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## 08. Political Science

University of Central Oklahoma

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**Abstracts from the 2013 Oklahoma Research Day**

**Held at the University of Central Oklahoma**

**04. Liberal Arts**

**08. Political Science**

**04.08.01 Americans at War: The Political Impact of Photography**

**Tarron Vogt,**

*East Central University*

Does war photography make people feel differently about war? The poster will feature pictures of every war starting with the Civil War through the War in Iraq. The research will explain how photography changes how the American people feel about war.

**04.08.02 Local Election's Fight Against Low Voter Turnout: The Battle of Ada**

**Marsha Coyle, Stephen Vines, Will Irwin,**

*East Central University*

When we think of small towns, we picture close knit communities where everyone knows everyone and issues are resolved with group effort. This is Ada, Oklahoma. But Ada has one problem that has not been addressed, low voter turnout. The purpose of this study will be to find out why voter turnout is so low and how this correlates with satisfaction of the municipal government. If citizens are not giving the government feedback, then how does the municipal government know what the needs are of the citizens? We will use surveys to measure satisfaction of municipal government and compare the results. Our hypothesis is that communities with higher political participation are more satisfied with the municipal government and when political participation is low the needs of the citizens are not met. Our end goal is to provide insight into the correlations between political participation and municipal satisfaction. Possible outcomes could include policy suggestions for the City of Ada and similar townships across Oklahoma.

### **04.08.03 Native American Indian Women In Tribal Politics**

**Donna Iti Tupa,**

*East Central University*

Historically, Native American Indian Women have been consulted by tribal leaders; however, in modern society and politics their opinions and influence have decreased. The research will aim towards cause and effect Native American Indian Women in leadership position within tribes.

### **04.08.04 Incumbency: How The Delegate Becomes a Trustee.**

**Wesley Robertson,**

*East Central University*

How does the incumbency status of a United States Congressman affect the role he or she plays in representing his or her constituency? I hypothesize that after the third consecutive re-election, members may change from more of a delegate role to their constituency to a trustee role. This is demonstrated by how sensitive he or she is to the constituent desire despite whether it is in the best interest of the constituency. Most research that looks at the incumbency effect shows the relationship between re-election and incumbency advantage. My research contributes to the body of knowledge by showing how the behavior of the elected official can change, be tolerated, and even respected based on a track record that is considered "proven" by the people that vote.

### **04.08.05 Little Miss vs. Mr. Man: A look at Women and Men in the Media During Congressional Campaigns**

**Kaylin Cullum,**

*East Central University*

Women face much different social scrutiny when running for public office than men do. They are hounded with questions very different than their male counterparts, including focus on apparel and overall style as opposed to a stance on the issues. This paper will study the effect of media portrayal of women who run for congress in three states: Oklahoma, New York and Pennsylvania. A number of stories on women verses men running for congress will be compared through content analysis to determine the differences, if any, in questions asked, issues focused on and over all media portrayal. Also studied is how female politicians react to the media attention, and whether it helps or hinders their campaign. Finally, it looks at how the media attention affects the voters, in a positive or negative way.

#### **04.08.06 Education and Politics: The Battle Against Information Technology**

**Stephen Vines,**

*East Central University*

Information Technology is often oversold and underused in schools. Is this because the resources aren't provided for schools or are our schools refusing to adopt Information Technology? The purpose of this study is to take a detailed look into the use of Information Technology in the classroom and the availability thereof. Through a series of interviews and surveys of educators, I will sample how often Information Technology is used in the classroom, and then attempt to find out if it's enough or too much. I will then compare the results to nearby states to see if the State of Oklahoma is providing enough resources for Information Technology in educational institutions. My hypothesis is that the State of Oklahoma does provide enough financial resources, but not enough training and policy support. My goal is that the end product will provide insight into how Information Technology is used in the classroom and how the Department of Education can better implement Information Technology in the classroom.

#### **04.08.07 How Politics and Corruption Affect Society: A Comparative Analysis**

**Elis Matoshi,**

*East Central University*

Politicians all over the world possess prestige, authority and power. It's true that politicians make laws and regulate people's lives. However, many times politicians have been accused of corruption and misuse of duty. Corrupted politicians are a huge issue in every society, they cause economic decline, the increase the criminality, and create chaos in every country. I hypothesize that increasing politicians' wages and creating laws that punish corruption will be a huge step in curbing corruption.

#### **04.08.08 The Thirteenth Juror-the Impact of the Media on the American Criminal Jury Trial System**

**Dan Brown,**

*Southwestern Oklahoma State University*

THE THIRTEENTH JUROR- will examine the influence of the media on the American Jury System as it relates to criminal trials. While the SIXTH AMENDMENT of the United States Constitution guarantees that a defendant receive a fair trial by an impartial jury, this presentation will examine several specific cases where the National Media (tv, magazines and newspaper) have negatively impacted the jury trial process to the extent a fair trial did not occur. The presentation will conclude with specific recommendations to alleviate the problems associated with the media negatively impacting jury trials in the future.

#### **04.08.09 The Use of Precedent in US Supreme Court Oral Argument**

**Iva Asllani,**

*East Central University*

The Legal Model postulates that court decisions are based on the facts of the case in light of the legal precedents. The Attitudinal Model claims that the court decisions are based on the facts of the case in light of the ideological attitudes and values of justices. One way to test whether the Legal Model or Attitudinal Model is correct is to examine how legal precedent is used in US Supreme Court oral argument. Based on preliminary research it seems that today there is a decline in the use of legal precedent and Supreme Court oral arguments are based more on policy and hypotheticals. To test my hypothesis I will randomly select 20 cases each for the years 2000, 2005 and 2010 and review the oral argument transcripts. From the oral argument transcripts I will tabulate the number of cases and which cases are cited. After I note the cases cited in the oral argument I will examine the final opinions to see how many of the same cases are cited.

#### **04.08.10 Canton Lake: Legal Contract vs. Moral Compass**

**Will Robinson,**

*Southwestern Oklahoma State University*

Canton Lake is a key part of the economy of Northwestern Oklahoma, and now it has been reduced to a puddle. Oklahoma City has the legal right to a portion of the water held at Canton Lake, but does it have the moral right to withdraw the water knowing the damage that will occur not only to the lake itself, but to the surrounding communities as well. I will give specific details of the ecological damage that will be done by the withdraw of water, the possible impact on the economy, as well as the continuing conflict between rural and urban in this situation.

#### **04.08.11 The Impact of Private Prisons in Oklahoma**

**Darral Roark,**

*Southwestern Oklahoma State University*

Private Prisons were first proposed in Oklahoma in the 1990's by former Governor Frank Keating. The original idea was to provide more capacity to house inmates for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. Since the 1990's six private prisons have been established in Oklahoma. Of these prisons only three currently house Oklahoma inmates, two are vacant, and one is contracted with the State of California. This presentation will examine the legal and social issues created by the emergence of these private prisons.

#### **04.08.12 Teacher's Opinion Repression And Its Implications On Students' Political Ideology**

**Ibrahim Nour,**

*East Central University*

Nowadays a majority of college students are not involved in the political process of their states or their countries for they believe their participation is inefficient, or their roles as voters does not make a difference. Students declare themselves as “independent” or “no party” registered voters. For they believe that independent registered voters do not necessarily need to vote. Yet, a Gallup Poll report released in 2011, shows 40% of Americans identify as independent registered voters and this number is expected to increase. On the college level, even though there are no specific instructions from administrations to professors to refrain from expressing political views, professors tend to be neutral and not willing to express personal opinions regarding political issues. As instructors are shy to express their political opinions in classes. Both sides, professors and students, are not aware about the importance of this exchange of information, which helps students to create and shape a personal political ideology. The goal of this research is to investigate the unspoken code that restricts instructors from speaking freely in classes, and find measures that rectify the problem.

#### **04.08.13 Eugene “Bull” Connor: The Inadvertent Effects of his Reign of Terror**

**Brock Marshall,**

*Southeastern Oklahoma State University*

In 1954, the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education* that the segregation of public schools and reverses the 1896 decision of *Plessy v. Ferguson*. The court cited the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause as the basis for its decision that segregated schools are inherently not equal. The decision sent shockwaves throughout the country and especially the South. Outrage quickly set in throughout the South as Civil Rights leaders pushed for more reforms. Through events such as the Birmingham Campaign and the Freedom Riders, Civil Rights leaders set out to desegregate Birmingham, Al. This move outraged the Commissioner of Public Safety, Eugene “Bull” Connor who quickly became known as one of the staunchest opponents of Civil Rights. Connor became widely known for his tough and often violent responses to protest from Black Americans. Connor was even accused of collaborating with the infamous Klu Klux Klan. However, Bull Connor's violent actions in protest of desegregation became a rallying cry for the movement. Also, the media extensively covered the Birmingham Campaign and opened the eyes of the world to the treatment of Black Americans in the southern United States. The media coverage led to public outcry for reform from supporters. Ironically, Bull Connor became a major player in the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 although in a significantly different manner than he had imagined

#### **04.08.14 Fetal and Maternal Rights in the Media: Abortion in Fictional Television and Cable News**

**Samuel Merchant,**

*University of Central Oklahoma*

Previous research on “cultivation theory” has shown that the more time individuals spend watching television, the more likely they are to believe the social reality portrayed on television. These beliefs form moral and political perspectives, which can effect voting dispositions. Given this, my research tracks the portrayal of the topic of abortion in popular fictional television programming, and the coverage of abortion in contemporary cable news programming. The purpose of the study is to examine whether popular fictional programming represents reality with regard to the option of abortion, and to also examine the amount of pro-life, pro-choice, and/or neutral coverage of the topic of abortion in cable news programming. Although 22% of pregnancies end in abortion, only 1.1% of fictional television series include a serious consideration of abortion in plot lines. This study of the top cable news programs on CNN, FOX, and MSNBC found that objective journalism-based programming found disproportionate coverage of pro-life/pro-choice content, though significantly closer proportion when compared to opinion/commentary based programming. The 2012 Republican primary election must be taken into account, as a majority of the pro-life content on several shows involved Republican candidates for President promoting their pro-life positions.

#### **04.08.15 Owning the Issues: Variation of Issue Salience among States**

**Shannon Bridgmon,**

*Northeastern State University*

Political parties have many purposes, but their primary goal is to capture elected office (Aldrich 1995). They also serve as quasi-public organizations that mobilize the electorate and organize political debate. Previous research (Budge and Farlie 1977, 1983; Petrocik 1981, 1996) suggests that parties will emphasize issues that provide them an electoral or policy advantage. However, little exists to determine if this pattern extends to state politics. While initial research (Bridgmon 2010) confirms this approach for southern state parties, this paper will measure the levels of importance political parties in all U.S. states, as expressed through each state party’s platform. All official Republican and Democratic state party platforms drafted or in effect during 2010 will serve as the data for this study. After determining levels of issue salience variations, this study confirms that parties emphasize issues to maximize electoral prospects.

#### **04.08.16 Women in Politics: a Look at the Rise and Fight of Women, in Politics, in the Middle East Following the Arab Spring**

**Natasha Wood,**

*Cameron University*

The purpose of this analysis is to look at the rise and fight endured by Middle Eastern women in politics following The Arab Spring. An analysis of the countries of Iraq, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia follows, with the intent to show how women in politics have affected the Middle East. Throughout this analysis, this paper will examine the trials and tribulations of Middle Eastern women in politics to gain a more clear knowledge and understanding of their journeys, the impact the Arab Spring had on women in political roles, and the impact that the increased number of women in politics has had upon the politics in the Middle East. The paper will then turn to the methods of analysis in an effort to better acquaint the reader with the impact women have had on Middle Eastern politics and how Middle Eastern politics have had an impact on women. Ultimately, this paper will offer insight into the role women play in Middle Eastern politics and argue that women have had an impact on politics in the Middle East, as well as show the positive correlation of the increase in the number of women in politics to the rise of more democratic regimes in the Middle East.

#### **04.08.17 Corruption of public officials in the state of Oklahoma**

**Davi Peetoom,**

*Southwestern Oklahoma State University*

The content of this abstract will examine different forms of corruption exhibited by state employees by using specific examples of these crimes. The purpose of this presentation is to show that everyone is susceptible to corruption even if that person may be an employee of the state.