



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
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AU Newsmakers

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Top Stories

American University Experts Weigh-In on Brian Williams Controversy

News media relied on several American University School of Communication professors for expertise and analysis as the Brian Williams controversy deepened.



For [CNN Newsroom](#), communication professor **Jane Hall** discussed NBC's suspension of Brian Williams and his future. In a [separate](#) segment, **Hall** spoke about Jon Stewart's departure from The Daily Show. (2/11)



For [NPR](#), communication professor **Charles Lewis** spoke about the history of network news and the celebrity-status bestowed on news anchors. (2/11)



Communication professor **John Watson** appeared on [WTTG-Fox5's Good Day DC](#) where he discussed the broader credibility of Williams and the accountability of his entire production team. (2/6)



For [WTTG-Fox5's The Switch](#), communication professor **Leonard Steinhorn** spoke about Williams' credibility on his reports from Iraq and Hurricane Katrina. (2/6)



For [WUSA-CBS9](#), communication professor **Joseph Campbell** predicted that Williams' stepping down is a "choreographed departure" from NBC Nightly News. **Campbell** also spoke to [WJLA-NewsChannel 8](#). (2/6 - 2/7)



Communication professor **Jill Olmsted** appeared on **Post TV** to discuss Williams and the effect that his appearances on late night television had on his embellishments. (2/11)

Ukraine Crisis

American University experts shared their analysis and expertise with the news media about the Ukraine crisis and scheduled peace talks.

The New York Times

For the [New York Times Room for Debate](#), international service professor **Keith Darden** wrote a piece arguing that the United States should not provide lethal aid to Ukraine. **Darden** also spoke to the [Los Angeles Times](#), and he appeared on [NPR's Morning Edition](#) and [All Things Considered](#) to discuss the peace summit and how to handle Russia's Putin. (2/10 - 2/11)



Initiative for Russian Culture executive director **Anton Fedyashin** appeared on [CNN International](#) to discuss violence in Ukraine. (2/10)



In a co-authored op-ed for [U.S. News & World Report](#), international service scholar-in-residence **Benjamin Jensen** argued that to manage Russia's actions in the Ukraine crisis, the West should escalate its efforts to provide military assistance to Ukraine. (2/6)

Additional Features

The Plague of tl;dr



[The Chronicle Review](#) featured linguistics professor **Naomi Baron's** piece about the decline in reading among professors and undergraduate students and the impact of "tl;dr," the way students and faculty members alike approach reading on computer-based devices. **Baron** also wrote an article about the irrelevance of page numbers for [Slate](#). (2/9 - 2/11)

AU Graduate Program Advice



Associate dean of graduate studies **Michael Keynes** spoke to the [Washington Post Express](#) for a feature piece on applying to graduate school. **Keynes** emphasized that applicants should know as much as they can about a specific program before the interview. (2/9)



Kogod School of Business professor **Jeffrey Harris** spoke to [U.S. News & World Report](#) about the benefit of obtaining a Masters in Finance as job markets evolve and employers seek more targeted degrees. (2/9)

Pols of a feather



[Washington Jewish Week](#) featured international service professor **Guy Ziv's** discussion of his new book, *Why Hawks Become Doves*, and upcoming Israeli elections at an event hosted by AU's **Center for Israel Studies**. (2/12)

You're (Probably) Doing It Wrong: New Fair Use Guide for Artists



[Billboard Magazine](#) covered the College Art Association sponsored work of WCL professor **Peter Jaszi** and communication professor **Patricia Aufderheide's** development of "The Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for the Visual Arts," designed to help artist work more effectively and with less risk. The article syndicated to over 25 media outlets. (2/12)

Op-Eds

Warfare Isn't Just a Man's Game Anymore

The Washington Post

For [Washington Post Monkey Cage](#), international service professor **Jessica Darden** argued that women in the military challenge stereotypes about gender roles and policymakers should be attentive to women in both “conventional and asymmetric armed conflicts.” (2/9)

Postponed For Now: Nigerians to Choose between General Buhari's Populist Promises and President Jonathan's Status Quo



In an op-ed for [Africa is a Country](#), international service professor **Carl LeVan** explained the tenuous nature of Nigeria's postponed elections and detailed probable outcomes for the country depending on the winner. (2/10)

Expertise

Iran at Center of Netanyahu Speech Controversy



For [MSNBC's Melissa Harris-Perry](#), international service professor **Clarence Lusane** spoke about ISIS, the response to terrorism and the claim that a Jordanian airstrike killed an American hostage. In a [separate](#) segment, **Lusane** spoke about the controversy surrounding Benjamin Netanyahu's upcoming address to Congress. (2/8)

2015 Auto Financing Report



For [WalletHub's](#) 2015 Auto Financing Report, Kogod School of Business international business professor **Frank DuBois** discussed whether it's a good time to buy a car, citing the strength of the dollar and lower fuels prices. (2/10)

Lawmakers Talk Big Cuts for Pentagon Budget



[Military Times](#) covered SIS distinguished scholar-in-residence **Nora Bensahel's** Capitol Hill testimony on the defense budget. **Bensahel's** testimony included a recommendation that the massive expenditure on the F-35 could be managed through a smaller order. [Army Times](#), [Navy Times](#), [Air Force Times](#), and [Marine Corp Times](#) reprinted the story. (2/11)

Netflix Launches in Cuba



Government professor **William Leogrande** spoke to [USA Today](#) about Netflix's plan to expand its reach into Cuba. While Internet access is limited, **LeoGrande** explained the investment is “forward-looking.” The article syndicated to more than 50 media outlets. (2/9)

Health-Law Challenger's Standing in Supreme Court Case Is Questioned

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

WCL law professor **Amanda Frost** spoke to the [Wall Street Journal](#) about a Supreme Court health care battle regarding veteran status and the Affordable Care Act. (2/6)

Threading Needle in Wording of a Military Proposal

The New York Times

In a [New York Times](#) article about President Obama's formal request to Congress for a new Authorization to Use Military Force (AUMF) worldwide to thwart ISIS, international service distinguished practitioner-in-residence **Lt. General David Barno** explained there is flexibility in the new AUMF. (2/11)

New 'Cat Punching' Page Appears on Facebook



Journalism division director **John Watson** spoke to [USA Today](#) about a controversial Facebook page that references animal abuse. **Watson** explained that there is a line between free speech and responsible free speech. The article syndicated to more than 90 media outlets. (2/11)

Controversial Method of Addressing Climate Change Needs More Study

Los Angeles Times

For the [Los Angeles Times](#), international service professor **Simon Nicholson** discussed the release of a pair of reports about geoengineering. **Nicholson** underscored that reducing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere is the superior solution and avoids international political complications. **Nicholson** also spoke to [HuffPost Green](#). (2/10)

El Salvador: Why Catholic Church Backs a Gang Truce That Government Rejects



For the [Christian Science Monitor](#), Center for Latin American and Latino Studies research scholar **Hector Silva Avalos** commented on the importance of the Catholic Church in working with local gangs in El Salvador to reach non-violent solutions. (2/6)

Alabama Gay Marriages Allowed After Supreme Court Order



Law professor **Stephen Viadeck** spoke to [CNN](#) about the Supreme Court's ruling allowing gay marriage in Alabama, saying that the federal law's mandate exceeds the Alabama Constitution. **Viadeck** also spoke to [Bloomberg](#) radio. (2/9 - 2/10)

Your Voice, Your Future Town Hall: Fight for Freedom



Communication professor **Jane Hall** participated in a [WJLA-NewsChannel 8](#) live town hall discussion with terrorism experts about the escalating terror threat and the impact on free speech and expression. (2/9)