



Spring 4-28-2000

## IWU Students Publish Political Science Research Journal

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### **Recommended Citation**

Gore, Shannon, "IWU Students Publish Political Science Research Journal" (2000). *News and Events*. 5228.

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April 28, 2000

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### From Research to *Res Publica*

## IWU Students Publish Political Science Research Journal

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.-- The fifth edition of *Res Publica*, Illinois Wesleyan University's journal of political-science research, contains seven original undergraduate articles covering issues such as the national political influence on the Catholic Church, European Union, and the Freedman's Bureau, the debate over African-American rights to equality. Published in April by IWU's department of political science and the political science honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha, *Res Publica* is the only journal in the United States exclusively for political-science undergraduates.

In 1995, James Simeone, associate professor of political science, and Tari Renner, professor and chair of the political science department at IWU, developed *Res Publica*. The journal's first volume was published during the 1995-1996 academic school year as a result of an initial grant from the National Political Science Association.

IWU's Student Senate funded all subsequent volumes.

According to Renner, *Res Publica*, meaning "a public thing" in Latin, is an opportunity to display some of the best written work in the political science department and evoke discussion from student-generated ideas.

Selection for the journal is based on a paper's nomination by an IWU faculty member. Following nomination, *Res Publica* editors, Kathryn Vojack and Todd Zoellick decide whether to publish the paper. This year seven papers were selected from 10 submissions.

Two of the seven submissions in *Res Publica* are: "Deliverance: A Study of Medicaid and Managed Care" by Amy Ragland, a senior history and political-science major from Lincoln, Ill., and "Ballots del Barrio: An Investigation of Latino Participation" by John Hennessy, a senior political-science and Spanish major from Blue Island, Ill.

Medicaid, a joint-funded federal and state health-insurance program for low income individuals, covers about 36 million people, Ragland examines the extent of state enrollment in Medicaid managed-care programs. Among Ragland's eight hypotheses, she examines whether states with liberal electorates, rather than conservative ones, and states with higher income per capita will have a larger percentage of the Medicaid population enrolled in managed care.

Ragland found that because liberals traditionally look more favorably upon social welfare programs than conservatives, states with liberal electorates will be more likely to adopt managed-care programs for their Medicaid populations. Additionally, Ragland's research confirmed her hypothesis that wealthier, more industrialized states with a higher per capita income are more likely to adopt managed-care programs than smaller, less-developed states with lower per-capita income.

Hennessy examines the reasons why Hispanics, the fastest growing population group in the United States, have a low participation rate in U. S. politics. For his research Hennessy developed three models--citizenship, registration and voting--to identify the demographic factors that may promote citizenship. Hennessy hypothesized that Latinos fluent in English, those with higher levels of education, employment and income, and Latino men will be more likely to seek U.S. citizenship. As hypothesized, Hennessy found that lower income and education levels, combined with English language difficulties, prevent many Latinos from registering to vote and from voting.

Although the Hispanic population numbers 31 million, more than seven million adults are ineligible to vote because they aren't citizens, therefore, Hennessy concludes that it is increasingly important to increase the citizenship status of Latinos to increase their voting potential.

Other articles contained in *Res Publica* are:

- "The Debate Regarding the Freedman's Bureau: Is Equality of Process Sufficient for Equality of Results?" by Terrance Chapman, a junior political-science major from Normal, Ill.
- "National Political Influence and the Catholic Church" by Jennifer Nash, a senior political-science major from Wilmette, Ill.

- “The European Union: Cross-National Variation in Public Support, 1993” by Jarrett Ruffino, a senior political-science major from Barrington, Ill.
- “Benefits by Gender: Determinants of Welfare Accessibility for Migrant Women in Western Europe” by Kathryn Vojack, a senior political-science major from Park Ridge, Ill.
- “Daniel Elazar, Bogus or Brilliant: A Study of Political Culture Across the American States” by Todd Zoellick, a senior history and political-science major from Rockford, Ill.

### **About Illinois Wesleyan University**

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,070 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium. Construction is underway on a \$26 million library and \$6 million student center. *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* ranks Illinois Wesleyan University 12<sup>th</sup> among the nation's 1,600 private colleges in providing a top-quality education at an affordable cost. Also sharing IWU's rank are Princeton and Dartmouth.