

Senior Fellow Steven Livingston wins The Doris Graber Award

CAMBRIDGE, MA — The Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, located at the Harvard Kennedy School, is pleased to announce that Senior Fellow Steven Livingston has won the Doris Graber Book award for his book, [When the Press Fails](#), a book he wrote with W. Lance Bennett and Regina G. Lawrence. The Doris Graber Award recognizes the best book published on political communication in the last ten years.

When the Press Fails

A sobering look at the intimate relationship between political power and the news media, *When the Press Fails* argues the dependence of reporters on official sources disastrously thwarts coverage of dissenting voices from outside the Beltway.

The result is both an indictment of official spin and an urgent call to action that questions why the mainstream press failed to challenge the Bush administration's arguments for an invasion of Iraq or to illuminate administration policies underlying the Abu Ghraib controversy. Drawing on revealing interviews with Washington insiders and analysis of content from major news outlets, the authors illustrate the media's unilateral surrender to White House spin whenever oppositional voices elsewhere in government fall silent. Contrasting these grave failures with the refreshingly critical reporting on Hurricane Katrina—a rare event that caught officials off guard, enabling journalists to enter a no-spin zone—*When the Press Fails* concludes by proposing new practices to reduce reporters' dependence on power.

Steven Livingston

Steven Livingston is a Senior Research Fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, and a Professor of Media and Public Affairs and International Affairs with appointments in the School of Media and Public Affairs (SMPA) and the Elliott School of International Affairs (ESIA) at The George Washington University. Currently, he is also a [Visiting Scholar at the Brookings Institution](#) in governance studies.

He served as the director of the Political Communication Program when it was a degree-granting entity within SMPA (1996-2002; 2004-2006). In 2004, he served as acting director of the School of Media and Public Affairs, a position held until August 2006. He also founded the Public Diplomacy Institute (PDI) at GWU in 2000 and served as the chairman of the Board of Directors until 2008. PDI is now called the Institute for Public Diplomacy and Global Communication. Livingston's research and teaching focus on media/information technology, national security and global politics. He is particularly interested in the role of information technologies and media on governance, development, accountability, and human security.

About the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy

The Carr Center is a research center based at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, with a mission to realize global justice through theory, policy, and practice. Research, courses, fellowships, public events, and engagement with students, scholars, and journalists form the core of the Center.

Media contact: Sarah Peck, sarah_peck@hks.harvard.edu or 617-496-6086

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