



# ARKANSAS COLLEGIATE MODEL UN

Friday, November 6

**NWACC**

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\$25 delegate fee

<https://www.arkansasmodelun.org>



**53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting**

of the

**Arkansas Political Science  
Association**

**March 6-7, 2026**

at



## **Friday, March 6: Bruno's Pizzeria**

2489 Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM: Executive Board Meeting

## **Friday, March 6, Lyon Business and Economics Building, Lyon College**

### **SESSION #1 (1:00 PM – 2:30 PM)**

#### **UNDERGRADUATE PANEL #1: Democracy, Civic Culture, and Political Foundations**

Room: Lyon 202

Chair & Discussant: Hans Hacker  
(Arkansas State University,  
[hhacker@astate.edu](mailto:hhacker@astate.edu))

“Social Contract Theory and the Modern State: How Philosophical Foundations of Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau Continue to Shape Political Outcomes” by Mary Wrzesinski (University of Arkansas – Monticello, [MW045494@uamont.edu](mailto:MW045494@uamont.edu))

“Confessional Modernism: The Theoretical and Historical Development of Christian Democracy in Europe” by Isaac Morman (University of Arkansas – Monticello, [LH045548@uamont.edu](mailto:LH045548@uamont.edu))

Jayden Hughes (Lyon College)  
“Is Compassion Political? Politics, Economics, Civic Life, and Refugee Resettlement in the United States (2015–2021)” by Jayden Hughes (Lyon College, [jayden.hughes@lyon.edu](mailto:jayden.hughes@lyon.edu))

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/COMPARATIVE POLITICS PANEL: Grand Theories & Social Welfare**

Room: Lyon 206

Chair & Discussant: Hyo-Won Shin  
(University of Central Arkansas,  
[hshin@uca.edu](mailto:hshin@uca.edu))

“Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism: An Attempt to Integrate Three Major Theories of International Relations” by Kevin Brennan (Ouachita Baptist University, [brennank@obu.edu](mailto:brennank@obu.edu))

“Policy Recommendations for Birth Rate Decline and Social Welfare Sustainability in the Global North” by Ally Zimmerman

(University of Arkansas – Fayetteville,,  
[allysonz@uark.edu](mailto:allysonz@uark.edu))

**PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION  
PANEL #1: AI and Big Data in Public  
Policy**

Room: Lyon 204

Chair & Discussant: Amber Overholser  
(Southern Arkansas University,  
[aoverholser@saumag.edu](mailto:aoverholser@saumag.edu))

“Artificially Intelligent Management: AI for  
State and Local Administration” by John  
W. Sutherlin (University of Louisiana  
Monroe, [sutherlin@ulm.edu](mailto:sutherlin@ulm.edu))

“Open Data as a Catalyst for Policy  
Innovation” by Annette Nyoni (University  
of Arkansas, [anyoni@uark.edu](mailto:anyoni@uark.edu)), Ryan  
Ramaker (University of Arkansas,  
[rramaker@uark.edu](mailto:rramaker@uark.edu)), and Mizanur  
Rahman (University of Arkansas,  
[mr193@uark.edu](mailto:mr193@uark.edu))

**ROUNDTABLE: Service Learning in  
Arkansas**

Room: Lyon 100

Participants: Nichola Driver (University of  
Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service,  
[nddriver@clintonschool.uasys.edu](mailto:nddriver@clintonschool.uasys.edu)); Matt

Evans (Northwest Arkansas Community  
College, [mevans8@nwacc.edu](mailto:mevans8@nwacc.edu)); Leslie  
Graybeal (University of Central Arkansas,  
[lgraybeal@uca.edu](mailto:lgraybeal@uca.edu)); Mike Rogers  
(Arkansas Tech University,  
[mrogers6@atu.edu](mailto:mrogers6@atu.edu))

**BREAK (2:30 PM – 2:45 PM)**

**Session #2 (2:45 PM – 4:15 PM)**

**UNDERGRADUATE PANEL #2:  
Representation, Gender, and Political  
Institutions**

Room: Lyon 204

Chair & Discussant: Eric Button  
(University of Arkansas – Fayetteville,  
[edbutton@uark.edu](mailto:edbutton@uark.edu))

Madeline Hopson (Lyon College)  
“The Gendered Ladder to Leadership in  
Congress” by Madeline Hopson (Lyon  
College, [madeline.hopson@lyon.edu](mailto:madeline.hopson@lyon.edu))

“From State Lines to Policy Lines: The  
Effects of Interstate Migration on State  
Legislative Behavior and Incumbency  
Advantage” by Zoe Papazoglou (Lyon  
College, [Zoe.Papazoglou@lyon.edu](mailto:Zoe.Papazoglou@lyon.edu))

“Congressional Term Limits: A Survey-Based Analysis of Legislative and Public Support” by Kian McWilliams (University of Arkansas – Fayetteville, [krmuark@gmail.com](mailto:krmuark@gmail.com))

**AMERICAN POLITICS/ARKANSAS  
POLITICS PANEL: Education, Politics,  
and Religion in Arkansas and the U.S.**

Room: Lyon 202

Chair & Discussant: Stephanie Davis  
(University of Arkansas – Little Rock, [sdavis3@ualr.edu](mailto:sdavis3@ualr.edu))

“A Comprehensive Census of Political Science Programs in US Higher Education Assessing Wahlke Goal Implementation” by Donald Gooch (Stephen F. Austin State University, [goochdm@sfasu.edu](mailto:goochdm@sfasu.edu))

“Arkansans’ Reflections on America at 250: An Oral History Project” by John C. Davis (University of Arkansas – Fayetteville, [Jcd09@uark.edu](mailto:Jcd09@uark.edu))

“Arkansas Politics, 1980–2025: A Systematic Review and Research Agenda” by Christopher Tyler Burks (University of Arkansas – Little Rock

[cburks@ualr.edu](mailto:cburks@ualr.edu)) and Jay Barth (Hendrix College, [barth@hendrix.edu](mailto:barth@hendrix.edu))

“Differences in Evangelism Style in Modern Protestant Traditions” by Logan Principato (University of Arkansas – Little Rock, [lsprincipato@ualr.edu](mailto:lsprincipato@ualr.edu))

**POLITICAL THEORY PANEL: Democracy  
and Sovereignty**

Room: Lyon 100

Chair & Discussant: Matt Evans  
(Northwest Arkansas Community College, [mevans8@nwacc.edu](mailto:mevans8@nwacc.edu))

“Machiavelli and Corruption: Assessing the Role of Machiavelli’s Theory to Democracies and Non-Democracies” by Carol Strong (University of Arkansas – Monticello, [strong@uamont.edu](mailto:strong@uamont.edu))

“The U.S. Founders on Sovereignty” by Mike Rogers (Arkansas Tech University, [mrogers6@atu.edu](mailto:mrogers6@atu.edu))

“America’s Democratic Experiment: How Political and Sociological Concepts are Becoming Dogma” by LaShonda Campbell (University of Arkansas, Monticello, [CampbellL@uamont.edu](mailto:CampbellL@uamont.edu))

**GRADUATE STUDENT PANEL: Public Policy and Social Welfare**

Room: Lyon 206

Chair & Discussant: Gizachew Tiruneh  
(University of Central Arkansas,  
[gtiruneh@uca.edu](mailto:gtiruneh@uca.edu))

“When Coalitions Meet Algorithms: Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Welfare Policy Formation” by Rinjisha Roy (University of Arkansas – Fayetteville, [rr068@uark.edu](mailto:rr068@uark.edu))

“From Access to Action: Digital Literacy and Climate-Policy Participation in Arkansas” by Mohammad Mizanur Rahman (University of Arkansas – Fayetteville, [mr193@uark.edu](mailto:mr193@uark.edu))

“Mind the Gap: Utilization and Effectiveness of University Mental Health Services” by Victor Kwaku Akakpo (University of Arkansas – Fayetteville, [vkakakpo@uark.edu](mailto:vkakakpo@uark.edu)), Geoboo Song (University of Arkansas – Fayetteville, [gbsong@uark.edu](mailto:gbsong@uark.edu)), Mohammad Mizanur Rahman (University of Arkansas – Fayetteville, [mr193@uark.edu](mailto:mr193@uark.edu))

“Authoritarianism, Clientelism, and Water Scarcity” by Lina Garcia Arrieta (University

of Arkansas – Fayetteville,  
[lgarcia2@uark.edu](mailto:lgarcia2@uark.edu))

**BUSINESS MEETING (4:25 – 5:10 PM)**

Room: Nucor Auditorium

Open to all faculty and graduate students. Please join!

**BREAK (5:10 PM – 6:00 PM)**

**RECEPTION (6:00 PM – 7:00 PM)**

Scottish Heritage Building

**DINNER (7:00 PM – 9:00 PM)**

Scottish Heritage Building



Keynote Speaker:  
**David H. Bearce**

*Professor and Head of International Affairs, Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University*

“Social Spending, Immigration Openness, and Immigrant Rights: Political Tradeoffs within an Embedded Liberal Migration Policy”

David H. Bearce is a Professor and Head of the International Affairs Department in the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. After working for several years in Washington, DC, he earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from the Ohio State University in 2001 and was a faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh (2001-2010) and the University of Colorado Boulder (2010-2022) before joining Texas A&M.

His research appears in many prestigious journals, including the *American Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political*

*Studies*, *International Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly*, and *Journal of Politics*. His book, *Monetary Divergence: Domestic Policy Autonomy in the Post-Bretton Woods Era*, explores how partisan politics has shaped national monetary policies among advanced industrial democracies. He also serves on the Steering Committee for the International Political Economy Society (IPES), hosting its annual conference in 2021.

His teaching focuses on international political economy (IPE), international institutions, and foreign policy, and he has won awards for his teaching in a large classroom setting and for his graduate student mentoring outside of the classroom.

**Saturday, March 7, Lyon  
Business and Economics  
Building, Lyon College**

**SESSION #3 (8:30 AM – 10:00 AM)**

**UNDERGRADUATE PANEL #3: Political  
Economy, Foreign Policy, and Global  
Power**

Room: Lyon 202

Chair & Discussant: LaShona Campbell  
(University of Arkansas – Monticello,  
[CampbellL@uamont.edu](mailto:CampbellL@uamont.edu))

“Baby Carrots and Wooden Sticks:  
Changing Equilibria as a Function of the  
Legacy of U.S. Foreign Aid” by Bailey  
Nicholson (College of William & Mary,  
[bmnicholson@wm.edu](mailto:bmnicholson@wm.edu))

“Bounded Rationality and Its Effect on  
Demand for Government Intervention in  
the Context of the 2008 Financial Crisis”  
by Beau Turner (Lyon College,  
[beau.turner@lyon.edu](mailto:beau.turner@lyon.edu))

“Economic Interdependence and U.S.  
Military Commitment in East Asia, 2009–  
2024” by William Litton  
([William.litton@lyon.edu](mailto:William.litton@lyon.edu))

**POLITICAL THEORY ROUNDTABLE:  
Hegel's World Revolution**

Room: Lyon 100

Participants: Clay Arnold (University of  
Central Arkansas,  
[carnold@retired.uca.edu](mailto:carnold@retired.uca.edu)), Matt Evans  
(Northwest Arkansas Community College,  
[mevans8@nwacc.edu](mailto:mevans8@nwacc.edu)), Hans Hacker

(Arkansas State University,  
[hhacker@astate.edu](mailto:hhacker@astate.edu)), Kim Maslin  
(Hendrix College, [maslin@hendrix.edu](mailto:maslin@hendrix.edu)),  
Mike Rogers (Arkansas Tech University,  
[mrogers6@atu.edu](mailto:mrogers6@atu.edu)), Scott Roulier (Lyon  
College, [scott.roulier@lyon.edu](mailto:scott.roulier@lyon.edu)), Carol  
Strong (University of Arkansas –  
Monticello, [strong@uamont.edu](mailto:strong@uamont.edu)), Mary  
Beth Sullivan (University of Central  
Arkansas, [marys@uca.edu](mailto:marys@uca.edu))

**PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION  
PANEL #2: Policy Change and  
Governance Outcomes – Institutions,  
Processes, and Narratives**

Room: Lyon 204

Chair & Discussant: Henry Sirgo (McNeese  
State University, [hsirgo@yahoo.com](mailto:hsirgo@yahoo.com))

“When Frontlines Meet Faultline:  
Examining the Institutional and  
Implementation Challenges in  
Environmental Policies and the Fight  
Against Illegal Mining in Ghana” by Isaac  
Mensah Owusu (University of Arkansas –  
Fayetteville, [imowusu@uark.edu](mailto:imowusu@uark.edu))

“Why Now? Real-Time Monitoring of  
Legislative Changes to Century-Old  
Citizen Initiative Processes” by Kristin  
Netterstrom Higgins (Public Policy

Center, University of Arkansas System  
Division of Agriculture; University of  
Arkansas – Fayetteville,  
[khiggins@uada.edu](mailto:khiggins@uada.edu))

“Bidding for Fairness: How Narratives  
Shape Public Procurement Outcomes” by  
Camille Gilmore (University of Arkansas –  
Fayetteville, [cjgilmor@uark.edu](mailto:cjgilmor@uark.edu)); Geoboo  
Song (University of Arkansas –  
Fayetteville, [gsong@uark.edu](mailto:gsong@uark.edu)); Creed  
Tumlison (California State University,  
Bakersfield, [ctumlison@csu.edu](mailto:ctumlison@csu.edu))

“Narratives of Compliance: How  
Bureaucratic Stories Shape Watershed  
Regulatory Governance” by Ryan J.  
Ramaker (University of Arkansas –  
Fayetteville, [rramaker@uark.edu](mailto:rramaker@uark.edu))

**Break (10:00 AM – 10:15 AM)**

**SESSION #4 (10:15 AM – 11:45 AM)**

**UNDERGRADUATE PANEL #4: Policy,  
Inequality, and Social Outcomes**

Room: Lyon 204

Chair & Discussant: Ryan J. Ramaker  
(University of Arkansas – Fayetteville,  
[rramaker@uark.edu](mailto:rramaker@uark.edu))

“Harm Reduction: How Legislation  
Impacts Overdose Mortality Rates” by  
Madeline Cleaves (Lyon College,  
[madeline.cleaves@lyon.edu](mailto:madeline.cleaves@lyon.edu))

“Assessing Forged Symbiotic  
Relationships between Colonialism and  
Democracy and Its Impact on the  
Success of Democracy in Formerly  
Colonized Countries” by Lorena  
Hernandez (University of Arkansas –  
Monticello, [LH045548@uamont.edu](mailto:LH045548@uamont.edu))

“Party Gatekeeping and Gendered  
Leadership in Nepal’s Local Politics” by  
Sajani Sharma (Lyon College,  
[sajani.sharma@lyon.edu](mailto:sajani.sharma@lyon.edu))

**ARKANSAS POLITICS ROUNDTABLE:  
The 2026 General Elections in Arkansas**

Room: Lyon 100

Chair & Discussant: Andrew Dowdle  
(University of Arkansas – Fayetteville,  
[adowdle@uark.edu](mailto:adowdle@uark.edu))

Participants: Hal Bass (Ouachita Baptist  
University, [bassh@obu.edu](mailto:bassh@obu.edu)), John Davis  
(University of Arkansas – Fayetteville,  
[Jcd09@uark.edu](mailto:Jcd09@uark.edu)), Joe D. Giammo  
(University of Arkansas – Little Rock,

[jdgiammo@ualr.edu](mailto:jdgiammo@ualr.edu)), Jaeyun Sung (Lyon College, [Jaeyun.sung@lyon.edu](mailto:Jaeyun.sung@lyon.edu))

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

### **ROUNDTABLE: Issues in International Security: Maneuvering Turbulent Times**

Room: Lyon 202

Chair: Gizachew Tiruneh (University of Central Arkansas, [gtiruneh@uca.edu](mailto:gtiruneh@uca.edu))

Participants: Kevin Brennan (Ouachita Baptist University, [brennank@obu.edu](mailto:brennank@obu.edu)); Mark Elrod (University of Central Arkansas, [melrod@uca.edu](mailto:melrod@uca.edu)); Christopher Housenick (Arkansas Tech University, [chousenick@atu.edu](mailto:chousenick@atu.edu)); Carol Strong (University of Arkansas — Monticello, [strong@uamont.edu](mailto:strong@uamont.edu)); Bill Topich (Pulaski Academy, [bill.topich@pulaskiacademy.org](mailto:bill.topich@pulaskiacademy.org))

### **BREAK (11:45 AM to Noon)**

Head to the Scottish Heritage Building for lunch.

### **LUNCH (Noon – 1:30 PM)**

Scottish Heritage Building



Keynote Speaker:  
**James L. "Skip"  
Rutherford III**

Skip Rutherford of Little Rock is Dean Emeritus of the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service. A Batesville native, he is a member of the Lyon College Board of Trustees and, as a visiting professor, has taught political science courses at Lyon College.

He coordinated the planning, construction and opening of the Clinton Presidential Library and currently serves on the board of the Arkansas Children's Hospital System, the Arkansas Newspaper Foundation and the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement.

He is the founder and organizer of the Political Animals Club and has been active in several local, state and national campaigns.