
**2012 Working Group:
Foreign Policy Analysis**

"New Media and Foreign Policy"

DESCRIPTION

This working group has been created largely in response to the Arab Spring and political revolution in North Africa and the Middle East. The American news media reported on the crucial role of new and social media in the origination and perpetuation of revolutionary sentiment in the region, especially among the young adult population. Some argue that Twitter, Facebook and text messaging, for example, facilitated the rapid dissemination of ideas and helped citizens organize mass demonstrations against their governments. These media seem to have had important impacts on domestic politics, also affecting the politics of neighboring countries and the international community as a whole. Thus, domestic factors had recognizable international implications. This working group is intended to facilitate discussion and develop research questions on this phenomena, as well as focus attention on how international factors can influence domestic politics, in other words, how social and new media can be used as tools of foreign policy. Under what conditions can states utilize new media to affect other states' behavior and assist states in their relations with others? While the working group may not be able to answer this question definitively, it will provide a forum for scholars to discuss ways to study the issue. The concept of the working group is also a perfect match for this year's Annual Convention theme of Power, Principles and Participation in the Global Information Age.

The working group aims to educate scholars, provide a forum for them to share ideas and to discuss future research in the area of new media and foreign policy. As the history of new media and foreign policy is relatively short and new to a number of scholars, one objective of the working group is to provide interested scholars with a solid background in the historical use of new media, covering its origins up to the present day. The working group will also cover a number of related topics to provide scholars with a well-rounded knowledge of the topic, including various ways to conduct research and answer a number of questions in the "new" field brought to light by recent advancements in technology and social appeal. Thus, the working group will include a session for scholars to discuss important directions for future research. A key feature of the working group is the incorporation of a number of scholars to present on their areas of expertise as well as the utilization of non-academics/practitioners in the field.

GROUP COORDINATORS

Amy Below, Oregon State University

Amy Below is an assistant professor of International Relations whose research interests include foreign policy analysis, international environmental foreign policy making, energy security and US and Latin American foreign policy. She has published in *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *Politics & Policy*, has contributed an essay to the ISA Compendium Project and has published book chapters on US domestic environmental politics and policy. She is currently working on a manuscript analyzing Latin American foreign policy and the Kyoto Protocol.

Jarrold Hayes, Georgia Institute of Technology

Jarrold Hayes is an assistant professor in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at the Georgia Institute of Technology. His research interests are wide-ranging, including constructivism, the role of identity in foreign and security policy, international security, arms control and strategy, and foreign policy analysis as well as regional interests in East Asia, South Asia, and Europe. He has published in the *European Journal of International Relations*, *International Organization*, and *International Studies Quarterly*.

SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 31, 2012

Pre-Conference Workshop | 9:00am - 5:00pm

9:00 - 9:30am Welcome and Introductions: Phil Seib

9:30 - 10:30am Presentation & Discussion of the History of New Media & Foreign Policy led by Phil Seib, University of Southern California, seib@usc.edu

Dr. Seib will briefly overview the historical progression of new and social media in international relations and foreign policy and share with participants the findings of his new book on the topic. Philip Seib is Professor of Journalism and Public Diplomacy and Professor of International Relations at the University of Southern California, and is director of USC's Center on Public Diplomacy. He is author or editor of numerous books, including *Headline Diplomacy: How News Coverage Affects Foreign Policy*; *The Global Journalist: News and Conscience in a World of Conflict*; *Beyond the Front Lines: How the News Media Cover a World Shaped by War*; *Broadcasts from the Blitz: How Edward R. Murrow Helped Lead America into War*; *New Media and the New Middle East*; *The Al Jazeera Effect: How the New Global Media Are Reshaping World Politics*; *Global Terrorism and New Media: The Post-Al Qaeda Generation*; *Al Jazeera English: Global News in a Changing World*; and the forthcoming *Real-time Diplomacy: Politics and Power in the Social Media Era*. He is editor of the Palgrave Macmillan Series in International Political Communication, co-editor of the Palgrave Macmillan Series in Global Public Diplomacy, and co-editor of the journal *Media, War, and Conflict*.

10:30 - 11:00am Coffee and Tea Break

11:00am - 12:30pm Guest Speaker Jillian York, Director of International Freedom of Expression at the Electronic Frontier, jilliancnyork@gmail.com

Ms. York will discuss her role in the media community and the latest changes and advancements she sees in the field, especially as pertains to her position at the EFF and in her capacity as an international blogger, including issues of free expression and association. Jillian C. York is the Director of International Freedom of Expression at the Electronic Frontier Foundation. She writes regularly about free expression, politics, and the Internet, with particular focus on the Arab world. She is on the Board of Directors of Global Voices Online, and writes for Al Jazeera English, and the Guardian's Comment is Free.

12:30 - 1:30pm Lunch

1:30 - 3:00pm New Media as a Catalyst for Change? Roundtable led by Laura Roselle, Elon University and Duke University, lroselle@elon.edu

Roundtable discussion moderated by Laura Roselle about the changes new media are likely to have in how foreign policies are made and implemented. Will they have a larger impact in particular policy areas or in certain regions? This discussion is intended as a brainstorming session to facilitate the subsequent session. Laura Roselle is Professor of Political Science and International Studies at Elon University where she is a university distinguished scholar and a senior faculty fellow for 2011-2013. She also serves as a visiting Professor of Public Policy at Duke University. Roselle holds degrees from Emory University and Stanford University. Roselle has served as president of the International Communication Section of the International

Studies Association. Roselle has published articles and book reviews in leading journals, including the Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics, and in the American Behavioral Scientist. Her edited volumes include books on media and democracy and media and elections. She is the author of *Media and the Politics of Failure: Great Powers, Communication Strategies, and Military Defeats* (Palgrave, 2006 & 2011). Her current work is in three major areas: strategic narratives and international relations (with Alister Miskimmon & Ben O'Loughlin); the political psychology of flag imagery (with Chris Gelpi & Brooke Barnett); and strategic narratives of environmental policy (with Sharon Spray).

3:00 - 3:30pm Break

3:30 - 5:00pm Areas for Future Research led by Bob Boynton, University of Iowa, bob-boynton@uiowa.edu

G. R. Boynton, professor of new media and politics at the University of Iowa. The work on new media began with collecting all of the videos placed on YouTube by the four major candidates for the Democratic nomination and four for the Republican nomination in 2008, and analyzing the pattern of viewing over time (<http://goo.gl/r74Lg>). As Twitter became an important vehicle for political communication I began collecting streams of messages; there are now more than 300 streams collected for a great variety of subjects (<http://goo.gl/rfFtY>). One of the most recent collections is messages connected with the revolts in Bahrain, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Arab Spring and Wisconsin. Forty preliminary analyses of these materials are available at my website (<http://goo.gl/kdf4q>).

Monday, April 2, 2012

The follow-up session will focus on how new media affects other areas of international relations. This session will be used to share ideas about how new media will, for example, affect the future of democracy, international

10:30 - political economy and feminist issues. The intent of this session will be to broaden the scope of the discussion

12:15pm and consider the expansive impacts evolutions in media are likely to have on international relations. This will give participants the opportunity to consider as a group any knowledge gained from the many non-related panels and other discussions had throughout the conference up to this point.

Wednesday, April 4, 2012

10:30 - Participants will have the opportunity, via an open roundtable discussion, to share reactions to related panels attended in prior days. Have our perspectives changed/been broadened? Did anyone attend a panel that

12:15pm furthered our understanding of new media and foreign policy, particularly potential obstacles or potential?