

Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference

March 30-31, 2012
Creighton University
Omaha, Nebraska

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

Registration **2:00-5:30 p.m.**
Harper Center, Main Foyer

Panels—Round I **4:15-5:30 p.m.**

A. American Politics – Institutions

Harper 3023 A

“Autopsy of an Audit: How Log Rolling and Interest Groups Killed HR 1207”
RONALD FORSELL, BUENA VISTA UNIV

“Party Identification and Congressional Polarization”
ELIZABETH BINCIK, UNIV OF MINNESOTA – MORRIS

“1940: Breaking the Precedents of the Presidency”
KYLE VICK, GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLL

Discussant: Dr. James Pasley, Park University, james.pasley@park.edu

B. International Relations

Harper 3023 B

“The Love of Liberty Brought Us Here: Civil Society Organizations in Post-Conflict Liberia”
NICHOLAS BROTHERS, MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIV

“European Integration and Relative Economic Strength”
RACHEL DICKE, TRUMAN STATE UNIV

“There’s Room at the Table: The Role of NGOs in Global Politics”
JENNIFER SCHWEITZER, MINNESOTA STATE UNIV – MANKATO

“The Effects of Foreign Aid Shocks on Civil Armed Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa”
EMILY WAGMAN, TRUMAN STATE UNIV

Discussant: Dr. Elizabeth Dahl, University of Nebraska – Omaha, esdahl@mail.unomaha.edu

C. Gender/Sexuality

Harper 3028

“Wait...What Is a Feminist?”

JUDSON BUESCHER, REBECCA CURNELL, ABBEY JENKINS, EMILY JOHNSON, BRITTANY MORSE,
HASTINGS COLL

“A Comparative Study on the Status of Women in France and the United States”

LAUREN PARISH, WAYNE STATE COLL

“Homosexuality in Recent U.S. Politics”

NICK PRINCE, GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLL

“Separate but Equal: How Public Single-Sex Education Is a Viable Educational Option for the
United States Public Schools”

REBEKKAH STEINWAND, GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLL

Discussant: Dr. Jon Euchner, Missouri Western State U, euchner@missouriwestern.edu

Banquet

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Harper Ballroom, 4th Floor

Announcement of Best Paper Award winners:

Paper Awards Committee

Dr. Ron Brecke, Park University, ron.brecke@park.edu

Dr. Bruce Nesmith, Coe College, bnsmith@coe.edu

Dr. Paula O’Loughlin, U of Minnesota – Morris, oloughpl@morris.umn.edu

Keynote address:

State Senator Gwen Howard (and candidate for the US House, Nebraska 2nd district)

Sara Howard, Candidate for the Nebraska State Legislature – 9th District

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

Late Registration **7:30-8:30 a.m.**
Harper Center, Main Foyer

Continental Breakfast **7:30-8:30 a.m.**
Harper Center Ballroom, 4th Floor

Panels—Round II **8:30-9:45 a.m.**

A. *American Politics – Health Policy*

Harper 3023 A

“Gubernatorial Influence in Federal Policy Implementation: Evidence from the Pre-existing Condition Insurance Program (PCIP)”
ERIC HANSEN, CREIGHTON UNIV

“The Constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act: The Individual Mandate”
MICHAEL LAFLEUR, WAYNE STATE COLL

“An Industry Analysis: The Uncertain Future of Private Health Insurance”
TRISTAN STEINBERGER, ROCKHURST UNIV

Discussant: Dr. Joe Blankenau, Wayne State College, JoBlank1@wsu.edu

B. *American Politics – Courts*

Harper 3023 B

“Effect of Accommodation Theory on Supreme Court Case Outcomes Since *Lemon*”
JAKE BABER, MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIV

“Testing Tort Reform: Which Punitive Damage Reforms Are Most Effective on Tort Fillings?”
MaKENNA DOPHEIDE, SIMPSON COLL

“An Analysis of Supreme Court Case *PLIVA, Inc., v. Mensing*: The Plight of the American Consumer”
SAMANTHA McINTOSH, BENEDICTINE COLL

“Impact of Right to Counsel: Crime; Prisons; War on Drugs”
MARTIN PASSLEY, NORTHEWST MISSOURI STATE UNIV

Discussant: Dr. Patrick Donnay, Bemidji State University, PDonnay@bemidjistate.edu

C. *China*

Harper 3028

“Human Rights in China”

ALEISHA KEECH, MINNESOTA STATE UNIV – MANKATO

“Chinese Concept of Face”

PENG LI, UNIV OF NEBRASKA – OMAHA

“China’s Soft Power: Can China Make the Grade?”

JACKLYN MILLER, UNIV OF NEBRASKA – OMAHA

“China’s One-Child Policy: From Military Science to an Aging Population”

VICTORIA PLUM, UNIV OF NEBRASKA – OMAHA

Discussant: Dr. Richard Leitch, Gustavus Adolphus College, rleitch@gustavus.edu

Panels—Round III

10:00-11:15 a.m.

A. *Political Theory*

Harper 3023 A

“St. Thomas Aquinas and the Just War: Scholarly Perspectives and Modern Analysis”

ALEX HIRSCH, COE COLL

“Martyrdom for the Rule of the Law”

ALFRED HOPPERT, PARK UNIV

“The Gift of Knowledge: Epistemology in the Political Writings of al-Afghani and Gandhi”

MEAGHAN YOUNG-STEPHENS, UNIV OF MINNESOTA – MORRIS

Discussant: Dr. Brad Best, Buena Vista University, Best@bvu.edu

B. *Comparative Politics – Middle East & Far East*

Harper 3023 B

“Modernization Theory Revisited: A Look Through the Arab Spring”

TOBY FLINT, HASTINGS COLL

“Looking to the Rising Sun: Comparing Economic Crisis in Japan and the United States”

MICHAEL GARDNER, WAYNE STATE COLL

“Freshwater Resource Conflict and Cooperation in Southeast Asia”
TIFFANESHA WILLIAMS, CREIGHTON UNIV

“HIV/AIDS in the Muslim-Majority Countries”
KAORU YAMAGUCHI, BEMIDJI STATE UNIV

Discussant: Dr. Bret Billet, Wartburg College, bret.billet@wartburg.edu

C. *American Politics – Policy*

Harper 3028

“The Influence of Public Ownership on the Price of Electricity: A Comparative Analysis of U.S. Municipalities”
SYLVIA BARTELL, CREIGHTON UNIV

“Analysis of the Debate Surrounding *No Child Left Behind*: Uncovering Obstacles and Informing Policy Recommendations for Education Reform”
K. GRADY BROWN, COE COLL

“Does ‘Right-to-Work’ Work?”
CHRISTIAN GOEBEL, WAYNE STATE COLL

“Electoral Reform in the Post HAVA United States”
EVAN VOGEL, UNIV OF MINNESOTA – MORRIS

Discussant: Dr. Randy Hagerty, Truman State University, rhagerty@truman.edu

Panels—Round IV

11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

A. *Comparative Politics – Western*

Harper 3023 A

“The Effects of Political Institutions on Public Budgeting”
ANDREW BURNOS, BEMIDJI STATE UNIV

“Latin American Social Movements: Identity, Resistance and the Quest for Civil Society”
TONI MONETTE, UNIV OF NEBRASKA – OMAHA

“Canadians of a Different Color: Analyzing Nativism in Modern Canadian Voters”
ROBERT PLACEK, CREIGHTON UNIV

Discussant: Dr. Fred Slocum, Minnesota State U – Mankato, frederick.slocum@mnsu.edu

B. *American Politics – Behavior*

Harper 3023 B

“Facebook Changing the Face of Voting: How the Internet and Social Networking Sites Affected Youth Voting Behaviors in the 2008 Election”

ALEESHA LARSEN, BEMIDJI STATE UNIV

“Explaining the Variation in the U.S. Commercial Sex Industry”

KATHLEEN McGLYNN, CREIGHTON, UNIV

“Out to Greener Pastures: Nature Attitudes and Outdoor Activity of Rural College Students”

LUCAS NELSE, WAYNE STATE COLL

“Aggressive Political Opinions and Video Games: Making the Case for More Research”

IAN PATTERSON, UNIV OF MINNESOTA – MORRIS

Discussant: Dr. Robert Amyot, Hastings College, ramyot@hastings.edu

C. *International Conflict*

Harper 3028

“America’s Strategic Interests in Stopping the Nuclear Weapons Proliferation: Lessons from Pakistan”

PETER GIFFORD, BENEDEICTINE COLL

“It Takes a Nation: The Installation of a Democratic Regime and the Rebuilding of Afghanistan”

DEREK POSPISAL, UNIV OF NEBRASKA – OMAHA

“The Challenge of Modeling Multiplayer Deterrence Games”

LANDON ROSS, CREIGHTON UNIV

“The Decline of European Neutrality: A Neoliberal and Neofunctional Perspective”

COLIN SCHECK, UNIV OF MINNESOTA – MORRIS

Discussant: Dr. Liz Frombgen, Hastings College, lfrombgen@hastings.edu

Closing Lunch

Students: Harper Ballroom, 4th Floor

12:45-1:45 p.m.

Faculty Planning: Harper Ballroom, reserved table