Newspaper Readership and the Formation of Ethnic Stereotypes

Part of IERES’ European Politics Series

with

Dr. Abdulkader Sinno, Associate Professor, Indiana University

Why do Britons and several other Western nations strongly believe that immigrants abuse welfare benefits in spite of strong evidence to the contrary? False perceptions of immigrants’ abuse of benefits have propelled populist parties to receive unprecedented gains in support, affected electoral competition more broadly, increased societal tensions, and led to restrictions on immigration and benefits in some countries. This discussion will focus on how newspaper readership has a strong effect on creating this false perception by demonstrating an ad hoc survey linking attitudes towards immigrants’ use of welfare with exposure to the largest eight British newspapers. It will also explore how and why such false perceptions are created by examining two original content analysis datasets.

Dr. Abdulkader Sinno is an Associate Professor of Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington, and a 2014-15 Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center. His first book, Organizations at War in Afghanistan and Beyond (Cornell University Press, 2008; 2010 paperback edition) develops an organizational theory to explain the evolution and outcomes of civil wars, ethnic strife and other territorial conflicts. Dr. Sinno is the editor of Muslims in Western Politics (Indiana University Press, 2009) and the author of articles and book chapters on Muslim minority political representation in Western liberal democracies, public attitudes towards Muslim immigration, the Arab Spring, conflict processes, and Islamist parties’ participation in elections.

Friday, January 23, 2015
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E St. NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/sinno

This event is on the record.