



SPIA Undergraduate Research Colloquium

April 25th, 2025 – Richard B. Russell Special Collections Library

For more information, visit our [website](#).

Panel Sessions

Panel A – Room 277

9:10-10:00am *Mediators, Institutions, and the State: Understanding Political Violence*

Chair: Dr. Cas Mudde
Ryan Varma, "The Benefits of a Third Wheel: Third Party Mediators Influence on Ceasefire Negotiations"
Grace Walton, "Resource Wealth and Institutional Persistence: Understanding Extractive Legacies in the Middle East"
Evelyn Hunter, "Beyond the Ballot: The Erosion of Tolerance and the Escalation of Political Violence"
William Gonzalez, "Criminal Architecture: The Role of Cartel Structure in Shaping Authoritarian Responses"

10:20-11:10am *Power, Profits, and Political Upheaval: Global Forces Shaping Rights and Conflict*

Chair: Eduardo Burkle
Piper Duncan, "Progress or Profit? Tourism FDI and Women's Labor Rights"
Ashley Orlet, "Climate Finance and Conflict: Turning Down the Heat on Insurgency"
Alimata Bah, "The Rise of Coups in West/Central Africa and Human Rights"
Lauren Thacker, "Investment Wars: Great Power Competition through Foreign Aid"

Panel B – Room 258

9:10-10:00am *The Politics of Division: Nationalism, Extremism, and Democratic Decline*

Chair: Dr. Keith Dougherty
Adam Buhmeyer, "Voting Rules that Avoid Extremism"
Kaya Groff, "Chilean Nationalism and the Rise of the Chilean Far Right"
Sophia Radke, "When Soldiers do Drugs and Non-State Actors Sell Them: An Analysis of War and Illicit Drugs"
Britton Hare, "Linguistic Identity as a Tool of Authoritarian Persistence: How Cameroon's CPDM Weaponizes the Anglophone-Francophone Divide"

10:20-11:10am *National Image: Identity, Language, Power and Perception*

Chair: Shawn Mazdeyasnan
Aiden Duffy, "Beyond the Fallout: Learned Strategies from Responding to Nuclear Accidents"
Aminata Balde, "The Connection Between Natural Resource Exploitation and Human Rights Violations"
Blake Martin, "Gold Medals and Global Messages: How the Olympics Shape National Identity and Politics"
Chinelo Ireh, "Popular Flicks and Global Conflicts: How Has Popular Cinema Affected the Public's Perception of Global Conflicts?"

Panel C – Auditorium

10:20-11:10am *Reactions and Reflections: 2024 Congressional Elections*

Chair: Dr. Jamie Carson,
Discussant: Andrew Stone
Brennan Lewis, "An Analysis of the 2024 Congressional Elections"
Greta Gustafson, "The Results of the 2024 United States Elections: A Depiction of Politics in the 2020s"
Alex Wiggins, "A Reflection on Trends and Polling in the 2024 Congressional Elections"
Hayden Hulsey, "Analysis of the 2024 Congressional Elections"
Moyosoreoluwa Delano, "Examination of the 2024 Congressional Elections"

11:30am-12:20pm *Weapons, Wealth, and Human Rights: Global Struggles for Security and Justice*

Chair: Solbi Kim
Valerie Cobb, "Fortifications and Conversations: Missile Defense Systems and Nonproliferation Negotiations"
Quintin Gallardo, "Nuclear Colonialism: Policy Failures and Future Solutions in the Marshall Islands"
Levi Thomas, "Picking Favorites? An Examination of Subgroup Support Within LGBTQ+ Interest Groups"
Mackenzie Buck, "Planting Seeds of Survival: Biodiversity, Indigenous Rights, and Anti-Biopiracy Policies in Latin America"

11:30am-12:20pm *GLOBIS Human Rights Research Lab*

Chair: Dr. Chad Clay and Meridith Lavelle
Anya Chin, "The Paradox of Progress: Human Rights as the Driver and Solution to Democratic Backsliding"
Aarav Malhotra, "Income Inequality and the Human Right to Health"
Jenna Cole, "Framing Bias and the American Public Perception on Human Rights"
Anitesh Sandhu, "The Power of Rhetoric Through Violence: An Empirical Analysis of How Language Shapes Conflict"

1:50-2:40pm *Political Decision-Making: Institutional Choices, Security, and Constitutionality*

Chair: Nicole Anderson

Brandon Bamman, "Unconstitutionality and Its Benefits: How Institutional and Cultural Values Influence Constitutional Indecision in Japan and Boldness in SCOTUS"

Spencer Katzman, "A Comparison of Three Versions of Ranked Choice Voting Using Computer Simulations"

Tessa Cianfaglione, "Japan and the AUKUS Partnership: Shifting Japanese Security Policy and Becoming a Key Player in the Indo-Pacific Security Environment"

Nila Karunakaran, "Separatist Organizations and State Sovereignty: The Impact of the Tamil Tigers and Other Separatist Groups on International Governance"

3:00-3:50pm *The Congress Project*

Chair: Dr. Anthony Madonna

Parker Buckroyd, "National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958"

Saleha Alam, "Free Flow of Information Act"

Kameron Chappell, "Hyde Amendment of 1977"

Elliott Furie, "National Emergencies Act of 1976"

Meera Srinivasan, "Administrative Procedure Act of 1946"

1:50-2:40pm *Redefining Influence: Partisan Shifts, Women's Rights, and Public Opinion*

Chair: Karlee Kimbrell

Meera Srinivasan, "From Ruby Red to Paling Pink: Partisan Realignment in Forsyth County, Georgia"

Katie Moebes, "Creating a Paradigm Shift in the Military One Female Leader at a Time"

Isabel Bland, "Do Increased Limitations on Women's Access to Reproductive Healthcare in the U.S. Affect Employment Opportunities?"

Anastacia Stoyanov, "Effects of Language on Public Opinion: Attitudes Towards International Conflict and Cooperation"

3:00-3:50pm *Analyzing Movement: Human Capital, Trade Controls, and Migration*

Chair: Dr. Bryan Barber

John Gooden, "Losing Their Minds: Public Spending and Human Capital Flight"

Melanie Kim, "Does the US Strategically Impose Biotechnology Export Controls?"

Raquel Laranjeira, "Brazil's Humanitarian Visa Program for Haitian Migrants: A Critical Analysis of Policy Gaps, Regional Disparities, and Integration Challenges"

Paul Westmoreland, "Remedying Japan's Aging Population: Examining Social Integration and Promoting Labor"

Poster Sessions

9:00-10:30am Poster Session

Trinity Sampson, "Hostage Justice: Political Power and the Crisis of Japan's Legal System"

Addie Tyler, "Japanese Public Participation: The Relationship Between Politics and Culture"

Sophia Nguyen, "Nationalist Rhetoric in the European Union: The Anti-Immigrant Strategies of Fidesz and PiS"

Lindsay Weinmann, "Close to Chaos: How Proximity to Rogue States Shapes Foreign Policy"

Maddie Haines, "The Childcare Crisis: Inaccessibility to Affordable and Quality Childcare"

Mikayla Lachowicz, "Interstate Rivalries and State-Sponsored Terrorism: An Overlooked Link in the Study of International Conflict"

Cutler Shiver, "New Cold War: Why the U.S. is losing the Soft Power Arms Race in Africa"

Brayden Titus, "The Impact of International Shaming on Prisoner's Physical Integrity Rights: A Study of Prison Systems"

Hannah Lee, "2 Legit 2 Quit: Examining When Religious Actors Support Authoritarian Regimes"

Tyra Hill, "Two Sides of the Same Coin: An Analysis of the Apartheid Movement in South Africa and the Civil Rights Movement in the United States"

Alexis Friedman, "The Hidden Costs of High De Minimis Thresholds: Consequences for International Labor Law Enforcement"

10:30-11:45am Poster Session

Sophia Nguyen and Iman Khan, "Language, Rights, and Learning: The Impact of Native-Language Instruction on Human Rights Education"

Ladi Fashogbon, "The role of WTO Dispute Resolutions in Shaping the Political Leadership and Governance in Brazil"

Camila Merino Correa, "Why does Mexico Not Receive International Sanctions? A Dive into the Ayotzinapa Case of 2014"

Ellie Loventhal, "Access Denied: Restrictive Migration Policies Affect Women Escaping Conflict"

Tarun Ramanathan, "US Military Aid and Physical Integrity Rights"

Cate Leonard, "Closed Doors: How Far-Right Politics Erode Refugees' Right to Work"

Zach Leggio, "Shaping Perceptions: Chinese Influence and Media Trust in Africa"

Scott Stein, "Sub-Standard Security: The Narco-Sub Threat to US Waters"

Nissa Dotson, "A Digital Precursor: State-Sponsored Digital Disinformation and Physical Integrity Rights of Religious Minorities"

12:00-1:15pm Poster Session

Iman Khan, "The Political Power of Language: Multilingualism and Political Affiliation in Nigeria"
Eva Sardon, "Ballots and Belief: How Voter Fraud Allegations Shape Trust in Government"
Anurag Bhagavathula, "Facilitating Safe and Voluntary Repatriation: UNHCR's Role in Post-Assad Syria"
Lauren Hinton, "Digital Media: The Algorithmic Shaping of Public Opinion and Nationalism"
Andrew Zhu, "Defending the Indo-Pacific: Japanese Shipbuilding and Strategy Going Into the Future"
Nupur Desai, "Colonialism's Toxic Ex: Are Former Colonies Still Getting the Short End of the Stick?"
Juliana Hartley, "Gender Differences in the Legislative Activity of the 2023-2024 Regular Session of the Georgia General Assembly"
Garvey Cornick, "Propaganda, Politics, and Perception: Apartheid South Africa's Efforts to Secure U.S. Support and American Responses"
Lauren Park, "From Policy to Progress: A Comparative Study of State Behavior on Affordable Housing in Malaysia and Singapore"
Olivia Boags, "Comparative Analysis of Public Opinion's Influence Democratic Welfare States: A Study of the United States and Norway"

1:15-2:30pm Poster Session

Keeley Sheekey, "Fragile and Failed States in the Continent of Africa"
Michelle Ratteerree, "Islands and Identity: Japan's Tactical Use of Nationalism for its Border Disputes"
Zoe DeLuca, "Radioactive Exploitation: The Legacy of Uranium Mining on Navajo Nation in America's Nuclear Pursuit"
William Wolgemuth, "Japan's Bubble: The Economic and Social Ramifications of the Bubble Economy"
Gaines Thompson, "Competing Sovereignties: Analyzing the Tensions Between UNCLOS and UNDRIP in Indigenous Maritime Rights"
Leila Habib, "The Human Right to Housing in the Wake of Increasing Tropical Cyclones"
Emily Hwang, "Urban V. Rural: Bridging the GBV Gap In Vietnam"
Emily Schoen, "The Sustainable Effectiveness of Foreign Aid in East Africa"
Danté Whitehead, "On Trade and Ecological Determinism, How The Little Ice Age Shaped The Eastern and Western World"

2:30-4:00pm Poster Session

Brianna Speizer, "How Governor Desantis' Banning of AP® African American Studies Has Had an Impact on Georgia Education, and What is Being Taken into Consideration by Educators"
Max Whitford, "Sentiment Analysis of Agritourism Laws"
Ana Valencia, "Checks for Migrants: U.S. Aid as Migration Prevention from the Western Hemisphere"
Lydia Prudent, "Fear Rules American Elections"
Ailey Gustafson, "Sacred Narratives, Violent Ends: Operationalizing Dangerous Discourse in Christian Nationalist Speech Acts"
Helaina Landrum, "Cold War Strategy Remnants: Re-Analyzing the U.S. Nuclear Triad"
Reese Warta, "Communication Amongst Men and Women's Soccer Teams"
Larissa Alves Lozano, "The Dark Side of Scandinavian Sustainability: The Misrepresentation of Biomass and Nuclear Energy in Danish and International Environmental Policy Amidst Europe's Energy Transition"
Eliza Imhoff, "True Crime Interest and Perceived Risk and Fear of Criminal Victimization"

Sincerest thanks to all participants in the SPIA Undergraduate Research Colloquium and the family and friends who attended to support them and their research projects. Thank you to Dr. Camila Lívio, Mallory Lawrence, Madina Bekisheva, and Jay Lee for serving as poster discussants. Finally, thank you to SPIA's wonderful External Affairs office for helping to make today possible.