

[6] From: bflynn 9/16/93 2:29PM (3937 bytes: 64 ln)
To mailing list: #Faculty Members
Subject: INTRODUCTION

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Dear ANC faculty members:

While I have never introduced myself by way of computer before, given your diverse and busy schedules I thought that I might as well take advantage of high tech to let you know something about the new occupant of Room 302.

I am tenured member of the faculty of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT who is spending a year at ASC as a Professional-in-Residence. I am still not sure just what a "Professional-in-Residence" is, but based on my experience of three days, it seems to involve hanging around first-rate scholars and exceptional students in reasonable comfort.

I am currently involved with research for a book for the Brookings Institution that examines the illicit drug trade as a transnational problem. A major objective of the work is to illustrate by exploring what appears to be a dramatic rise in global drug production, trafficking, and consumption, one of the emerging realities of our time: states are increasingly subject to forces beyond their control or at least ones that are extremely difficult to manage independently. By identifying the ingredients that have led to a surge in the illicit drug market around the globe, it has become clear to me that as a consequence of the dramatic systemic changes to the international system since 1989 and the technological advances in communications and transportation, nation states will never be the same. With the unprecedented levels of global interaction and mutual penetration by goods, services, ideas, and people, governments cannot remain immune to external forces or deal with the negative ones alone. They will grow more exposed to illicit forms of global activity such as illegal arms sales, weapons technology transfers, illegal immigration, prohibited waste dumping, terrorism, various forms of economic espionage, copyright infractions--and drug trafficking. Purely domestic responses to any of these problems will not work.

While at first brush it appears that drugs are a long way from the issues explored at a school for communication, given the focus of my study, I think there might be some useful overlap with research that explores how & why the penetration of global communications has changed the formula by which governments can govern. I am also interested in how media characterizations of illicit drug use in the west could influence attitudes towards drug consumption within societies hithertofore bypassed by the global drug trade. Tangentially, an issue that deserves closer scrutiny is how an issue that was so prominently featured in the American media four years ago has almost disappeared even though the problems connected with drug abuse remain virtually unchanged.

My home (and my wife, JoAnn) are in Old Saybrook, Conn.

I plan to be at ANC Tues-Thurs when I am not travelling in support of my research. I hope that I shall have the chance to meet each of you soon and look forward to learning more about your research interests. If you think I can be of use in any capacity, I hope that you will not hesitate to call on me.

Steve Flynn