24th Annual Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference Hosted by: Truman State University

March 27th and 28th, 2015 Kirksville, Missouri
Keynote Speaker: John Ishiyama

John Ishiyama is University Distinguished Research Professor of Political Science at the University of North Texas. He is the Lead Editor for the *American Political Science Review*. He was previously Editor-in-Chief (and was founding editor) of the *Journal of Political Science Education*, the journal of the APSA Political Science Education section. He is principal investigator for the National Science Foundation-Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF-REU) grant "UNT Civil Conflict Management and Peace Science". His research interests include democratization and political parties in post communist Russian, European, Eurasian and African (especially Ethiopian) politics, ethnic conflict and ethnic politics and the scholarship of teaching and learning. He has published extensively on these topics, producing seven books and over 130 journal articles and book chapters. He is a member of the American Political Science Association (APSA) Executive Council and was a member of the executive boards of the Midwest Political Science Association, the International Studies Association and Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honorary society. He has won numerous awards, including the Quincy Wright Distinguished Scholar Award from the International Studies Association and the Heinz Eulau Research Article Award from the American Political Science Association.

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<th>Schedule of Events</th>
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<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
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<td>2:00 – 5:30 PM</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
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<td>9:45 – 11:00 AM</td>
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<td>11:15 – 12:30 PM</td>
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Friday, March 27th

Registration 2:00 – 5:30 PM
SUB 3000

Round I 3:30 - 4:45 PM

Round I - Panel I  SUB 3201
American Politics I

"The Policy Formulation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, 2000"

Kayla Gunter, Truman State University

"The Major Obstacles Preventing Water Sustainability in the Colorado River Basin"

Connor Roth, Coe College

"Application of Kingdon’s Multiple Streams Model to the Violence Against Women Act"

Macy Toal, Truman State University

Discussant: Dr. Bruce Nesmith, Coe College

Round I - Panel II  SUB 3202
International Relations I

"Prolonging Peace: External Intervention After Civil War"

Carissa Hernandez, Creighton University

"Democratic Strength and Interstate Trade Levels"

Katie Kerkemeyer, Truman State University

"Finding a Regime’s Worst Enemy: An Examination of the Efficacy of Economic Sanctions"

Dakoda Trithara, Drury University

Discussant: Dr. Michael Rudy, Truman State University
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<th>Round II - Panel III</th>
<th>SUB 3203</th>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Bowling to Pressure: The Relationship Between Israeli Settlements and International Law&quot;</td>
<td>Laddie Miller, Drake University</td>
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<td>&quot;Term Limits and Conflict Initiation&quot;</td>
<td>Sarah Muir, Truman State University</td>
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<td>Discussant: Dr. Bret Bille, Westminster College</td>
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<tr>
<th>Round II - Panel II</th>
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<th>Welcome</th>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;American Exceptionalism&quot;</td>
<td>Jasmine Chuah Joo Lee, Drake University</td>
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<td>&quot;The Illusion of Free Will and Potential Ramifications&quot;</td>
<td>Ian Kropel, Buena Vista University</td>
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<td>&quot;Association and Membership: On the Ground of Political Obligation&quot;</td>
<td>Joel McGuire, Creighton University</td>
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<td>Discussant: Dr. Paul Parker, Truman State University</td>
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<th>Round II - Panel II</th>
<th>SUB 3201</th>
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<td>&quot;The Issue that Divided a Nation: The Republican Party and its Evolving Views on Slavery During the Civil War&quot;</td>
<td>Braydon Roberts, Creighton University</td>
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<td>&quot;Political Realignment in New Hampshire: 1828-2012&quot;</td>
<td>Jessica Williams, Post Buerg State University</td>
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<td>Discussant: Dr. Graham Ramsden, Creighton University</td>
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<tr>
<th>Round II - Panel I</th>
<th>SUB 3202</th>
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<td>&quot;Presentation of Awards&quot;</td>
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Saturday, March 28th

Late Registration  8:00 - 9:00 AM
SUB 3000

Continental Breakfast  8:00 - 9:30 AM
SUB 3200

Round III  9:45-11:00 AM

Round III - Panel I  SUB 3201

International Relations III—
International Political Economy

“Global Superpower: Chinese Foreign Policy Shifts and Elevated UNPKO Involvement”
Alex Berge, Bemidji State University

“BRICS: A Challenge To The Global Status Quo?”
Sharon Mutwiwa, Coe College

“The Impact of European Union Membership on the Levels of Economic Development”
Nothizile Jullian Ncube, Wartburg College

Discussant: Dr. John Quinn, Truman State University

Keynote Speaker:  8:30 - 9:30 AM
SUB 3200

John Ishiyama

“Political Science and the State of the Discipline”
University Distinguished Research Professor of Political Science at the University of North Texas
Lead Editor for the American Political Science Review
Round III - Panel II

American Politics III


Matthew C. Blake, Bemidji State University

“Losing Congress: The Disconnect Between Congressional Trust and Approval”

Jordan Butcher, Drury University

“Koch Industries and Other Major Corporations’ Influence on Kansas and National Politics”

Jordan Schaper, Pittsburg State University

Discussant: Dr. Bradley Best, Buena Vista University

Round IV - Panel I

American Politics IV

“The Misrepresentation of the Electoral College”

Joseph Coll, Buena Vista University

“Income Inequality’s Effect on Political Engagement in the United States”

Matthew Hoover, Creighton University

“Strengthening Democracy by Increasing Youth Political Knowledge and Engagement”

Laura Langer, Bemidji State University

Discussant: Dr. Patrick Donnay, Bemidji State University
Round IV - Panel II
American Politics—Judicial Politics

“The Effect of Information on Judicial Behavior”
Brady Moe, Creighton University

“The Formulation of Citizens United”
Eric McDonnell, Truman State University

Erin Rossiter, Creighton University

Discussant: Dr. Darren Botello-Samson, Pittsburg State University

Round IV - Panel III
Comparative Politics

“The Struggle for Human Rights in South Africa”
Aaron Albrecht, Truman State University

Sho Kawashima, Wartburg College

“Source Countries in International Human Trafficking: A Time Series Analysis”
Bianca Jinate Mejia, Creighton University

Discussant: Dr. Elizabeth Paddock, Drury University
Round IV - Panel IV  SUB 3204
Political Science as a Profession

Political Science Graduate Programs—Expectations and Advice
Dr. John Ishiyama, University of North Texas

Lunch  SUB 3200
12:30 - 1:30 PM

Consider a Master’s Degree in Political Science at University of Nebraska at Omaha

Three open Graduate Assistant positions!
We have three open positions for the fall with stipends of over $12,000, tuition remission, and health benefits.

Excellent teachers!
In the last 10 years, we’ve won 8 university teaching awards.

Flexible program!
15 units outside the major with inter-disciplinary concentrations.

On-line courses!
Your entire program can be completed on-line.