McDreamy's Guide to Healthcare Access: To what extent does healthcare access depend on where you live?
Anamarie Farr '07, Political Science; Anna “Lucy” Lee '09
Advisor: Hahrie Han, Political Science

What influences healthcare access? Undoubtedly, healthcare is a key issue at the forefront of the political agenda. One of the key questions surrounding current discourse about the American healthcare system is equal access to healthcare. This project examines how location influences access to healthcare and evaluates the equity of the system based on these findings. Uncovering the relationship between urbanicity and healthcare access can have important healthcare policy implications.

Mapping Perceptions of Islam in America
Kacie Lyn Kocher '09, Middle Eastern Studies and Political Science
Advisor: Hahrie Han, Political Science

In recent years, negative perceptions of Islam or Arabs have rapidly increased, rooting from fear and misunderstanding. Many scholars have researched national factors which influence this ignorance such as the media, current events, history, and films. However, this research treats Americans as a single broad entity. Rather, my presentation examines why there is variance in Americans’ perceptions of Islam or Arabs by looking at the effect of environment, specifically region and urbanicity. Through understanding why some Americans are more inclined to have a positive view of Muslims or Arabs and others are not, solutions can be more tailored and effective by changing those environments which are conducive only to ignorance.

Show me the money! The effect of campaign contributions on policy making
Brooke Maurer ’08, Biological Chemistry and Political Science; Jennifer Stalley ’08, Women’s Studies
Advisor: Hahrie Han, Political Science

It is perfectly reasonable to assume that contributing to a campaign buys you and your interests attention and support from the candidate when s/he wins office. Our analysis of Federal Elections Commission data will examine this assumption. We examined campaign contributions from 1979 to 1984 to see if those contributions affect which issues get attention from members of Congress. What is unique about our approach is that we used the occupations of the contributors to determine which issues s/he would care about. We compared the monetary support congressional committee chairs received from these issue groups and the chair’s attention to that issue via legislation and hearings.

Going to the polls: Why voter turnout varies across countries
Nina Hart ’09, Political Science; Maria Nassen ’08, International Relations-Political Science
Advisor: Hahrie Han, Political Science

Are some countries better than others at generating voter turnout? How is it that in some democratic countries large percentages of the population turn out to vote and in others the rate is substantially lower? Our project attempts to answer these questions by examining the
relationship between political efficacy, the type of political system, and voter turnout. Our hypothesis is that individuals who believe their vote matters and whose countries use proportional representation systems are more likely to vote.

**Moral Politics and Voter Turnout**  
*Jane Booth-Tobin, ’09, Political Science & French; Nora Salem, ’09, International Relations*  
*Advisor: Hahrie Han, Political Science*

There are many factors affecting voter turnout, such as income and education, yet in the last election cycle ideological and moral issues came to the forefront along with issues of terrorism. Among the many variables affecting voter turnout, did moral issues actually have an impact? More specifically, did a voter’s position on abortion affect their decision to vote? Using the American National Election Studies surveys for 1980, 1996, 2000, and 2004, we used statistics to analyze the facts and discover whether the increased media and political party focus on moral issues has affected voter turnout.

**What is up with California?**  
*Kate Haberland ’07, Spanish and Political Science*  
*Advisor: Hahrie Han, Political Science*

In national elections, California is always considered a lock for Democrats, yet only four of the nineteen California governors since 1900 have been Democrats. So, why do Republicans keep winning the governorship in left-wing California? Is it the state economy? Do only Republicans turn out for gubernatorial elections? In an attempt to explain this gap between national perception and state reality, I examine exit polls from four recent gubernatorial elections to attempt to answer the burning question: what do Californians think about when they go to the polls?

**Does Anyone Care What You Think? Humanitarian Intervention in the Era of Public Opinion**  
*Katrina Browne ’09, Political Science*  
*Advisor: Hahrie Han, Political Science*

The United States has often been accused of being a "bystander to genocide". One common reason policymakers give for US inaction in the face of humanitarian crises is that the public has no opinion on these issues or is actively against interventions. While the US often remains silent in the face of such crises, it does occasionally act. This project thus seeks to interrogate whether or not increases in US public support for the United Nations and its peacekeeping efforts is a good predictor of US governmental support for humanitarian interventions.

**The Changing Face of Education: The Effects of Immigration on America's Schools**  
*Jennifer Chou ’08, Political Science*  
*Advisor: Hahrie Han, Political Science*

In recent years, immigration has occupied a central place in American politics. Since the 1970s and 80s, the United States’ immigrant population has grown by leaps and bounds, surpassing 34
million in 2004 and comprising almost 12 percent of the entire U.S. population. Although debates have centered primarily on undocumented immigration, a great deal of research has also recently been dedicated to studying the impacts of general immigration on American political, social, and economic life. This presentation focuses on the costs of education associated with these increased levels of immigration, and how American institutions must change to meet these growing needs.

**Bridge Over Troubled Water: Nuclear Weapons and Transnational Alliances**

*Megan Kierstead '08, Political Science and Computer Science; Malina Swiatek '08, Political Science*

*Advisor: Hahrie Han, Political Science*

Our research explores the relationship between military alliances and the likelihood that a given state will pursue a formal nuclear weapons program. The primary hurdle to nuclear development is the threat that other states may challenge the initiator’s claim to a nuclear weapons program. These challenges are essentially a rejection of the *legitimacy* of the state’s nuclear development. The effectiveness of such a challenge is often determined by the power of the initiating state—power which may go beyond the individual state’s capabilities to include those of states with whom the initiator is allied. We examine the effect these alliances have on the development of a nuclear weapons program, holding constant military strength, nuclear technological capabilities, gross domestic product per capita, and trade openness.