

# Midwest Undergraduate Political Science Research Conference

March 19-20, 2010  
Gustavus Adolphus College

**Friday, March 19**

**Registration** **1:00-2:30 pm**  
*Old Main, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

**Panels—Round I** **2:45-4:00 pm**  
*Old Main, Basement*

**Panel 1A: American Political Institutions—Old Main 05**

Papers: Efficiency in the Supreme Court  
Amanda Johnson, Missouri Western State University

Understanding Corruption  
Erica Goven, Creighton University

Motives and Benefits: Understanding Pork Barrel Politics  
Ken Smith, Creighton University

Gerald R. Ford and the Quest for Legitimacy  
Kevin Dyrland

A Time of Decisions: Roosevelt, Truman, and the Policy of Unconditional Surrender  
Michael Bahr, Buena Vista University

Discussant: Dr. Bruce Nesmith, Coe College

**Panel 1B: International Conflict and Peacemaking—Old Main 06**

Papers: Causes of Ethnic Conflict: Examining the Role of Religious Diversity and Contagion Effects  
Mai Nguyen, Creighton University

Ethnic Politics of Nepal: Can It Be a Source of Positive Influence With Its Neighbors?  
Ravi Kumar, Buena Vista University

Discussant: Dr. Mimi Gerstbauer, Gustavus Adolphus College

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**Panels—Round II**  
*Old Main, Basement*

**4:15-5:30 pm**

**Panel 2A: American Public Policy—Old Main 05**

Papers: The Impact of Shifting U.S. Defense Spending Priorities on Employment  
Houston Johansen, Creighton University

Creating a Comprehensive Profile of the Academic Competitiveness Grant  
Kelsea Klein, Bemidji State University

A Time of Decisions: Roosevelt, Truman, and the Policy of Unconditional Surrender  
Michael Bahr, Buena Vista University

Discussant: Dr. Jon Euchner, Missouri Western State University

**Panel 2B: International Political Institutions—Old Main 06**

Papers: Defining Genocide: A Current Case Study and a Test of Power's Theory  
Rebecca Pfenning, Coe College

Promising Non-Proliferation Without Triggering a Collapse: China's North Korea Policy  
Yanchuan Liu, Macalester College

Failed States: Methods for Assessment and Rehabilitation/Stabilization  
Stuart J.W. Washington, Park University

Discussants: Dr. Bret Billet, Wartburg College  
Dr. James Pasley, Park University

**Banquet**  
*Three Crowns Room, Jackson Campus Center*

**6:00-8:00 pm**

Announcement of Best Paper Award winners

Entertainment by I Am, We Are

I Am We Are is a student-led organization striving to create a more socially just campus community through the organization and presentation of theatrical performances and workshops that deal with issues of social justice.

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**Saturday, March 20**

**Late Registration** 7:30-8:30 am  
*Old Main, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

**Continental Breakfast** 7:30-8:30 am  
*Old Main, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

**Panels—Round III** 8:30-9:45 am  
*Old Main, Basement*

**Panel 3A: American Political Behavior—Old Main 05**

Papers: Latino Youth Voter Turnout  
Breanna Bergstrom, Creighton University

2002 American Midterm Election Turnout  
Thomas Kerkhove, Creighton University

The Impact of Short Term Economic Data on the Perception of Public Officials: Analysis of the 2008 Economic Crisis and the American Presidential Election  
James A. Foster, Bemidji State University

Discussant: Dr. Chris Gilbert, Gustavus Adolphus College

**Panel 3B: International Poverty and Economic Development—Old Main 06**

Papers: Landlocked Countries and Human Development  
Bibek Chand, Wartburg College

Terrorism, Tourism, and Effects on Economic Development: A Closer Look at Latin America, Caribbean, and South Asia  
Chelsea Jensen, Wartburg College

Evaluating Microfinance for Public Policy Implications  
Kelly Carlblom, Coe College

How the Informal Economics of Latin America Affect Income Inequality  
Michael Manning, Creighton University

Multinational Enterprises: Their Impact on Developing States and Their Growing Influence on the International Political Economy  
Kate Green, Northern Illinois University

Discussant: Dr. Lynda Barrow, Coe College

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**Panels—Round IV**  
*Old Main, Basement*

**10:00-11:15 am**

**Panel 4A: Political Communication in American Politics—Old Main 05**

Papers:        Rush Limbaugh: A Study in Political Communication  
Justin Erickson, Wartburg College  
Abhay Nadipuram, Wartburg College

Negative Campaigning in 1988: Influence on a Presidential Election  
Ryan Lee, Gustavus Adolphus College

Interactive Marketing in the 2008 Election: Setting the Bar  
Lynn Hillen, Gustavus Adolphus College

Discussant:    Dr. Ron Brecke, Park University

**Panel 4B: Development and the Environment—Old Main 06**

Papers:        Sudan and Underdevelopment  
Samantha Maranell, Gustavus Adolphus College

Sustainable Development Initiatives in the Amazon: Lessons and Implications  
Mark Vanderlinden, Coe College

The Determinants of Environmental Sustainability in Africa and Asia  
Kira Stoller, Wartburg College

Discussants:    Dr. Gram Ramsden, Creighton University  
Dr. Pat Donnay, Bemidji State University

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**Panels—Round V**  
*Old Main, Basement*

11:30 am-12:45 pm

**Panel 5A: Political Theory—Old Main 05**

Papers: A Summary and Analysis of Giles of Rome's Treatise "On Ecclesiastical Power"  
Kyle Herink, Coe College

The Modern Crisis of Political Myth  
Nick Harper, Gustavus Adolphus College

A Libertarian Critique of Sandel's Communitarian Philosophy  
Ronald Forsell, Buena Vista University

A Conservative Critique of Communitarianism  
Brian Janssen, Buena Vista University

Discussant: Dr. Brad Best, Buena Vista University

**Panel 5B: Gender in International Politics—Old Main 06**

Papers: Dangerous Obscurity: A Study of the Female Suicide Terrorists in Sri Lanka  
Jessica Santala, Bemidji State University

Saudi Arabian Women in Business  
Lyman Rickman

Discussant: Dr. Jill Locke, Gustavus Adolphus College

**Closing Lunch**

1:00-2:00 pm

*Students: Three Crowns Room, Jackson Campus Center*

*Faculty: Presidents Dining Room, Jackson Campus Center*

For Students: Keynote Address  
Political Science: A Major for the Rest of Your Life  
Dr. Jill Locke

For Faculty: MUPSRC Planning