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2016 Oklahoma Research Day

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08. Political Science

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Abstracts from the 2016 Oklahoma Research Day

Held at Northeastern State University

04. Liberal Arts

08. Political Science

04.08.01 Arafat to Abbas: Toward a Palestinian State

Van Den Handel, Cheryl *Northeastern State University*

The purpose of this research is to determine if changes in leadership in the Palestinian Authority and Israel will bring the two sides closer to a “critical mass” favoring a two-state solution. The principal query asks whether there exists a sufficiently large coalition in Israel and the Palestinian territories that favors the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. A critical assumption underlying this research is that municipal and parliamentary elections in the Palestinian territories would serve as an institutional vehicle for easing many of the Fatah Old Guard leaders out of senior positions within Fatah and the PA. Elections would become a new touchstone of political legitimacy, the vehicle by which the Palestinian population would gradually be able to exercise of self-determination. Another assumption is that the Palestinian Authority’s ability to halt militancy would facilitate the legitimacy of the Palestinian government. Given the divisions and domestic political dynamics, the chances are examined that Palestinian factions would be able to forge a broad-based, effective winning coalition, enabling it to reach a settlement that could create a Palestinian state peacefully coexisting with Israel, compared to other possible outcomes that fall short of that objective. The kinds of coalitions that could emerge determine the prospects for: achieving statehood, remaining mired in the unstable status quo, or some other outcome.

04.08.02 Religion and Law: The Everlasting Battle between the Individual and Community

Pearce, Riley *Northwestern State University*

There are several instances in which the topic of religion has created confusion with courts due to the conflicts between the rights of the individual and those belonging to the community as a whole. Specifically, religious rights in the workplace have been a struggle for those deciding whether or not the individual’s freedom trumps state and national laws. I will discuss a case where a citizen refused to serve same-sex couples as well as others relating to noncompliance in the workplace, where the citizens demanded protection of their stances because of the religious foundations. Of those cases, Kim Davis’ case will be the main focus. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment will also be briefly discussed and analyzed in relation to the Kim Davis case. The obscurities will be reviewed along with the laws to draw conclusions for a potential ruling of this ongoing case. The research collected throughout the writing process suggests that there is no definite answer as to which side is “correct” or “fair” about the right of religious expression as justification for actions in the workplace; however, there are laws that prove interesting points of discussion that could potentially sway the public to either side of this controversy

04.08.03 The Evolution of Abortion Law Statutes in Oklahoma

DeFilippo, Bailey *Southwestern Oklahoma State University*

According to the Students for Life of America, by the year of 1860, there were factors that hindered abortion in as many as twenty of the United States. Some people may think issues with abortion are relatively new, but the truth is that this issue dates as far back as ancient days. In this presentation we will explore the evolution of abortion during a more modern time period in Oklahoma. Topics such as abortion laws, waiting periods, and psychological testing are only a few of the topics that are widely debated in this day and age. Through research, we will delve into these issues and learn how these and many more statutes are implemented into the abortion process in present-day Oklahoma. Only time will tell how these regulations will evolve; the question will always stand; pro life, or Pro Choice?

04.08.05 Someone Poisoned the Water Hole: Water Quality in Disadvantaged Communities.

Hunter, Taylor *East Central University*

Cullum, Kaylin *East Central University*

The purpose of this study is to determine whether or not impoverished citizens face health issues to a lesser degree than citizens from wealthier communities due to contaminated water sources. Also this study will look to determine the concentration of contamination in water supplies. These contaminants can be caused by various industries including agriculture and those that do hydrologic fracturing. The scope of this study will examine the southern United States specifically looking at cities with populations of 120,000 or less it and looks to determine the concentration of the toxins in the water supply used by the city.

04.08.06 THE GREAT DEBATE: SHOULD GUNS BE ALLOWED ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES?"

Brown, Dan *Southwestern Oklahoma State University*

THIS POSTER PRESENTATION WILL EXAMINE THE ISSUES RELATED TO THE POLICY PROPOSAL BY THE LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW GUNS ON OKLAHOMA COLLEGE CAMPUSES. RECENT INCIDENTS OF GUN VIOLENCE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES IN THE UNITED STATES HAS CAUSED A PUBLIC DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE. THE PRESENTATION WILL ANALYZE THE ISSUE FROM A LEGAL STANDPOINT AND CONCLUDE WITH THE IMPACT PROPOSED POLICY ON OKLAHOMA COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES.

04.08.07 Comparative Environmental Impact of Urban and Suburban Living

Savage,Caleb *East Central University*

DePre,Audery *East Central University*

This project builds on existing research to compare the impact major American cities have on the environment to the impact of suburban and rural living on the environment. As the global population rises cities must design with a focus on its effect on the environment. Issues like resource consumption, the amount of "green space," and changes in temperature can negatively affect the environment and cities must work to address the issues. This project examines the comparative environmental impacts and discusses possible sustainability initiatives for both large and small cities to work against the potential issues facing a growing urban population.

04.08.08 Personal Vs. Political: A Look at the Content of Twitter Usage by Members of the Oklahoma Legislature

Caldwell,Christopher Caldwell *East Central University*

In this study I will look the usage of Twitter by members of the Oklahoma House and Senate and examine the content of their 'tweets' to determine whether or not they are more personal or political. Two objectives will be kept in mind while doing this, the first is to determine the nature of the 'personal' tweets to see if they are a result of causal usage of twitter or if they are designed to project a certain image. The second will be to see if the nature of personal vs. professional tweets varies based on age and gender. I hypothesize that while age will play a decisive role in the nature of said tweets (and twitter usage in general) gender will have little to no effect.

04.08.09 The Case of Parks and Recreation: A Leslie Knope Effect?

Lasiter,Faith *East Central University*

Local government does not get very much exposure in the American media. However, the television show "Parks and Recreation" which aired between 2009 and 2015 portrayed local government in an entertaining way. This paper follows in the footsteps of Feldman and Sigelman (1985) who analyzed the impact of the miniseries "The Day After." In this research I will use an experiment to test the effects of "Parks and Recreation." This experiment will be carried out on East Central University students enrolled in American Government. Two classes will be exposed to a clip of the show, and then be given a survey about local government opinions. Two classes will not be exposed to a clip of the show, but still given the same survey about local government to complete. I hypothesize that students who are shown a clip of "Parks and Recreation" will be more likely to associate positive views with local government, and will be more likely to consider careers in local government.

04.08.10 DRIVING FACTORS OF COPRODUCTION IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Ho,Trung University of Central Oklahoma

Even though coproduction has had a long history both in public administration literature and in practice, its conceptualization has really evolved to a new transformative level recently. Nevertheless, the empirical quantitative research to support coproduction understanding is limited in quantity. Contributing factors to enhance coproduction are interesting topics for deeper research. It is expected that when citizens exchange more information with public service agencies, engage more in politics and perceive strong self-efficacy, they will be more willing to contribute significantly to public service delivery, or in other words, to coproduce. Using the method of mail surveys, this research collects data from a sample of citizens in Oklahoma County in order to define the driving factors of coproduction among the citizens. The research output can confirm a previous similar research has been done in the Europe, but now in the context of the United States. It then contributes some insight for local policy makers as well as the academia in further developing coproduction as a tool for improving democracy.

04.08.11 Age Does Matter: Twitter in the Oklahoma Legislature

Stafford,Lauren East Central University

Social media has become another way for politicians to spread their message. With the increasing popularity of social media sites, such as Twitter, many members of the Oklahoma legislature have adopted these forms of social media. This research will analyze what members of the Oklahoma legislature are more likely to have a Twitter account. I will also be researching which members are more active on Twitter. The data will be collected during the months of January and February, 2016. I hypothesize that younger members of the Oklahoma legislature will be more likely to have adopted a Twitter. Further, I also hypothesize that younger members will also be more likely to actively use Twitter.

04.08.12 Concealed Carry in Oklahoma, Cherokee County and NSU

Salmon,Thomas Northeastern State University

Salmon,Erika Northeastern State University

OBJECTIVE. Concealed carry has surged nationwide since 2008. Our objective was to estimate the number of concealed carry licensees in Oklahoma, Cherokee County and NSU. METHODS. Using data from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, the US Census Bureau and NSU, we estimated the number of concealed carry licensees in Oklahoma, Cherokee County and among NSU full time faculty, administrators, staff and seniors, graduate and optometry students. RESULTS. The total number of concealed carry licensees in Oklahoma is about 230,000 and in Cherokee County 2,700, respectively 8.5% and 8.1% of the eligible population. The male/ female breakdown is 72%/ 28%. For NSU- Tahlequah, the estimated breakdown of concealed carry license holders is: Faculty 20; administrators 2; staff 34; seniors 149; graduate students 64; optometry students 9 (total 278). CONCLUSION. Concealed carry is more widespread than many realize. Concealed carry on campus is legal only with written permission of the university president, but storage in parked vehicles is permitted by law. If just 50% of licensees carry everyday, over 100 license holders may be legally storing guns in their vehicles daily on the Tahlequah campus. Lott showed that concealed carry licensees are exceptionally law abiding with less than one-sixth the conviction rate of police officers. The many responsible, trustworthy citizens with handgun permits at NSU are a potential asset and force multiplier for campus security.

04.08.13 The Effect Social Media has on Tribal Elections.

Morris,Isaac *East Central University*

The use of social media, particularly FaceBook, in Oklahoma state elections has been used to reach a broader constituency as well as make issues known to those constituencies. This research will analyze members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives use of FaceBook during campaigns. I hypothesize that non-tribal legislators are more likely to use FaceBook than tribal legislators.

04.08.14 Tweet the People

Burl,Gavin *East Central University*

Social media is proving its worth to the political world more and more every day. This research will track the amount of tweets sent from each House of Representatives and Senate member in the span of one month. I hypothesize that males on average, tweet more than females. I also hypothesize female members tweet to or in response to other accounts more often.

04.08.15 The Effects of Urbanization and Youth on Politicians' Use of Social Media

Orr,Austin *East Central University*

In modern times the new social medium for representatives to communicate with their constituency has moved to social media. This new method has allowed for representatives and constituents alike to personalize their communication with each other. This research will examine if there is a correlation between social media use of a representative and two demographical characteristics: urbanization and age. I hypothesize that the more urbanized a representative's constituency is the more likely they are to engage in social media. I further hypothesize that the younger a representative's constituency is the more likely they are to engage in the use of social media.

04.08.16 Teaching Women in Politics in a Conservative State

Pappas,Christine *East Central University*

Whether implicitly or explicitly, many Women in Politics textbooks assume a liberal stance toward teaching Women in Politics. The feminist agenda is basically the liberal agenda. There are issues such as abortion, gun control, and the role of women in society on which liberal and conservative women disagree. Therefore, a barrier to learning for conservative students is created in Women in Politics classes. This poster uses focus groups conducted in Oklahoma among Political Science students to generate suggestions for teaching Women in Politics to populations that include conservative students.

04.08.17 Effects of Media Bias on Student Views toward Foreign Policy

Moseley,Elsa *East Central University*

The media seems to play a major role in how students view the actions their government takes with or against another. What a politician says can have a significant impact on his or her image, while actions are viewed as less important (Baum and Groeling, 2009). How does media bias affect student views on foreign policy? I hypothesize that unbiased and biased topics may influence student views differently, and that the more knowledge a student possesses about a topic, the less likely it is he or she will be manipulated. My methodology will be to find out which media outlets are most popular among students by conducting an online survey. Next, I will use articles from those outlets featuring topics about relations between the United States and Russia. For the articles, I will utilize two categories: unbiased and biased (I will measure for bias by scanning each article for keywords leading to normative statements). The student population I sample will consist of general education classes (Introduction to Political Science, United States Government and History Survey) and upper level courses required only for Political Science and Legal Studies majors. Out of my samples, I will present the unbiased article to one portion of the total number of classes and the biased article to the other. After students read the articles, I will offer an in-class survey for rating their views on US and Russian foreign policy on a Likert Scale.

04.08.18 Representatives Under Fire: Foreign Conflict and Approval of Democrats and Republicans in their First Terms of Office

Crawford,Wil *East Central University*

During foreign conflict, the United States experiences a “rally around the flag” phenomenon. It is the aim of this project to determine how that phenomenon translates across party lines. It is hypothesized that Democratic representatives who experience foreign conflict during their first term of office will experience a decrease in in vote share in the following election cycle, while Republican representatives will experience an increase in vote share. Beginning with representatives elected before the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan and continuing through to the present, this project will examine the first-term vote share of representatives and contrast it with the vote share they received in their next election.

04.08.19 Friending and Following: Oklahoma State Representatives and Senators' use of Facebook and Twitter

Hunter,Taylor *East Central University*

As social media grows more popular and youth take more of an interest in politics, state representatives will use social media as a gateway to reach younger voters. The purpose of this study is to discover if social media is widely used, and, if it is, whether Twitter or Facebook is used more by members of Oklahoma's House and Senate. The second purpose of this study is to discover who runs the state legislators' Twitter or Facebook accounts: the representative or a staffer. The third purpose of the study will be to determine whether members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives or the Senate will be more likely to use social media. Discovering how modern state representatives communicate with their constituents will allow us to better understand how our representatives relate to the people that they serve.

04.08.20 The 140-Character Soapbox: Legislative Processes and the Use of Social Media

West,Dylan *East Central University*

In order to further evaluate and identify aspects of the effect of social media on legislators, I will conduct a case study to determine if there is any correlation between tweets sent by members of both houses of the Oklahoma Legislature and the time that bills were put to a vote. Using 20 randomly selected pieces of legislation that were either passed or struck down in April 2015, I will document all tweets posted by members of active Oklahoma legislators on the date each bill was either passed or struck down and I will then examine each specific tweet's content to determine if the subject matter either involves one of the 20 pieces of legislation or was tweeted near the time that one of the pieces of legislation was up for approval. I will then compile my findings and analyze the data to determine if there is evidence of strong, weak, or no correlation between tweets sent by Legislators and the timing of a bill being passed or struck down.

04.08.21 Status Updates, Tweets, or Pictures: Does Age Determine How Oklahoma Legislators Communicate?

Williams,Emily *East Central University*

With the reach of social media stretching into all aspects of American life, it is no surprise that the political culture of America is affected. To analyze the use of social media by politicians this study will focus on the members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and Senate to determine whether or not age affects which social media outlet is used by the members. To complete this study data collection must be done on the ages of the Representatives and the profiles they have on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The hypothesis is that the older members of the Oklahoma Legislature will be more likely to use Facebook than Twitter or Instagram. The results of this study will help voters decide if age is an important aspect of electability when considering their ability to communicate with their constituents.

04.08.22 Campaign Appeals

Msovela,Nuru jacqueline *East Central University*

Abstract: Do politicians accomplish all the work and promises they made during campaigns? this research will be about finding out if they do or do not fulfill their campaign appeals after they resume office and to what extent. The research will have sample questions on which will have 10 names of politicians or members who are in the House of Representatives from the 112th Congress elected in 2012. I will follow up their records after they were elected and in office to see how long they took to execute the campaign appeals, I shall also carry out a survey by asking some participants their views on the candidates. The research will be about finding the connection and validity between the campaign promises and legislative activities, the results will be very helpful to determine which political candidates are likely to get elected and who to give our votes to in the next coming election and choose good representatives.

04.08.23 PTSD in Corrections: The Unspoken Reality Affecting Correctional Officers

Scheurer, Stacey *Southwestern Oklahoma State University*

By the definition of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, also known as PTSD, any person can be exposed to a situation that can develop in to it. A correctional officer has a higher chance of developing PTSD than any other profession. This poster presentation will explain what PTSD is, what the symptoms are, and what a person with PTSD can experience. Also, it will address some of the reasons why a correctional officer can develop PTSD at a higher rate. Finally, this poster will address some of the options that a correctional officer has if he or she has PTSD.

04.08.24 Greener Construction For Smoother Living

Stevenson, Justin *East Central University*

Pittman, Ian *East Central University*

In this poster we plan to explore the use of sustainable construction methods, (green construction) and if the benefits outweigh the costs. This area has become more and more prevalent as resources begin to deplete; it seems beneficial to research if green construction is truly a cost effective means of future building. The objective of this presentation is to analyze the cost of these methods versus the benefits. We will look at how these methods are applied to new construction projects as well as the retrofitting of older buildings and homes. The research will also show whether these methods can be sustained throughout time or not. By using existing resources and publications on the subject we will ascertain if the method is currently beneficial; also if it will stay beneficial in the future. We will determine if the methods currently being used will have to be modified going forward due to lack of materials or if the current resources can sustain this cause.

04.08.25 Follow Me For More Tweets

Stevenson, Justin *East Central University*

Henry, Chisum *East Central University*

The object of this study is to discover the correlation between the amount of followers the members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and Senate have and how often they tweet. Our assumption is that the more followers one has, the more they will post. The importance of this study would show us how valuable having followers is. This will also show us if a person tweets more often, they will gain followers. The power of social media is incredible. I did a project a year ago that consisted of seeing how many retweets my tweet would receive in a 24 hour period. I started out with 360 followers and within the 24 hour period I ended with 2,300 followers and 106,000 retweets. I had responses from all around the world. Imagine the impact someone has when they already have millions of followers. Their tweets come often and we will study how often they come and how many followers they possess.

04.08.26 Your DNA in Politics: Do a Person's Personality Traits Determine Political Affiliation?

Riddle, Skylar *East Central University*

My goal is to study and determine the correlation between a person's personality traits and political affiliation. The personality traits that I am using are the personality traits that C. Jung, and The Myers-Briggs Foundation created. The personality traits that they have created includes extrovert, introvert, sensing, intuition, thinking, and feeling. In my research I define each of those terms. The political affiliations that I am using Republican, Democrat, Independent, no political party, liberal, conservative, and moderate. I believe that many political scientists, registered voters, people interested in politics, people who are trying to determine which political affiliation, and psychologists will find this study extremely interesting. After securing IRB approval, I created a personalized version of the C. Jung, and The Myers-Briggs Foundation questionnaire, and added political questions. This questionnaire was given in both electronic and hard copy versions.

04.08.27 Housing and Employment for Transitioning Foster Youth

Mitchell, Deja *University of Central Oklahoma*

Youth aging out of foster care in Oklahoma are severely hindered from achieving self-sufficiency due to a number of social and economic issues affecting the boomerang generation of contemporary American society. Older foster youth are more likely to encounter issues with homelessness and unemployment, and are less inclined to obtain post-secondary education opportunities than non-foster youth. In order to produce concrete recommendations for child welfare policy reform in the state, this essay will present a policy analysis of the Foster Care Independence Act and evaluate Lighthouse Youth Services' Life Skills & Housing Options for Young Adults 17-24 Program in Hamilton, Ohio as a housing-based, independent living model. My hypothesis is stable housing increases the likelihood of stable employment among former foster youth ages 18 to 26. The research methodology for this essay mainly consists of qualitative and quantitative research collected from primary and secondary sources. The researchers of this study utilized several measurement tools for data collection that included surveying and interviewing study participants. A strong correlation was found to exist between stable housing and employment among transitioning youth in Oklahoma. Thus, stakeholders benefiting foster youth must prioritize housing-based interventions for child welfare reform to improve foster youth outcomes in Oklahoma.