

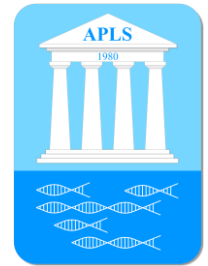
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POLITICS AND THE LIFE SCIENCES



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Politics and the Life Sciences (PLS) is a biannual, interdisciplinary journal with a global audience. It is the official journal of the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences, an American Political Science (APSA) Related Group and an American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) Member Society. PLS publishes scholarly research at the intersection of political science and the life sciences. The topic range includes field and laboratory insights into political behavior, from marketing to leadership, cooperation, and competition; evolutionary analysis of political intolerance, from group conflict to warfare, terrorism, and to political and political economic analysis of life sciences research, health policy, agricultural and environmental and biosecurity policy; philosophical analysis of bioethics; and historical analysis of currently misunderstood issues at the intersection of the social and biological sciences. Contributors include political psychologists, life scientists, clinicians, health scholars, biologists, biosecurity and international security experts, environmental scientists and ecological economists, moral and evolutionary philosophers and environmental historians, communications and public researchers, and legal scholars.

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APLS 2017: Paper and Presentation Abstracts

Amankwah, John (John.Amankwah@msj.edu). “Comparative Analysis of Healthcare Systems in the United States and Ghana.”

No one plans to get sick but in almost all countries on the planet, healthcare is a necessity while it also remains a controversial issue. All humans need healthcare at some time in their lives. In many developing countries, healthcare is not a privilege as it is in developed countries. In some developing countries, the issue is exacerbated by poor socio-economic and political developmental structures. In the early years of Ghana's independence (1970s), the government instituted a tax funded system to support a free healthcare insurance. However, as the country experienced economic stagnation, a fee-based system was introduced to support local hospitals. The system collapsed under the burden of military interventions until the late 70s when another military government introduced “a cash and carry” system (Blanchet, Fink & Osei Akoto, 2012) that seemed to help but later would fall apart because it favored the rich while the poor were left behind. The persistent breakdown of the country's economic infrastructure completely destroyed the healthcare system sending the rich to the West and North American countries for medical consultations. In 1990, Ghana introduced a reformed phase of the “Cash-and Carry” system that was a Community-Based Health Insurance Scheme (CBHIS), involving assistance from NGOs and some Western donors. While the scheme was laudable, it failed to cater for the teeming population in the country, thus leaving behind a greater majority of the population to seek medical health from traditional herbal doctors. The scheme, according to some researchers in the healthcare field, could cater for only 1% of the population (Atim C, Grey S, Apoya P, Anie SJ, Aikins M. A., 2001). The constant juggling with the healthcare system by the government resulted in the politicization of the system that in the year 2000, one of the multi parties in the country utilized it in its campaign to win the elections. Thus, in 2003, the Ghana government established a National Healthcare Insurance Scheme (NHIS) under Act 650 to cover every Ghanaian in the country (Ghana National Health Insurance Act 650, 2003) while allowing the wealthy to have private medical services. The vision of the government in the provision of healthcare for its population had its problems ranging from geographic locations of some of the healthcare facilities to who run the scheme. In a country that the economy and the politics are entangled in corruption, any healthcare system will be poorly provided, leaving majority of the population to languish in poor healthcare system.

Bolls, Paul (paul.bolls@ttu.edu), Erik P. Bucy (erik.bucy@gmail.com), and Jerry Johnson. “Points of Inflection and Margins of Support: An Embodied, Motivational Approach to Candidate Evaluation.”

Research has established that nonverbal behavior is a critical component of candidate evaluation and plays a significant role in influencing voter support, particularly among undecideds and weak partisans. Indeed, in close elections, a resonant nonverbal style often makes the difference. Since the rise of television as the primary medium of political communication, presidential candidates who win elections tend to be more nonverbally evocative and expressive than also-rans, even when the runner-up has far more political experience—and, hence, would appear “more qualified.” The 2016 election was no exception. In this paper, we examine this proposition empirically with a repeated measures experiment conducted in the weeks before the election that embraces an embodied, motivational approach to candidate evaluation. “Embodied” in this study is represented in terms of both stimulus and response. For the experiment, highly arousing nonverbal displays of presidential candidates Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton were presented to 26 likely, undecided voters and compared with the nonverbal displays of President Barack Obama and former President George W. Bush. Video clips were 40–60sec in length. Candidate nonverbal displays, which were shown to subjects with the sound off, were selected on the basis of their communicative potency and perceived level of anger/threat. Outcome measures included psychophysiological arousal (skin conductance) and EEG to measure electrical activity in the brain. After viewing all four leaders, subjects also completed a point allotment task, allocating 10 points to the four different leaders rather than indicating vote intention. By apportioning points to the two current candidates (Trump and Clinton) among the field of four, including a sitting and former president, subjects were prompted to evaluate potential

leaders among actual leaders in a comparative context, not unlike a shopping experience. Results from this pilot study revealed variation in the strength of correlations between embodied engagement evoked by specific nonverbal expressions and preference points allocated to the candidate. The pattern of these correlations indicate that our “Bionimbus” approach is predictive of actual election outcomes, suggesting a useful avenue of investigation for subsequent political contests.

Burgess, Aaron (Aaron.burgess@ccuniversity.edu). “More Control or Less: What Complex Adaptive Systems Theory Might Tell Us about Reforming Health Care.”

Most experts and policymakers agree that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) needs reform. Many of these reforms call for more government control and oversight of the current health care system. This short presentation explains the concepts of autonomous agency and profuse experimentation within complex adaptive systems theory and argues that the healthcare system needs less government control and oversight and more autonomous agency and profuse experimentation to be successful. A short discussion will follow about practical ways to “free-up” the current system.

Buril, Fernanda (fernandaburil@gmail.com). “Moral Foundations and the Recruitment of Females to Terrorist Groups.”

The relevance of terrorism in nowadays’ politics has boosted interdisciplinary research seeking to explain the logic and motivation behind the phenomenon. Most of this literature focuses on the most salient aspect of terrorist groups: suicide missions perpetrated by male members. The role that women play in these organizations, however, has been largely neglected, especially due to the relatively low number of females engaging in suicide attacks. With the increase in the number of women supporting and playing important administrative roles in extremist organizations, this gap has finally started to be addressed. Among the hypotheses proposed by scholars to explain female recruitment to terrorist groups are social oppression, financial incentives, political causes, and even some kind of feminism, as those women would be given the same tasks as men in otherwise very conservative societies. This paper is intended to contribute to the discussion on female terrorism by focusing on the moral appeals imbedded in the discourses that are used to recruit women and that shape their image of the group to which they affiliate.

Chojnacki, Bonnie (chojnackibb@gmail.com). “Back Surgery: An Aristotelian Perspective on Healing and Cost.”

The Centers for Disease Control estimate that 2.4 million adults in the United States suffer chronic back pain and another 2.4 million suffer temporary back pain. Direct costs of back surgery including surgery, medications, imaging, rehabilitation and disability often exceeds \$100,000 yet, more than fifty percent of respondents to a survey in 2009 reported at least one problem with recovery. Evolving scientific evidence provides those suffering from back pain many options for healing that may be loosely characterized as either allopathic or osteopathic. Allopathic therapies include surgery, pharmaceutical drugs, and sophisticated technologies. The approach is grounded in a philosophical understanding of bodies as analogous to machines. In philosophical parlance allopathic medicine draws upon Cartesian reasoning. Osteopathic therapies, by contrast, include non-surgical interventions like acupuncture, chiropractic, and shiatsu. In the west cultural preferences for allopathic interventions assume a culture with relatively easy, infinite access to high cost surgery, drugs, and technological innovation. Although allopathic medicine has been tremendously successful in expanding medical and scientific understandings of disease and developing innovative therapies for many conditions, profit driven closed systems like patents have contributed to long-term financial challenges in exclusive use of this model. This presentation will provide a broad overview of issues related to therapies for those suffering from chronic back pain. In conclusion a holistic approach, drawing upon Aristotelian reasoning, is proposed.

Constance, Rachel (rconstance@walsh.edu). "What the Zika Virus Tells Us about the Need for Health Care Reform in the US and Worldwide."

In 2016, Zika Virus became a national topic of conversation in the U.S. as mounting evidence revealed a link between infection with the virus during pregnancy and microcephaly in newborns. As a mosquito-borne and sexually transmitted disease, Zika represents a unique threat to public health that has complicated the debate over the role of government in regulating private life, particularly when it comes to health care. It also highlights specific challenges facing the effort to reform health care in the U.S. and the world. This paper examines the debate over health care reform through the lens of epidemic disease. What can the experience of Zika tell us about the role of government in regulating private life for the protection of the public? How can health care reform address the special challenges involved with preventing the spread of Zika, facilitating its treatment, and ultimately managing its outcomes?

Cruz, Minerva (mincruz@siue.edu). "Home Health Aides: Street-level Bureaucrats in the Provision of Health Care Services."

This research examines the home health care program covered by Medicare in Indiana. Specifically, it analyzes how home health aides in Indiana implement the home health care program and their experiences with their elderly clients. Home health aides spend the most time with elderly clients; they are those "[p]ublic service workers who interact directly with citizens in the course of their jobs, and who have substantial discretion in the execution of their work" (Lipsky 1980, 3). Data from focus groups with home health aides in Indiana showed that Medicare should improve benefits to cover the needs of older adults in Indiana. The paper includes policy recommendations to target shortcomings of home care programs. Policymakers and the new U.S. Administration could use these findings to improve health care services in the United States.

Dumitrescu, Delia (delia.dumitrescu@gmail.com) and Erik P. Bucy (erik.bucy@gmail.com). "How Images of War Victims Affect Public Opinion and Political Participation."

The picture of a drowned refugee boy in early September 2015 was the catalyst of an outpour of public support for refugees across the globe. But why did this picture have such an impact, while countless others failed to move the public? We investigate the effects of the visual characteristics of war victims depicted in pictures through several survey experiments in Sweden and the US. We examine the age, the gender and the number of visible victims as the main factors affecting viewers' responses in Sweden and the US. We find that visuals affect primarily those who are low on social trust, and that the effect of visuals on attitudes and behavior is mediated by feelings of compassion, empathy as well as by feelings of disgust and contempt. The results help understand better the public reaction to the plight of the refugees, and contribute to the understanding of the role of visuals and emotions in politics.

Gabriel, Oscar W. (oscar.gabriel@sowi.uni-stuttgart.de) and Lena Masch (lena.masch@uni-duesseldorf.de)
“Perceptions and Evaluations of German Politicians’ Emotions: A comparison between Angela Merkel and Gregor Gysi.”

Previous experimental studies have investigated the effect televised appearances of political leaders can have on the attitudes of viewers. Building on ethological arguments about the social standing of politicians’ emotional displays can occur in various settings and result in different evaluations. So far the impact of emotional displays have mainly been analyzed for emotions displayed by American presidents. Starting from the assumptions made in these previous studies, we hypothesize that the leaders’ emotional displays evoke congruent emotions among viewers, particularly for positive emotions in the sense that ‘smiling is contagious’. Therefore, emotional displays should influence the evaluations of personal and performance related characteristics of political leaders, and, in the case of positive emotions, cause more a favorable rating of these characteristics. In addition, we assume that individual perceptions of the displayed emotions will moderate the reactions towards the emotional messages. In order to answer these questions, we draw on data from a large-scale online survey experiment conducted in Germany. The experimental treatment consists of broadcasted video material that shows positive and negative emotional displays by two leading German politicians Angela Merkel and Gregor Gysi. We discover positive effects on the evaluation of both politicians when they display positive emotions. Furthermore, we find that the impact of the experimental treatment is moderated by the individual perception of the video-clips.

Gilbert, Robert (r.gilbert@northeastern.edu). “The Shooting of Ronald Reagan in 1981: Superb Response by Physicians, Dysfunctional Response by Politicians.”

In March, 1981, Ronald Reagan was shot by John Hinckley, a disturbed young man who was trying to win the attention and love of movie star Jodie Foster by killing the President of the United States. By the time that Reagan arrived at the hospital, he had lost at least half of his body’s blood supply and was in danger of death. Emergency personnel, however, instituted heroic medical procedures that saved the President’s life. These will be discussed briefly here. Concerning the question of invocation of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment, thereby transferring presidential powers, the decision was made to refrain from its invocation. However, non-invocation was a serious mistake because Reagan simply could not have responded to *any* crisis situation that developed within *at least* twenty-four hours of his having been shot. Additionally, had the Twenty-Fifth Amendment been invoked, it is very likely that the very visible and very unpleasant power struggle that developed after the President was shot among some of Reagan’s aides, particularly Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger, would have been avoided. Haig’s political demise almost certainly resulted from his shockingly inappropriate behavior in the period after Ronald Reagan was shot and seriously wounded by would-be assassin John Hinckley.

Horvath, Laszlo (l.horvath@exeter.ac.uk), Lorenza Antonucci (l.antonucci@tees.ac.uk), Raluca-Florica Popp (r.popp@exeter.ac.uk), Susan Banducci (s.a.banducci@exeter.ac.uk), André Krouwel (APM.Krouwel@fsw.vu.nl). “Well-being and the Vote: An Exploratory Study.”

Our paper seeks to establish a generalised argument linking health and psychosocial well-being with voting for an anti-establishment or authoritarian agenda. Drawing on evidence from health and welfare policy scholarship, we hypothesize broadly that rising support of anti-establishment causes may be due to the public’s dissatisfaction with growing inequalities and, by consequence, divergence in quality of life and health state. Firstly, we investigate whether variation in the population’s bad health explains Leave vote share, as well as UKIP voting propensity, using linked data sets of the 8th Wave of the British Election Study Internet Panel Wave and 2011 population health statistics from the ONS. Secondly, we analyse the linkage on the individual level, clarifying whether the well-being—vote link has egoistic or sociotropic foundations. To this end, we analyse a host of specific health and well-being measures from the UK’s Understanding Society panel in relation with party preference, and our original data collected after the Brexit referendum, containing quality of life, emotions and psychosocial well-being measures. Our preliminary findings suggest that population-level bad health is predictive of the Leave vote, a relationship that holds after controlling for individual level demographics including age, and political values such as authoritarianism and partisanship.

Kilgo, Danielle (daniellekilgo@utexas.edu), K. Trent Boulter (trboulter@utexas.edu), and Renita Coleman (renita.coleman@austin.utexas.edu). "Linking nonverbal cues to character traits in impression formation of politicians."

This research analyses how various nonverbal gestures of politicians affect viewers' attribution of specific character traits. The study employs visual communication methodologies to uncover findings in a more realistic scenario than an ultra-controlled lab setting. As such, this paper should be of interest to a broad readership, including those interested in political communication, nonverbal communication and visual methodologies. We believe that this research can directly answer the call to explore viewer processing of displays of politicians. All data is collected and is being cleaned up for analysis.

Kosal, Margaret E. (margaret.kosal@inta.gatech.edu). "Emerging Life Sciences: New Challenges to Strategic Stability."

The most recent addition to an emerging portfolio of gene-editing technologies is CRISPR, a bacteria-derived system that is among the simplest genome-editing tools. The CRISPR-Cas9 system – & emerging variants on the system – enables unprecedented control and ease when editing the genome. This technology, along with several other gene-editing techniques, has the potential to have significant near-term impact on several policy and security domains. The work synthesizes the emerging life science and technological developments to assess the potential for new biotechnologically-enabled weapons to compete with nuclear weapons as far as effect on strategic stability, explore whether the technological assumptions in traditional strategic stability models still valid when applied to such scenarios, and how technological changes shape approaches to arms control, verification and monitoring.

Kroncke, Charles (charles.kroncke@msj.edu). "Asthma Medicine and Price."

There are approximately 25 million asthmatics in the US and 242 million globally. This disease costs patients and taxpayers directly through the cost of medicine and society indirectly through lost productivity and a reduction of the quality of life. Prior to 2008, asthma inhalers used chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) as a propellant. While CFCs are effective propellants, they may also deplete the ozone layer. A ban in the US (and other countries) of CFC propellants allowed pharmaceutical companies to patent new delivery methods to previously generic drugs, increasing the price by an average of fifty percent. While prices have decreased slightly in recent years, they remain well above international prices of identical medicine. However, less than 0.01% of CFCs came from medical inhalers. Rent seeking pharmaceutical companies are the main beneficiaries of this law, not the general public.

Kroncke, Charles (charles.kroncke@msj.edu). "Nudging, Market Failure, and Public Choices."

Case R. Sunstein's book *The Ethics of Influence: Government in the Age of Behavioral Science*, further expends his the themes first developed in *Nudge*, his book with behavioral economist Richard Thaler. These books draw heavily from all the sub-fields of social science. Governments have long been using incentives to influence individual decisions makers. Ideally, public policy should be used allow, not hinder, economic freedom. However, in the case of market failure (externality, public goods, information asymmetries) private decision making may lead to inefficient resource allocation. In some of these cases policy nudges, not coercion, may be appropriate. The implications of behavioral economics are now widely known and accepted. Policy makers are fully aware of nudging. Stories related to changing the default setting on retirement accounts, financial aid, and printers are told on radio, tv, and internet programs. Using a default to nudge someone to make one choice implies nudging them to not make a different choice. Thus, policy makers must now fully think out what they are encouraging (and discouraging) people to do when designing policy. A default setting must be fully rationalized, not left to chance.

Kruger, Daniel J. (kruger@umich.edu) and Shannon F. Murphy. "Life History Based Constructs Enhance Prediction of Cooperative Relations with Police in a Demographically-representative Community Sample."

New attitude items representing the social roles of police predicted intentions to cooperate with police, even when accounting for procedural justice. Most studies on police attitudes examine differences based on basic demographic factors, and results are somewhat inconsistent. The current "gold standard" measure of police attitudes is Tyler's process based model of perceptions of procedural justice, whether people perceive police as fair and trustworthy in their interactions with citizens. We developed new constructs based on life history theory and the social roles of police: Maintenance of Social Stability, Status Competition, and Antagonistic Relations. We incorporated measures into a demographically representative community health survey (N = 801, M age = 52 years, SD = 17 years) in a community with relatively high crime rates. The survey included a five-item procedural justice scale (alpha = .931) and five-item scale of intended police cooperation (alpha = .917). Due to time and space constraints, one item represented each new construct. All new constructs uniquely predicted intended police cooperation, and once these were accounted for, procedural justice did not account for additional variance. The new constructs also mediated the relationships between perceived neighborhood social capital, disorder, and safety with intended cooperation with the police.

Mansbach, Daniela (dmansbac@uwsuper.edu) and Alisa Von Hagel (avonhage@uwsuper.edu). "You Gotta Have Faith: The Use and Misuse of Scientific Language by the Religious Right."

Abortion opponents have devised a number of diverse strategies to reestablish prohibitions on abortion, with the use of 'scientific' claims becoming one such approach beginning in the 1990s. These claims, predicated on their own community's research, specifically concerning fetal viability and the negative health and psychological effects of abortion for women, have been rejected by the medical community. Similar types of unfounded scientific claims have also been used by the religious right in their fight over climate change and same-sex marriage, shifting the debate from religious and moral claims to a discourse that seems to embrace the use of science in public policy. This project analyzes this shift, and its use in the development of public policy at the state-level from 1990–2015. While focusing primarily on pro-life policy, the paper also provides an in-depth analysis of policy that uses 'scientific' language for the promotion of a conservative agenda on climate change and same-sex marriage. By doing so, this paper contributes to the understanding of this latest strategy of the religious right, as well as the role that scientific claims - regardless of their accuracy - play in legitimizing public policy.

Mansell, Jordan (jordan.mansell@linacre.ox.ac.uk). "What Does Change Have To Do With It? Do Conservative Preferences For Stable and Structured Environments Reflect Alternative Adaptive Strategies for Socio-Environmental Interaction?"

Research links liberal and conservative ideological orientations with differences in core value dimensions concerning the acceptance of social change and inequality. Research also links the expression of these different value dimensions to a number of biological factors, including heredity. In light of these biological influences I investigate whether differences in social values associated with liberal and conservative ideological orientations reflect alternative strategies to maximize returns from social interactions. Using an experimental methodology, and U.S sample (n=1100), I examine how conditions of social change effect the willingness of liberals and conservatives to cooperate socially. As a proxy for a changing social environment I match participants to groups in which the majority of participants either agree or disagree with their opinion about a normative action. The results show that the cooperative behaviour of liberals and conservative display significance differences in response to these social conditions. Taken together the results are consistent the argument that liberal and conservative differences reflect alternative strategies to maximize returns from social interaction.

Mansell, Jordan (jordan.mansell@linacre.ox.ac.uk). “Why Care About Inequality? Do Differences in the Social Attitudes of Liberals and Conservatives Reflect Alternative Adaptive Strategies for Socio-Environmental Interaction?”

Research shows that individuals with liberal and conservative ideological orientations display different value positions concerning the acceptance of inequality. Research also links the expression of different values to a number of biological factors, including heredity. In light of these biological influences I investigate whether differences in social values associated with liberal and conservative ideological orientations reflect alternative strategies to maximize returns from social interactions. Using an experimental methodology, and a U.S sample (n=1200), I test whether conditions of inequality within a social group have a disproportionate effect on the cooperative behaviour of liberals and conservatives. I find evidence that cooperation in neither liberals nor conservatives is affected by conditions of a general inequality. However, when the continuation or rectification of this inequality is a result of decision-making by other group members I find significant differences between the cooperative behaviour between these groups. Taken together the results are consistent the argument that liberal and conservative differences reflect alternative social strategies to maximize returns from social interaction.

Peterson, Steven A. (Sap12@psu.edu). “Health Status, Nutrition, and Electoral Integrity: A Comparative Study.”

Many factors have been adduced to explain why some states become democracies and others not. Accepted variables predicting democracy include education level, economic development, urbanization, communication networks and so on. Previous research, although limited, has explored biological variables’ role in this process. However, a key intervening variable might be Electoral Integrity (note the work of Pippa Norris et al.). My previous research suggests that health status across countries has a statistically significant effect on level of democracy. This paper would use comparative data to explore the extent to which health status might affect electoral integrity. Preliminary findings suggest such a role. Implications are discussed.

Sankowski, Edward (esankowski@ou.edu). “Higher Education, Choice Architecture, Environmental Issues: Beyond Sunstein Type Default?”

Higher education has potentially major contributions to make to environmental protection. This potential transcends but does not negate the importance of Cass Sunstein’s emphasis on “choice architecture”, and on “default rules”. Ethics and the social sciences, however, have far greater reach than those “behavioral sciences” studies on which Sunstein concentrates. This paper addresses whether and how higher education might contribute to environmental protection, avoiding Sunstein’s apparent contrast between choice architecture and default rules and “information and education”. Admittedly, in Sunstein’s view, “active choosing” in which the consumer must make a decision about use of an energy source, might be combined in some circumstances with “educative nudges”. (p. 32) Sunstein uses the example of environmental protection in his book. He remarks that “the environmental context is an important and illuminating one” and so proceeds to “undertake a kind of case study, focusing on possible uses and abuses of choice architecture about environmental issues.” Sunstein refers to climate change, air pollution, water pollution, waste. (p. 159). In the concluding paragraphs of his key late chapter on environmental protection (p.186), he writes: “In important contexts, outcomes are harmful to the environment and to the economy, not because consumers have actively chosen to impose these harms, but because of the relevant choice architecture.” Sunstein then also claims: “Well-chosen default rules, attentive to the full set of costs and benefits, are likely to emerge as a significant contributor to efforts to protect human health and the environment-potentially more effective, in many cases, than either information and education or substantial economic incentives. In an era in which public officials all over the world are focusing on the problem of climate change, green defaults deserve serious and sustained attention.” Yes, but a broader educational dimension is essential in order to frame the issues well.

Sankowski, Edward (esankowski@ou.edu). "Some Issues about Intellectual Property, Life Sciences, and Pharmaceuticals Patent Law."

The Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, co-authoring with business professor Bruce Greenwald, has argued against a "strong" intellectual property rights system, such as applies to pharmaceuticals under US law. He charges that it inhibits innovation (e.g., in biotechnology), and makes various abuses possible (e.g., dysfunctional monopolies and "rent-seeking"). Specific examples are discussed in this paper. For Stiglitz, current drug patent law conflicts with economic development. See the Stiglitz-Greenwald research summarized in *Creating a Learning Society*. Their advocacy is part of a broader position. That position includes normative political economy claims about governments and markets, about university research, and (publicized elsewhere) about global trade agreements that might objectionably limit what governments can do domestically in the interests of public health (among other areas). There are implications concerning food. This paper examines issues about intellectual property, and defends views that partially agree with Stiglitz. However, it is also argued that Stiglitz's position in normative political economy could be improved by elaboration of a revised "cultural" dimension about healthcare in societal development (by critique of distorted societal emphasis on drugs and other biotechnological devices). Such cultural critique is in addition to (or corrective of) the political economy focus championed by Stiglitz.

Schmitz, J. David (schmitz_j@utpb.edu) and Gregg R. Murray (gmurray@augusta.edu). "Party Identification and In-Group/Out-Group Influence on Perceptions of Candidates' Physical Stature."

Partisan identification is among the most, if not the most, powerful factors in political behavior. This article offers an explanation grounded in evolutionary theory and supporting evidence for how partisan identification so powerfully influences political perceptions. Social identity theory and evolutionary psychology suggest there is an innate tendency for social-group categorization that is often manifested as in-group favoritism and out-group derogation (Tajfel and Turner 1968). If correct, the group-based nature of partisan politics should evoke evolutionary mechanisms that distort citizens' perceptions of their and opposing leaders. In particular, this research tests the effects of party identification on citizens' perceptions of the adaptively important relative heights of opposing political leaders. Using original survey data collected during the contextually different 2008 and 2012 U.S. presidential elections, we find using two distinct measures obtained during both elections that respondents' perceptions of candidates' physical stature are distorted. As hypothesized, respondents overestimate the physical stature of the presidential candidates of their own party while underestimating the stature of the candidate of the opposition party. This is consistent with the argument that evolutionary forces play an important role in political perceptions and may help explain the powerful effect of partisanship on political behavior.

Segerstrale, Ullica (segerstrale@iit.edu). "Neuroscience: Promises, Problems and Politics."

In *Consilience* E. O. Wilson presented neuroscience as the solution to his ambitious program of the unification of the Two Cultures – be that in regard to philosophy, esthetics, or ethics. Today's neuroscience with the help of fMRI and other laboratory methods would seem to be coming closer to Wilson's vision. There now exist fields of neuroeconomics, neuropolitics, neuroesthetics, neuroethics, and even neurotheology. However, while many fMRI studies have brought about interesting results, caught the public eye, and shown seeming compatibility with existing psychological and political theory, they have faced continuous methodological criticism. Most recently, studies using neuroimaging techniques have been criticized for irreproducibility, blamed on relatively low powered results and too much flexibility in data analysis. From a normative point of view, to the extent neuroscience researchers are working within an evolutionary framework, they make themselves vulnerable to the type of methodological and moral/political criticisms earlier launched against sociobiology. This presentation will discuss existing and potential criticisms of neuroscientific research, especially studies directly addressing ethics and politics, as well as possible responses and remedies.

Smith, Kevin B. (ksmith1@unl.edu). "In Your Face: Emotional Expressivity as a Predictor of Ideology."

Previous research suggests people can accurately predict the political affiliations of others using only information extracted from the face. It is less clear from this research, however, what particular facial physiological processes or features communicate such information, or even whether these attributions of political affiliation are being inferred from confounding signals such as gender, race and age rather than any information uniquely encoded in the face. This paper provides a theoretical account of why facial emotional expressivity may provide reliable signals of political orientation and tests the theory in four empirical studies. There are statistically significant liberal/conservative differences in self-reported emotional expressivity, in facial emotional expressivity measured physiologically, in the perceived emotional expressivity and ideology of political elites, and in an experiment which finds more emotionally expressive faces are perceived as more liberal. These results suggest emotional expressivity may provide a way to help accurately classify political affiliation from facial cues.

Stewart, Patrick A. (pastewar@uark.edu), Austin Eubanks, and Jason Miller. "An 'Image Bite' Analysis of the 2016 GOP and Democratic Party Presidential Primary Debates."

In an on-demand media environment, the 2016 presidential primary debates provided a ratings and economic boon to those networks hosting them surpassing all prior primary debates and even major sporting events in viewership. In turn, the millions of viewers were exposed to presidential contenders and influenced, however subtly, by the way these candidates were visually presented. This paper analyzes and compares how the Republican and Democratic Party presidential candidates were presented in their initial two debates (FOX News and CNN; CNN and CBS, respectively) in terms of total camera time and proportion of the type of camera shot (solo, split-screen, side-by-side, multiple candidate, and audience reaction). Findings suggest that while the front-runners from both political parties benefitted from preferential visual coverage, Donald Trump stood out in the amount of time and proportion of camera shots that presented him as a serious contender in a crowded GOP field.

Vanderberg, David (david.vanderburgh@gmail.com). "Why Physicians Lost Influence Health Care; and How 'Nudge Science' Can Help Restore It."

Cass R. Sunstein's new book, *The Ethics of Influence: Government in the Age of Behavioral Science* (Cambridge: 2016) provides an extremely informative introduction to the science and ethics of the exercise of "influence" over others. As a longtime physician, employed in both the public and private sectors, I now recognize that most my formal training has been in the hard sciences, with little, if any training in how to influence the decision-making processes of my patients, and/or other health care professionals in various institutional settings. I'll suggest that many of the failures of modern medicine, especially its rapidly eroding virtue of "trust" can be attributed to our collective inability to effectively "nudge" others in the pursuit of health and/or organizational effectiveness and efficiency. Way too often, we physicians "nudge" patients toward expensive treatment rather than toward preventive care.

White, Eli (Whiteej1234@gmail.com). “The Ethics of Influence and Perceptual Psychology.”

Sunstein (2016) provides a framework for how choice architecture can impact human decision making and the ethical implications of those decisions. In the realm of perceptual psychology there is a wide body of research that investigates how the environment is specified determines which actions are possible. Originally coined by perceptual psychologist J.J Gibson (1979), the concept of affordances describes how properties of the animal in relation to properties of the environment can inform or specify what actions are possible. Norman (1988) brought the concept of affordances to the field of product design and how physical objects are designed conveys important information about how people could possibly interact with them. More recently, Maier and Fadel (2003) proposed methods to consider affordances in engineering design by emphasizing what objects should afford for a user and while avoiding unwanted or dangerous affordances. Despite the fact that Gibson’s theory of affordances has been applied to numerous areas of human-machine interaction, there has been surprisingly little research on the ethical implications of designing well specified affordances for good or for evil. I’ll explain how the concept of affordances could be applied to the principles of “Nudge Science” which may impact existing research trends and may help to further explain what perceptual and cognitive factors influence human decision making.

White, Ronald F. (ron.white@msj.edu). “The Ethics of Influence.”

Cass R. Sunstein has been the primary mover and shaker behind the philosophical, psychological, and sociopolitical analysis of the use and abuse of influence in both public and private affairs. His earlier book (co-written with Richard H. Thaler) *Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth, and Happiness* (2009) set the standard. Sunstein’s most recent work, *The Ethics of Influence: Government in the Age of Behavioral Science* (2016) is a detailed defense and expansion of that earlier book. This research panel will explore this most recent work from a multi-disciplinary approach, including: philosophy, medicine, economics, and psychology. There will be special emphasis on the role of that (what we call) “Nudge Science,” might play in the future development of Leadership Theory.

White, Ronald F. (ron.white@msj.edu). “Health Care Reform: Complex Adaptive Systems Theory, Externalities, and Complexity.”

All over the world, the provision of health care is the product of complex adaptive systems. The United States has the most complex system(s) in the world. Regulations are monitored and enforced by local, state, and federal governments and their respective institutions. A variety of health care industries, professional organizations, and advocacy groups also participate; usually under the auspices of the “greater good. The U.S. healthcare system is politically sensitive to the interests of various stakeholders or micro-systems. Thus we have multiple micro-systems: Employment-Based Health Insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Health Administration, Native American Medicine, and/or Federal Employees Health Benefits. The “greater good” can refer to both *macrocosmic systems* (national, global etc.) and *microcosmic systems* (local, state) within those macros. Health care reform is usually conducted within these traditional micro-systems, with little if any concern for impact upon other micro-systems or the macro-systems. As a result, there is growing concern for the fragmented state of the U.S. health care system(s) and the industries that serve those sub-systems. All of these subsystems can also be affected by externalities such as patent laws. Consequently, health care reform is often plagued by unanticipated consequences that emerge within and between systems, subsystems, and externalities. This session will focus U.S. health care policy as set of complex adaptive system(s) and externalities. It will assess the current state of reform within these various micro-systems and externalities. Finally, panelists will examine whether these complexities can be eliminated by reforming and/or replacing these micro-systems and/or externalities.