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Homo Politicus

The Newsletter of the Political Science Department at the
Graduate Center of the City University of New York



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The Political Science program at the Graduate Center, CUNY consists of a community of scholars dedicated to the tasks of acquiring, expanding, and transmitting reliable knowledge about political phenomena. Its essential function is to educate professional political scientists, capable of independent research and qualified for careers in academic institutions, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and the private sector.



Letter from the Executive Officer

Dear Colleagues, Students, and Alumni,

After a very lively fall filled with various events analyzing the presidential election, we hit the ground running this spring addressing the consequences of the new presidency and the heightened demands on our discipline to provide insights.



Dr. Alyson Cole

As the semester began, we soon faced a crisis. One of our students, Saira Rafiee, was denied re-entry into the United States under the hastily rolled out Muslim travel ban. After a week of frenzied emails and phone calls, a federal judge in Seattle issued a national stay on the order, and Saira safely returned from Iran. There are so very many people to thank. President Robinson [issued well-deserved thanks](#) to Citizenship Now! and Allan Wernick, Matthew Schoengood (VP of Student Affairs), and especially Provost Connolly (who was a powerhouse). I'd like to add to this list the PSC and members of the Political Science Program – the staff, faculty and students provided their vital support and sound advice, and organized demonstrations. Three students merit mention by name: Fernando Aquino, Lizzie Eisenberg, and Jessica Mahlbacher. I've never been prouder of being part of this Program I have the honor of chairing, or more appreciative of the community at the Graduate Center. Please join me in extending thanks widely, and see Kyong Mazzaro's interview with Saira in this issue.

This edition of our newsletter also includes highlights from our Graduate Student Conference in February. Thanks are in order for Tom Waters, Sally Sharif, Elizabeth Newcomer, and Rosa Squillacote for their work organizing an invigorating day. Visitors to the Department Colloquia, Comparative Politics Workshop, and Political Theory Workshop this spring included Silvia Federici, Marie Gottschalk, Linda Zerilli, Scott Lemieux, and Philippe Burger. In April, our department colloquium hosted a conversation between faculty member Peter Beinart and Niall Ó Dochartaigh of NUI Galway, and Daniel Sokatch of the New Israel Fund, titled "Sacred Boundaries: The Search for Peace in Ireland and Israel-Palestine."

On Friday, May 5th, we will honor Frances Fox Piven at a special reception to recognize her immeasurable contributions to our students and alumni, the Department, and our discipline. We will also hold our annual Alumni Awards Night on Thursday May 4th, where we will recognize a distinguished alumni, as well as faculty and students for their contributions and academic achievements. All students, alumni, and faculty are encouraged to attend.

Looking ahead, we are organizing a conference for the fall: "Insurgency from Below and the Future of American Democracy: Conference In Celebration of the Work of Frances Fox Piven and Richard A. Cloward" as an additional, more scholarly tribute to Frances Fox Piven. It will be held on Wednesday, October 11th, 2017, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM in Elebash Recital Hall. Participants will include former GC graduates and other luminaries, including Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw of UCLA and Columbia University, Ai-jen Poo of the National Domestic Workers Alliance, and writer and political activist Barbara Ehrenreich, among others.

As always, I want to thank our *Homo Politicus* editor-in-chief Elizabeth Newcomer, and the newsletter staff: Matthew Thomas, Christopher Michael, Asher Wycoff, Tristan Hoffman, Aaron Warwick Braun, Kyong Mazzaro, and Isa Vásquez.

Warm regards,

Alyson Cole





Recognizing the “We” in “I”: *A Conversation with Saira Rafiee*

Saira Rafiee, a political science Ph.D. student at the Graduate Center, was traveling from her home country of Iran when Donald Trump signed his executive order banning travelers from seven Middle Eastern countries, including Iran. She was prevented from boarding her connecting flight from Abu Dhabi to JFK and was sent back to Tehran.



Celebrating Saira's safe return in Logan International Airport, Boston
(Photo cred: Hercules Reid).

Members of the CUNY community quickly mobilized in response, securing legal counsel for Saira, calling elected officials to demand they intervene, and demonstrating outside the federal courthouse in Brooklyn and the GC — with wide media coverage. A week after the ban was issued, Saira boarded another flight from Iran to Boston's Logan Airport, where a judge had previously ordered that no travelers should be detained.

Now that she is safely back in New York, I asked Saira to share her perspective on the recent events. We started our interview with a quick review of the facts. “I feel that I have told this story so many times,” she laughed. “I just want to say that it is really because of everyone who got involved, both in the Political Science department and the PSC, that I am here.”

Saira has been very clear about the need to put her experience in perspective. “I don’t want my story to become a sensational story that people just feel sympathy,” she said in a recent [interview with WNYC](#). “I need them to use this sympathy to resist.”

In her recent [article for the PSC blog](#), Saira elaborated on the larger need for organized resistance. “The army of xenophobes, white supremacists, Islamophobes, racists, homophobes, and misogynists that have taken office could be deemed insignificant when compared to the bigger danger that is a frustrated society that might cling to any hand reached out to it,” she writes. “What matters is to understand how we got here, how to fight the deep-rooted structures of inequality and discrimination that have been at work for decades and that under different administrations, in the absence of real public participation in politics, have just intensified.”

Saira also reflected on the changing face of contentious politics in the Trump administration. “This is not an identity politics that focuses on difference and is incapable of realizing the ties between the particularity of distinct identities and the universal conditions of society and their relations with other social groups.” Instead of deepening cleavages, Saira points out that “the emerging politics is based on the recognition that the freedom of the workers, of women, of undocumented immigrants, of LGBT community, of Muslims and people of color is tied to the freedom of each and every individual, that individual freedom is not possible without recognizing the ‘we’ in ‘I.’”

I asked Saira for her take on the best venues for action. “I think that all the actions that we are taking should not just be about Trump. We should reflect on the structural discrimination that is at work. We should not ‘just’ resist Trump. There should be an offensive aspect to our action that leads to true alternatives,” she said.





During our conversation we also talked about her perspective on the role of academia. In her piece for the PSC, Saira is critical of academia for failing to foresee and respond to the current crisis. She explains, “The unexpectedness of Trump’s victory by academia is a sign of its straying from its responsibility; it long ago set aside even its original conservative aim of maintaining the stability of society, let alone the more radical ideal of seeking a more rationally organized and just society. This is a sign that it has almost totally given up the critical reflection upon what society ‘is’ and what it ‘ought to be’ in the name of a professionalization that only serves particular interests that are necessarily at odds with the well-being of the 99 percent.”



From the #GetSairaHome press conference held by the PSC, the CUNY Student Government Association, and Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams Jan 30 (photo cred: Beth Newcomer).

Given these shortcomings, how could academia better engage in and support political action? “More than anything else, academic social and political science is in need of self-reflection. It needs to reflect upon itself, and its relations with power as well as society.”

“This self-reflection could be our first step in the long fight we have ahead. In order to overcome our feeling of powerlessness and defenselessness, we need to not only build an organized resistance bloc that is capable of enforcing its will and not just defending itself in the face of current assaults, but also pursue more progressive goals.”



From the rally in support of Saira outside the GC Feb 1 (photo cred: Beth Newcomer).

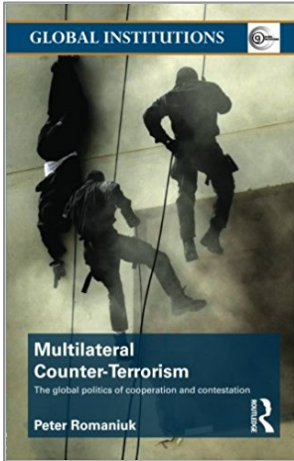
Saira is involved in several organizations at the GC actively working to counter the Trump agenda. “There are many venues for concrete action at the GC. The [GC Resist Trump](#) group and the PSC-CUNY are actively fighting against Trump’s agenda and the broader political establishment on different fronts.”

She concluded, “It is time for us to get more organized, to defend the right of unionization for all workers, to try to make this emerging sense of solidarity permanent; a true solidarity that is based on the recognition of the ‘we’ in ‘I.’”



Peter Romaniuk is an Associate Professor of Political Science at John Jay College and will be teaching at the Graduate Center in Fall 2017.

By Matthew Thomas



Matt: Please describe the general themes of your research and some of your past projects. What led you to become interested in your area of research?

Professor Romaniuk: My research focuses on different aspects of terrorism and counterterrorism. I entered grad school in Fall 2000 intending to write a dissertation on the international frameworks governing refugees. (I had previously worked for Australia's Immigration Department and had some exposure to those issues.) But in my first semester in grad school, I was fortunate to get a research assistant position on a project that focused on the use of targeted financial sanctions by the UN Security Council. Then 9/11 happened and that project transitioned into a project on countering terrorist financing. I wrote my dissertation on the implementation of newly emerging



Dr. Peter Romaniuk
John Jay College, CUNY

counterterrorism-related norms and rules (in the areas of terrorist financing, maritime security and migration control) in different countries (India, Indonesia and Malaysia). Since then, I have published mostly on multilateral counterterrorism and countering terrorist financing, with a current interest in debates surrounding “countering violent extremism” or “CVE.”

M: What projects are you currently working on? Do you work exclusively within academia, or is there an applied aspect to your research as well?

P: For the last few years, I have worked closely with colleagues from a local think-tank, the Global Center on Cooperative Security. Projects are often government-funded and comprise applied research, with outputs addressed primarily to a practitioner audience. This has meant travel for research and conferences, and interaction with policy makers from governments and international organizations, as well as civil society practitioners. CVE is a relatively recent development in counterterrorism policy and reflects an effort to utilize “soft power” measures in this field, following the unintended consequences of traditional counterterrorism approaches in the first decade after 9/11, especially regarding engagement at the community level. Various governments and international organizations have advanced CVE initiatives, both at home and abroad, and have faced plenty of challenges in doing so.

Our work has focused on how to assess violent extremism problems and the effectiveness of CVE measures. In 2015, I published a report on this subject with the Global Center titled “Does CVE Work?” Additionally, I and some colleagues are wrapping up a project for the UK government’s Department for International Development that assesses terrorism and violent extremism in ten East African countries, and features original interview research from Tanzania and Uganda. We also offer recommendations on whether and how to implement CVE measures. Specifically, we suggest that CVE programs have only a modest role to play (except in Somalia and Kenya, where the problem of violent extremism is gravest), and that existing development priorities should be maintained.

M: How is your time divided between teaching and research? What types of courses do you normally like to offer? Will you be offering any at the GC in the near future?

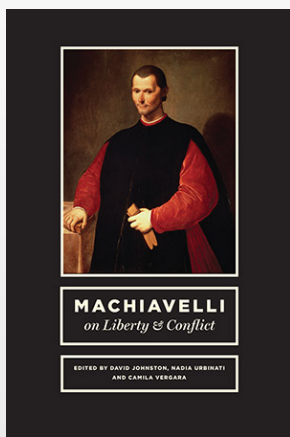
O: One of the virtues of an academic career is that there are a variety of options in terms of how you can divide your time. The last few years have been very research-intensive for me, with a lot of writing. But I am back in the classroom more this semester, and that suits me fine. I will teach my terrorism class at the GC in the fall. That class is a critical review of contemporary knowledge on terrorism and counterterrorism from the disciplinary perspective of political science. I have taught this class twice before at the GC and really enjoyed it. I was also just appointed to the GC faculty a year ago, so I am looking forward to being more engaged with GC students and colleagues in the future.



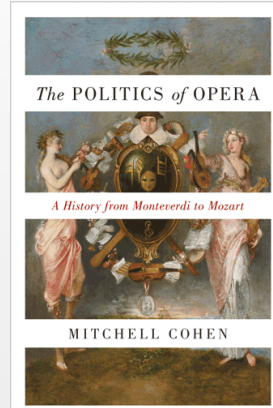
Faculty News

Professor George Andreopoulos was invited to participate in a research workshop on “Contracting Human Rights” at UC Santa Barbara in January and to give the keynote address at the Model UN Conference at the University of Macedonia in Greece in April. At the most recent International Studies Association Convention in Baltimore, he was re-elected as president of the Comparative and Interdisciplinary Studies Section of ISA.

Professor Mitchell Cohen’s new book *The Politics of Opera: A History from Monteverdi through Mozart* was published in April ([Princeton University Press](#), 2017). His review of *Ben-Gurion* was also published in the [Times Literary Supplement](#) (2017).



Professor Benedetto Fontana had a chapter published in *Machiavelli on Liberty and Conflict* ([University of Chicago Press](#), 2017), entitled “Machiavelli and the Gracchi: Republican Liberty and Class Conflict.” Additionally, he had three articles published: “Notes on Gramsci and the State” in *Review of Italian Studies* (2016), “Bia and Logos: Power and Rhetoric in Antiquity” in *History of Political Thought* (2017), and “Philosophy and Rhetoric in Vico’s Thought” in *Italian Culture* (2016).



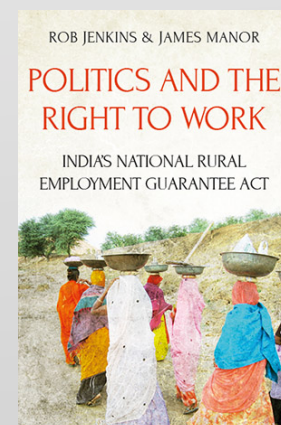
Professor Joyce Gelb delivered a lecture on gender equality in November in Japan at the Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies. She was quoted in [the Nikkei](#) newspaper in December on this topic.



Professor Janet Gornick director of the Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, co-organized and co-hosted with GC Public Programs three events as part of the GC’s “First 100 Days” series: [“Economic Policy,”](#) [“The Fragile Social Safety Net,”](#) and [“Trade, Jobs, and Inequality.”](#)

Professor Jack Jacobs is currently serving as the 2017 Jacob Kronhill Visiting Scholar at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Professor Robert Jenkins’ book, co-authored with James Manor, was published: *Politics and the Right to Work: India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Act* ([Oxford University Press](#), 2017). In February, he was invited to give a lecture on this topic at the University of Chicago.



Professor Keena Lipsitz had an article published in *Political Behavior* (2017), “Playing with Emotions: The Effect of Moral Appeals in Elite Rhetoric.” She was also interviewed on [Marketplace](#) and participated in a workshop on the 2016 election at Wesleyan University.

Professor Mojúbàolú Okome participated in a roundtable discussion on “Drug Trafficking and its Impact on the State and Society in West Africa,” on December at the African Studies Association in Washington, D.C. Together with Don Robotham of the [Advanced Research Collaborative](#), she organized the University of Ibadan, Nigeria-CUNY Graduate Center inception conference that initialized the academic exchange program between both institutions, made possible in part by her 2015 Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship. Additionally, she was presented with a proclamation from the NYS Assembly for her work on the #BringBackOurGirls struggle.

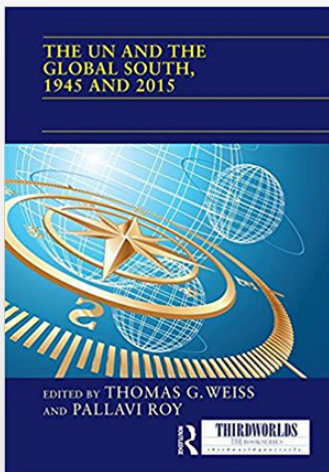




Professor Alexander Reichl gave an interview with *The Atlantic* CITYLAB to discuss the High Line and issues of social equity and urban revitalization – “[The High Line's Next Balancing Act.](#)”

Professor Charles Tien had an article published in the Roosevelt House Faculty Journal (2017) issue on President Trump’s first 100 days: “President-Elect Trump Needs to Tell Congress to Do Its Job and Fix the Dysfunctional Budget Process.” With Michael Lewis-Beck, he published [two blog posts](#) on election-forecasting.

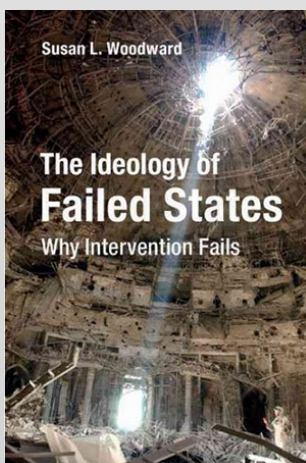
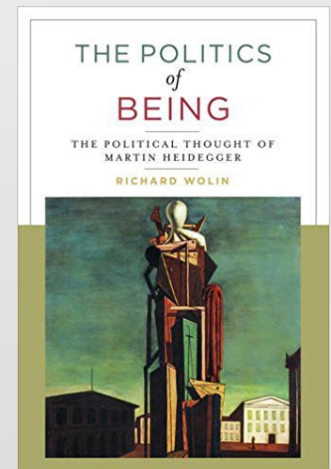
Professor John Wallach had an article published in *POLIS* (2016), “Deconstructing the Ancients/Moderns Trope: Historical Reception in Political Theory.” Additionally, his article, “The President as Demagogue” was published in the *Roosevelt House Faculty Journal* (2017).



Professor Thomas Weiss’s book, *The UN and the Global South, 1945 and 2015* (ed.) ([Routledge](#), 2017) was published in January. He spent the month of February in the archives of the United Nations in Geneva as a Carnegie Fellow doing research for an upcoming book. His collaboration with two students resulted in published research: with Nick Micinski, Level-III, “International Organization for Migration and the UN System: A Missed Opportunity,” *Future UN Development System Project*, a briefing (2016), and Tatiana Carayannis, Level-III, “Windows of Opportunity for UN Reform: Historical Lessons for the Next Secretary-General,” in *International Affairs* (2017).

College, “Words that Kill: Rhetoric and Reality in the Discourse of the Front National” at Cambridge and the University of London, and “Walter Benjamin Meets the Cosmics” at Oxford. Additionally, his book, *The Wind from the East: French Intellectuals, the Cultural Revolution, and the Legacy of the 1960s* (Princeton University Press, 2012), was translated into Chinese (Sansui Culture Shanghai, 2017), and a revised edition of *The Politics of Being: The Political Thought of Martin Heidegger* ([New York: Columbia University Press](#), 2016) was published with a new preface.

Professor Richard Wolin gave a series of invited lectures in February: “From Beyond the Grave: Heidegger as Preceptor of the German Neue Rechte” at Colorado



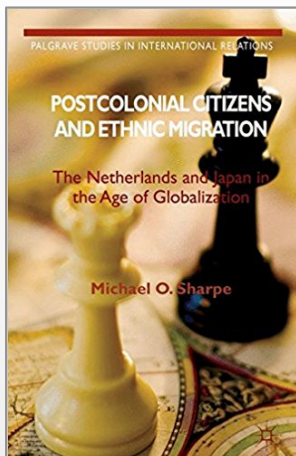
Professor Susan Woodward’s book, *The Ideology of Failed States: Why Intervention Fails* ([Cambridge University Press](#), 2017) was published in March, featuring a cover photo located by Drake Logan, Level I. Professor Woodward also gave a series of lectures at the European University of St. Petersburg in April.

Professor Ming Xia edited a book, *The Age of Plunder: The 2008 Economic Crisis as a Turning Point in Chinese History and World Civilization* ([iSun Affairs Limited](#), 2016). Additionally, he published an article for the *Journal of Chinese Governance* (2016), “Triangulating Human Political Conditions and Reorienting Political Development in China,” and reviewed *The Politics of Controlling Organized Crime in Greater China* by Sonny Shiu-Hing Luo, for *The China Quarterly* (2016).



Michael Sharpe is an Associate Professor of Political Science at York College, and graduated from the GC Political Science Program in Spring 2008.

By Matthew Thomas



Matt: Please describe the nature, themes and findings of your research at the GC.

Professor Sharpe: My research at the Graduate Center looked comparatively at globalization, immigrant political incorporation, and political transnationalism. My dissertation and later book focused on the political incorporation of Dutch Antillean and Aruban Dutch citizens in the Netherlands and Latin American Nikkeijin (Japanese descendants) in Japan. My hypothesis was that if political incorporation is difficult for advantaged legal immigrants, it is likely even more daunting for others. Indeed, I found that the simple possession of shared citizenship does not necessarily lead to immigrant political incorporation. Factors that hinder incorporation include limited political opportunities and difficulties of small group



Dr. Michael Sharpe
York College, CUNY

size, language, and a “myth of return” surrounding the immigrants. Moreover, home country dependency on migrant remittances, electoral rules and practices that complicate overseas voting, and a dearth of active host country ethnic advocacy organizations limits the emergence of political transnationalism.

M: What research projects are you currently working on? Given that it's been some time since you graduated, how have your research interests evolved thus far in your professional career?

S: My research projects continue to focus on globalization and the postcolonial citizen, ethnic immigrant political incorporation and political transnationalism in the Netherlands and Japan. I revised my dissertation and published it as a book entitled *Postcolonial Citizens and Ethnic Migration: the Netherlands and Japan in the Age of Globalization* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). My research agenda has broadened to include the politics of international migration and comparative immigration politics around the world. I have taken a special interest in remigration policies or paid voluntary return for immigrants and their descendants to return to their countries of origin and what this mean for liberal democracies. Other current projects include research on Japan as an “emerging migration state” as well as the questions of sovereignty, autonomy, and freedom of movement in the non-sovereign Dutch Caribbean and other parts of the European Union’s Overseas Countries and Territories that are constitutionally tied to an EU member state but not formally part of the European Union.

M: What was the job market like for you? Did you secure your position while still working on your dissertation or was there a gap between graduation and landing the job?

S: I was very fortunate to secure a tenure track position while finishing my dissertation. It was important that I defended by the end of the spring semester of 2008 so that I could begin my job at the rank of assistant professor that fall. With the guidance and cooperation of my outstanding dissertation committee, Professor Markovitz (Sponsor), the late Professor Gittell (Reader), and Professor Mollenkopf, I was able to successfully defend on time. I am so grateful to my very distinguished dissertation committee and the many other wonderful professors and mentors I had at the Graduate Center. There is no doubt that I could not be where I am today without them.

M: What advice do you have for current students about to enter the job market?

S: My advice is to behave like a professional academic before you get on the market. An optimal tenure track position candidate should have an active research and publication agenda, presentations, teaching, and service. A preferred position is to have at least one published article in a reputable peer reviewed journal. If you cannot get something published in a peer-reviewed journal on time, begin publishing short pieces in encyclopedias and/or short chapters in books. Teach some core bread and butter courses in and outside of your subfields. Start or continue to perform some form of community service. Present your research at major international or regional political science conferences at least once a year. Remain open to both academic and non-academic positions.



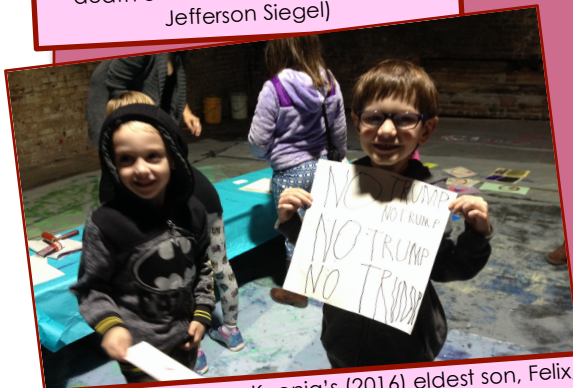
Scenes from the Street

One of the great strengths of the Program is that, in addition to being exceptional scholars, our students, faculty, and alumni are active in field research, international and domestic social movements, and contentious politics.



Elena Cohen, Level III, and other attorneys defended protesters in a lawsuit that alleges NYPD "LRAD" loudspeakers are a sound weapon, rather than a communication device. The LRAD devices were used at a large Midtown demonstration relating to the death of Eric Garner (photo cred: Jefferson Siegel)

On Feb 20th at the London School of Economics, where Rachel Gurstein (2015) is teaching, staff, students, and faculty demonstrated as part of the One Day Without Us campaign. The action drew attention to the role of migrants (from anywhere, but especially from the EU, within the context of upcoming Brexit negotiations) in everyday life. Several LSE staff and students walked out that day, as did migrants across the U.K. (Photo cred: Rachel Gurstein)



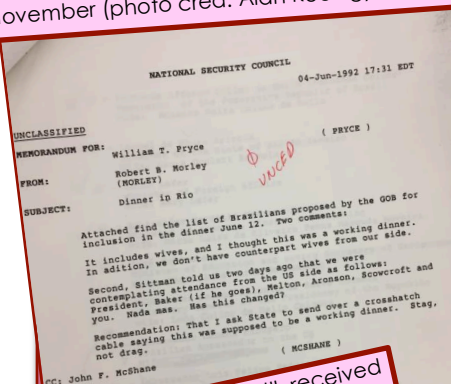
This photo features Alan Koenig's (2016) eldest son, Felix, and a friend at an anti-Trump rally in Portland, OR in November (photo cred: Alan Koenig)



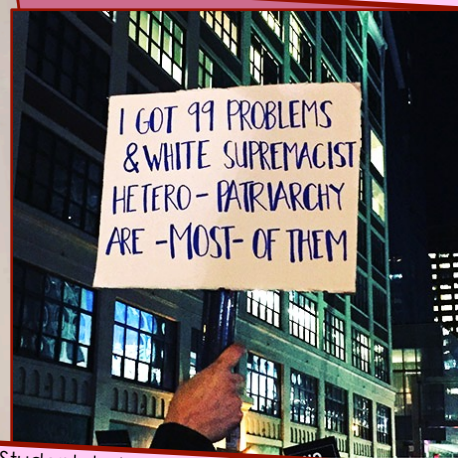
In December 2016, Chris Michael, Level III, was interviewed by City College students at WHCR—Harlem's community radio station—about employee-owned enterprises and his legislative efforts (photo cred: Angela Harden).



Many students participated in the Women's March on Washington and the sister marches around the country—perhaps the largest one-day coordinated demonstrations in US history (photo cred: Beth Newcomer)



Emma Jacobs, Level III, received the George Schwab Research Fellowship for US Foreign Policy this year, and used it to visit the George H. W. Bush archives for two weeks. Archives don't have too many photo ops, but this picture is her favorite find (photo cred: Emma Jacobs).



Students helped organize and participated in the International Women's Strike on International Women's Day (photo cred: Beth Newcomer).



This photo, provided by Nick Micinski, Level III, is from the #NoBanNoWall rally at Battery Park on January 29th.



Scenes from the Street



These photos are from a rally and protest that John McMahon (2016) helped organize in Paul Ryan's hometown, Janesville, WI, as part of his local Showing Up for Racial Justice chapter, to protest the ban, the wall, and Ryan's complicity with Trump. They had a rally with speakers in a park in his neighborhood, then marched to and picketed around his hometown congressional office, with a crowd estimate of 800-1,050 (photo cred: Michelle Bumatay and James Andrews).



This photo is from the women's march in Madison, WI, this spring. (photo cred: John McMahon)

GC Resist Trump was formed after Trump's election by students in the Political Science department, in order to organize our community to fight back against the Trump regime. We meet twice a month at the GC, and organize around local actions every Tuesday. All our meetings and events are open to the public.

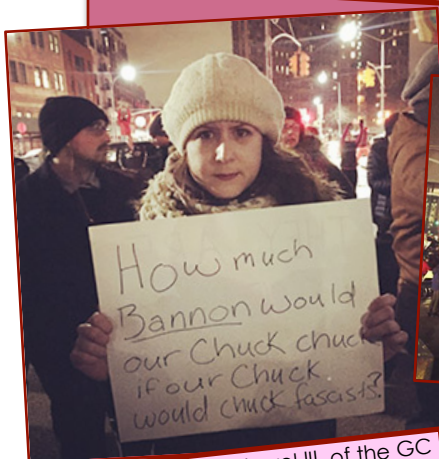
Email

gcrestistump@gmail.com

to get involved!
(photo cred: Rosa Squillacote)



The new **CUNY Branch of DSA** (Democratic Socialists of America) was formed by students, teachers, and workers in order to put CUNY on the frontlines of advancing socialist policies and analysis within New York City. For the next year, our immediate goals are to facilitate YDS chapters at CUNY campuses, organize for a Free CUNY, and fight for Adjunct Parity and a strong union contract. We also hope to join campaigns to make CUNY a sanctuary against aggressive immigration and police tactics. To get involved, email cunydemsoacs@gmail.com



Jessica Mahlbacher, Level III, of the GC Resist Trump steering committee has a very serious question for Sen. Chuck Schumer (photo cred: Beth Newcomer).



GC Resist Trump members joined the "What the F*ck Chuck?" rally outside Sen. Schumer's home to demand that he forcefully and unequivocally oppose and obstruct Trump's agenda (photo cred: Rosa Squillacote).



Student News

Yu Aoki, Level III, received a Ralph Bunche Dissertation Fellowship for the 2017-18 Academic Year in Political Science.

B Lee Aultman, Level III, is the lead author with Professor Currah of a book chapter in the edited volume *LGBTQ Politics: A Critical Reader* (NYU Press, 2017), in which they explore the challenges of legibility in trans political practices and identities.



Emma Jacobs, Level III, received the George Schwab Research Fellowship for US Foreign Policy to visit the George H. W. Bush Archives. Additionally, she received an Early Research Initiative Knickerbocker Award for Archival Research in American Studies.



Aaron Linas, second-year M.A., presented a paper, “We Refugees, Again,” at the North American Anarchist Studies Conference in Mexico City in April.

Pierre Losson, Level III, had an article in *International Journal of Heritage Studies* (2017), “The inscription of Qhapaq Ñan on UNESCO’s World Heritage List: a comparative perspective from the daily press in six Latin American countries.”

Christopher Michael, Level III, had an article published in *Probate & Property* (2017), “The Employee Ownership Trust, an ESOP Alternative,” and contributed a chapter to *New York University Review of Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation* (Matthew Bender, 2016), “Grantor Trusts: A Path to

Employee Ownership.” Additionally, he was awarded the Rutgers Research Fellowship for the 2016-17 academic year through the Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations.

Nick Micinski, Level III, presented papers at the International Studies Association in Baltimore, the Association for the Study of Nationalities World Convention, and the Migration With(out) Boundaries conference at Michigan State University. His article, “The Changing Role of the Ford Foundation in International Development, 1951-2001,” was also published by *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations* (2017).

Brahim Rouabah, Level I, had two articles published, “Discourses of Power and State Formation: The State of Emergency from Protectorate to Post-uprising Tunisia” in *Middle East Law and Governance* (2016) and “The political economy of regime survival: Algeria in the context of the African and Arab uprisings” in *Review of African Political Economy* (2016).

Andrew Wilkes, Level I, published an article in *Essence* in November, “Three Black Spiritual Leaders Talk Protecting Your Faith, Black Love And Community Building In Trump’s America.”





Many students presented papers at the Western Political Science Association annual meeting in April:

- ◆ Alison Parks, "Refusing Opposition and Embracing Negation: Queering Hegel's Account of Subjectivity"
- ◆ Sumru Atuk "Femicidal State: Discursive and institutional politics of Woman making and women killing in Turkey"
- ◆ Drake Logan, "Biology Must Be Defended: The Political Technology of Toxicity"
- ◆ Heidi Rhodes, "Lifetimes of Remaining Human/Human Remains: (Im)Materiality, Biopolitics, Afterlives"
- ◆ Dean Schafer, "Mobilizing for Capitalism: How Islamic Civil Society Makes a Market Economy Possible in Turkey"
- ◆ Rosa Squillacote, coauthored with Lenny Feldman, "Police Violence and Democratic Accountability: Citizen Surveillance of the Administrative State"
- ◆ Erika Iverson, coauthored with Mateo Guerrero-Tabares and Vanya Reid-Hinkson, "When Professors Avoid Controversial Issues: Reasons for Circumventing Conversations, the Impact on Students, and Pedagogical Lessons From the Grassroots"
- ◆ Asher Wycoff, "Against the Pauline Temptation"
- ◆ Philip Johnson, "Life stripped bare and death covered up: thresholds of violence and Guantánamo Bay"
- ◆ Bradley Young, "Theorizing Political Relationships: Friendship and Solidarity"

Several Students also presented at the International Studies Association annual convention in February:

- ◆ Yu Aoki, "Do Democracies Make Their National Security Intentions Transparent to Other States?"
- ◆ Shawna M. Brandle, coauthored with Janet E. Reilly, "Seldom, Superficial, and Soon Gone: Television News Coverage of Refugees in the U.S., 1990-2015"
- ◆ Andre Guzzi, "When Refugees Go South: Assessing Brazilian Policies for Syrian Refugees"
- ◆ Erika Iverson, "Different Targets, Similar Results: A Comparative Study of Refugee Protection in Kenya and Immigration Controls in the US"
- ◆ Emma Jacobs, "Framing the Climate: National Security Discourses and Apocalyptic Imagery"
- ◆ Nicholas Micinski, "The Politics of Neighbors: Comparing Iraqi and Afghan Refugee Resettlements to the United States"
- ◆ Sobukwe Odinga, "Leveraging a Liaison: Compliance Bargaining and US-Ethiopian Intelligence Cooperation"

Advanced to Level 2	New Ph.D. Candidates	Passed Dissertation Defense	Graduating Ph.D. May 2017	Graduating M.A. May 2017
◆ Heather Mir	◆ Sarah Kostecki ◆ Grid Rroji ◆ Wilford Pinkney	◆ Rachel Brown ◆ Jinu Abraham ◆ Tatiana Carayannis ◆ Domenico Romero	◆ Martin Burke ◆ Helen Chang ◆ Julie Hollar ◆ Muhammad Kabir ◆ Kristofer Peterson-Overtton ◆ Joshua Sperber ◆ Mike Miller	◆ Haley Rubinson ◆ Eric Apar ◆ Kate Duguid ◆ Alexandros Orphanides ◆ Jonathan Voisich





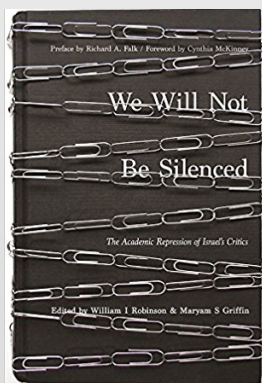
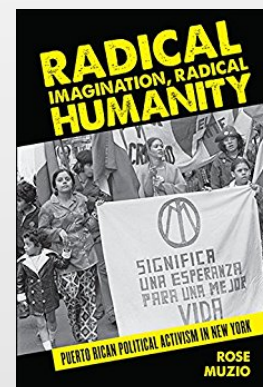
Jill Gross (1999) had an article published in the *Roosevelt House Faculty Journal* (2017), "Facing the Realities of Geo-Political Division in the Age of Trump: The Metropolitan Future and the Need for Collaborative Models of Governance." She also participated in a [podcast](#) with Susan Clarke and Allison Bramwell at *Urban Affairs Review* (2017), which also published her article, "The Hybrid Opportunity for Constructive Conflict - Accomplishing Agonism in Urban Governance." Additionally, she gave two presentations, "European Cities and International Migration in the 21st Century: Crisis, Framing and Super Diversity" at the Internationalising Cities workshop in Paris and "The Role of Networks in Metropolitan Development" at the University of Rome.

Anthony Maniscalco (2014) was quoted in an article in [Architect Magazine](#), "Public Space in the Trump Era" (2017).

John McMahon (2016) had an article published in *philoSOPHIA: A Journal of Continental Feminism* (2017): "Emotional Orientations: Simone de Beauvoir and Sara Ahmed on Subjectivity and the Emotional Phenomenology of Gender."

J. Patrice McSherry (1994) presented her paper "Constructing Silence, Terror, and Dread: Operation Condor and State Terror in Latin America" at the International Pierre du Bois conference in Geneva. In November, she visited Santiago, Chile and participated in a roundtable discussion held in the National Library on the Chilean New Song movement, her current research focus.

Rose Muzio (2008) had a book published on militant Puerto Rican activists in 1970s New York City, *Radical Imagination, Radical Humanity: Puerto Rican Political Activism in New York* ([SUNY Press](#), 2017).

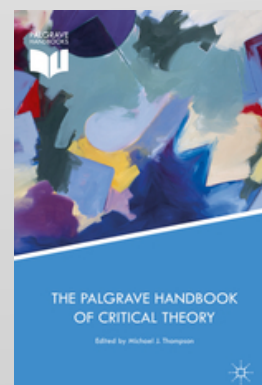
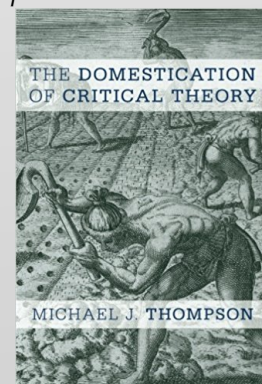


Sobukwe Odinga (2016) was awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship for Academic Diversity at the University of Pennsylvania. Additionally, his article "'We Recommend Compliance': Bargaining and Leverage in Ethiopian-US Intelligence Cooperation" was published in *The Review of African Political Economy* (2017).

Kristofer J. Petersen-Overton (2017) had a chapter, "A Problem Grows in Brooklyn," published in the anthology *We Will Not Be Silenced: The Academic Repression of Israel's Critics*, eds. William Robinson and Maryam Griffin ([AK Press](#), 2017).

Jason Schulman (2009) presented a paper, "Conceptualizing the Future: Marx's Value Theory and the Contours of a Socialist Economy," at a conference at Hofstra University in April.

Michael J. Thompson (2005) had two books published, *The Domestication of Critical Theory* ([Rowman and Littlefield](#), 2016) and *The Palgrave Handbook of Critical Theory*, ed. ([Palgrave Macmillan](#), 2017).



Mark Woodcock (1981) had his documentary, "Report from World 3: Snapshot in Time," released by [Vimeo On Demand](#) (2017). Funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, this never-before-released account from the '70s examines the unresolved issues and missed chances in Algeria's struggle for independence and development.

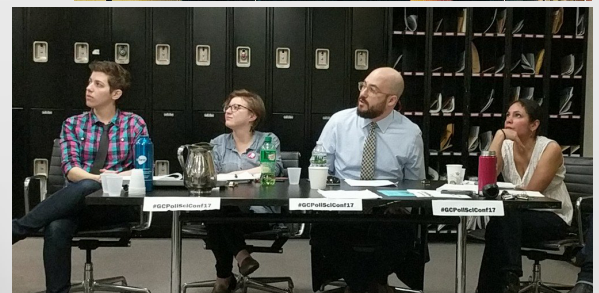




2017 Graduate Student Conference

The Political Science Department's annual Graduate Student Conference gives current M.A and Ph.D. students the opportunity to present their research and receive valuable insight from peers and professors on works-in-progress. Paper topics ranged from the statelessness of climate refugees to solutions to mass incarceration. Reprinted below is an abbreviated program.

- ◆ *Panel: "Democracy and Authoritarianism"*
Jessica Mahlbacher (center) presents research on the ambiguous political role of universities in Hong Kong.
Additional panelists (pictured):
Aaron Braun, "Picturing the Party"
Nick Pehlman, "Police Reform in the Ukraine"
Discussant: Julie George, Queens College
- ◆ *Panel: "Civil War and Displacement."*
Sarah Shah asks: Is humanitarian intervention meaningfully distinct from other forms of war?
Additional panelists (not pictured):
Sally Sharif, "The Syrian Civil War, from Theory to Reality"
Scott Ratner, "Civil War and the Global Arms Industry"
Aaron Linas, "We Refugees, Again"
Discussant: Zachary Shirkey, Hunter College
- ◆ *Panel: "Cities, Criminalization, and Austerity."*
Mike McCabe (center) stresses the importance of disaggregating race and class as variables in incarceration.
Additional panelists (pictured):
Isa Vásquez, "Austerity and Public Opinion"
Beth Newcomer, "Race, Class, Gender, and Drug Policy"
Rosa Squillacote, "Beyond the Path of De-incarceration"
Discussant: Celina Su, Brooklyn College
- ◆ *Panel: "Violence and the State in Latin America."*
Kyong Mazzaro examines press restrictions in hybrid regimes: what can we learn from the Venezuelan case?
Additional panelists (not pictured):
Philip Johnson, "It Remains Unclear How These Deaths Benefit the Zetas"
Osha Smith-Gittelman, "(Il)licit Orders, Paramilitarization, and the Dynamics of Violence"
Discussant: Mark Ungar, Brooklyn College
- ◆ *Panel: "Re-engaging the Canon in Political Theory."*
Discussing the politics of literature, **Xi Chen** gives us the Quote of the Day: "If you read Shakespeare, there's nothing moral there."
Additional panelists (pictured):
Saira Rafiee, "Is Neutrality of Science Possible? Weber Between Fact and Value"
Francisco Fortuño Bernier, "Machiavelli as Teacher: How to Read the Present Conjuncture"
Asher Wycoff, "Jewish Eschatology in a Time of Permanent Crisis"
Discussant: Robyn Marasco, Hunter College





2017 Awards Night

The Political Science Department's annual Awards Night brings the Program together to honor the achievements of outstanding faculty, students, and alumni. Awards include the Faculty Citizenship Award, Faculty Mentor Award, Student Citizenship Award, Best M.A. Thesis Award, and the Distinguished Alum Award, the recipient of which delivers a keynote address. **The 2017 Awards Night ceremony will take place from 6:00-8:00 PM on May 4 in the Skylight Room on the ninth floor.** Join us for a magical evening! Please RSVP by May 1:

<https://pscawards2017.eventbrite.com/>

Other Department Events, Colloquia, and Workshops

- ◆ February 8, Professional Development Workshop: Professor Daniel Skinner (Ohio University, GC alum 2009), "Medical Schools as a Career Option for Political Scientists"
- ◆ February 22, Comparative Politics Workshop: Sumru Atuk (PhD student, GC), "Femicide in Turkey and Mexico"
- ◆ February 23, Political Theory Workshop: Professor Emerita Silvia Federici (Hofstra), "Women, Work, and Politics," with discussant Mette Christiansen (M.A. student, GC)
- ◆ February 24, Department Student Conference
- ◆ March 1, Comparative Politics Workshop: Nick Micinski (Ph.D. student, GC), "Refugee Policy as Foreign Policy"
- ◆ March 8, Comparative Politics Workshop: Sarah Shah (Ph.D. student, GC), "A War by Any Other Name"
- ◆ March 9, Political Theory Workshop: Professor Carlo Accetti (City College), "Religious Inspiration and Christian Democracy," with discussant Aaron Braun (Ph.D. student, GC)
- ◆ March 22, Comparative Politics Workshop: Alexander Kolokotronis (PhD student, Yale), "The Exceptional Power of Labor"
- ◆ March 29, Comparative Politics Workshop: Philippe Burger (Visiting Research Scholar, Columbia), "The Forgotten: South Africa's Former Bantustans Today"
- ◆ March 30, Department Colloquium: "Can the Constitution Restrain Trump?" with Professor Scott Lemieux (College of St. Rose), with discussant Rosa Squillacote
- ◆ March 30, Department Reception for Visiting Students
- ◆ April 5, Comparative Politics Workshop: Kyong Mazzaro (Ph.D. student, GC), "Electoral competition and freedom of expression restrictions in hybrid regimes: The Venezuelan case"
- ◆ April 19, Department Colloquium: "Sacred Boundaries: the search for peace in Ireland and Israel-Palestine" Panelists: Professor Peter Beinart (GC, CNN), Niall Ó Dochartaigh (NUI Galway), and Daniel Sokatch (New Israel Fund).
- ◆ April 25, "An Evaluation of the Trump Administration's First 100 Days" hosted by the American Politics subfield
- ◆ April 26, Comparative Politics Workshop: Professor Forrest Colburn (Lehman College, GC), "Poor Countries With a Broken Compass"
- ◆ April 27, Department Colloquium: "Dismantling the Carceral State: Criminal Justice Reform in the Age of Trump" featuring Marie Gottschalk (University of Pennsylvania)
- ◆ April 28, Political Theory Workshop: Professor Antonio Vázquez-Arroyo (Rutgers), with discussant Tyler Olsen
- ◆ May 3, Comparative Politics Workshop: Professor Amaney Jamal (Princeton), "Does Strain Induce Support for Islamism?"
- ◆ May 5, "Piven & Politics"
- ◆ May 11, Department Colloquium/Political Theory Workshop: Distinguished Service Professor Linda Zerilli (University of Chicago), with discussant Alison Parks (Ph.D. student, GC)
- ◆ May 11, End-of-Year Party, Hosted by Team Pegasus





Team Pegasus (The Political Science Graduate Students' Association)

Team Pegasus would like to remind all students that department elections are ongoing from May 8th – May 19th. Service to the department is key to fostering community and maintaining the strong roster of colloquia and other events hosted by the department. All of these efforts are student-led and student-run, and your participation is essential to keeping them going.

Please vote in the department elections, or nominate yourself or someone else for an open position by emailing gcpoliscielections@gmail.com.

Also, our end of year party ice cream social will be held on May 11th, after the department colloquium. Beverages and many sugary treats will be provided!



The newsletter team thanks Team Pegasus for their support of the design of this newsletter.



Fall 2017 Course Schedule

- Monday 11:45-1:45:
◆ Chen, "Organizations, Markets, and the State" (PP)
- Monday 2-4pm:
◆ Beinart, "Writing Politics" (WP)
◆ Jacobs, "Marxism" (PT)
- Monday 4:15-6:15pm:
◆ Woodward, "Basic Theories and Concepts in Comparative Politics" (CP)
◆ Schram, "American Politics: Theories and Core Concepts" (AP)
◆ Buck-Morss, "Walter Benjamin" (PT)
- Monday 6:30-8:30pm:
◆ Romaniuk, "Global Terrorism" (IR)
◆ Wolin, "The Outcome of German Classical Philosophy" (PT)
- Tuesday 11:45-1:45pm:
◆ O'Brien, "American Political Thought" (AP)
- Tuesday 2-4pm:
◆ Shirkey, "Basic Concepts and Theories in International Relations" (IR)
◆ Krinsky, "Social Movements" (PP)
◆ Gould, "Socialism and Democracy" (PT)
- Tuesday 4:15-6:15:
◆ Liberman, "Securities Studies" (IR)
◆ Gornick, "Women, Work, and Public Policy" (PP)
- Tuesday 6:30-8:30pm:
◆ Weber, "Applied Quantitative Research: Correlation, Comparison, Causality," (CP/M)
◆ Baver, "M.A. Core Course" (G)
- Wednesday 4:15-6:15pm:
◆ Mollenkopf, "Politics and Government of New York City" (PP)
◆ Feldman, "Modern Political Thought" (PT)
- Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm:
◆ Erickson, "State and Society" (CP)
◆ DiGaetano, "Urban Public Policy" (PP)
- Thursday 2-4pm:
◆ O'Brien, "Dissertation Workshop" (G/PD)
- Thursday 6:30-8:30pm:
◆ Renshon, "The Modern Presidency: FDR to Trump" (AP)
◆ Ungar, "Democratization" (CP)

Upcoming Submission and Awards Deadlines

- ◆ March 1: Early Research Initiative Knickerbocker Award for Archival Research in American Studies (\$4,000) from CUNY Graduate Center.
- ◆ March 1: Early Research Initiative Award for Archival Research in African American and African Diaspora Studies (\$4,000) from CUNY Graduate Center.
- ◆ March 8: Tenth Global Studies Conference, September 8-9, 2017 in Singapore.
- ◆ March 15: 60th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, November 16-18, 2017 in Chicago, IL.
- ◆ March 23: Videography Fellowship (\$34,175 per year) from CUNY Graduate Center Digital Initiatives.
- ◆ March 26: Women, Peace and Security Policy & Research Fellowship from the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security.
- ◆ March 27: Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Applied Justice Research (AJR) from Vera Institute and CUNY Graduate Center.
- ◆ March 31: Pine Tree Student Fellowship in the Digital Humanities Awards 2017-2018 (\$4,000) from CUNY Graduate Center Advanced Research Collaborative (ARC).
- ◆ March 31: Summer Travel Research Fellowship 2017 (up to \$1,000) from CUNY Graduate Center's Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies (CLACLS).
- ◆ April 1: Congressional Research Grant (up to \$3,500) from the Dirksen Congressional Center.
- ◆ April 4: 46th Annual Conference of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action, November 16-18, 2017 in Grand Rapids, MI.
- ◆ May 10 (call opens): 25th World Congress of International Political Science Association, July 21-26, 2018 in Brisbane, Australia.
- ◆ June 15: 49th Annual Conference of the Northeastern Political Science Association, November 9-11, 2017 in Philadelphia, PA.
- ◆ June 26: Twelfth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, July 26-28, 2017 in Hiroshima, Japan.
- ◆ September 30: 11th Annual Conference on The Political Economy of International Organizations, February 8-10, 2018 in Madison, WI.



Warm and Fuzzy

To counterbalance all of the awfulness in the world right now, we're including some adorable baby animal/human photos from our department's extended family:



Teddy (dog) Franklin and Eleanor (rabbits) and Piglet (guinea pig) all vie for the same apple (photo cred: Sari Krieger).



Coffee shop companion (photo cred: Cody Campbell).



The newest recruits in the snuggle, Stella and Lilly (photo cred: Mike McCabe).



"Can't stop; won't stop" - Frida Simone Miller (photo cred: Mike Miller).



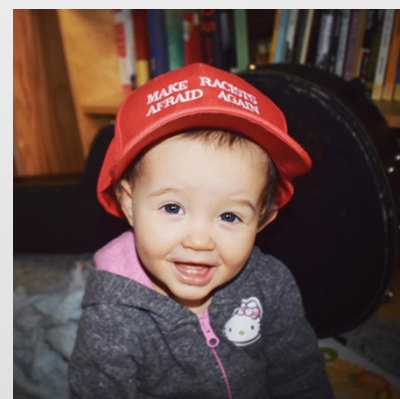
Jazz and Shera are comrades in the snuggle (photo cred: Rosa Squillacote).



Jay Jay and Jezebel wear red for the International Women's Strike (photo cred: Beth Newcomer).



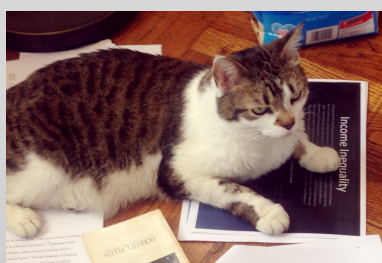
The next generation of political scientists in training! (photo cred: Merrill Sovner).



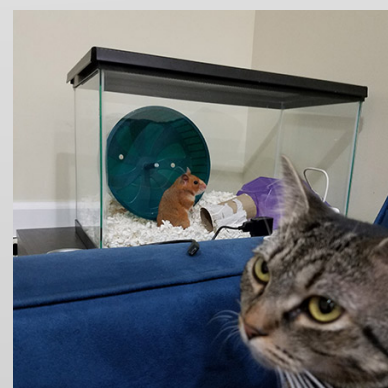
Otília P. Petersen-Campos, 11 months, anti-racist (photo cred: Kristofer Petersen-Overton).



Philip Johnson and Eliot took a selfie* just for the newsletter (photo cred: Philip Johnson). *yes, that's how they spell it



Denzel ponders purr-ivilege and inequality (photo cred: Isa Vásquez).



Her Royal Highness Katniss quietly resenting Nutmeg the hamster (photo cred: Emma Jacobs).



Satire

SCRAMBLE

TERNUE

HINT: YOU'LL NEVER GET IT.

AUDAGRTE					

HINT: A WORD YOU PUT BEFORE "STUDENT" to MAKE IT SADDER.

INEPONS

HINT: IT DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE

DSISAEST							

HINT: WHAT YOU DID LAST SEMESTER

LEGALLY DISTINCT WORD GAME

by Asher Wycoff



ANSWER HERE:



Support the political science department and get a T-Shirt! Tagless. 100% cotton. Stylish.

With your [donation](#) of \$20 by faculty and alum or \$10 by students, the political science department will send you a department T-Shirt as a thank you for supporting our students!

For online donations, forward your confirmation email to Earl Fleary (efleary@gc.cuny.edu) to arrange to receive your T-shirt. Donations are also accepted in the political science department by cash or check. www.gc.cuny.edu/Support-the-GC/ProgramDonations/Political-Science

Published an article? Received a grant or fellowship? Have an idea for an alum who should be featured in our next newsletter? Doing fieldwork and have pictures or stories to share? Contact the editor-in-chief Elizabeth Newcomer at homopoliticus.editors.gccuny@gmail.com.



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