. (10/20)

### UN Torture Sleuth Urges End to Long Solitary Terms



A [Reuters](#) article that syndicated more than 40 times covered testimony by **Juan Mendez**, professor of law and a UN special rapporteur on torture, to the UN General Assembly’s human rights committee about the abuses of solitary confinement. “Solitary confinement should be banned by states as a punishment or extortion (of information) technique,” said Mendez, noting that the days he himself spent in solitary confinement in the 1970’s “were the three longest days in my life.” (10/18)

### Inappropriate Content Making Its Way to Mobile Apps

#### **The Washington Post**

**Kathryn Montgomery**, professor of public communication, spoke with the [Washington Post](#) about children’s exposure to inappropriate material through mobile apps. “Developments are happening so quickly in the digital marketing industry that many of the new techniques may be escaping scrutiny,” said Montgomery. (10/14)

### Trading Partners Closer to Home

#### **San Francisco Chronicle**

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) quoted remarks by professor of international relations **Robert Pastor** about the value of improving relations among the United States, Mexico, and Canada, that he made during a speaking engagement for his book *The North American Idea*. “Mexico and Canada are our partners in finding a competitive advantage over China,” said Pastor. (10/14)

## Polls Raise Herman Cain but \$\$\$ Lags



**Richard Benedetto**, adjunct instructor of communication, explained to the [Boston Herald](#) the importance of fundraising for GOP Presidential hopeful Herman Cain if he is to maintain his status as a leading candidate. "If he comes in under \$10 million it's going to be really tough," said Benedetto. (10/15)

## Super Committee on Deficit to Get Proposals



**Gordon Adams**, professor of U.S. foreign policy, spoke to [American Public Media's Marketplace](#) about defense cuts and which programs would likely be impacted. "The most likely programs affected would be procurement programs and hardware programs," said Adams. (10/14)

## Pew: Media not in Love with Obama



Despite a recent study by the Pew Research Center that indicates negative coverage of President Obama surpasses that of his potential GOP challengers, **Jane Hall**, associate professor of journalism, explained to [Politico](#) that the President should not criticize the media. "I think Obama has looked thin-skinned when he criticized the media and criticized Fox. For him to say 'the media don't like me,' I just don't think you ever win if you are a Democrat and say that, as much as you do if you're a Republican," said Hall.

## Prisoner Swap Yields Benefits for Palestinians and Israelis



**Mohammed Abu-Nimer**, director of the Peacebuilding and Development Institute, talked to [Wisconsin Public Radio's At Issue with Ben Merens](#) about the motivation behind the lopsided Israeli-Palestinian swap. "I think both political leaders [Netanyahu and Abbas] who executed this decision are trying to cultivate more and more domestic support for their political agenda," said Abu-Nimer. (10/18)

## DNA Reversals Fuel Efforts to Improve Eyewitness IDs



**Jon Gould**, professor of justice, law and society, told the [Washington Examiner](#) it's important for police departments to take steps—like blind and sequential lineups—to improve identification methods because juries find eyewitness testimony especially persuasive. (10/16)