

## **Policy Research and Public Scholarship at Disciplinary Frontiers**

**Presenter:** Justin Kastner, Kansas State University

**Co-Presenter:** Jason Ackleson, New Mexico State University

**Session:** Oral

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, April 24; 11-12PM

*Frontier*, a part of Food Safety and Security at Kansas State University (KSU), is a unique, interdisciplinary, and inter-institutional program for the historical studies of border security, food security, and trade policy. The *Frontier* program includes research, education, and outreach components. Through interdisciplinary collaborations involving Dr. Justin Kastner (food safety and security, Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology, KSU college of Veterinary Medicine) and Dr. Jason Ackleson (political science, New Mexico State University; adjunct faculty member, KSU), *Frontier* addresses policy issues regarding food safety and security, trade and border security. Drs. Kastner and Ackleson train students in multidisciplinary scholarship to better deal with the complex interface between public health, food safety, international relations, and public policy. To provide historical- and policy-research examples of the work, Drs. Kastner and Ackleson will first address the history of veterinary public health, highlighting the efforts of nineteenth-century pioneer Dr. John Shaw Billings to bring animal-health, food-safety, and human-health policy under the authority of a common federal agency. They will also discuss *Frontier's* public-policy work on food security and international cooperation. With particular reference to the *Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America*, an international agreement with veterinary public health work plans, they will discuss policymaking trends involving biosecurity, public health, and international trade. Drs. Kastner and Ackleson will also detail engagement with the Southwest Border Security Task Force, an innovative inter-agency and inter-jurisdictional organization that meets regularly to deal with difficult U.S.-Mexico border issues, including public health, animal disease, trade, and emergency preparedness.

### **Biographies:**

Assistant professor of food safety and security, Justin Kastner conducts scholarly activities related to trade policy, the history of science, economic history, and multidisciplinary research and writing. Dr. Kastner (PhD, University of Guelph; Pg.Dip., public health, University of Edinburgh; MSc, London South Bank University; BS, Kansas State University) co-coordinates *Frontier*-an interdisciplinary program for the historical studies of border security, food safety, and trade policy. Dr. Kastner publishes and lectures on an array of issues: the World Trade Organization (WTO), the *WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures*, veterinary history, the history of public health, North American border issues, and the history of trade disputes regarding food safety and animal disease. In addition to conducting multidisciplinary research, Dr. Kastner authors commentaries for the press. Dr. Kastner examines both historical and contemporary trade-policy questions. Co-director of the website for Food Safety and Security at Kansas State University (<http://fss.k-state.edu>), Dr. Kastner has worked with teams to create multimedia products (e.g., online videos). Dr. Kastner also serves as co-instructor for the graduate course *Multidisciplinary Thought and Presentation*.

Assistant Professor Jason Ackleson teaches in the Department of Government at New Mexico State University. A native New Mexican, he spent several years in the United Kingdom as a Truman and British Marshall Scholar. There he earned his Ph.D. in International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science. At LSE he also served as the senior editor of *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*. Working and publishing on questions of security, borders, and globalization, his current research addresses migration and border security. Policy analysts have cited his work in testimony before Congress. He has appeared on local and international media, including NPR and CNN. He recently received a grant from the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. to study bilateral relations and border management. His publications include articles in *Political Geography*, *Geopolitics*, and *Knowledge, Technology, and Policy*. Researchers have described Dr. Ackleson as a "leading international scholar" of border theory. Dr. Ackleson teaches courses in international relations, comparative politics, and political science. His commitment to students extends through his work as faculty advisor for the award-winning NMSU Model United Nations program, a leading student simulation of international politics and diplomacy. Ackleson is also Associate Dean of the University Honors College. He mentors students applying for prestigious national awards, such as the Marshall, Rhodes, Fulbright, and Truman scholarships, and assists with the activities and development of the first Honors College in New Mexico.

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