

SPIA Undergraduate Research Colloquium

April 24th, 2026 – Richard B. Russell Special Collections Library

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

Panel Sessions

Panel A – Room 277

9:10-10:00 am *The Congress Project*

Chair: Dr. Anthony Madonna
Shweta Krishnan, "Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1974"
Kameron Chappell, "McCarran Internal Security Act of 1950"
Saleha Alam, "The Free Flow of Information Act of 2007"
Mallory Houlihan, "The Lend-Lease Act of 1941"

10:20-11:10 am *State Survival and Selective Violence*

Chair: Shawn Mazdeyasnan
Josh Waskiewicz, "The Cheapest Choice: Rethinking Language Regime Selection in Southeast Asia"
Cristian Paez, "Selective Genocide Under Crisis: Strategic Framing and the Logic of Differential Extermination in the Ottoman Empire and Post-Soviet Russia"
Faith Tucker, "Politicizing the Untouchable: Youth Dissent and the Erosion of Monarchical Legitimacy in Thailand"
Nupur Desai, "Who Deserves Pain? National Identity and the Representation of Torture in Popular Culture"

11:30am-12:20 pm *Framing Power: History, Identity, and Security*

Chair: Dr. Bryan Barber
Britton Hare, "Framing the Bomb: A Comparative Analysis of Metaphor in English and Chinese Nuclear Discourse"
Ziyada Rakhimova, "The Shadow of Timur: Architectural Restoration and State-Building in Post-Soviet Uzbekistan"
Samir Handa, "Are All Weapons Created Equal? Taboo Terrorism and State Responses"
Aaron Knapp, "My Pastor Wants a Nuke: How Religious Nationalism Affects Nuclear Weapons Policy"

1:50-2:40 pm *Forces of Change: From Borders to Ballots*

Chair: Dr. Naomi Egel
Piper Duncan, "When Men Disappear: Conflict Violence and Women's Political Participation in Colombia"
Francesca Mariano, "Turning the Burner off the Melting Pot and How It's Making Your Soup Fascist: Naturalization Laws & Far Right Politics in Europe"
Meera Srinivasan, "Ruby Red to Barely Blue: Partisan Realignment in North Georgia"
Mary Sippel, Mary Whan, and Ella Bryan, "Disarmament and Deterrence: Debates in 3 Key NATO Countries"

3:00-3:50 pm *Eroding Norms: Media, Trade, and Defense*

Chair: Dr. Linn Normand
Mary Wahn, "The Trials and Tribulations of Transparency: Ensuring Media Freedom Through Transitional Justice"
Ashton Persall and Will Ross, "Loneliness and Propaganda in the American Public and Private Realms"
Bridget Sheridan, "The Cost of Erosion: Democratic Backsliding and International Trade"
David Kleinrock, "Give Me Some Money: Geographic Dispersion & the Political Protection of Defense Programs"

Panel B – Room 258

9:10-10:00 am *Securing Systems Against Modern Deacy*

Chair: Karlee Kimbrell
Chinelo Ireh, "An Analysis of the Relationship Between Cultural Policies and Radicalization"
Grey Cohen, "Democratic Backsliding and Interstate Conflict"
Jacob Weiszer, "Truth on Trial: Partisanship and the Politics of Deepfake Regulation"
Lily Thomas, "Don't Bite the Hand that Feeds You: the Impact of Military vs Humanitarian Aid on UN Voting Trends"

10:20-11:10 am *Strategic Risk and Adaptive Governance*

Chair: Dr. Cas Mudde
Ella Colker, "Autocratic Adaptations: Comparing Israel as a Domestic 'Red Line' in the UAE and Morocco in the Wake of the Abraham Accords"
Garvey Cornick, "Governments Are the World's Worst Helicopter Parents: Internet Shutdowns and Their Impacts on Protests"
Emily Hwang, "Betting the Farm: Strategic Risk in the Age of Online Sports Betting"
Claire Scafidi, "Wearing the Pants: Female Success in Far-Right Parties"

11:30am-12:20 pm *Order and Agency: From Conflict to Participation*

Chair: Dr. Leah Carmichael
Alex Whirley, "Delegating Death: Public Opinion and the Politics of Lethal Autonomous Weapons"
Jack Abreu, "Recalibrating the Irregular: How U.S. Posture Toward Non-State Actors Has Shifted Since 9/11"
Raquel Beatriz Caldas Laranjeira, "Generational Differences in Latino Political Participation in the United States"
Abby Wright, "Dead on Arrival: Leadership Decapitation and the Resilience of Terrorist Service Provision"

1:50-2:40 pm *GLOBIS Human Rights Research Lab*

Chair: Dr. Chad Clay and Eduardo Burkle
Iman Khan and Sophia Nguyen, "Language, Rights, and Learning: Native Language Instruction on Human Rights Interpretation"
Gracie Hunt, "The Ceiling Problem: Quota Design, Institutional Capacity, and Women's Political Power"
Maia Norman, "Outsourcing Violence: Proxy Agents and Post-Conflict Violence Against Women"
Aidan O'Donnell, "Establishing a Link Between Police Corruption and Violations of Physical Integrity Rights"

3:00-3:50 pm *Strategic Shifts in Technology and Governance*

Chair: Andrew Stone
Nishat Nayla, "Barrel to Byte: How Oil Wealth is Funding the Global AI Race"
Haven Somerson, "Managing the Fallout: U.S. Strategy for Iran's Nuclear Latency"
Spencer Katzman, "Ranked Choice Voting with Different Elimination Procedures"
Jordan Smith, "Issue Salience and the Durability of Major U.S. Laws"

Poster Sessions

9:00-10:30am Poster Session

Bridget Peach, "Majority Rules: Language as a Means of Nationalism"
Nate Wilson, "Threat Perception and Interdependence: State Responses to the Taliban"
Claire Scafidi and Prarti Satya, "Los Angeles vs. San Francisco: Cities for CEDAW Funding"
Anna Rachwalski, "READINESS for an Economic Downturn: Building Legislative Crisis Management Capacity"
Linrou Liu, "A Partisan Analysis of States' Disposition for Defendants Unlikely to Regain Competency to Stand Trial"
Mia Shaw, "Come se dice...: How Language Inclusive School Policies Advance Economic Security for Immigrant Youth"
Adrianna Good, "Child Self-Representation and Executive Framing: the Effect of Executive Political Discourse on Legal Protections for Unaccompanied Minors in High-Income OECD Countries"
Kate Bergquist, "Spanish Secession Explained"

10:30-11:45am Poster Session

Jackson Bost, "Development Dollars: Foreign Aid and Women's Empowerment in Conflict"
Cierra Green, "Sentencing Outcomes: The Influence of Race on Sentencing Outcomes for Drug Charges"
Emily Hinckley, "Trade as a Tool of Diplomacy: an Analysis of Mercosur's Impact on the Brazilian-Argentine Relationship"
Levi Thomas, "Conditional Diversification: How Black GOP Candidates Win Federal Office in the Modern South (2008-2022)"
Mark Zimmer Jr., "The Partisan Pen: How Party Control Shapes the Language of Immigration Legislation"
Alex Young, "Women, Peace, and Security: A closer look at regional differences"
Zoe Cannon, "Drivers of Democracy: Unions in Sub-Saharan Africa"

12:00-1:15pm Poster Session

Meera Srinivasan, "Democratic Erosion in India from 2014 to 2024"
Blakely Abbott, "Under Pressure: Mental Health Breaks and Retention in Female Division I Athletes"
Natalia Daniel, "The State Capacity Paradox: Why Critically Weak States Face Less Sustained Rebellion"
Thomas Hout, "The Cornered Animal- How Threat Perception Factors into the Intervention of Genocide and Mass Killings"
Lilly Abdinoor, "Religion, Repression, and the 'Stans: Soviet Influence on Religious Policy in Central Asia"
Milan Yadav, "How to Predict the Future: How Prediction Markets are Shaping Taiwan's Geopolitics"
Randall Forster, "The Silk Road Rejuvenated: Examining Chinese Influence in Central Asia"
Jack Schramkowski, "The Worst Subway System In America: The Issues With MARTA"

1:15-2:30pm Poster Session

Brianna Speizer, "Conditions for Judicial Political Bias in Decision-Making"
Elizabeth Lora Chavez, "Cold War Operations: The Long Shadow of U.S. Intervention in Latin America"
Connor Fraley, "Veils vs. Vodka: Balancing Soviet Legacies, Sharia, and Women's Rights In Central Asia"
Daniel Levine, "Exercising Citizenship: The Relationship Between Physical Activity and Political Engagement"
Esha Dhungana, "Bridging the gap: providing youth that have exited the foster care system with transitional housing services"
Josie Bond, "Prompted to War: Does AI Mitigate or Magnify Human Bias When Advising on Military Intervention?"
Liam Evans, "Laws on LAWS: Examining International Commitments to Autonomous Weapons Systems Regulation"
Wells Benjamin, "The Lavender Veil: The Role of Covert Digital Security Partnerships in Arab-Israeli Relations"
Rylee Matteson, "Beyond Deadlock: A Phased Strategy for a Middle East Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone"
Treyven Jamison, "The Political Origins of the African American Conservative Movement, 1975-1995"

2:30-4:00pm Poster Session

Katie Hunt, "Fraudulence, Fake News, & Forging News: Brazilian Elections"
Thya Gutta, "State Suppression of Social Media Coverage on Human Rights Abuses"
Natalie Zern, "Splinter: A Look Into the Fractured Factions in Mexico's Cartel System"
Kaiya Davis, "The Aging Imperative: Immigration, Culture, and the Politics of Demographics in East Asia"
Bradleigh Graham, "Investigating Modes of Attack in Bias Motivated Violence: A Comparison Across Victim Groups"
Vanessa Rodriguez-McCowan and Julia Hartman, "A Dashboard for Women, Peace, and Security Local Action"
Michelle Ratteerree, "Ethnicity, Faith, and the State: State Violence in Vietnam's Highland Region"
Maia Norman, "Lost in Translation? Assessing the Gap Between Symbolic Adoption and Substantive Change in Municipal Localization of CEDAW"

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 Bonkyu Lim, Minjung Jun, Nicolas Roulier, Kathleen Abernethy, Gabriela Greilinger, Shawn Mazdeyasnan, Eduardo Burkle, and Hyunjoo (Jay) Lee for serving as poster discussants. Finally, thank you to SPIA's wonderful External Affairs office for helping to make today possible.