
11th Annual Meeting of the Great Plains Political Science Association

*Supporting the academic study of political
science and public affairs*

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**University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA
Saturday, September 27, 2008**



REGISTRATION AND WELCOME: 7:15 – 8:15 A.M (Coffee and Rolls Provided)
ROOM: SEERLEY HALL, GREAT READING ROOM

GUEST SPEAKER AND UNIVERSITY WELCOME: 8:00 A.M.

BENJAMIN J. ALLEN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

PANEL SESSION I: 8:30 – 9:45 A.M.

PANEL 1:1 PUBLIC POLICY
ROOM: (SEERLEY HALL 112)

Paper: The Impact of State Death Penalty Commissions on Legislative Reform of the Death Penalty

Elizabeth Smith, *University of South Dakota*

Matthew Heiman, *University of South Dakota*

Erika Menning, *University of South Dakota*

William Muller, *University of South Dakota*

Morgan Peck, *University of South Dakota*

Catherine Quinones, *University of South Dakota*

Abstract: Death penalty commissions have been established by governors, legislators and state bar associations across the nation over the past decade to examine problems with the administration of the death penalty and make recommendations. This paper explores the relationship between the establishment of death penalty commissions, their findings and subsequent changes in state death penalty law. We look at the establishment and composition of the commissions, the nature of the recommendations made and the impact that these recommendations had on ensuing legislative activity.

Paper: Charter Schools in the States: Agenda Setting and Policy Change

Ramona McNeal, *University of Northern Iowa*

Lisa Bryan, *Briar Cliff University*

Abstract: Despite the recent enthusiasm for charter schools as a policy alternative for improving student learning, studies indicate that they are not increasing student achievement over traditional public schools. Nevertheless, legislative activity in the states suggests that charter schools as a policy alternative is gaining support on the public agenda. Agenda setting theory suggests that interest groups, state and citizen ideology, political context, policy entrepreneurs, focusing events and state resources influence the ability of issues to reach the institutional agenda. This study uses panel corrected cross-sectional time series analysis to explore which of these factors are motivating increased interest in charter school legislative activities at the state level from 2004-2007.

Paper: Past as Analogy, History as Policy Laboratory: Globalization in the Era of Good Feelings and the Challenges of a Post 9/11, Post Russian Re-emergence World
Patrick Bass, *Morningside College*

Abstract: Globalization in the Post 9/11, Post Russian re-emergence world has its fair share of promise and peril. Examining the limits and potential of using the American past as analogy to study present policy options may help create new perspectives and approaches to contemporary U.S. policy formulation. In this case, current Globalization policy analysis can be aided through considering the similarities and differences of the multi-faceted issues facing U.S. policymakers in the Era of Good Feelings, placed in proper contexts, with those facing America today. In particular, understanding the success and problems of the American approach in the early 19th century can shed light on the current national set of choices.

Paper: American Politics of Floods, Hurricanes, and Droughts: A Dutch Solution
Leendert Ferdinand De Die, *University of Nebraska at Kearney*

Abstract: Mother Nature knows no rule of law. The forces of nature can ruin the so-called “best” laws. The American legal tradition places great emphasis on private property, without regard to the laws of nature. Dutch law, with respect to land, is grounded in - res comunis omnium - property that is common to all and is not capable of private ownership. The Dutch jurisprudence would be most beneficial to the many American catastrophes resulting from floods, hurricanes, and droughts. This paper will explore the policies and laws associated with selected American disasters; examine Dutch jurisprudential alternatives to the American responses; and offer a comparative perspective which in turn could provide better public policy for land disasters.

Chair/Discussant: Joe Blankenau, *Wayne State College*

PANEL 1:2 PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
ROOM: SEERLEY HALL 120

Paper: Altering Addictive Behavior: Perception, Preferences, and Smoking Regulation
Michael J. Licari, *University of Northern Iowa*

Abstract: There is a growing mass of literature in on the effectiveness of smoking regulations. While this literature has become rather sophisticated in modeling policy success or failure, most of it has been done at the aggregate level, using states (or even countries) as the unit of analysis. We know, however, that ultimately smoking is a very personal behavior and it is likely that individual smokers will respond very differently to their regulatory environments. Using a basic theory of individual responsiveness to social regulation (Meier's model of morality policy), this paper will demonstrate that to understand regulatory effectiveness, we need to understand personal risk preferences, their social surroundings, and their attitudes about the legitimacy of specific policies.

Paper: Decriminalization of Marijuana Laws

Marty Nader, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Abstract: Federal marijuana laws have remained relatively unchanged since the 1970s, but numerous state governments have given their drug policy a progressive marijuana-tolerant adjustment. To date, twelve states have decriminalized marijuana and twelve states have enacted medical marijuana laws. Still, other states have laws requiring mandatory minimum sentencing (MMS) where individuals possessing any amount of marijuana serve jail time. This paper argues that marijuana laws at the federal and state levels need to be revisited and reevaluated for effectiveness, appropriate progressiveness, and consistency. Most laws are evaluated and undergo some form of evolution every decade to decade, but marijuana laws have been left untouched at the federal level for near forty years. This paper will not argue in favor of legalization, simply reform.

Paper: Using Neural Networks to Model Volunteerism

Scott Granberg-Rademacker, *Minnesota State Mankato*

Abstract: With state and local budget deficits increasing and more competition for a shrinking pool of grant money, public agencies and nonprofit organizations are becoming more and more reliant on volunteers to help them meet their goals. This paper explores the motivations for volunteering by modeling the choice to volunteer as an output of an artificial neural network. Using data from the September 2007 Volunteer Supplement of the Current Population Survey, a neural network will be constructed and trained, with an examination of trained synaptic weights to see which factors are most likely to lead individuals to volunteer. Recommendations for public agencies and non-profits are also included.

Chair/Discussant: Christopher W. Larimer, *University of Northern Iowa*

PANEL 1:3 COMPARATIVE POLITICS: RACE, RELIGION, AND CONFLICT
ROOM: SEERLEY HALL 220

Paper: Impact of Muslim Groups on U.S. Foreign Policy Formulation

Ahrar Ahmad, *Black Hills State University*

Abstract: This paper is based on the assumption that while domestic groups may not be the single most important determinant of US foreign policy, they can have a relevant and, often, a consequential impact in terms of its formulation. Within this framework this essay will explore the efforts of Muslim groups to influence the making of US foreign policy. It will examine the historical context of Muslims in the US, the organizational structures that eventually came into existence, and the issues that have been central to their interests and concerns. Comparisons with the more (apparently) successful Jewish groups in terms of their organizational efficacy, fund raising capabilities, and experience in the American political landscape, will become obvious.

Paper: Re-examining the Effects of Race and Ethnicity on International Conflict**Benjamin Knoll**, *University of Iowa*

Abstract: Previous studies examining the link between domestic conditions and international behavior have demonstrated that states with higher levels of racial/ethnic discrimination are more likely to use violence during international crises. This study draws upon political behavior literature in order to propose and test a more comprehensive theoretical explanation for how domestic racial inequality can affect international levels of violence. These explanations are then tested via multivariate statistical analyses using data from the International Crises Behavior and Minorities at Risk dataset. The results qualify and extend previous findings and offer support for the conclusion that the effect of higher levels of domestic racial discrimination on the intensity of international violence is conditional upon the size of a state's minority population and resulting level of interracial contact.

Paper: Should "La Iglesia" Have a Role in Politics? Understanding Religious Impact on Latino Opinion Regarding Church and State Relations**Nicholas Martini**, *University of Iowa*

Abstract: This paper explores the role of religion on politics by attempting to understand how religion shapes Latino opinion regarding church and state relations. Results indicate that Latinos with higher levels of religiosity along with those identifying with the Evangelical and Mainline Protestant traditions have higher levels of support for church involvement in politics. When comparing Latinos to Anglos I find striking similarities for those with more religious behavior. Latinos and Anglos who have high levels of religiosity have nearly identical opinions regarding church involvement in politics. Interestingly, while religious tradition influences opinion on church involvement for Latinos, this influence is not found in Anglos.

Chair/Discussant: Daniel Braaten, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln***PANEL SESSION II: 10:00 – 11:15 A.M.****PANEL 2:1 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFLICT**
ROOM: SEERLEY HALL 112**Paper: Private Armed Forces and the Changing Nature of Warfare****Philip Mauceri**, *University of Northern Iowa*

Abstract: Over the last two decades there has been significant growth in the use of irregular forces during internal conflicts, but few systematic and comparative analysis of this phenomenon. This paper focuses on private armed forces, irregular forces such as

death squads, paramilitaries, warlords and mercenaries--as an expression of specific regime coalitions between state and social actors, particularly the privatization of force and examines a few historic precedents.

Paper: The Human Rights Obligations of Transnational Corporations

Daniel Braaten, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Abstract: What obligations do transnational corporations (TNCs) have to promote and protect internationally recognized human rights? International law places the primary obligation to protect and promote human rights on states, however powerful economic actors like TNCs can have a tremendous impact of the lives of individuals around the world. This paper attempts to outline the specific human rights obligations of TNCs using Amartya Sen's two level theory of human rights.

Paper: I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag or I Pledge Allegiance to the Reason? A Historical Analysis of Terrorism and the Features and Implications of Cause and Structure

Rachel Miller, *Iowa State University*

Mark Nieman, *University of Iowa*

Abstract: The authors posit that the incapacity of the United States government to interpret unconventional warfare in the Post-Cold War era lies within American history and the prominent theoretical framework utilized in international relations. According to these views, revolt derives its appeal from rebellion against a cause rather than against a structure. We will attempt to illustrate this phenomenon and suggest that irregular warfare and terrorism is a multifaceted concept with two dominant features: revolt against cause and revolt against both cause and structure.

Chair/Discussant: Ahrar Ahmad, *Black Hills State University*

PANEL 2:2 AMERICAN POLITICS: ISSUE FRAMING AND THE MEDIA
ROOM: SEERLEY HALL 120

Paper: Chief Legislators and Pet Projects: The Rhetoric and Outcome of AmeriCorps and Faith-Based Initiatives

Donna Hoffman, *University of Northern Iowa*

Alison D. Howard, *Dominican University of California*

Abstract: Presidents enter office with many policy goals that, if successful, not only shape public policy, but also can aid their re-election and their desire to secure a positive legacy. Often times, one policy in particular, a "pet project" will be personally important to a president and will ultimately be placed on the agenda because of the attention given to it by the president. We seek to examine how President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush highlighted their "pet projects" for the public and for Congress as chief legislators. A close examination of these two case studies provides insight into how these two presidents used available rhetorical resources to pursue a particular aspect of their

legislative agendas to accomplish the multiple goals of a chief legislator including making public policy, being re-elected, and securing a positive legacy.

Paper: Media Framing on the Issue of Illegal Immigration in the United States

Jared Clay, *University of Nebraska at Kearney*

Abstract: Issue framing studies have shown that media framing of issues have an effect on the formation of opinion. The media can advocate, promote one-side of the issue, or be objective, meaning open to all sides in the presentation of the issue. One such issue that is yet unresolved is illegal immigration; it is important to determine how media framing affects and sways public opinion on illegal immigration. To test the theory of media advocacy and policy solutions (using illegal immigration as the issue) a content analysis is conducted of newspapers in the United States to determine media framing for advocacy or objectivity. The study will also look at whether a media outlet's location to the U.S.-Mexico border, which is a major source of illegal immigrants entering the U.S., and whether it has any bearing on media framing. The conclusion should denote more media advocacy for stiffer restrictions on illegal immigrants and the region where the media source is located has no bearing on which issue frame is preferred.

Paper: Motivation, Choice, and Agenda Setting: Media Effects in the 21st Century

Justin Holmes, *University of Northern Iowa*

Abstract: Agenda Setting research has demonstrated consistently that increased coverage of particular issues increases importance citizens place on those issues. To date, this research has essentially ruled out the possibility of selective information seeking (or avoidance) by viewers. It is my expectation that 1.) Increased choice over content will lead to an overall decrease in Agenda Setting and 2.) At the individual level, there will be an interactive effect with personality measures (need to evaluate, need for cognition) which have been shown to predict media consumption. To explore my hypotheses, I have conducted a computerized experiment which allows the creation of various media environments with different levels of complexity. This design allows for close monitoring of attention paid to particular pieces of information, and allows participants to opt in or opt out of any particular story.

Chair/Discussant: Gary Aguiar, *South Dakota State University*

PANEL 2:3 AMERICAN POLITICS: VOTING BEHAVIOR

ROOM: SEERLEY HALL 212

Paper: Red State, Blue Tendencies: Senate Elections in Nebraska, 1976-2006

Diane Duffin, *University of Nebraska at Kearney*

Abstract: Nebraskans have supported the Republican candidate for president all but five times since 1868 (and none since 1964) and roughly half are registered Republicans. Despite this record, they have recently and consistently elected Democrats to represent

them in the United States Senate. The political science literature on Senate elections indicates that incumbency and partisanship dominate voter choice, yet these explanations cannot apply to first successful elections of Ed Zorinsky (1976), J.J. Exon (1978), Bob Kerrey (1988) and Ben Nelson (2000). All wisely ran in open-seat races, and all relied on some measure of Republican support in order to win. Where incumbency is not a factor, I find that candidate quality and short-term forces trump partisanship in explaining why voters in a reliably red state regularly opt for blue candidates.

Paper: An Experiment Testing the Relative Effectiveness of Encouraging Voter Participation by Appealing to Feelings of Pride or Shame

Alan S. Gerber, *Yale University*

Donald P. Green, *Yale University*

Christopher W. Larimer, *University of Northern Iowa*

Abstract: Prior experimental research has demonstrated that voter turnout rises substantially when people receive mailings that indicate whether they voted in previous elections. The present study extends this line of research by investigating whether disclosure of past participation has a stronger effect on turnout when it calls attention to a past abstention or a past vote. A sample of 369,211 registered voters who voted in just one of two recent elections were randomly assigned to receive no mail, mail that encouraged them to vote, and mail that encouraged them to vote and indicated their turnout in one previous election. The latter type of mailing randomly reported either the election in which they voted or the one in which they abstained. Results suggest that mailings disclosing past voting behavior had strong effects and that these effects were significantly enhanced when it disclosed an abstention in a recent election. These findings suggest that shaming people for failure to uphold a civic norm is a greater inducement to collective action than applauding their past participation.

Chair/Discussant: **Benjamin Knoll**, *University of Iowa*

PANEL 2:4 AMERICAN POLITICS: PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OPINION
ROOM: SEERLEY HALL 220

Paper: America's Ultimate Tree House: Gender, Emotion, and Campaigning for the White House

Carly Jacobs, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Michael Gruszczynski, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Abstract: In the 2008 presidential primaries, Hillary Clinton ran a highly competitive campaign for the Democratic nomination for president and was subjected to significant scrutiny based on her gender. Prior research suggests that emotionality is an important component of gender stereotypes and is closely tied to femininity. We are interested in the effects of displays of emotion, namely crying, during the recent presidential race. Both Clinton and fellow male candidate Mitt Romney choked up on the campaign trail,

which allows for a gender-based comparison of the effects of crying. We use public opinion polls that were taken around the time of the incidents for both candidates to test whether there was any aggregate effect among voters in terms of candidate favorability. We find that although the favorability ratings of each candidate do not show any systematic change after their respective crying episodes, the media approached the displays of emotion in stereotypical terms.

Paper: Implementing Federal Policy to Help America Vote: Voter Identification and State Choice

Kathleen Hale, *Auburn University*

Ramona McNeal, *University of Northern Iowa*

Abstract: This paper employs an implementation perspective to explore factors that influence state response to the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) in the area of voter identification requirements. State choices about voter identification practices under HAVA are analyzed from inception in 2004 through 2007 using an intergovernmental policy implementation framework.. Findings indicate that state decisions about voter identification are significantly influenced by existing federal administrative constraints under the Voting Rights Act, state institutional arrangements, state resources and the conservative ideology of political elites. Findings inform policy implementation research in intergovernmental policy areas where local government administrators are dominant.

Paper: Reassessing the National Voter Registration Act's effect on turnout

Albert Chou, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Abstract: This policy analysis targets the National Voter Registration Act's (NVRA) effect on increasing the turnout level from the 1988 to the 2004 presidential elections. Rather than "predicting" the impact of the NVRA, this policy analysis directly examines its impact. There are several findings. First, a state's attitude to implementing the motor voter and the mail registration is a key to the success of increasing voting probability. Second, the universal mail registration, the active motor, the active mail and the NVRA litigation in table 4 together contribute merely .115% increase in the voting probability. Finally, in relative to the effect size of other independent variables, the effect size of the universal mail registration is not marginal.

Chair/Discussant: Mark Springer, *University of Mary*

LUNCHEON AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS: 11:30 A.M. – 1:15 P.M
ROOM: COMMONS LOUNGE AND PORCH

Keynote Speaker: Kevin B. Smith, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Keynote Address: “There's a Party in My Genes?: The New Empirical Biopolitics.”
Talk will begin at approximately 12:00 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING: 1:15 – 1:45 P.M
ROOM: SEERLEY HALL 212

ROUNDTABLE: ELECTIONS 2008 1:45 – 2:45 P.M.
ROOM: SEERLEY HALL 115

Panelists: Donna Hoffman, *University of Northern Iowa*
Elizabeth Smith, *University of South Dakota*
Mark Springer, *University of Mary*

Overview: Panelists will discuss the upcoming presidential and congressional elections, as well as results from this year's presidential primaries and caucuses.

PANEL SESSION III: 3:00 – 4:15 P.M.

PANEL 3:1 AMERICAN POLITICS: THE PRESIDENCY AND THE COURTS
ROOM: SEERLEY HALL 112

Paper: Viva Voce: Implications of the Disappearing Voice Vote, 1807-1990

Michael S. Lynch, *University of Kansas*
Anthony J. Madonna, *University of Georgia*

Abstract: The percentage of public laws subject to a final passage roll call vote has not been constant throughout congressional history. The proportion of bills that passed Congress viva voce in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was far higher than recent decades. In this article, we explore the consequences of this phenomenon. Using a dataset of landmark legislative enactments passed between 1807 and 1990 we test what conditions led to an increased likelihood an enactment would receive a recorded vote. We argue that the changing composition of the roll call record make the early roll call record a less reliable tool for scholars seeking to test theories of legislative behavior.

Paper: Just “A Dog and Pony Show”? Ideology and Oral Argument in the U. S. Supreme Court, 2004-2008

James C. Phillips, *Brigham Young University*

Ed L. Carter, *Brigham Young University*

Abstract: To date judicial scholars have only tested the link between ideology and oral argument indirectly through either examining the degree of unique material from oral argument that ends up in case opinions, or by looking at personal observations by justices on how much oral argument had influenced their final vote on the merits. This attempts to answer the question of whether justices’ ideologies are influencing the degree they are engaging in information-seeking behavior during oral argument. The results will provide a heretofore unexamined test of the attitudinal and strategic models, allowing judicial scholars a further way of measuring the influence of ideology in the U. S. Supreme Court.

Paper: The Effects of Canons of Ethics on the Tone and Content of Television Ads in State Supreme Court Elections, 2000-2006

C. Scott Peters, *University of Northern Iowa*

Abstract: Twenty-one states select their state supreme courts through partisan or nonpartisan competitive elections. In the past decade or so, these elections have become more competitive and candidates have increasingly relied upon strategies and tactics common in political races, including running expensive media campaigns featuring issue-based television ads. In order to protect judicial independence, nearly every state includes language in its judicial code of conduct that restricts candidates' ability to campaign about their views on issues. This paper uses data on the topics and themes of television commercials aired in state supreme court races between 1998-2006 to ask whether these canons of ethics have an effect on the way in which candidates campaign.

Paper: The Politics of Mascots: Racism or Constitutionally Protected Expression

Peter Longo, *University of Nebraska at Kearney*

Claude Louishomme, *University of Nebraska at Kearney*

Abstract: Expression of one’s self has countless forms. Despite the countless forms of expression, not all are or should be tolerated by the norms of social contracts and civil society. One such expression has been the use of mascots for collegiate and high school teams. While the NCAA has contracted with their associated institutions of higher learning not to use racially represented mascots, not all the public is satisfied. This paper will evaluate the use of mascots; determine the political appropriateness of mascots; analyze the NCAA action against certain mascots; address the constitutional dimension of the use of mascots; and offer a political and constitutional framework to limit the dehumanizing nature of mascots.

Chair/Discussant: Scott Granberg-Rademacker, *Minnesota State Mankato*

PANEL 3:2 COMPARATIVE POLITICS: DEMOCRATIC THEORY
ROOM: SEERLEY HALL 120

Paper: Protodemocracy among Nomadic Hunter-Gatherers

Gary Aguiar, *South Dakota State University*

Abstract: Throughout human history, democracy has been a fragile entity that survives only in rare instances typically associated with urbanized civilization. However, the rural roots of democracy can be discovered by examining the anthropological and archeological literature on nomadic hunter-gatherers. In these egalitarianism societies, male-headed households were sovereign, as hypothesized by social contract theorists like Hobbes and Locke. Members of these subsistence economies successfully used “coalitions of the weak” to resist dominance by ambitious “big men.” Hence, pre-urban, pre-state hominids created protodemocracies that existed several millennia before civilized democracies in archaic Sumer and ancient Greece.

Paper: Deconstructing Diaspora: An Exercise in Concept Formation

Amanda Balzer, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Abstract: From its ancient origins to its present revival, diaspora is more than another migratory concept. It carries connotations of movement, network, survival, journey, homeland, exile, identity, culture. Diaspora is a story of a people, in which where they came from, how they got here and who they have become are interwoven into a tapestry of collective identity. Once used to refer only to a select few, diaspora has been claimed by dozens of groups in the last several decades. This paper aims to reconstruct the “essentially contested concept” of diaspora by using the concept formation methods put forth by Sartori (1984), Connolly (1974) and Goertz (2006), as well as a dialectical approach. Disapora is eventually reconstructed within a framework of necessary and sufficient conditions understood through dialectic development.

Paper: The Poverty of Standard Trade Theory: The Fundamental Illogic Inherent within Comparative Advantage in a Global Market

Mark Nieman, *University of Iowa*

Abstract: Proponents of the current global economic order point to the benefits of trade, advocating that all countries reap its benefits and that failure to do so is due to poor governance rather than the order itself. The notion of comparative advantage, first advanced by David Ricardo, is frequently cited as evidence that all countries benefit from liberalized trade, even if they lack an absolute advantage in any particular sector. The focus of this study is to analyze this logic; rather than globalization benefiting all due to comparative advantage, it will be hereafter be argued that globalization actual eliminates the role of comparative advantage. This paper will examine the conditions under which Ricardo stated that comparative advantage works, and perhaps more importantly, when it does not.

Chair/Discussant: Christopher B. Budzisz, *Loras College*

PANEL 3:3 COMPARATIVE POLITICS: PUBLIC POLICY
ROOM: SEERLEY HALL 220

Paper: Socioeconomic Obstacles to Household Pig Farming: An Ethnographic Case Study from Rural Southwest China

Li Jian, *University of Northern Iowa*

Abstract: Despite its value and importance, household pig farming is on a rapid decline in rural China today. Nationwide, it was estimated that the number of rural households that raised pigs declined by 50 percent in 2008. Why are so many farmers giving up pig farming? In this paper, based on my fieldwork in a rural village in Southwest China, I analyze the main socioeconomic obstacles to household pig farming, with an emphasis on government policies. Specifically, I examine how such obstacles impede farmers' capacity to raise pigs and ultimately force them to abandon swine production. In the last section, I discuss the policy implications of this case study and highlight what policy makers and development agencies can do to help farmers revitalize household pig farming.

Paper: Comparing the impact of federalism on rural health care in Canada and the United States: The interconnection of politics, economics, and rurality.

Joe Blankenau, *Wayne State College*

Abstract: There have been several comparisons of the differing politics and policy of health care in the United States and Canada. However, there is scant comparison of the politics and policy of rural health care in the two countries. This paper compares rural health care in Canada and the United States through the prism of federalism using the sociological and political economy conceptual lens (Burgess 2005). It is found that Canadian and Americans living in rural areas face many similar issues regarding health care access and quality yet there are notable differences in the policy responses. Overall, it is found that rurality exists as a health barrier in both countries but there are critical factors embedded in the federal environments, which lead to different policy approaches and health outcomes.

Paper: Becoming Peasant Workers: The Politics of Identity in China

Yue Zou, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Abstract: Although there has been a growth in the literature on peasant workers since the 1990s both in China and overseas, most of the previous studies primarily focus on the plight of peasant workers as urban migrants, the sufferings they experience in the low-wage sweatshops as industrial workers, and the deprivation of their political and social rights as citizens. The present paper focuses on these peasant workers and on a shift in their identities in light of China's attempt to enter the capitalist world economy. My central argument is that new social identities are created for these peasant workers, taking advantage of economic transition, rural-urban disparities, policy discrimination and

regional inequalities. Together with their new identity, their social status, political attitude and policy concerns are shaped.

Chair/Discussant: **Rachel Miller**, *Iowa State University*

ROUNDTABLE: POLITICS AND POLICY WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS
ROOM: SEERLEY HALL 115: 4:30 – 5:30 P.M.

Panelists: **Jeff Danielson**, *Iowa State Senator and President Pro Tempore*
 Doris Kelley, *Iowa State Representative*
 Bob Kressig, *Iowa State Representative*

Overview: Panelists will discuss policy issues facing the Great Plains and the politics of implementing such policies.

CONTRIBUTORS:

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 State Representative Bob Kressig, *Iowa General Assembly*
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