



Apr 13th, 10:45 AM - 11:00 AM

The Political and Economic Factors Affecting the U.S. Sugar Subsidy Program

Anne Peterson
Illinois Wesleyan University

Frank Boyd, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Peterson, Anne and Boyd, Faculty Advisor, Frank, "The Political and Economic Factors Affecting the U.S. Sugar Subsidy Program" (1996). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 4.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/1996/oralpres2/4>

This is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation 2.2

**THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS AFFECTING THE U.S.
SUGAR SUBSIDY PROGRAM**

Anne Peterson and Frank Boyd*, Department of Political Science

Due to a complex combination of price supports, import quotas, and loans for sugar growers, U.S. consumers pay more to satisfy their sweet tooth. This paper explores the U.S. sugar subsidy program in order to determine why an increasing amount of sugar subsidy is allocated to a decreasing number of sugar growers. Economist Douglass North offers a theory on the autonomous effect of political institutions upon the policymaking, an area which Public Choice theory fails to adequately address. OLS regressions and various cross tab analyses test the impact of economic and political variables upon the level of sugar loans allocated to sugar growers from 1965 to 1992. The House and Senate Agriculture committees and the number of democrats in Congress contribute to explaining the variance in sugar loans. The geographical composition of the Senate Agriculture Committee in particular emerges as statistically significant.