



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

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## AU Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

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### Top Story

#### Why the Islamic State Leaves Tech Companies Torn Between Free Speech and Security

**The Washington Post**

Investigative Reporting Workshop fellow **Fauzeya Rahman** worked with [Washington Post](#) on a report on ISIS and other terrorists groups that use social media to spread propaganda and to recruit individuals. This article also explores the dilemma social media companies face when confronted with freedom of speech and censorship issues related to terrorist content. **Rahman** transcribed hours of interviews with social media executives, congressional committee members, "dark web" intelligence experts and others. She also summarized the House hearing on the Paris attacks, developed interview questions, and participated in an interview with Congressman Ted Poe (R-Texas), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade. (7/15)

### Additional Features

#### In The Galleries: An Artist's Past, Present and Future

**The Washington Post**

The [Washington Post](#) featured a review of the art exhibit "Realism Transformed: John Winslow's Wild New World" at the **American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center**. The museum retrospective showcases Winslow's 40-year career as a Washington, D.C. artist. The reviewer noted the directness of Winslow's early work "has been supplanted by a multifaceted approach." (7/10)

### Faculty Authors

#### Don't Discount Civil Society in Iran Deal



In his [EurActiv](#) op-ed, School of International Service assistant professor **Robert Kelley** argued why civil society will play an important role in implementing any nuclear deal with Iran. Specifically, **Kelley** explained that the political elites can "look to civil society to reduce tensions that otherwise run amok in the theatre of politics." (7/13)

## Expertise

### Bill Cosby's Art Collection to Remain on View at Smithsonian



Associated Press

American University Museum director and curator **Jack Rasmussen** spoke to [Associated Press](#) about cultural institutions that stand by controversial celebrities, as the Smithsonian will not remove an exhibit on loan from Bill and

Camille Cosby. **Rasmussen** said, "You'd be sort of stomping all over the curatorial integrity of what you've put up." The article syndicated more than 200 times. (7/12)

### Long-Term Success of Iran Deal Will Not be in Obama's Hands



School of International Service dean **James Goldgeier** spoke to the [Los Angeles Times](#) about President Obama's signature foreign policy achievements over the last several

months including the rapprochement with Cuba and this week's nuclear deal with Iran. (7/15)



School of International Service professor **Gordon Adams** spoke to [Fiscal Times](#) about the risks Israel would face in taking unilateral action to preemptively strike Iran. (7/16)



Nuclear Institute Studies director, **Peter Kuznik** explained to [U.S. News & World Report](#) anything "that strengthens Rouhani's hand, strengthens secular forces, and strengthens pro-peace forces in Iran is a very good step." (7/14)

### Starbucks and Other Corporations to Announce Plan to Curb Unemployment of Young People



Economics professor **Robert Lerman** spoke to the [New York Times](#) about a plan to find jobs for 100,000 unemployed young people over the next three years.

**Lerman** discussed how summer jobs and in-school jobs have declined for workers age 16 to 19 and that "the lack of work experience translates into weaker outcomes even after they finish their schooling." (7/13)

### The Potential Pitfalls of Prison Reform



Department of Justice, Law, and Criminology professor **Jon Gould** appeared on [MSNBC's The Cycle](#) to discuss President Obama's calls for criminal justice reform. **Gould** discussed the tensions from racial disparity, the severity of solitary confinement, and the unlikely allies from the left and right calling for prison reform. **Gould** also spoke to the [Los Angeles Times](#) about how President Obama can influence the debate and national discussion on criminal justice reform that is largely in the hands of the states. (7/15 - 7/17)

### A New Tax Break for Married Couples



Executive Director of the Kogod Tax Center **Don Williamson** shared his expertise with [Yahoo! Finance](#) for a story about the new IRS rules detailing a generous estate- and gift-tax break for married couples.

**Williamson** highlighted the importance of filing an estate-tax return within nine months of the death of a spouse in order to take advantage of portability. (7/13)

## 300 Chinese Americans in D.C.'s Chinatown Fighting to Stay

**The Washington Post**

For the [Washington Post](#), Metropolitan Policy Center director **Derek Hyra** discussed the role of micro-segregation in the gentrification process in Chinatown

where long-time Museum Square apartment residents are facing eviction. School of International Service professorial lecturer **Easten Law's** recollections of visiting his grandmother in the area are also described in the article. (7/17)

## How Not to Do a Twitter Q&A



For [Federal Computer Week](#), Public & Strategic Communication professor **Scott Talan** analyzed the Labor Department's Twitter Q&A session. **Talan** explained why the Twitter session failed to meet expectations. (7/13)

## Sanitizing History



History professor **Peter Kuznick** spoke to [WTTG-FOX5](#) about the efforts to change the name of Jefferson Davis Highway as part of a growing trend surrounding Confederate symbols across the nation. **Kuznick** said, "What we're doing now is coming to grips with our history. I think this is a healthy process." (7/14)

## Trimming the Fat: America's First Diet Craze



For [Back Story](#), American Studies assistant professor **Katharina Vester** discussed the influence of an 1863 pamphlet on steps for losing weight on today's fad diets. **Vester** reflected on how dietary trends reflect larger historical changes. (7/10)