

## Benjamin Lancaster's Research Featured

Posted on [16 October 2012](#)

Benjamin Lancaster, a 2012 honors student, has had his research featured in the September newsletter of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

[Read Lancaster's article](#) on terrorism and counterterrorism in post-9/11 America.

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## Wampler Wins Best Paper Award

Posted on [15 October 2012](#)

[Brian Wampler](#), who earned his PhD in 2000, has won the 2013 Best Paper Award from the [Political Institutions Section \(LAPIS\)](#) of the [Latin American Studies Association](#), for his paper, coauthored with Mike Touchton, "Improving Social Well-Being Through New Democratic Institutions."

This year the LAPIS best paper award committee was formed by Jorge Gordin (chair, from the German Institute of Global and Area Studies and soon at the Universidad Diego Portales de Chile), Moira McKinnon (from the Universidad de Buenos Aires), and Noam Lupu (from the University of Wisconsin-Madison). The committee wrote about the winning paper:

"This paper asks important questions about how participatory budgeting affects citizens' well-being. Using an original and a large N data base of Brazilian municipalities, the authors show that the situation of the poor is improved through an increase in spending on health care and sanitation, which is reflected in a reduction in the rates of child mortality. The effect grows with time and when the political party implementing the participatory budget believes in its principles. Interestingly, the authors claim that in contrast to the theorized bias in representative democracy towards middle and upper class groups, the new institution of participatory budgeting, can help overcome this bias and benefit the poor. Thus, this paper makes an important contribution to our knowledge about the social and political consequences of participatory budgeting, one that will inform normative as well as empirical debates about participatory democracy."

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