**Date/Time:** 12:15 pm Thursday, March 25th  
**Location:** Milne 215

Meeting time is at 12:15 pm with presentations beginning promptly at 12:30 pm and finishing at 1:30 pm. Attendees are welcome to bring their lunch and chat for a few minutes before the presentation starts. Those who need to leave at 1:30 pm for other engagements can do so, and those that wish to continue a conversation are welcome to stay.

The Decision and Policy Sciences (DAPS) Brown Bag Series began back in the fall semester of 1988. It was established as a forum for the discussion of ideas, proposals, and findings in the area of group decision support, individual expert judgment research, and policy simulation. Today, it is the longest continuously running lunch discussion forum at SUNY Albany.

**Title:** Governance and Policy Modeling  
Corey Lofdahl

**Abstract:** There is no academic consensus on the definition of the composite social term *governance*. However, there is general agreement that its absence leads to state failure, an especially salient problem in today’s international system. Among the many theories of governance is the recent but well accepted *Quest for Viable Peace* (QVP) model developed by Covey, Dzeidzic, and Hawley (2005). This study develops a System Dynamics (SD) simulation model that expresses governance as a function of four elements: political, economic, military, and rule of law. This model is then used to analyze an international intervention that begins with conflict between foreign and domestic militaries. The criminal leadership that initially controlled the government eventually withdraws, which forces its members to choose between finding legitimate work or joining an incipient insurgency. International forces assume control of the government and the economy, restructuring both to shrink illegal and bolster legitimate activity. This study concludes that SD modeling can be a valuable tool for specifying abstract concepts like governance and formulating policies that further it effectively.

**Bio:**  
Corey Lofdahl is a Principal Research Engineer at BAE Systems, Advanced Information Technologies (AIT) in Burlington, Massachusetts where he applies advanced simulation and statistical techniques to hard policy problems. He was the conflict economics modeler for the DARPA Integrated Battle Command (IBC) / Conflict Modeling, Planning and Option Exploration (COMPOEX) project and has worked on a range of defense related efforts throughout his career. Dr. Lofdahl earned degrees in electrical engineering, computer science, and international relations from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Brown University, and MIT, and is the author of *Environmental Impacts of Globalization and Trade: A systems study* (MIT Press, 2002).