

Presenter: Neva Essex

Session & Time: Oral III

Room/Time: GUZ 111 / 2:30-2:50

Discipline: English Literature, Political Science

Faculty Mentor: Alison Howard

Digital Portfolio URL:

Title: Framing The War On Terror: Media Narratives and U.S. Foreign Policy After 9/11

Abstract:

The media plays an essential role in an informed public and the shaping of information. Foreign policy and the coverage of the U.S. movements abroad drastically changed with the 9/11 terrorist attacks. This paper seeks to examine the ways in which media coverage of presidential rhetoric in regard to the U.S. response to terrorism changed over the course of the George W. Bush and Barack Obama administrations. With the use of qualitative narrative analysis of print news media sources and official statements made from the White House, this paper will identify the patterns and changes which occurred over the course of these two administrations. This research will contribute to the larger conversations in regard to the use of framing theory and role of media in politics. The findings of this paper indicate that media framing of the U.S. response to terrorism post-9/11 was initially positive and driven by the â€œrally around the flagâ€ effect, but later turned skeptical due to various domestic and international

concerns. Understanding this evolution offers insight into the mediaâ€™s role in legitimizing and later questioning U.S. counterterrorism policies and the critical role news media plays in providing and propagating information.