Laurie Brand's New Book: Understanding Uprisings

Professor Laurie Brand introduces a new factor, that of national narratives. Brand argues that such official stories, which are used to reinforce the right to rule, justify policies, or combat opponents, deserve careful exploration if we are to understand the full range of tools available to respond to crises that threaten a leadership's hold on power. Covering more than six decades of political, economic, and military challenges in Egypt and Algeria, *Official Stories* demonstrates how leaderships have attempted to reconfigure narratives to confront challenges to their power, and how leaderships may miscalculate, thereby setting in motion opposition forces beyond their control.

Two SIR Students Named Boren Scholars for 2014

**Kayla Foster** is sophomore from Rockton, Illinois. Kayla will be studying for one year at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan while on the Boren Scholarship. She plans to join the Model United Nations club on campus where she’ll have the opportunity to discuss international affairs with her peers. While abroad, Kayla will focus on improving her Japanese while working towards her senior capstone project on Japanese military policy. After graduation from USC, Kayla plans to attend graduate school and study security affairs. She wants to become a Foreign Service Officer who contributes to the United States’ relationship with Japan through understanding of Japanese policy, especially in regards to Japan’s changing military role in the Pacific.

**Benjamin Miles** is a native of Los Angeles and a transfer student from Santa Monica College. While in high school, Benjamin won the prestigious Tanaka Foundation Scholarship and spent a year in Japan attending classes. He went on to spend four months in South Korea participating in a cultural internship working with Korean students. Benjamin plans to use the Boren Scholarship to broaden his understanding of East Asia. Next year, he will live with a host family and study at Peking University in China. Benjamin’s goal is to work in the Department of State as an Information Resource Officer. In this role, he will use his knowledge of East Asia to assist diplomatic officials find key information critical to national security.
Professor Steve Lamy Receives Mellon Mentoring Award

*Photo courtesy of the Daily Trojan
April 23, 2014*

The USC Mellon Mentoring Award recognizes faculty who consistently:
1. Offer sound counsel and valuable information to their mentees in order to advance and develop the mentee’s own path to academic and professional success.
2. Generously share their valuable time and expertise in critiquing the mentee’s work.
3. Help to create a vital and engaged academic community in their school and at USC.
4. Involve peers and students in publications, grants and conferences, as well as readily sharing knowledge of such opportunities.
5. Make others aware of the contributions and value of their mentees.
Serve as role models for their colleagues by maintaining high standards for excellence within their own discipline and at the level of the larger University.

As both a professor of International Relations and Vice Dean of Academic Programs, Prof. Lamy has dedicated his time and efforts to building relationships with numerous students. Often meeting with students to provide guidance academically and professionally. Prof. Lamy has served as mentor to many students over the years, helping to guide them towards meeting their goals.

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Green Energy, Green Politics and Change in China

Peggy Liu, co-founder of [JUCCCE](https://www.juccce.org) (Joint US-China Collaboration on Clean Energy) came to speak to students at USC about the broad mandate of the NGO, which is working to combat global warming by targeting policy makers and socio-cultural practices in China.

Peggy's [TED talk](https://www.ted.com/talks/peggyliu_tedtalk) made the point that China's pollution problems are problems for everyone, problems for the globe.

At USC, she went several steps further and discussed projects that were making a difference, and the strategies that were working for her NGO.

In addition, she spent extra time meeting with motivated students and Professor Carol Wise after the main lecture. Students had the opportunity to discuss the issues in more detail, and to talk about the prospects for internships and collaboration on projects related to the greening of consumer culture, China and sustainability, and business-non-profit collaboration.

*Some support for this program came from the Friedheim Family, in memory of Amy Friedheim (USC '81).*
Arctic Paradoxes
SIR hosted a lecture by Lassi Heininen, Professor, University of Lapland (Finland) Thursday, March 6, 4:00-6:00, VKC 300a. In addition to the University of Lapland, Dr. Heininen also holds an appointment at the University of Oulu (Finland) and lectures at Akureyri University (Iceland), Trent University (Canada) and Petrozavodsk State University (Russia). He has published over 150 articles and studies, focusing on Arctic security, legal, and environmental issues. Heininen also chairs the Steering Committee of the Northern Research Forum, is a convener of the Calotte Academy, and a member of the Arctic Centre. This event is sponsored by USC Dornsife College’s School of International Relations and the International Relations Undergraduate Association.

Some support for this program came from the Friedheim Family, in memory of Amy Friedheim (USC ’81).

SIR Professor Hymans wins 'World Order' Grawemeyer Award

Along with two other awards (American Political Science Association's 2013 Don K. Price Award and the National Academy of Public Administration's 2013 Louis Brownlow Book Award), the 2014 Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order makes it clear: Hymans' work is an important contribution. The book analyzed nuclear weapons projects started by repressive regimes and how they were often prone to inefficiency and failure, due in large part to heavy-handed management. Even successful programs have met with considerable delays and challenges. Hymans concludes that overestimating the threat of these programs can allow for serious miscalculations, including unnecessary military interventions. For more: Foreign Affairs, The Diplomat, The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists; Audio Interview.

A Lifetime of Leadership

One of the most distinguished graduates of SIR and a generous benefactor, Robert R. Dockson (1917-2013), has died. He is remembered for his personal warmth, wisdom, dynamic leadership, integrity, and concern for his community and country. USC's president, Dr. Rufus von KleinSmid even welcomed him in person to USC, where he got his Masters at SIR. In 1942, he volunteered to join the U.S. Navy and served in the Pacific. He completed his Ph.D. in 1946 at USC. After starting at Rutgers, he returned to USC to become a professor of business. In 1959 USC's president named him, at age 41, Dean of the School of Commerce. He headed California Federal Savings and Loan from 1969 until 1989. Among many gifts, he made possible a case teaching classroom and a media room for SIR, each named to honor Professor Ross Berkes, his classmate and long-time director of the School. Dockson also met with the School's leaders and shared advice from his long experience. Robert Dockson is survived by his daughter Kimberlee Dockson Rollo, her husband Robert Rollo, and four grandchildren.
Professor Sanjeev Khagram Speaks on Transparency and More

The School of International Relations brought Sanjeev Khagram to campus for a lecture on “Creating & Coordinating the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency” as part of the Director's Speaker Series on Theory in Practice on February 3rd.

Professor Khagram is currently the John Parke Young Professor of Global Political Economy at Occidental College. Khagram is known world-wide for his interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral leadership on globalization, transnationalism, sustainable development, and human security, and was recognized as a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum, wrote the UN Secretary General's Report on the Impacts of the Global Economic Crisis in 2009, was previously also Dean of the Desmond Tutu Peace Centre, Senior Advisory Policy/Strategy at the World Commission on Dams, Associate Professor at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Wyss Visiting Professor at the Harvard Business School, and Professor of Public Affairs and International Studies/Director of the Lindenberg Center for International Development at the University of Washington. Most recently, Dr. Khagram was the Architect/Producer of the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency and Founder/Chair of Innovations for Scaling Impact. See his widely acclaimed volume published by Brookings Press, *Open Budgets: The Political Economy of Transparency, Participation and Accountability*.

Dealing with Climate Change: A Lively Panel Discussion with Experts

UPDATE: Professor Emeritus John Odell has been working with SIR's co-sponsor for this event, the Centre for International Governance Innovation, in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Thanks to the work of POIR candidate Hai-Vu Phan, they have produced a rapporteur report on the panel proceedings. A key point in the conclusion of the report was that efforts to deal with global warming must shift from mitigation efforts alone toward the inclusion of adaptation measures.

Please take a look at the project website here. The report and other materials are at the bottom of the page.

On November 11th, 2014, the School of International Relations put on a new panel in an occasional series on current policy issues. This time, the panel of experts confront the question: What are the options and challenges for dealing with climate change?

SIR with the Centre for International Governance Innovation in Canada was pleased to present a panel discussion, chaired by Professor Odell. The panel includes Robert Lempert, Director of the Pardee Center for Longer Range Global Policy and the Future Human Condition, RAND; Daniel Mazmanian, Professor and Director of New Initiatives and the USC Center for Sustainable Cities; Edward Parson, Professor and Co-Director of the Emmett Center on Climate Change and the Environment, UCLA; Junjie Zhang, Professor UCSD will discuss climate change policy and politics.

Past events include "Iran:Options for US Policy", put together by Professor Emeritus Abe Lowenthal, who also moderated.
US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Visits USC with Accomplished Trojan Alumni

James B. Smith, US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, visited Professor Laurie Brand's international relations class with other USC students this week. It was a packed room of more than 80 students. Along with Dr. Janet Breslin-Smith (former National War College Professor) and Amer Kayani (Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs at the US Embassy in Saudi Arabia) who both graduated from USC, the class discussed Business, politics, security, the 'Arab Spring', and women's rights in the Middle East.

Popular topics of conversation included the effects of renewable energy business sectors on the political economy of the middle east in the near future, and the status of women in social and business sectors.

To share any news updates please contact Ashley Bonanno at bonanno@usc.edu