

Thought for the week: "Ideas occur to us when they please, not when it pleases us."
-- German sociologist Max Weber

Articles & Achievements

Lyle Scruggs and **James Allan (Ph.D. 2003)** recently published an article, "Welfare-State Decommodification in 18 OECD Countries: a Replication and Revision" in the February 2006 edition of *The Journal of European Social Policy*. Lyle and James present and discuss a replication and reassessment of the welfare-state decommodification index, and introduce a new, publicly available data set of key welfare-state programme characteristics. Using the same programme features used to create the 'decommodification index' in *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*, one of the most widely cited sources in the field, they are able to replicate the results quite closely. However, their investigation suggests a number of likely errors in the original formulation. Scruggs and Allan find very limited



Professor Lyle Scruggs

empirical support for the 'three worlds' typology in the decommodification data. Though some clear differences remain, there is also much less overall variation among countries. Furthermore, there is little evidence of 'clustering' among programme scores, a finding which is at odds with the idea of distinctive national regimes. Scruggs and Allan's results point to the need for a detailed re-investigation of welfare-state benefits in advanced industrial democracies. Their data

set helps to provide a basis for such an assessment.

Jeremy Pressman spoke at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University. The talk was titled "Democracy and Diplomacy: Palestinian & Israeli Elections after Gaza" and was part of the Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar Series.

Mark Boyer recently traveled to Ft. Leavenworth, KS to conduct a workshop for instructors at the Command and General Staff College. Every major-level officer in the armed forces comes through the Master's level program there and the curriculum is being overhauled to center directly on case method teaching. This workshop was a pilot workshop and Mark has been asked to return to run four more workshops there in the next year so that all the instructors can be trained in the method.

Submissions for publication in *Monday Morning* should be placed in the submission box in Monteith Hall, Room 137, or can be submitted by email to Wesley Renfro at wesley.renfro@uconn.edu. Please feel free to submit any suggestions or comments. If you would like to submit publications, presentations, invited talks, etc. for *Monday Morning*, please include an abstract of your work so it may be published.

Dissertation Fellowships Available

The UConn Humanities Institute (UCHI) annually offers two residential graduate dissertation fellowships. Graduate Student Dissertation Fellows receive a full graduate assistantship to enable dissertation fellows to concentrate solely on completion of their Ph.D dissertation. Teaching during the fellowship year is prohibited. Fellows are eligible for grants of up to \$1500 for research and

conference travel, photocopying, and similar expenses. Graduate students must have completed qualifying exams and prospectus, and sufficient research so that they can complete the dissertation during the fellowship period. The application deadline is **February 20, 2006**. For more information visit the UCHI website at <http://www.humanities.uconn.edu/>

Watson Institute Sponsoring Fellowship

The Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University seeks several scholars or practitioners for one-year visiting fellowships to be affiliated with existing research projects at the institute, beginning July 1, 2006. The mission of the Watson Institute is to analyze contemporary global problems, working at the intersection of academia and policymaking. The Watson Institute is seeking individuals with a commitment to

multi-disciplinary collaboration. Preference will be given to scholars or practitioners who can make contributions to and or across themes such as: the financing of terrorism, the role of media in international studies, cultural awareness training in the military, institutions and development, or global climate change.

The successful candidate is expected to teach one undergraduate course in his or her area of specialty. There is

possibility of a renewal of this fellowship. The fellowship includes a 12 month salary of \$40,000, plus the option to purchase insurance at the university's group rate, access to research and travel funds, and support for some relocation expenses. The closing date for initial review of applications is **March 15, 2006**. Applications must be submitted online. For further information and a link to the application form, see <http://www.watsoninstitute.org>

Dr. Reiter Comments on Vengroff's Departure

I regret to announce that our colleague, Professor Richard Vengroff, has accepted the position of Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Kennesaw State University in Georgia, and will be leaving us at the end of the current academic year.

Rich came to UConn in 1990 to be Dean of the Division of International Affairs. After seven years in that position, he became a

full-time member of our department, and one of our most productive colleagues. He has been an outstanding teacher, a very prolific scholar, and an exemplary mentor to students, co-authoring articles with graduate students and helping them find good jobs. Rich has also served the department and the university in a variety of ways, most notably as our department head in 2002-2003. We will miss his wise counsel and good humor.

Dean MacKinnon has granted permission for us to recruit to replace Rich, and Rich has agreed to continue to chair and serve on the doctoral dissertation committees on which he is currently serving.

We wish Rich, Cindy and Marriah the best on this new stage of their lives.

Howard L. Reiter
Professor and Department Head

2005-2006 Political Science Colloquia Calendar			
Day/Date	Time	Location	Speaker (affiliation), Title [Outside Event Sponsor, if applicable]
Friday, February 24	12:00 PM	HRM 119	Scott de Marchi (Duke University), "Institutions Strike Back: Poole & Rosenthal's Congressional Ideology Scores Reconsidered"
Thursday, March 16	12:15 PM	HRM 119	Amy Fried (University of Maine), "Questioning the pollsters: Institutional and democratic critiques of polls in the mid-twentieth century"
Thursday, April 6	4:00 PM	Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center	Gerson Lecture: Michael Mandelbaum (Johns Hopkins's Nitze School), TBA [reception to follow]
TBA	TBA	TBA	Charles Epp (University of Kansas), TBA
TBA	TBA	TBA	Louis Masicotte, (University of Montreal), TBA