

Pioneering a New Field

Economist Bob Nelson Examines Secular Religion

[Robert H. Nelson](#) was not particularly surprised to see his book in the review journal of the American Political Science Association, *Perspectives on Politics* or aired on C-SPAN's Book TV. But when reviews began to appear in the *Calvin Theological Journal*, *The Christian Century*, and the blog of the Family Research Council, Nelson took notice. His latest book, *The New Holy Wars: Economic Religion versus Environmental Religion in Contemporary America* (Penn State Press, 2010), has so far been reviewed in 14 publications in all—almost half of them in theological journals or other religion-related outlets. Nelson thinks he may be the only professional American economist or faculty member at a public policy school regularly writing and publishing either about economics or environmentalism as real forms of religion, and doing extensive analyses of these belief systems from the perspective of "secular theology."

[More...](#)

MSPP Launches Philanthropy Fellows Program

The Maryland School of Public Policy announced a new Philanthropy & Nonprofit Leadership Program initiative that will help students prepare for the practical challenges awaiting them in the professional world. [The Philanthropy Fellows Program](#), headed by [Professor Robert Grimm](#), is the latest initiative of the School's partnership with the [Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers](#) (WRAG), a group that encompasses over 100 diverse foundations and corporations that provide substantial investment and play important roles in addressing and shaping various policy issues. Starting this fall, the Philanthropy Fellows Program will provide School of Public Policy students with *exclusive access to paid internship opportunities* with some of the region's most prominent and respected foundations and corporate grantmakers.

[More...](#)

Elisabeth Gilmore Joins MSPP Faculty

Elisabeth Gilmore has joined the faculty of the School of Public Policy as Assistant Professor in Energy and Environmental Policy and a Research Fellow at [CISSM](#). Her research focuses on quantifying the costs and environmental attributes of energy and transportation technologies and policies for decision making. Prior to joining the School, Gilmore served as an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow hosted in the Climate Science and Impacts Branch at the US Environmental Protection Agency. She was involved with the ongoing EPA efforts to develop a methodology to provide policy-relevant analysis about the US domestic benefits and risks from different climate change scenarios.

[More...](#)

The Defense Affordability Challenge

Achieving 21st Century Needs with a Declining U.S. Budget

Former high-level U.S. national security officials discussed the need to realign U.S. defense strategies, acquisition policies and the nation's defense industry to meet new budget realities, as well as emerging missions and shifting threats at "The Defense Affordability Challenge" held August 4th on Capitol Hill. The event featured David Berteau, who served as principal deputy/assistant secretary for production and logistics for the Department of Defense from 1990 to 1993; Gordon Adams, former associate director for national security and international affairs at the Office of Management and Budget from 1993 to 1997; and event organizer and panelist [Jacques Gansler](#), the former number three civilian at the Department of Defense from 1997 to 2001, who currently holds the Roger C. Lipitz Chair and directs the Maryland School of Public Policy Center for Public Policy and Private Enterprise.

[More...](#)

MSPP Students Organize Workshop in The Netherlands

[Karie Cross '11](#), Ph.D. candidate [Stacy Kosko](#), and Public Leadership undergraduate student [Natasha Westheimer](#) organized a one-day workshop on Sept. 5th in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the International Declaration on the Right to Development. The workshop entitled "Human Rights and Human Development: Foundations and Issues," was hosted by The Hague Institute for Global Justice in the Netherlands.

[More...](#)

Steven Kull States Why Muslims Are Still Mad at America

On the ten-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, many Americans are wondering whether the risk of a terrorist attack against America has been reduced. The picture is mixed. With the death of Osama bin Laden, al Qaeda is weaker. With revolutions in several Arab countries, frustrations with unpopular autocratic governments -- a recruiting theme for terrorist groups - have been mitigated. But one important contributing factor has not improved - widespread anger at America in the Muslim world. While views have improved in Indonesia, throughout the Middle East and South Asia, hostility toward the United States persists unabated.

[More...](#)

School Awarded Program to Train NIH Senior Executives

The School of Public Policy's long-standing relationship with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will continue after receipt of a new five-year award to conduct the NIH Senior Leadership Program. Through its Executive Programs, the School has trained over 700 senior scientists and administrators from the many institutes and centers that comprise NIH. In the new award, the School will conduct the ten-day Senior Leadership Program up to four times annually to cohorts of 28 senior-level NIH professionals. The participants will be provided a program of multi-faceted leadership development including leadership evaluation, assessment, development, and executive education designed to sustain capable leadership at the highest level of the organization.

Where Are MSPP Alumni Now?



Questions or comments
or to submit news
Email us at
rdense@umd.edu
or call
301.405.6334



Robert H. Nelson



MSPP Alumni work together to coordinate critical U.S. Foreign Assistance

[More...](#)



[Andrew Morton](#) with his client, the anti-slavery advocate and Emmy-winning actress Julia Ormond, and former President Bill Clinton.

[More Alumni News...](#)

Sarah Sobecki Awarded Bryce Harlow Fellowship Again!

[More...](#)



2010 Robertson Fellows Kira West and James Trent with Senator Mark Warner (center).

SPOTLIGHT on Student Summer Experiences

[Stephen Kushner, Taiwan](#)
[Cynthia Osueke, Sri Lanka](#)

MPM student [Michael Barry](#) was in Mumbai, India, where a series of bombings on July 13th killed 20 people. [More...](#)

[More Student News...](#)

FACULTY NEWS...



Ambassador Susan Schwab portrayed the President's "National Economic Advisor" in the "Global Oil Supply Disruption Simulation." (C-SPAN)

[More...](#)



The latest Census measurement of U.S. poverty found that 46 million Americans live in poverty. Ray Suarez examines what's behind the highest level of poverty in America since 1993 with Douglas Besharov and Isabel Sawhill.

[PBS NewsHour](#)

MSPP IN THE MEDIA

[More...](#)



Jacques Gansler's "Democracy's Arsenal" Makes [Washington Post's](#) Political Bestsellers List



[Donald F. Kettl](#) For GOP, between Barack and a hard place [Washington Post](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 21

Lecture by [Thomas Schelling](#)
"What ever happened to nuclear terrorism?"

[More...](#)

SEPTEMBER 22

CISSM Forum featuring [Madiha Afzal](#)
"Is Education Part of an Effective Counter-Terrorism Strategy? Evidence from Public Opinion Polls in Pakistan"

[More...](#)

SEPTEMBER 29

CISSM Forum featuring [Toby Dalton](#)
"The Evolution of Threat Reduction: From Cooperative to Coercive?"

[More...](#)



The School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland, College Park, provides graduate and post-graduate studies in a comprehensive range of domestic and international policy areas. Situated near the nation's capital, the school affords access for students and faculty to the broad spectrum of governmental and nongovernmental agencies that formulate and implement policies affecting the economy, the environment, welfare, children and families, and international relations.