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08. Political Science

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Abstracts from the 2014 Oklahoma Research Day

Held at the University of Central Oklahoma

04. Liberal Arts

08. Political Science

04.08.01 Blue to Red: Oklahoma Uncontested and Uncompetitive Elections and Partisan Change

John, Ulrich , Charles Peaden

East Central University

If there is any maxim that approaches a truism among political scientists studying electoral democracy, it is this: "Without competition, elections are meaningless exercises. Competition, the real option for voters to redirect their representation, is what makes elections important instruments of representative government" (Campbell and Jurek 2003). The literature is replete with studies documenting the increase in uncompetitive and uncontested legislative races (especially at the state level). Oklahoma is no exception. The literature also suggests that without competition, electoral change is all but impossible. Yet, with uncontested and uncompetitive legislative races exceeding 80% most years, Oklahoma has undergone the most profound partisan political change over the past thirty years: from one party Democratic control to one party Republican control of the legislature, governor and all state-wide elected positions. Our research project asks a simple question: how has this been possible?

04.08.02 The Plight of the Roma: The Politics of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany

Jacqueline, Watson

Northeastern State University

Jacqueline Watson Northeastern State University The Plight of the Roma: The Politics of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany Abstract It is the intent of this essay to investigate the faces behind the majority of these immigrants, otherwise known as the Roma or Gypsies, and the role that they play in the makeup of the European Union's three power states of The United Kingdom, France, and Germany. This research question will be answered by looking into exactly how the individual states of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany react to and deal with this massive influx of travelling people. Furthermore, because national law cannot take supremacy over EU law, the nature of how the Union as a whole approaches these individuals will also be examined, with an emphasis placed in both cases on the latest information. Finally, we only have the past by which to judge the future, so by scrutinizing the evidence, the forthcoming of these inhabitants will be inferred.

04.08.03 Networking for Political Voice among Women in Disrupted Societies of the Middle East and Africa

Cheryl, Van Den Handel , Jacqueline Watson, Jennifer Edwards

Northeastern State University

This paper asks if women can effectively act as agents of information diffusion about women's issues throughout the Middle East and Africa to mobilize for peace and gain political voice? Secondly, we are comparing the efficacy of women in the Middle East and North Africa with women in Sub-Saharan Africa. Case studies of individual women leaders and women's organizations are categorized by region, country, and how information is transmitted. We conclude that women in African countries are more successful in obtaining political voice than women in the Middle East and North Africa. Another conclusion is that women organizing themselves in civil society groups, reaching out to other women are more successful than those women working on their own. While some men are involved in promoting women's rights, empowerment, and voice, the vast majority of all of successful women's movements are by and for women only.

04.08.04 Indigenous Rights and Resource Capture: The National and International Law Nexus - The Keystone XL Pipeline

Louis, Furmanski

University of Central Oklahoma

The "capture" of natural resources has been an enduring theme in the modern era of international relations. First occurring within the context of imperial conquest, and subsequently during practices refined under neo-colonial exploitation, it would be unrealistic to assume that with the diminishing availability of non-renewal resources we would not witness greater efforts to obtain access/control over natural resources. This behavior was term "RESOURCE CAPTURE" by Thomas R. Homer-Dixon in an often cited article, Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict, which appeared in the journal International Security in 1994. He described the behavior as follows: A fall in the quality and quantity of renewable resources can combine with population growth to encourage powerful groups within a society to shift resource distribution in their favor. This can produce dire environmental scarcity for poorer and weaker groups whose claims to resources are opposed by these powerful elites. I call this type of interaction "resource capture." Amongst the most "poorer and weaker", and marginalized, are, of course, indigenous peoples. It is to a description of the status of native American tribes within the United States that we now turn.

04.08.05 A Solution to Illegal Immigration

Hunter, Bailey

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Since the dawn of the twenty-first century Americans have been faced with many issues concerning our nation. Every year thousands of Mexican citizens illegally cross the border into our nation. This pressing issue has caused much stress and tension between two sides: those who support the immigration and those who do not. While the federal government remains hesitant to tend to the problem, some states have taken action into their own hands. In 2010, Arizona governor Jan Brewer signed into effect Arizona Senate Bill 1070. This law, amongst others, creates harsh circumstances for immigrants and leaves many Mexican-Americans susceptible to racial profiling. The following presentation contains immigration statistics, cases involving illegal immigration, and also includes a solution to the commotion surrounding the Mexican-American border.

04.08.06 Criminal Proceedings and Rights of Foreign Prisoners

brandy, Hollis , Brooke Christensen

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

This presentation will focus on research about Criminal proceedings and rights of foreign prisoners. It will explore the abuse of human rights of foreign prisoners and how this can be avoided by following the provisions of the law. The objective of the study is to establish whether or not these prisoners should have their human rights taken into consideration or not and to what extent the rights would be applicable considering the rise in the number of foreign national prisoners in custody. The research of this project is to show that foreign prisoners have the right to a fair trial before judgment and their human rights must be considered during this trial period. The information used in this study was collected through literature reviews. In the end, the study shows that there are measures that can be taken to ensure that foreign prisoners are treated fairly.

04.08.07 Taking Over the Criminal Justice System: The Impact of the Private Prison System in America

Marshall, Flowers

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

: The private prison system affects our economy, our political figures at all levels and can influence the amount of time one would receive if convicted of a crime. This prison system is becoming more powerful and influential by the hour and there is no end in sight. It is a corporation that is making billions on the dime of the taxpayers. There are several different competing entities, but the most powerful is the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA). The CCA's business model is based strictly on incarcerations. The CCA operates 67 correctional and 20 detention facilities, 47 of which they own, with a total capacity of approximately 92,500 beds in 20 states and the District of Columbia. Contracts for the facilities are held between the CCA and either the federal government or state governments. Most of these contracts state that the prisons must be held at anywhere from 80 to 100 percent full capacity at all times. If at any time the number should fall below the contracted number then the remaining money must be paid at the taxpayers' expense. The goals of private prisons are at odds with the traditional goals of the criminal justice system. The traditional goals are for rehabilitation of prisoners, reducing recidivism rates, increasing public safety, and lowering crime rates in the communities.

04.08.08 International Financial Crisis Deteriorated by Monetary Policies: U.S., EU, and China

Cody, Woods , Youngtae Shin

University of Central Oklahoma

This paper focuses on monetary policy used as one of the many retaliatory measures in the 1930s and today's currency war. Both currency wars began by countries trying to avoid a financial disaster: The policies of devaluing currency as a correctional measure by industrialized countries in the 1930s led to a prolonged depression. Because this policy was often lauded to the "Right Policy" at the time, the current policy makers in the EU and U.S. also attempted to follow similar policies, but they have not worked out. So they began to look to different ways, and adopted austerity measures to ameliorate the current financial crisis. However, neither of them has shown a remedy to the current financial crisis. We would like to explore why these have not yet worked.

04.08.09 An Ethical Analysis of Joe Paterno: Unmasking Administrative Evil at Penn State University

Brett, Sharp , Rusty Olson

University of Central Oklahoma

Evil as commonly understood tends to emphasize the intent to do harm. But under conditions of administrative evil, people can "engage in acts of evil without being aware they are doing anything at all wrong" (Adams and Balfour, 2009, 4). Administrative evil is an outgrowth of technical rationality, itself a hallmark of modernity. Enmeshed in the social technologies of bureaucracy, individuals fulfill their functional roles in a larger system. Organizational priorities diminish individual values. Bureaucratic pathologies such as goal displacement, organizational aggrandizement (in this case, "protecting the brand"), and administrative evil may result. Public servants are susceptible to carrying out routine duties to such a degree that they fail to recognize the very real human consequences of their decisions. Bureaucratic enmeshment, in effect, "masks" administrative evil. Such is the case with the response by members of the Pennsylvania State University administration to Assistant Coach Jerry Sandusky. Several had longstanding knowledge of his molesting children on university property. Among these public administrators was legendary head coach, Joe Paterno. He along with a university president, vice-president, athletic director and others charged with educating college students for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania failed to lead when leadership was needed.

04.08.10 Mass Immigration and Conflicting Ethnic Interests

Joseph, Plummer

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

What are the implications of mass immigration which displaces current ethnic majorities in their home country? Throughout the world multi-cultural policies are currently being pursued by many first world nations and nowhere is this phenomenon more evident than the United States where the traditional majority population is projected to become the majority-minority within the next thirty years. Relying on the perspective and data of the emerging field of sociobiology and the diversity studies of Political Scientist Robert Putnam, I intend to demonstrate that demographic diversity on a grand scale leads to increased ethnic conflict characterized by diminished social trust.

04.08.11 Compulsory DNA Testing In The American Criminal Justice System: Pursuit Of Justice Or An Injustice?

Dan, Brown

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

THIS PRESENTATION WILL EXAMINE THE USE OF COMPULSORY DNA TESTING IN THE AMERICAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT DECISION OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT IN THE CASE OF MARYLAND V. KING (2013); THE PRESENTATION WILL FOCUS ON APPLICABLE STATE LAWS REQUIRING COMPULSORY DNA TESTING FOR INDIVIDUALS AND WHETHER THESE LAWS CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF AN INDIVIDUALS RIGHT OF THE FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

04.08.12 The Impact of Private Prisons on the Criminal Justice System

Courtney, Beattie

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Private prisons were first brought to the United States in the 1980s due to prison populations soaring and the high strain of political cost. Private prisons were brought about to help out in a positive manner, but with all the negative backlash, we have to wonder if private prisons are the answer to our problems surrounding the prison system. They can be helpful for the state, but can also be harmful for the inmates and the criminal justice system as a whole. In this presentation we will explore the private prisons and the debates surrounding them in the states of Oklahoma and California.

04.08.13 Modern Sequoyah: Native American Political Power in Oklahoma

Christine, Pappas

East Central University

Native American tribes have engineered a resurgence of power in Oklahoma by using sovereignty, intergovernmental relationships, and economic entrepreneurship. "Modern Sequoyah" is a reference to the 1905 proposal to create an actual state called Sequoyah where all natives would live. Today we have a "modern Sequoyah" that is not territory-based. Because of tribal sovereignty and the increasing political and economic power of tribes, natives have become more powerful today than if they had been given their own state.

04.08.14 Forfeitures: Are They Legal?

Jessica, Goetzinger

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

There is much debate regarding the legality of the forfeiture process used by federal and state authorities. Many citizens see the confiscation of property as unfair, particularly after examining the amount of revenue generated from forfeitures. The government, on the other hand, seems more conflicted about it. Although many forfeiture cases are upheld, in the late nineties both Congress and the Supreme Court passed legislation limiting the government's power to seize property after public backlash. However, forfeiture proceedings still remain a large source of revenue for government agencies, particularly on the state level. When broken down, there really two perspectives to look through: that of the American government and that of the American citizens. Although there have been instances of government agencies abusing their power, the forfeiture process is in some instances a great help or the sole source of revenue for small agencies. These agencies depend upon the money generated by the process in order to do their job and do it effectively. While this source of revenue should not necessarily be taken completely away, steps need to be taken to further protect private citizens' rights as stated under the Fifth Amendment.

04.08.15 The Failure of Immigration Reform

Tanner, Boyd

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

America was founded by a nation of immigrants, but today we are faced with the challenge of what is illegal and what can be dealt with legally. This project discusses the "Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986" and "Illegal Immigration Reform and the Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996" and why these two reforms are now classified as failures. By using statistics and testimonies, we are able to see the impact socially and economically these laws had on America and the immigration system. We conclude with Congress' most recent attempt at immigration reform and how this act will not be labeled a failure.

04.08.16 Failures on Past Immigration Reform and Future Attempts to Change the Trend

Ashley, Mbaneme

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

This paper will show the history of immigration from the beginning which will allow one to understand, and get an insight on the past and present changes that this law has enforced over the decades. Furthermore, this paper will specify the impacts these laws have made on immigrants through examining the illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 versus The Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007, and present laws on immigration in 2014. The Conclusion will not provide a solution for immigration, but it will show what is happening with laws and help understand why the law failed to work and continues to change.

04.08.17 Marcus Tullius Tiro: The First Paralegal

Jenna, Owens

East Central University

As with most deeply rooted historical vocations, evidence exists that the paralegal profession most certainly existed long before it was given a formal name. While industry standards and definitions for paralegals have vastly evolved throughout the eras, the concept of an attorney employing an assistant to perform substantive legal work under their supervision is no new or even remotely recent concept. This paper will examine the life of Marcus Tullius Tiro, arguably the first documented paralegal, and the lesser known counterpart to the mighty orator and attorney Cicero. Tiro is widely credited as the creator of notae Tironianae, one of the first versions of shorthand, but his contributions to the legal profession extend far beyond this. It is likely because of Tiro's professional assistance and his transcriptions of speeches and trials that the world even knows of Cicero and his successful legal career. The American Bar Association may not have officially recognized the paralegal profession until the 1960s, but the life of Marcus Tullius Tiro (approx. 106-43 B.C.) exemplifies that as long as there have been those that have called themselves lawyers, there have paralegals, even if the title was still thousands of years in the making.

04.08.18 The Real Watergate: Water Policy in Oklahoma

Kaylin, Cullum

East Central University

This paper examines current regulations on non-point pollution. Water law in the United States differentiates between ground water and surface water by having different sets of laws for ground water than for surface water. I explain the history of treating these two sources of water differently and contemplate reforms to current law concerning ground and surface water. I will examine interest groups that have a stake in water policy, and how the laws have changed over the years. I hypothesize that interest group pressures in Oklahoma work to maintain the status quo.

04.08.19 Immigration in the United States: Policy and Reform

Jeff, Miller

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Immigration in the United States is a hot topic on the political agenda recently. As mentioned in the 2014 State of the Union Address by President Obama, reform and change will be a pivotal part of the next year for the United States. Currently, there is an issue with the difficulty of attaining citizenship, and immigrating in a legal manner. The current system has glaring holes, and does not meet the needs of the people any longer. Throughout the presentation, statistics will be provided showing the sheer number of immigrants coming into America illegally, and the stress this puts on many aspects of American economics and lifestyle in varying areas, such as: healthcare, social systems, education, and other publicly funded programs. Although, the challenge of creating a plan that will satisfy most Americans is not easily done, it is worthwhile. Through policy change, an easier way of legally residing in America will benefit not only those illegally here and those wishing to come to the United States in the future, but all of the American people.

04.08.20 The Story of Four Little Girls: Northern and Southern Media Coverage of Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing

Jaysa, Hutchings

East Central University

When studying historic events that include racial minorities one sees that news articles from the North and South are different. The articles cover different facts and display different degrees of sympathy with minorities. I will study the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing from 1963 that occurred in Birmingham, Alabama, and the news articles that covered this event. I hypothesize that the Northern states' articles will be more sympathetic towards the event than articles from Southern states. I define articles as "sympathetic" by the tone of the article, the facts that are included, the length of the article, and the number of articles a paper runs on the event. To test my hypothesis I will conduct a content analysis on multiple articles from the bombing.

04.08.21 Crimes Against Humanity

Davi, Peetoom , Otoneil Soza

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

We are going to explain what crimes against humanity are and why they are defined as crimes against humanity by the International community. At the same time, we are going to see the role the United Nations plays and the measures it can take regarding this issue. Also, we will use examples of past crimes against humanity committed throughout our history.