

THE POLITICAL SCIENCE POST

NEWSLETTER OF THE BYU POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



CHALLENGES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

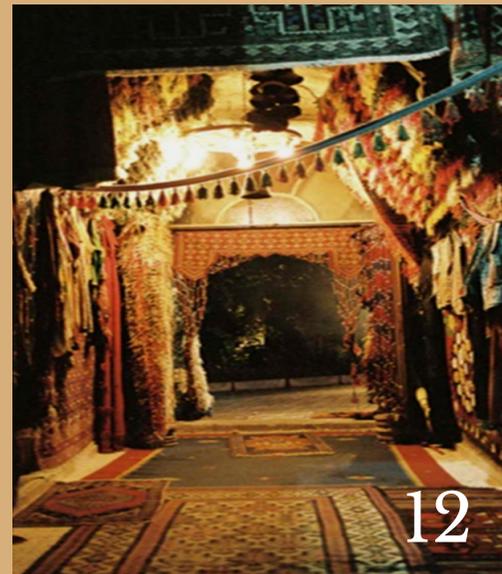
While much of the Middle East is flowering as never before, regional conflict reoccurs with annoying persistence, and resolutions have been mercurial and quixotic. A statement by Political Scientist Francis D. Wormoth may apply: "The entire history of mankind documents millennia of bloody war and conflict interrupted by brief periods of exhaustion which we mistakenly call peace." Recent years have seen conflicts in Iraq, Syria and Libya widen rather than subside.

(CONT'D PAGE 11)

While the Arab Awakening in 2011 raised hopes for better governance, these hopes were dashed in many countries in the region. Professors Donna Lee Bowen and Quinn Mecham have spent years researching and writing on issues related to the Middle East. Dr. Bowen focuses on family law, Islam, social policies and ideologies, while Dr. Mecham studies and writes on religious influence, political representation, political parties, and governance (see his new book on page 10). Both scholars utilize different perspectives in asking why this region faces continued problems. Professor Donna Lee Bowen's latest scholarship is on the influence of clan networks, which are literally embedded within the workings of many modern states resulting in less effective and stable governance.

In a new study, recently presented at the International Studies Association, entitled "Marriage Systems, Political Order, and National Stability: Some Preliminary Findings," Bowen, Nielsen, and Hudson confirm their previous findings that clan-based political systems rely on corruption, nepotism and behind-the-scenes influence to divert state assets to their own use which compromises rule of law and good governance. Current examples of clan-based influence are found in Afghanistan, Somalia, Central Asian states, and in much of the Middle East and Africa. (See their 2015 article: "Clan Governance and State Stability: The Relationship between Female Subordination and Political Order." Valerie M. Hudson, Donna Lee Bowen, and Perpetua Lynne Nielsen in 2015. (*American Political Science Review*, Vol 109, No. 3, August 2015).

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Learn how to become more involved with the aims and mission behind BYU Political Science.

The BYU Department of Political Science, consistent with the Aims of a BYU Education, intends to foster “Lifelong Learning and Service.”

We hope to provide our alumni with intelligent, thoughtful and sophisticated analysis of important issues, and to act as a catalyst for service in our communities, neighborhoods, nations and the world.

Connect with us on social media:

 [BYU Political Affairs Society](#)

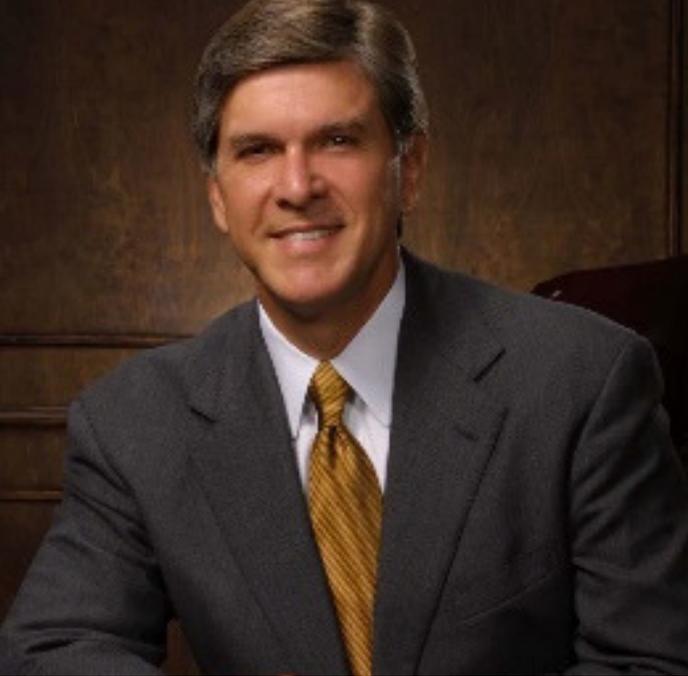
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EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Beyond BYU 2017



“Beyond BYU” is an annual career and networking event in Washington, D.C., for BYU students from Provo, Hawaii, Idaho, that began this year on Thursday, May 11th and ended on Friday, May 12th.

Approximately 112 students participated in this year’s two-day event, the highlight of which was a keynote address by Former Senator Gordon Smith of Oregon, current director of the National Association of Broadcasters.

Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy



On May 18th and 19th, 2017, the BYU Political Science Department hosted the CSED (Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy) conference at Sundance, Utah in the Creekside Lodge. BYU Professors Chris Karpowitz and Jeremy Pope co-directed the annual event, and this year, the Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy continued its tradition of partnering with Steve Ansolabehere at Harvard University to produce the Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES).

LDS Scholars Workshop



On Thursday and Friday, May 11th and 12th, this year, the BYU Political Science Department hosted its second annual LDS Scholars Workshop. The motivation of the workshop is to provide a venue for young LDS scholars to foster professional networks with other LDS scholars (junior and senior), as well as receive feedback on their work.

Graduate students and newly minted assistant professors were each assigned mentors from amongst the BYU faculty who helped them prepare for the conference, from proofreading their paper, to advising them on how to give good discussant feedback, and giving them tips on presentation techniques.



POLITICAL THEORIST DR. HANNAH ARENDT

When our alumnus Sara Jarman studied at Cambridge University, in preparation to write her book "Elephants on the Rampage," she was influenced in part by the writings of Dr. Hannah Arendt, a German-born Jewish American political theorist who grew up in Königsberg and Berlin, Germany in the early 1900s.

As a university student, Arendt had a "problematic" romantic relationship with the married philosopher and Professor Martin Heidegger, subsequently escaped from Europe during the Holocaust to become an American citizen, and died in 1975 at the age of 69 in New York City. Arendt studied and wrote about the nature of power, authority and totalitarianism, which she says began with Nazi Germany and then Stalin, and is different from other forms of tyranny in that it applies terror to subjugate mass populations rather than just political adversaries.

In her report on the 1961 Adolf Eichmann trial for *The New Yorker*, which evolved into her book "Eichmann in Jerusalem" (1963), she coined the phrase "the banality of evil" to describe the phenomenon of Adolf Eichmann, who was in charge of the mass deportation and subsequent extermination of millions of Jews in Nazi Germany. Eichmann claimed he was just following orders. He was tried and hung for war crimes in 1962.

Arendt raised the question of whether evil is radical or simply a function of thoughtlessness, a tendency of ordinary people to obey orders and conform to mass opinion without a critical evaluation of the consequences of their actions and inaction. She thought at the time that, during his trial, Eichmann appeared to have an ordinary personality, displaying neither guilt nor hatred—an "ordinary" person responsible for "catastrophic" evil.

One of Sara's favorite Hannah Arendt quotes sums up the message of Arendt's book and studies:

"With the Romans . . . remembering the past became a matter of tradition, and it is in the sense of tradition that development of 'common sense' found its politically most important expression. Since then 'common sense' has been bound and nourished by 'tradition,' so that when traditional standards cease to make sense and no longer serve as general rules under which all or most particular instances can be subsumed, 'common sense' unavoidably atrophies." -Hannah Arendt, "The Promise of Politics."

"The sad truth is that most evil is done by people who never make up their minds to be good or evil."

---Hannah Arendt

AUGUST COMMENCEMENT

PROFESSOR DONNA LEE BOWEN

On August 18, 2017, Professor Donna Lee Bowen from the BYU Department of Political Science offered the Convocation Address for Summer Commencement for the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences in the Marriot Center. She spoke about integrity and how strong leadership can help confront tyranny. She said, “Good leaders radiate their integrity in every action. They admit mistakes, ask forgiveness, and seek to abide as closely as possible to their responsibilities.” The power of good leaders cannot be calculated, she said, and used George Washington as an example, discussing how he voluntarily relinquished power after two terms, instead of seizing power to become a dictator, thereby creating a precedence that continues to this day for our nation’s governance. “Humility is the key,” she said.



“Good leaders radiate their integrity in every action. They admit mistakes, ask forgiveness, and seek to abide as closely as possible to their responsibilities.”

AUGUST VALEDICTORIAN: DAVIN GUINN

Congratulations to Davin Guinn, our valedictorian for August convocation from Political Science.

Davin is the son of Brad and Haley Guinn and grew up in Murrieta, California, as the oldest of six children. He served a mission in Pueblo, Mexico and dealt with a rigorous student-athlete lifestyle as a member of the BYU men’s basketball team. From walk-on to scholarship athlete, he earned a spot on the WCC All-Academic Team for the 2016-2017 season. That same year, he was selected as the recipient of the team’s most Inspirational Player Award. Davin has since redirected his competitive drive toward his aspirations as a prospective JD candidate at the J. Reuben Clark Law School, where he plans to continue his education in the fall.

Davin worked as a law clerk for a civil litigation firm in Temecula, California, and recently completed an internship with the legal department at Vivint Smart Home.

He attributes much of his success to support from his family—specifically his parents and sisters. He also loves playing the piano.

Davin gave a wonderful speech at the August convocation on August 18, 2017, wherein he said: “we are capable of adaptation, but firm in our values,” and, “adversity will not deter our contribution to the world.” Best wishes to Davin from all.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

PI SIGMA ALPHA INDUCTIONS

27 students were inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society for Political Science in the country for university students, at the Department closing banquet in March 2017. The following students were inducted:

Curtis Adams
Lauren Adams
Samuel Allan
Rehtaeh Beers
Alusine Conteh
Kallina Crompton
Rachel Day Dupaix

Matthew Doane
Naomi Dorsey
Rachel Finlayson
Benjamin Forsgren
Shane Frazier
John David Geilman
Harry Hansen

Stephen Hunsaker
Colton Keddington
Cloe Moloney
Alex Nowjack
Louise Paulsen
Reed Rasband
Eliza Riley

Kim Roy
Alena Smith
Devon Tenney
Aaron Thomas
Shontai Vance
Daniel Zarkou

The National Society of Pi Sigma Alpha now has over 1,200 members from the BYU "Beta Mu" Chapter, which originated on campus in Provo in May 1952. In order to become a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, one must have an outstanding record of academic achievement. Inductees are members for life and can wear an honor cord or medallion at graduation. Membership also serves inductees throughout their lives with letters of achievement from the national office in Washington, D.C., best paper awards, regional associations, a newsletter and handbook, lectures by distinguished thinkers in political science.



"Never, never, never give up." -- Winston Churchill

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS



SARA JARMAN



KELBE VANDERLAAN

Sara is a current BYU Law student and jointly wrote a book in collaboration with our former colleague, Dr. Brent Gilchrist, who passed away in October 2016. The book, "*Elephants on the Rampage*," is a thoughtful discussion of the changes occurring in the Republican Party. It began as her Honors Thesis under the direction of Dr. Gilchrist while Sara was an undergraduate student at BYU. She was encouraged to make it into a book and to use modern distribution techniques, like Amazon. It is her first book, and she has been on a "book tour" all summer. We congratulate her on her achievement, and remember Dr. Gilchrist.

Sara primarily grew up in Portland, Oregon, although her family lived in multiple places including Moscow, Russia and Munich, Germany. Currently, she is interested in working for either the state or national government in some capacity following law school. Her ultimate aim is to run for congress in the future.

Kelbe W. Vanderlaan grew up in Redmond, a suburb of Seattle, Washington and currently lives in the Northern Virginia/DC area. She has been with the federal government for the past twelve years, working in policy writing, project management, training and administration now as a Senior Analyst for Planning and Administration at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. She graduated BYU in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a minor in Communications.

In 2016, Kelbe published her first book, *The Trail*, a coming of age novel, the idea for which came from her work on a Presidential campaign in early adulthood. As well as reading and writing, she enjoys travel, antiquing, sculpting, the dialectic, teaching in her church calling as a Gospel Doctrine instructor and spending time with her parents, siblings, and nieces & nephews.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

2017-18 STAN TAYLOR SCHOLARS



ELIZA RILEY

Eliza Riley is a senior studying political science with a minor in international strategy and diplomacy. She currently calls Niceville, Florida home, but grew up an Air Force nomad moving every 2-3 years. She speaks German from attending public German school and Dutch from serving an LDS mission in Belgium and the Netherlands. Highlights at BYU include interning in D.C. with Washington Seminar, working on various mentored research projects, and being involved with Women in Politics, Foreign Service Student Organization, and the Triathlon Team. Working on a Ballard Center social innovation project, presenting research at conferences, and studying at a Peace and Conflict Resolution summer school in Turin, Italy confirmed Eliza's interest in working at the intersection of academic research and public policy after attending graduate school. Hobbies include telling puns, making homemade falafel, singing karaoke, sampling Indian curries, and running through nature.



SAMANTHA ESCAMILLA

Samantha Woods Escamilla is a senior International Relations major from Oklahoma City, OK.

She served as a missionary in the Finland Helsinki mission, where she rode a bike in below zero weather and made some of her best friends.

Samantha was originally drawn to the IR major out of a desire to learn about the world and an interest in international development. She is following the economic development track in her major and has added a minor in nonprofit business management. Samantha has been a teaching assistant for POLI 200 for three semesters and now works as a research assistant focusing on international development.

During the 2017-2018 school year, she will act as the editor-in-chief for Sigma, BYU's undergraduate journal of political and international studies.

After she graduates, Samantha hopes to enter a Master of Social Work program. Her dream job would allow her to work with women and children, whether close to home or abroad, to help provide them with the resources and skills to rise above difficult life circumstances. In her free time, Samantha enjoys singing with her a cappella group 1AChord and spending time with her husband, Alec.

PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHTS



PROFESSOR DONNA LEE BOWEN

Donna Lee Bowen grew up in Bountiful, Utah and Bethesda, Maryland, and first studied the Middle East at Bountiful Junior High School as part of an experiment in teaching Arabic language in U.S. secondary schools. During her study of political science at the University of Utah, she continued her work in Middle Eastern Studies and, upon graduation, studied Arabic at the American University in Cairo where she enjoyed riding horses at the famous Giza pyramids and visited Jordan, Syria, Israel and Lebanon. While there as a student, the Russians moved into Egypt and began closing down places they wanted to visit., but she and her friends did sail down the Nile on a mail boat from Egypt to Sudan. During graduate work at the University of Chicago where she achieved a PhD in 1981, she conducted research in Iran, Tunisia, and Morocco, then joined BYU's Department of Political Science where she helped develop the Middle East Studies and Arabic program that Quinn Mecham and others now administer. These days she enjoys her husband, daughters, eleven grandchildren (some of whom are close by, with others in North Dakota and Denver), and assorted other family and friends. She enjoys spending time near Capitol Reef National Park watching the stars thanks to Teasdale's Dark Skies initiative.

For the past few years, her research had centered on gender and governance – how the negative impact of denying women rights in the family has a corresponding impact on the larger society, generating less stable, less resilient, and less peaceful states.

PROFESSOR QUINN MECHAM

Quinn Mecham is Associate Professor of Political Science and Coordinator of Middle East Studies at Brigham Young University. His research interests include political Islam, identity politics, civil conflict, electoral behavior, and democratic development. He has authored numerous articles and book chapters on Middle Eastern politics and political Islam, including work on Islamist parties in Turkey, the development of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, comparative Islamist movements, and the Arab uprisings of 2010-11. He is the author of *Institutional Origins of Islamist Political Mobilization* (Cambridge University Press, 2017), which examines the contexts in which Islam becomes politicized. His previous book *Islamist Parties and Political Normalization in the Muslim World* (ed., with Julie Chernov Hwang, 2014) focuses on the comparative behavior of Islamist political parties. He has done ethnographic work on Islamist movements and parties across the Muslim world, including in Turkey, Morocco, Bahrain, Indonesia, and Senegal. Quinn previously served as Franklin Fellow in policy planning at the U.S. Department of State, focusing on political Islam and the Arab Gulf. He previously taught at Middlebury College in Vermont, was an Academy Scholar at Harvard University, and was a visiting professor at George Washington University. His passions are hiking, running, poetry and film, and he has visited 82 countries. On one of his trips as a recently graduated high school student from Logan, Utah, he met Yasser Arafat, a president of the Palestinian National Authority from 1996 to 2004, and received an autographed photo from him. Quinn received a BA in Comparative Literature from Brigham Young University, as well as MA and PhD degrees in Political Science from Stanford University. He and his wife have four children and he loves hiking in Vermont when they return for visits.

**"Knowledge without action is wasteful and
action without knowledge is foolishness."**

--Al-Ghazzali

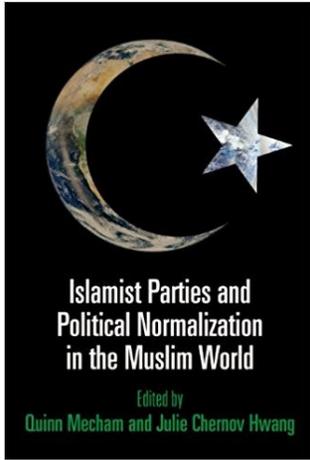


**"Success is moving from failure to failure
without a subsequent loss of enthusiasm"**

--Winston Churchill

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

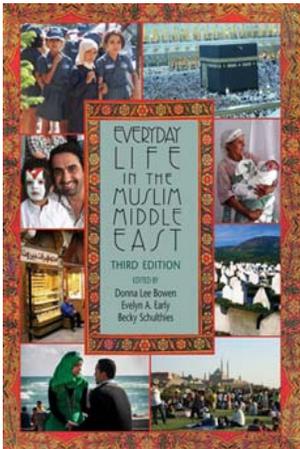
INSTITUTIONAL ORIGINS



Islamist parties and Political Normalization in the Muslim World, Quinn Mecham and Chernov Hwang

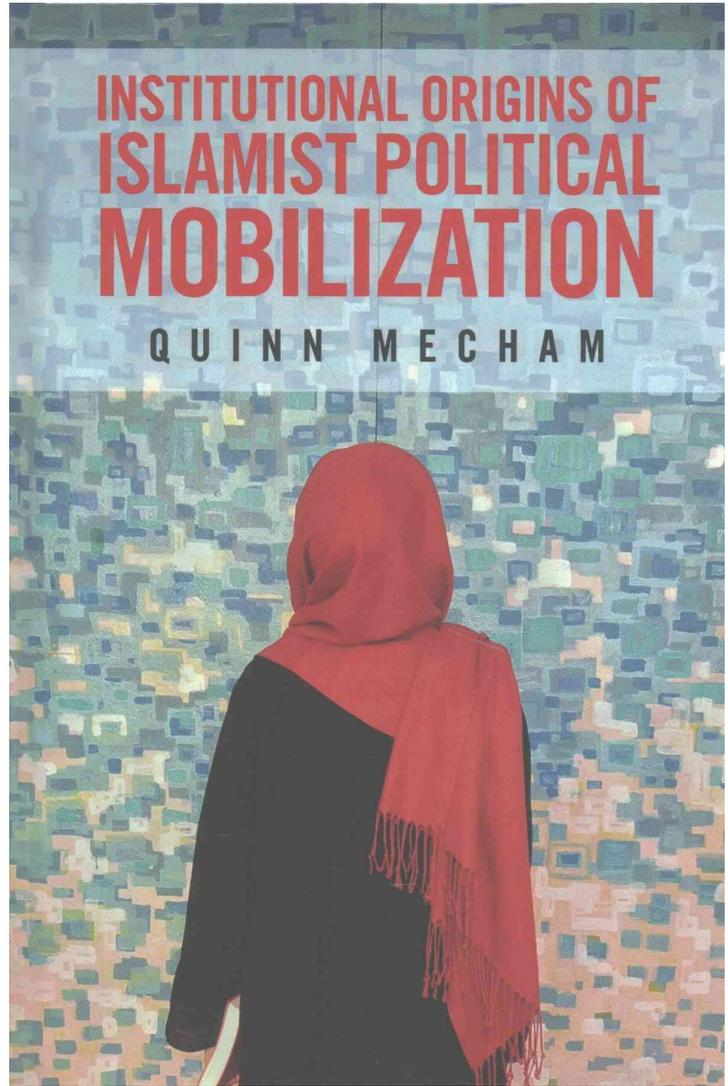
Since 2000, more than twenty countries around the world have held elections in which parties that espouse a political agenda based on an Islamic worldview have competed for legislative seats. *Islamist Parties and Political Normalization in the Muslim World* examines the impact these parties have had on the political process in two different areas of the world with large Muslim populations: the Middle East and Asia.

MIDDLE EASTERN SOCIETY



Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East, Third Edition, Edited by Donna Lee Bowen, Evelyn A. Early, and Becky Schulthies

Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East focuses on the experiences of ordinary men, women, and children from the region. Readers will gain a grassroots appreciation of Middle East life, culture, and society that recognizes the impact of wars and uprisings as well as changes to Islamic practice due to advances in technology.



BY QUINN MECHAM

Muslim countries experience wide variation in levels of Islamist political mobilization, including such political activities as protest, voting, and violence. *Institutional Origins of Islamist Political Mobilization* provides a theory of the institutional origins of Islamist politics, focusing on the development of religious common knowledge, religious entrepreneurship, and coordinating focal points as critical to the success of Islamist activism. . Examining Islamist politics in more than 50 countries over four decades, the book illustrates that Islamist political activism varies a great deal, appearing in specific types of institutional contexts. Detailed case studies of Turkey, Algeria, and Senegal demonstrate how diverse contexts yield different types of Islamist politics across the Muslim world.

FACULTY IN THE NEWS

“Trust yourself. Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all your life.”

-- Golda Meir

PROFESSOR MICHAEL BARBER

Professor Barber has recently published a series of works, including, “Donation Motivations: Testing Theories of Access and Ideology,” and, “Gender Inequalities in Campaign Finance: A Regression Discontinuity Design,” with Professor Jessica Preece and Daniel Butler.

Additionally, Professor Barber had his work entitled, “Representing the Preferences of Donors, Partisans, and Voters in the U.S. Senate” published.

Sources: *Political Research Quarterly* 69 (1): 148-159; *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 11(2): 219-248; *The Journal of Politics* 78 (1): 296-310; *Public Opinion Quarterly* 80: 225-249.

PROFESSOR QUINN MECHAM

Quinn Mecham was on Top of Mind on June 12, 2017. He spoke about three world events, the UK Elections, Qatar and ISIS Attacks on Iran.

Link here: goo.gl/isMfgv

Quinn Mecham was also on Top of Mind on May 8, 2017, and spoke about the French Presidential Election, the upcoming Iranian election, and the state of press freedom around the world.

Link here: goo.gl/rqKnj3

PROFESSOR DARREN HAWKINS

The WP Monkey Cage, an online news and comment forum sponsored by the Washington Post, published an article in June entitled, “Americans love to hate foreign aid, but the right argument makes them like it a lot more,” written by our own Prof. Darren Hawkins. Link here: goo.gl/cYaD2R



Pictured above, middle: photo used in *The Washington Post* alongside Professor Darren Hawkins work regarding foreign aid.

CHALLENGES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(CONT'D FROM PG 1)



So what are clans and why do they threaten state security? Clans are defined as informal social organizations, often of extended kinship, that organize along lines of male descent and privilege male control. Since women are essential to reproduce the clan, control of the women in the family becomes paramount.

Women in clan societies typically are married at young ages, have no rights of divorce or even to consent to their own marriages. Marriages are often polygamous, domestic violence is common and the woman's role is to bear heirs. When "patrilineal clans are powerful—as indicated by the degree of emphasis placed on the reproduction of clan exclusivity through female subordination in marriage—such power is strongly associated with instability and insecurity at the state level."

According to their research, powerful clans tend to undermine the possibility of a functional, capable state through their determination to always privilege their clan. In addition, they discovered, the degree of female subordination in marriage, and the degree to which men dominate women and control their sexuality, is inextricably intertwined with the degree to which some men dominate others, both publicly and privately, and therefore the degree to which a state takes on similar autocratic domination of its citizens.

Their extensive study concludes that "state stability and peacefulness are associated with the well-being of women and that a complex of factors characterize women's everyday lives worldwide."

While many think that the family is divorced from state governance, their research shows the opposite. Their findings show that states that permit practices such as polygyny, violence against women, honor killings, and legislate national family law codes that set up a hierarchical and authoritarian relationship in the family, tend to be less democratic and more internationally aggressive.

In other words, the LDS "Family Proclamation" has real life application to political science. Since these clan-based governments are so embedded across generations, democratic and egalitarian solutions continue to be challenging in the Middle East despite aggressive efforts to ameliorate and to make substantive change.

In a work designed to help Americans understand the Middle East, the current third edition of her book (2014), co-written by Evelyn A. Early and Becky Schulthies, *Every Day Life in the Muslim Middle East*, explores how Muslims live, work and play from day to day outside the realms of politics and power.

Dr. Bowen has also maintained, along with several colleagues across the country, a Facebook page and Blog on the Middle East, and a link to statistics on women worldwide, listed as follows, to give viewers a more nuanced and correct sense of what goes on in the Middle East.

Links here:

<https://everydaylifeinthemiddleeast.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/everydaylifemiddleeast/>

<http://www.womanstats.org/>



ENGAGED LIVING

Serving our communities and country can bring fulfillment and can easily be part of a well-rounded life. Take advantage of the local and national opportunities to serve. Local BYU Political Science Alumni Chapters, such as those in New York City, Washington, D.C., and in the Bay Area can help assist the desire to serve.



PHOTOS FEATURE THE BYU JERUSALEM CENTER

faculty quote:

"Let us not forget the wonderful and miraculous things that were accomplished in establishing the BYU Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies. And let us consider, with faithful anticipation, the reality that many incredible things await us in the future in this part of the Lord's vineyard."

David B. Galbraith, BYU Professor of Political Science Emeritus, spent much of his academic career in the Middle East, where he directed the BYU Jerusalem Center for 15 years, from its start as a small study abroad program in 1972 through its growth into a major program by the late 1980s. He married Frieda Greta Lucile Kruge, a native of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, after they first met living on a kibbutz and studying Hebrew in Israel. He was the first president of the Jerusalem Branch in this dispensation.

---**Dr. David B. Galbraith**

"The Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies: Reflections of a Modern Pioneer" with Blair G. Van Dyke in *The Religious Educator* Vol. 9 (2008) no. 1.