Panel #1, 9:00-10:15

Rachel Novick
Does the Dollar Fit the Damage?
Influences of Attorney Guidance and Numeracy on Juror Decision Making

Jurors are often tasked with assigning dollar amounts to abstract concepts, such as awarding a plaintiff for pain and suffering. I will examine the influences of attorney guidance and mock jurors’ individual differences, such as numeracy, on their decision making. I will discuss how jurors translate their gist intuitions into precise dollar amounts, what factors jurors focus on, and how the process may be improved, with a focus on validity, reliability, and calibration of damage awards.

Samuel Barnett
American Imperium, Transnational Jihadism, and International Normative Change

While conflict between United States and transnational Jihadism has dominated the international security landscape of the twenty-first century, it was in the twentieth century that these two forces amassed strength, developed cogent worldviews, and built up the transnational infrastructure needed to fuel their ambitions. There is extensive literature on the geostrategic and ideological developments contributing to the convergence of these two forces during this time. However, very little research has sought to parallel their development narratives through an analysis of their shared normative context in the twentieth century. This thesis seeks to explain the rise of the American Imperium and transnational Jihadism precisely through this lens of international normative change. Specifically, I examine how their trajectories throughout the twentieth century relate to changing norms regarding territoriality and the increasingly normalized tendencies for actors to operate across state borders. This analysis, therefore, seeks not only to reevaluate the development of the United States and transnational Jihadism, but also to posit key normative relationships between them. Ultimately, this thesis argues that changing norms regarding territoriality contributed to the ascensions of both the United States and transnational Jihadism, a conclusion that has continued implications for security and statecraft.

Josh Sadinsky
Sonic Meditations: The Aural Poetics of Music and Field Recordings

Break, 10:15-10:30
Griffin Smith-Nichols
The Heliand: Shaping the Saxon Vision of Christ

James Slater Goodman
Printing the Nation: the Literary Construction of the Australian Identity

My project explores the role that the Bulletin magazine played in constructing an Australian identity in the late 19th century. I look at the facilitation of the first distinctly Australian literature within its pages and how this worked in conjunction with its nationalist agenda. Since the project exists at the intersection of history and literature, I am able to combine historical frameworks for thinking about questions of nationalism and print media, with literary frameworks like literary ecology and hyperlocal journalism. Ultimately, my unique approach reveals a great deal about how national identities are constructed and the role that media and media markets play in producing them.

Sean Cronan
The World of the Early Ming Tributary System, 1368-1435

This work reconstructs the interregional tributary economy of the early years of the Chinese Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), focusing on the late 14th and early 15th centuries. Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, a large portion of the scholarly world still maintains that the early Ming court was relatively uninterested in foreign trade, or in the larger world overseas, with the famous Zheng He voyages to the Indian Ocean and Eastern Africa (1405-1433) taken as an exception. This work attempts to dispel this myth, showing that the Ming court maintained tight diplomatic and economic relationships with a number of overseas states at a time when private shipping and commerce with foreigners were prohibited by law. This work examines the Ming court’s diplomatic relationships, interpreting them as involvement within three large maritime networks: the East China Sea, the Gulf of Thailand, and the Strait of Melaka. By investigating how Chinese diplomatic relations with states in these three networks waxed and waned from the late 14th to the early 15th centuries, I show that early Ming foreign policy was oriented toward the creation of a broader East–Southeast Asian maritime network that could supply it with key goods such as spices and precious woods while also serving as a bastion against non-state actors and pirates. This work uses Chinese dynastic annals, as well as primary documents from Thailand and Japan to further investigate how Ming foreign policy functioned within an already interconnected Asia, propping up some regimes while toppling others.

Abigail Chen
Contesting Favorability in Cambodia and Myanmar: Perceptions of U.S. and Chinese Influence and Implications for Public Diplomacy

Lunch, 12:00-1:15
Claire Liu
Defining Fake News in Polarized, Post-Truth America

Darby Tarlow
Minding the Machine: Humanity in the age of AI

The frightening encroachment of machines on human capability and form blurs the line between what is human and what is ‘other’. In an increasingly realistic universe of autonomous creations appearing and behaving completely human-like, how do we distinguish ‘them’ from ‘us’? My research focuses on the relationship between perceiving the mental qualities and social characteristics of artificial and human agents. When it comes to attributing mental and social characteristics, how far apart are human and human-like?

Marlene Berke
Perceptual Reality Monitoring

We usually know whether an image is internally or externally generated -- “I am imagining a chair” or “I am remembering a chair” versus “I am looking at a chair.” This general ability to monitor perceptual reality is very important; a deficit may result in hallucinations, or mistaking the unreal for the real, a hallmark of psychosis. To study this ability, I conducted a series of human behavioral experiments that examined interactions between the content of visual working memory and perception. The experiments consisted of hundreds of trials of short visual working memory and visual detection tasks. Each trial varied as to whether the visual image to be detected matched or did not match the image in memory. After equating the difficulty of the matched and unmatched trials, I found an interesting bias: subjects were less likely to say they saw something when detecting an image that matched the image in their memory, while they were more likely to say they saw something when detecting an image that did not match the image in their memory. Perhaps this bias serves a functional role, such as preventing the content of working memory from leaking into perception, or perhaps it is the byproduct of some mechanism by which we monitor the sources of images. In any case, this bias may relate to the general ability to monitor perceptual reality and deserves further study.
Elle Rothermich

The song "Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story?" serves as the finale of Lin-Manuel Miranda’s formidably popular Hamilton, offering closure for the musical’s characters and a lingering question for the audience: who has the power to tell the story of who you are? Though a neat philosophical question, it is also a politically salient one. The study of narrative is an important addition to political science because stories impact how political actors behave and can even determine who is able to participate in political life. In this way, narrative is more than just a rhetorical device - it is an instrument of political power. To explore how narrative functions in political discourse, I present a cross-disciplinary theory that configures methods of character analysis used in literary criticism for use in public policy evaluation. I then test this theory by applying it to a case study of New York State’s maternal health policy, which has produced far poorer health outcomes for women of color relative to white women. I offer this theory with the hope that it might help lay the groundwork for a productive connection between literary criticism and political science that will in turn make it possible for more people to tell their own stories and be heard.

Drew Musto
A Case for a Federal Britain

Jesse Sanchez
Race, Space, and Place at Cornell