



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

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## AU Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

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### Top Stories

#### American University Experts Weigh-In on Supreme Court Rulings

News media relied on American University professors for analysis and discussion about last week's Supreme Court (SCOTUS) decisions. Several of AU's experts from across schools provided pre- and post-ruling analysis.



Law professor **Stephen Vladeck** appeared on [CNN's Newsroom](#) to discuss the SCOTUS decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act. **Vladeck** also spoke to [CNN](#) about Chief Justice Roberts' stern dissent after the same-sex marriage decision. (6/25 - 6/26)



Law professor **Stephen Wermiel** appeared on [WTTG-FOX5](#) to discuss the SCOTUS decision on the Affordable Care Act and the possibility of the SCOTUS ruling in favor of same-sex marriage. **Wermiel** appeared on a separate [WTTG-FOX5](#) segment about the SCOTUS decision on same-sex marriage. (6/26 - 6/27)



Prior to the same-sex marriage ruling, law professor **Amanda Frost** appeared on [WJCL-ABC22](#) to discuss the significance of Justice Kennedy's influence and his legacy. (6/26)



For [Sinclair Broadcasting Group](#), history professor **Allan Lichtman** discussed SCOTUS' 5-4 ruling legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide, saying that this ruling is an "example of how public attitudes can fundamentally change." (6/26)



REUTERS

In an op-ed for [Reuters](#), law professor **William Yeomans** argued that Chief Justice Roberts' vote to uphold the Affordable Care Act is a "big gift to Republicans," as Republicans realized a SCOTUS ruling against the law would result in a collapse of the healthcare system. (6/26)



Assistant professor of government **Chris Edelson** spoke to [CNN Politics](#) about Chief Justice Roberts' "cautious approach deferential to the legislature" and reluctance to "disturb decisions by elected officials. (6/30)

### American University Experts Discuss U.S.-Cuba Embassies Announcement

In response to the announcement that the U.S. and Cuba will fully restore diplomatic relations and open embassies in one another's countries, news media called on American University experts.



In an op-ed for [Fox News Latino](#), government professor **William LeoGrande** discussed the advantages, beyond symbolism, of re-opening the embassies in Cuba and the United States. **LeoGrande** stressed that the issues between the countries are multi-faceted and will take time to overcome. **LeoGrande** also spoke to [Fox News](#), the [Sun Sentinel](#), the [Washington Examiner](#) and [Deutsche Welle](#). He also appeared on [Associated Press Radio](#) and [Voice of America](#). (7/1 - 7/2)



Center for Latin American and Latino Studies fellow **Fulton Armstrong** spoke to the [Los Angeles Times](#) about the challenging process that lies ahead, saying that

"If we do U.S.-Cuba relations right, it will set a new tone for U.S. ties throughout Latin America." **Armstrong's** quotes also syndicated to the [Boston Herald](#) and the [Dallas Morning News](#). (7/1)



Center for Latin American and Latino Studies director **Philip Brenner** spoke to [WUSA-CBS9](#) to discuss U.S.-Cuba restored diplomatic relations, saying that "it's only a crazy person who keeps doing the same thing over and over again...this is a policy that hasn't worked." **Brenner** said that it's the regular Cubans who suffer from the embargo. (7/1)

## Faculty Authors

### GOP Should Thank Supreme Court for Gay Marriage Decision



In an op-ed for [The Hill](#), justice, law and criminology professor **Jon Gould** argued that Republican presidential hopefuls should be thankful for the Supreme Court's decision in

*Obergefell v. Hodges* making same-sex marriage the law of the land. **Gould** exhorts Republicans to abandon opposition to same-sex marriage because "the ship has sailed, the fat lady has sung, and the game is over." **Gould** also spoke to [The Hill](#) for an article about the Supreme Court's most recent turn led by Chief Justice Roberts. (6/27 - 7/1)

### Prejudice Is a Powerful Force



In an op-ed for [The Hill](#), communication professor **Leonard Steinhorn** argued that America needs to confront racial prejudice and how white prejudice unfairly handicaps black

Americans. **Steinhorn** calls for a change of attitudes and institutions that has placed black Americans at a huge disadvantage. (6/30)

### 3 Things Cities and HUD Can Do to Stop Gentrification That Segregates



In his [Next City](#) commentary, Metropolitan Policy Center director **Derek Hyra** argued that diversity segregation is a major challenge in gentrifying neighborhoods such as in DC's Shaw neighborhood. Some community members in these mixed-income, mixed-race neighborhoods are being economically and politically excluded, **Hyra** explained. He proposed three solutions to ameliorate the problems. (6/30)

## New Assault Reporting Law Should Improve Prevention



In an op-ed for the [Baltimore Sun](#) about Maryland's new sexual assault reporting law for colleges and universities, Community-Based Research Scholars program director **Jane**

**Palmer** and her co-author explained the importance of the new reporting procedures to more accurately gauge the frequency of sexual assault and the effort to develop institution-specific, student-informed solutions to improve prevention and response on Maryland college campuses. (6/29)

## Expertise

### Like Greece, Cash-Strapped Puerto Rico Needs a Fiscal Lifeline



School of International Service International Economic Relations Program director **Arturo Porzencanski** appeared on [NPR's All Things Considered](#) to discuss the twin debt crises in Puerto Rico and Greece. **Porzencanski** also spoke to the [Wall Street Journal](#) about Puerto Rico.

For the [Boston Globe](#) and [Boston Herald](#), **Porzencanski** spoke about Greece's financial crisis, saying that "If this is a divorce, and not a separation, then Greece must have a new currency." (6/29 - 7/1)

### Pop Culture Trends in Video Gaming



For [WAMU's The Kojo Nnamdi Show](#), director of the AU Game Lab and Studio **Lindsay Grace** discussed the future of video gaming. **Grace** discussed the transition from violent to virtual reality and video games' social impact. (6/30)

### A Lost 1961 Documentary on Homosexuality Is Rediscovered



For [NPR's Code Switch](#), film professor **Bob Connelly**, in CAS' Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies department, discussed the rediscovery of "The Rejected." **Connelly**, who for years has taught the film by using a transcript he found at the Library of Congress, shared his thoughts on how

the essential discovery will help a new generation understand what that time in history was like for gays and lesbians. (7/1)

### 7 'Most American' Cars



Kogod School of Business professor **Frank DuBois** spoke to [CNNMoney](#) about the decrease in American-made cars. **DuBois** said that it is attributed to the North American Free Trade Agreement and the outsourcing of auto parts manufacturing to Mexico. (6/1)

### Sizing Up the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program



In an article about the effectiveness of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, [CNBC](#) cited economic professor **Kara Reynolds'** co-authored study that found that participants earned 30 percent less from TAA training than they did in their previous positions. (6/26)

## White House Ends Tourist Photo Ban after Four Decades



Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies executive-in-residence **Anita McBride** appeared on [CBS This Morning](#) to discuss the four-decade long ban being lifted on photography in the White House, saying that the White House is a “living, breathing place” that evolves the way society evolves. (7/2)

## Two Explorations of Nature and Centuries-Old Gender Stereotypes

### The Washington Post

Associate art history professor **Helen Langa** spoke to the [Washington Post](#) about a National Museum of Women in the Arts nature exhibition “Organic Matters – Women to

Watch 2015” and the history of gender stereotypes, saying that “women have always been seen as closer to nature.” (6/26)

## Latino Community Responds to Donald Trump’s Firing



School of Communication professor **Carolyn Brown** spoke to [WMAL](#) radio about Donald Trump’s firing from NBC and the impact of his words on the Latino community. **Brown** said “going after immigrants to gain attention is low-hanging fruit” and that his firing “represents the increasingly larger voice Latinos in this country have.” (6/30)

## 200 Years of 'Sex' in America, in 1 Chart



For an [NPR History Dept.](#) article about language Americans have used to talk about sex over the last 200 years, American Studies instructor **Stef Woods** addressed how language has changed just as American attitudes have changed. (6/30)

## Escapees’ Fraternizing with Prison Workers Doesn’t Surprise Experts

### The New York Times

Law professor **Brenda Smith** spoke to the [New York Times](#) about the employees who aided in the New York prisoner escape. **Smith** said that there is a story like this in every

prison and that “these high-profile cases should be teaching moments.” (6/30)

## Wal-Mart Puts Itself in the Game

### ArkansasOnline

Professor of government **David Lublin** spoke to [Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#) about Wal-Mart’s increased political voice on controversial issues such as same-sex marriage and the

Confederate flag debates. **Lublin** said that “they don’t want to be seen as a Republican store or Democrat store...they want to be seen as a great American store.” (6/28)

## The Heat Discusses the U.S. Presidential Elections



Communication professor **Jane Hall** appeared on [CCTV America's The Heat](#) to discuss the 2016 presidential campaign. **Hall** and the other panelists spoke about the potential of a Bush vs. Clinton election, the two-party election system and campaign finance. (6/30)