



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

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## AU Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

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### Top Story

#### Joaquin & Julián Castro Talk about 'Preparing for the Future' at American University Forum



From AU, [MSNBC.com](http://www.msnbc.com) live streamed a **Frederick Douglass Distinguished Scholars** and **School of Communication** panel discussion sponsored and moderated by MSNBC's *Shift* host Maria Teresa Kumar. Senator Joaquin Castro (D-TX) and his brother Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julián Castro spoke to students about preparing for a successful future in business or government. (4/23)

### Additional Features

#### Young Voters and Running for Public Office



For [C-SPAN's Washington Journal](http://www.c-span.org), Women & Politics Institute director **Jennifer Lawless** discussed her book co-authored with Richard L. Fox, *Running from Office: Why Young Americans are Turned Off to Politics*. **Lawless** discussed their national survey of 4,000 high school and college students showing that there is little interest among young people for seeking any of the 500,000 elected offices in the United States. She also discussed possible solutions to the problem to lure the best and brightest to run for office. (4/21)

#### Jokes Will Save the World



[NPR](http://www.npr.org) featured Center for Media & Social Impact co-director **Caty Chattoo's** research on the effectiveness of humor to grow awareness for social change. **Chattoo's** research indicated that 3 out of 4 participants enjoyed learning about global issues through a comedy show, 61 percent would watch the show by choice and 80 percent enjoyed learning facts about global poverty and health. (4/20)

### Faculty Authors

#### The Hillary Clinton Doctrine



In his [National Interest](http://www.nationalinterest.org) article, School of International Service dean **James Goldgeier** explored what Hillary Clinton's foreign policy stances might be after having served as secretary of state, senator and first lady. **Goldgeier** explained Clinton benefits from the Clinton and Obama administrations having broken the GOP lock on national security and foreign policy issues. **Goldgeier** concluded that Clinton's foreign policy would be more proactive than the Obama administration's but more subdued than that of her husband's administration given the shifts in geopolitics. (4/21)

## Andalusia Can Teach Us about Muslims and Non-Muslims Living Together

**THE HUFFINGTON POST** In a [Huffington Post](#) op-ed, Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies **Akbar Ahmed** argued that Andalusia, Spain, sets an example of how people of different religions and cultures should “live together in harmony and thrive.” (4/17)

## Fighting Deception and Lies in Wildlife Programming



In an op-ed for [Mother Nature Network](#), Center for Environmental Filmmaking director **Chris Palmer** argued that many networks and wildlife filmmakers harm animals and create shows unethically in order to achieve higher ratings. **Palmer** explained that the programs desensitize viewers and decrease legitimacy of animal cruelty. (4/20)

## Saddam’s Last Acolyte

**NATIONAL REVIEW** For a [National Review](#) op-ed, international service instructor **Andrew Peek** questioned the idea that the United States might have been better off with Saddam Hussain than the Islamic State, but concluded that the death of Saddam’s aide, Ibrahim al-Douri, is one less threat to worry about. (4/20)

## Female Rangers Will Lead the Way, Sooner or Later



For their [War on the Rocks](#) column, international service practitioner-in-residence **Lt. Gen. David Barno** and scholar-in-residence **Nora Bensahel** discussed the significance of women starting Ranger

School and being permitted in ground combat units, saying that “it is a significant and symbolic cultural and practical benchmark.” **Barno** also spoke to [Federal News Radio](#) about women starting Ranger School. (4/21 - 4/22)

## Expertise

### Putin: U.S., Russia Have Common Agendas



Carmel Institute of Russian Culture and History director **Anton Fedyashin** appeared on [CNN International](#) to discuss Vladimir Putin’s remarks that the United States and Russia have common agendas. **Fedyashin** echoed those remarks and said that both countries have been working together throughout the past few years but the mainstream media doesn’t cover it. (4/18)

## Experts Say Drone Strikes Appear in Bounds of US Law



Assistant professor of government **Chris Edelson** spoke to [Associated Press](#) about recent U.S. strikes in Pakistan that killed Americans. **Edelson** said “if the attacks were carried out against al-Qaida, they were legitimate under U.S. law.” The article

syndicated more than 100 times. (4/23)

## Eric Holder’s Justice Dept. Routinely Backs Officers’ Use of Force



For the [New York Times](#), law professor **William Yeomans** discussed the use of police force and proposals to alter the approach to police abuse cases. **Yeomans** explained civil rights

has been more prominent under the Obama administration. (4/21)

## Loretta Lynch Makes History as First Black Woman to Become Attorney General



For the [Christian Science Monitor](#), justice, law, and criminology professor **Jon Gould** suggested among Lynch’s first priorities is to repair Department of Justice relations with Congress as her term is a mere 18 months, and there are several complex issues on the table. (4/23)

## Sexy Robots



Humanities Lab director **Despina Kakoudaki** spoke to [PRI's Studio 360](#) about the infatuation of fantasy robot lovers. **Kakoudaki** explained that this fantasy is appealing because robots are indestructible and can be perfectly beautiful, ageless and brilliant. (4/17)

## Media Mayhem on the Clinton Campaign Trail



Communication professor **Jane Hall** appeared on [MSNBC's Up with Steve Kornacki](#) to discuss the media's coverage of Hillary Clinton. **Hall** explained that Hillary is trying to connect with the public on the campaign trail and the media is just doing its job. **Hall** said, "we shouldn't beat up on the media too much," as it covers the trivial aspects of her campaign until more substantive content is available. (4/19)

## Republican Hopefuls Find Deep Pockets for Most Expensive Campaign



For [Financial Times](#), professor of government and Campaign Management Institute director **Candice Nelson** discussed the likelihood that the total campaign budget for the 2016 presidential race could double the \$2.6 billion that candidates spent in 2012. (4/20)

## What Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Cuba Trade Mission Means for US Travel Industry



Government professor **William LeoGrande** spoke to [International Business Times](#) about thawing U.S.-Cuba relations and future trade agreements between the two countries. **LeoGrande** highlighted the major travel market on the horizon. (4/21)

## The More Effective Cup of Coffee



For [Esquire Magazine](#), psychology professor **Laura Juliano** discussed how to increase the effectiveness of daily caffeine intake, including waiting 15 minutes after you wake up before having a cup of coffee, not drinking more than 200 milligrams in a two-hour time frame, and taking at least a 90-minute break between cups. (4/22) \*Link not available

## Almost Nobody Believes the U.S. Air Force Can Build an Affordable Bomber



For [Bloomberg](#), international service professor **Gordon Adams** discussed Air Force plans for developing a new secret stealth bomber to replace the B-2 fleet. **Adams** refuted the idea that the B-2's are outdated saying that "old doesn't matter" because "you fly bombers sparingly." (4/22)

## Shake-up in the Cable TV Industry and What It Means for Consumers



For [WAMU's The Diane Rehm Show](#) on NPR, communication professor **Andrew Lih** discussed the increased popularity of online TV streaming. **Lih** also explained the effects on cable and satellite providers as well as the response by providers, such as Verizon offering a customized-channel package and Comcast's potential takeover of Time Warner Cable. (4/23)

## Women with Grandkids May Leave Workforce Sooner



[U.S. News & World Report](#) featured international finance professor **Robin Lumsdaine's** retirement research in which she studied more than 47,000 retirement-age women and concluded that women with grandchildren are more likely to retire early. (4/18)