Trump has tapped into existing anger about the president and the federal government, and is highlighting generational differences in racial discourse. Some of what Trump says now may seem shocking, but according to Kollman, for a 70-year-old white male, he is simply talking in the manner that would have been customary in his youth.

Kollman said a key question to determine the election is: “Will enough [voters] find him offensive or will enough find that he taps into what they feel but can’t express?”

Jardina, whose work focuses on racial conflict and the way in which group identities influence voting behavior and political preferences, discussed research examining the changes in voter attitudes that may have helped Trump.

The stage for his political rise was set as early as the release of the 2010 Census data, which showed that in the coming decades whites would no longer be a majority in the U.S.
The May 20 edition of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* featured the work of ISR researcher Scott Atran in an article titled “The Road to ISIS: An unorthodox anthropologist goes face to face with ISIS. Is the payoff worth the peril?” The article by Tom Bartlett followed Atran and colleagues on a recent high-risk visit to the front-lines of the war against ISIS, for an opportunity to talk with the Peshmerga, Kurdish soldiers whose name means “those who face death.” Considered an expert on terrorism, Atran believes in learning things on the ground. “What propels people from 100 countries to come to this place to blow themselves up?” he asks. “There’s something in human beings that this appeals to; otherwise it wouldn’t work. And my goal is to figure out what that is.”


ISR researcher David Dunning authored a May 25 piece in *Politico* explaining Donald Trump’s popularity. “The problem isn’t that voters are too uninformed,” Dunning writes. “It is that they don’t know just how uninformed they are.” In a series of experiments, Dunning and colleagues have shown that people with large gaps in knowledge typically don’t realize they have these gaps. This psychological effect, known as the Dunning-Kruger effect, may not only be the key to understanding Trump’s supporters, but also the man himself. “Trump has served up numerous illustrative examples of the effect as he continues his confident audition to be leader of the free world even as he seems to lack crucial information about the job,” according to Dunning.


In the May 13 edition of the *Washington Post Wonkblog*, writer Ana Swanson discussed the implications of research by Harvard’s Sasha Kimel, ISR’s Rowell Huesmann and colleagues. Conducted in the U.S. and in Israel, the research examined how the attitudes and behavior of Jews and Arabs change with different information about their genetic similarities or differences. In general, they found learning about genetic similarities between groups leads people to favor peaceful compromise. But according to Kimel, the picture in Israel was not so clear. “There, information about genetic differences [between Jews and Arabs] appeared to worsen negative and aggressive attitudes,” Swanson writes, “while information about genetic similarities didn’t do much.”


Susan Murphy elected to National Academy of Sciences

Murphy is the Herbert E. Robbins Distinguished University Professor of Statistics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; a research professor at the Institute for Social Research; and professor of psychiatry at the Medical School.

She is developing statistical methods and experimental designs that can be used in formulating dynamic treatment regimes. Dynamic treatment regimes are individually tailored treatments; it is a sequence of decision rules that specify when to alter the therapy and specify which intensity or type of subsequent therapy should be offered. The decision rules employ variables such as patient response, risk, burden, adherence, and preference, collected during prior therapy. In a dynamic regime, the decision rules are specified prior to the beginning of the initial therapy. These regimes hold the promise of maximizing treatment efficacy by avoiding ill effects due to overtreatment and by providing increased treatment levels to those who can benefit. Once developed, the decision rules can be used to enhance the clinical judgment used in practice.

Murphy’s work led her to be named a [John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation fellow](http://bit.ly/MacArthur) in 2013. The NAS currently comprises 2,291 active members and 465 foreign associates. It is a nonprofit institution that recognizes achievement in science by election to membership and provides science, technology and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations.

Susan Murphy is one of four University of Michigan professors recently inducted to the National Academy of Sciences. Membership in the NAS is one of the highest distinctions for a scientist or engineer in the United States.

“We are thrilled at the recognition of these world class scientists who contribute so much to our understanding of the world through their scholarship,” said U-M Provost Martha Pollack.

AP photo courtesy of the MacArthur Foundation.
ICPSR’s Education and Child Care Data Archives’ newest project provides infrastructure for researchers to share and access high-quality datasets, which can be used to study civic education and involvement. The Civic Learning, Engagement, and Action Data Sharing (CivicLEADS) archive, funded by a grant from the Spencer Foundation, provides a centralized repository for this multi-disciplinary research area, including datasets created across education, political science, developmental sciences, and other disciplines.

Share or access data
Researchers can access quantitative and qualitative data on a broad range of topics for secondary analysis as well as share their own primary research data. CivicLEADS includes datasets from other ICPSR archives and seeks out emerging data collected by projects still in the field.

A learning community
Beyond facilitating the sharing and discovery of data, CivicLEADS seeks to create a learning community around civic education and engagement research. The project strives to facilitate and support relationships with and between investigators and researchers at every level—from students to emeriti faculty. Data shared in this archive have been documented with thorough metadata, and tools drawing upon these metadata allow researchers to explore and compare variables both within and between studies. By providing tutorials, webinars, and in-person training, CivicLEADS connects researchers with data and facilitates the future of civic education and civic action research.

Researchers can explore curated data, share their data for secondary analysis, learn about training opportunities, and more at www.civicleads.org.

Findings drawn from CivicLEADS datasets

**Commission on Youth Voting and Civic Knowledge of Youth Post-Election Survey 2012**

**MORE THAN HALF**

Of 18-24 year olds in 2012 incorrectly believed the federal government spends more on foreign aid than on Social Security, which actually costs 20 times more.


**Global Digital Activism Dataset, 2013**

**only 2%**

Of digital activism cases from 2010 to 2012 involved hacking attacks.


**IEA Civic Education Study, 1999**

**3 in 10**

14-year olds in 1999 thought they would participate in a non-violent protest march as an adult.

In 2011, Jardina said, a report from CNN titled, “Are whites racially oppressed?” suggested that whites were beginning to adopt the rhetoric of the Civil Rights movement.

Combined with the election of the nation’s first black president in 2008, and the Great Recession from December 2007 to June 2009, Jardina said, “each fact could be seen as chipping away... leaving many whites anxious about the future of their group.” Many believe Trump has the ability to tap into this new solidarity, which can now be seen across the entire partisan spectrum, she said.

Traugott mentioned data linking back to Jardina’s research. In 2012, turnout among blacks exceeded that of whites. The decline in whites’ share of the electorate reflects shifts in the demographic makeup of the U.S. population, he said.

Partisanship and demographic shifts, political polarization, the uneven economic recovery, and the low levels of trust in Congress are all factors that Traugott believes will come into play in the general election. Evidence of the fracturing of the traditional party blocks is reflected in the increase of Independent voters.

The battle for control of the Senate and the next Supreme Court nominations will be major undercurrents to the campaign, he said.

New data from the American National Election Study (ANES) also shows Democrats are less likely to vote than Republicans, and more likely to deviate from supporting the Democratic Party’s candidate.

Brader believes many of the answers behind this tumultuous presidential election will only become clear in the years ahead, from research gathered by studies like the 2016 ANES.

The ANES, considered by many as the “gold standard” for political surveys, has been helping researchers understand national elections and the voting decisions of individual citizens since the 1948.

The 2016 ANES study, launching in July, will include questions measuring gender roles and sexism, attitudes toward Muslims, authoritarian predispositions, and a host of issues such as immigration, trade, terrorism, campaign finance, and political correctness.

The newest iteration of the study will explore perceived threats to the “dominant group,” as well as political violence and satisfaction with the current two-party system.

CPS is planning more election-related events leading up to the general election.
Student-athlete identity and GPA

How student-athletes identify themselves directly influences their GPA, according to research findings published in the June edition of Social Science Quarterly.

GPAs are “directly influenced by their athletic versus academic identity, the athletic context including the coach’s influence, and the seriousness with which they view academics,” said University of Texas at Dallas researchers Kurt J. Beron and Alex R. Piquero in the article, “Studying the Determinants of Student-Athlete Grade Point Average: The Roles of Identity.”

Beron is the UT Dallas’ Official Representative to the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), part of the U-M Institute for Social Research. Beron and Piquero focus on both female and male student-athletes in NCAA Divisions I, II and III.

Their study used data from the Growth Opportunities, Aspirations and Learning of Students in College Survey (GOALS), in which 21,000 student-athletes at 627 schools across NCAA divisions were surveyed in 2006.

In sum, the consistency of findings, especially among DI and DII male and female student-athletes, is striking,” they wrote. “Student-athletes view themselves with respect to their athletic identity in much the same way across all three divisions and similarly among males and females.”

NCAA datasets are made available to researchers via the NCAA’s Student-Athlete Experiences Data Archive at ICPSR. The GOALS study is a unique and valuable resource for researchers. It captures many aspects of student life, including socio-emotional well-being.

“Going forward, we hope that the community of scholars replicates our analysis with the newer versions of GOALS, one that was collected in 2010 and one from 2014, when the data become publicly available,” the authors wrote, saying that newer data reflecting a changing NCAA is critical to future research on the student-athlete experience.

Division I student-athletes focus on athletics more than their counterparts in the “less competitive” divisions.

The athletic identity of male student-athletes has a greater impact on academic performance than female student-athletes.

Females reported a higher GPA than their male counterparts.

Student-athletes whose parents had college experience were more likely to have higher GPAs.

Student-athletes who reported that their coaches discouraged them from certain majors had a lower GPA.

Student-athletes who see themselves more as athletes than academics reported lower GPA.

In Divisions I and II, both male and female student-athletes who were away frequently due to athletics reported higher GPAs.

Across all three divisions, student-athletes who were more positive about their major reported higher GPAs.

Male student-athletes in Division II who at least somewhat disagree that they would sacrifice athletics for academics are likely to have a higher GPA.

Findings from Beron and Piquero’s study

• Division I student-athletes focus on athletics more than their counterparts in the “less competitive” divisions.

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• Male student-athletes in Division II who at least somewhat disagree that they would sacrifice athletics for academics are likely to have a higher GPA.
ISR hosts summer workshops for underrepresented academics

The summer workshops hosted by Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research (MCUAAAR) and the Program for Research on Black Americans (PRBA) reached record-high attendance this year.

The MCUAAAR Summer Training Workshop, held June 8-10, hosted 73 early career researchers from 24 universities. For the past 19 years, the workshop has sought to increase underrepresented groups in the professoriate, and improve the quality and quantity of research conducted with older African Americans. Faculty from across the country were invited to discuss a range of subjects, blending the presentation of original research with guidance on negotiating the intricacies of academia, publishing, and finding data for secondary analysis.

Tam Perry, an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at Wayne State University, shared her experience as a member of the Senior Housing Preservation-Detroit coalition studying the effects of forced displacement of more than one hundred senior citizens from the Griswold building in Detroit. She also provided insight on the benefits of working in coalitions and the challenges of balancing research with advocacy, particularly when the research subjects are in crisis.

Both workshops were coordinated by Robert Joseph Taylor, the director of the PRBA and both the U-M Sheila Feld Collegiate Professor and Harold R. Johnson Professor of Social Work. The workshops were funded by the U-M School of Social Work, the Council for Social Work Education, MCUAAAR, and the National Institute for Aging. Additional sponsorship was provided by Wayne State University, PRBA, ISR and the U-M Provost’s Office.

“The benefit of being able to speak with senior scholars of color has been tremendous and truly inspiring for the next generation of minority scholars,” said one workshop participant.

Photos by Lee Ridley and Michael McIntyre

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