



This Week's Newsmakers Sept. 11 – Sept. 17, 2010

Top Stories

Religious Tolerance in a Post 9/11 World



In an [Associated Press](#) article about the anniversary of the September 11 tragedies, **Akbar Ahmed**, chair of Islamic studies, said, "Many mosques are engaged in internal struggles between Muslims with rigid and modernist views, but I found none that fit the imaginings of anti-Muslim conspiracy theorists." More than 275 outlets republished the article, including the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Los Angeles Times* and [MSNBC.com](#). Ahmed was also quoted in an [NPR.org](#) article and wrote an OpEd for [CNN.com](#). On [NPR's On Point](#), he spoke about his recent journey across America to visit mosques and for [YahooNews.com](#), he discussed his decision to join a coalition to defend the rights of Muslims to build mosques in their communities. A previous article in *Los Angeles Times* was republished in more than 20 online news sites this week.

Center's Voter Turnout Data a Resource for Media & Politicians



AU's Center for the Study of the American Electorate analysis pointing to stronger Republican voter turnout during the primaries continued to drive discourse. **Curtis Gans**, director and lead researcher on the project, discussed the results on [ABC's World News Tonight](#), which aired on 175 ABC affiliate stations, and on [NPR's All Things Considered](#). "I think it's going to be very, very difficult in places where Republicans have plausible candidates for the Democrats to mobilize in the way that they were able to mobilize in 2008." [CNN's Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer](#), [New York Times](#), [Bloomberg BusinessWeek](#), [Boston Globe](#), and [Buffalo News](#) cited the study in pre-primary day election coverage. [Wall Street Journal](#) noted the results in an article about Tea Party primary wins. More than 25 online outlets republished this article.

Women Underrepresented on Talk Shows & Campaign Trail



The [New York Times' Media Decoder](#) blog cited findings by AU's Women & Politics Institute in a post about the lack of diversity on the major networks and cable news outlets Sunday mornings. In [CQ Politics](#), **Jennifer Lawless**, the institute's director, suggested that the "Year of the Women" for congressional candidates might not be so. "After the June primaries, where we saw this alleged upsurge in women candidates," she said, "we were not talking about 20 or 30 or 40 high-profile candidates. We were talking about four." Lawless told the [Washington Post](#) that there are more new Republican than Democrat women running for office this year.

Additional Features

What Matters Most to Federal Employees



Robert Tobias, director of AU's Institute for the Study of Public Policy Implementation, told [Federal Computer Week](#) that the relationship between employees and top-level leaders—not their immediate supervisors—carries the most weight with federal employees. "The Best Places to Work in the Federal Government" survey and ranking finds a strong correlation between this specific aspect of employee satisfaction and an agency's ranking. (9/12)

Best Practices in Bringing Broadband to the Underserved



A post on [PBS's Media Shift](#) blog about the Public Media Corps' effort to bridge the broadband gap for underserved communities mentioned that the **Center for Social Media** will help the corps evaluate their efforts and results to identify best practices. (9/15)

Quotes

Tough Job Market May Increase Hiring Discrimination



Caren Goldberg, assistant professor of management, told [Crain's New York Business.com](#) that when times are tough, so is the competition for jobs, which could create difficulties for transgender applicants. "When the economy is not doing so well and employers have a wider range of applicants to choose from, you tend to see more discrimination," she said. (9/10)

News Media Narcissism Behind Myths



[DenverPost.com](#) praised communication professor **W. Joseph Campbell's** book about media myths, *Getting It Wrong*. "Campbell's literate take on the media and their gazing at themselves in the mirror is an exquisitely researched and lively look at an industry that too often shines the light on itself more than it does on events and public figures," wrote the reviewer. (9/12)

Observing September 11



In the [Pittsburgh Post Gazette](#), **Peter Kuznick**, associate professor of history, noted that how Americans observe national tragedies such as September 11, Pearl Harbor Day, and D-Day depends on the context of the year in which the anniversary falls. "Nine years after Pearl Harbor, there were very, very few commemorative events on Dec. 7," he said, noting that it was more of a time for reflection as America was involved in the Korean War. (9/11)

Missouri Senate Candidate's Fundraising Record



In an article about Roy Blunt, Republican candidate for Missouri's open U.S. Senate seat, **James Thurber**, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, told the [St. Louis Post Dispatch](#) that Blunt's fundraising style mimicked that of his mentor Tom DeLay. "I think the Republican leadership during that time, especially Tom DeLay, pushed the limits of what I call the 'iron law of reciprocity' — I'll help you and you help me," he said. (9/12)

Fiscal Crisis a Reality



Gordon Adams, professor of international service, said "The fiscal crisis is real; it poses serious, long-term threats to America's well-being and global position; and the only solution, as already experienced from 1985 to when we hit a surplus in 1998, is for all parts of federal spending and revenues to be on the table, including defense," in an interview with the [National Journal](#) about the government's spending habits. (9/12)

Tea Party Gaining Momentum



Lenny Steinhorn, professor of communication, was interviewed on [WTTG-FOX5](#) about recent national primary election results and what it means for November. "When the Alaska senator lost her primary to a Tea Party candidate, and people started wondering if this could happen elsewhere, well it did happen in Delaware," he said about the Tea Party's sudden surge of popularity. (9/14)