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Ph.D. and M.A. Program in Political Science

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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.
Dear Colleagues, Students, and Alum,

As the 2018-2019 academic year began, we were excited to welcome a new cohort of M.A. and Ph.D. students, to learn about the productive summers of our current students, and to share the achievements of our faculty and alum in this edition of *Homo Politicus*. This semester has been filled with activity, including beginning the process of hiring a new central line member of our doctoral faculty in American Politics, in addition to our regular series of workshops.

Our programming this semester offered new perspectives on the promises and limits of democracy in the Trumpian era. We started the semester co-sponsoring "The Many Faces of Liberalism" conference on October 2. Conference panelists Nadia Urbinati and Helena Rosenblatt also joined us in a smaller audience for our Political Theory Workshop. Additionally, in coordination with Baruch College, we held a post-election colloquium to analyze the results of the 2018 midterm elections, reflecting on both the resistance to and resilience of the Trump agenda. The discussion brought together several of our faculty members, including Peter Liberman (IR), Keena Lipsitz (AP), Frances Fox Piven (AP), Michael Fortner (PP), David Jones (AP) and Charles Tien (AP). Finally, we were pleased to co-sponsor with the Ralph Bunche Institute and the EU Studies Center a timely discussion on the rise of the Radical Right in Europe, with Professor Michael Minkenberg, a comparativist from the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany.

In the world beyond Trump, we co-hosted a delegation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam’s Commission for External Relations, with George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs, on September 24. Professor Mona El-Kouedi, a Visiting Scholar on Egyptian Affairs at Columbia University, gave a presentation on "The UN Office of Counter-terrorism and the Emerging Terrorism Threats: Perspectives from the Global South." Professor Ming Xia gave a presentation entitled "China’s Imminent Financial Crisis, the OBOR (One Belt, One Road) Initiative and Their Implications for the Global South." The event was part of a daylong series that included an afternoon talk by Professor Thomas Weiss at the Ralph Bunche Institute.

As part of our reinvigorated efforts to engage our alum and create opportunities for networking, we held our first alum reception at the 2018 APSA meeting in Boston. It brought together current students and faculty with alum who now teach all over the country, talking late into the night over drinks and snacks about their GC experiences and how to deepen the connections among current students and alum. At the reception we also announced the creation of the “Pay It Forward: Alum Student Support Fund,” designed specifically to support student travel and research. You can give to the fund online at [https://tinyurl.com/GCPoliSciDonate](https://tinyurl.com/GCPoliSciDonate) or via check, by including “Pay It Forward” in the comments section or memo line. Thanks to alum committee members Elizabeth Stone, Nicholas Micinski and Patricia Stapleton (Ph.D. 2012) for organizing. We encourage all alum to stay in touch through our email listserv and our [LinkedIn Alum-Student network](https://www.linkedin.com/home?trk=nav_account-home).

Finally, as EO, I continue to advocate for more support for our students and opportunities for our department within the GC. The Executive Committee of Executive Officers, on which I serve, has advocated for greater support within departments for our growing M.A. program, additional financial support for our Ph.D. students, and other infrastructure changes that make a difference in our students’ lives.

As always, I want to thank our *Homo Politicus* Editor-In-Chief Elizabeth Stone, and the newsletter staff: Mette Christiansen, Andrés Besserer Rayas, Saira Rafiee, Rebecca Krisel, Merrill Sovner, Matthew Mautarelli, and designer Drake Logan, for their hard work on another great issue.

Warm regards,
THE GLOBAL RISE OF PERSONALISED RULE

“Despite what Ph.D. students may often believe, being a graduate student in political science is not only about spending our most valuable decade in the library reading and writing. It is also about losing the privilege of being oblivious to the most pressing questions of our times and the right to ignorance. This is a privilege that I proudly and willingly lost, thanks to the education that I received here. …I also learned a lot from my peers. I had the most outstanding cohort here at the GC that one can ever wish for. We developed an amazing solidarity with each other. We still read each other’s manuscripts, pass on grant and project announcements, and get involved in each other’s work.

“My dissertation, which I defended in 2007, was a comparative study of Russia and Turkey. Since then, both countries have developed increasingly similar regime types in which the tools of the bureaucracy and the power of the state are used to implement the will of the leader. I wish this development was only an academically appealing topic to me, but it never was just that: like so many others, it has shaped my life tremendously. As Arundhati Roy complained in a recent interview, most of the time we academics turn major crises into academic issues or subjects for our Ph.Ds. But this is also the substance of our lives, part and parcel of what we experience and breathe. And I believe we always need to keep this in mind.

“In the announcement for tonight, I was cited as a faculty member of Yıldız Technical University of Istanbul, Turkey. I used to be. I had to resign my post in the summer of 2017 after the university administration decided that I could not use my Fulbright scholarship and travel abroad because I had signed a petition supporting the burial rights of one of my students, who was designated a “terrorist” by the state. …What happened to me registers as peanuts compared to what others have gone through in Turkey. In 2016, almost 2,000 academics signed a petition criticizing the Turkish state’s use of violence against its own citizens. …Nearly 500 academics were stripped of their positions mostly by emergency decrees only because they signed this petition. Many others have left the country due to fear of reprisals. …In the department where I was working, 18 of my colleagues who signed this petition lost their jobs, again with an emergency decree. …These emergency decrees are still operational. If your name is on the list, it not only means losing your current job but also total exclusion from Turkey’s academic labor market and in fact the labor market as a whole. It also means losing your passport that is immediately revoked because you are on the list.
AWARDS NIGHT 2018

“...Using emergency powers and vaguely worded anti-terrorism laws, the authorities have also suspended or dismissed more than 110,000 people from public-sector positions and arrested more than 60,000 others. ...This steep democratic decline did not just happen in the realm of civil rights, only affecting organizations of civil society. Last year, a constitutional referendum centralized power in the presidency while elected mayors were being replaced with government appointees. ...We are all political scientists. So, we all know the codebook of authoritarianism and the signs of democratic regression that are now being employed in full force in Turkey. In fact, centralization of power in the executive, politicization of the judiciary, attacks on independent media, the use of public office for private gain is happening in many parts of the world from Russia to India and even in the United States. What still puzzles me as a political scientist, however, is the speed and depth of Turkey’s transformation. This was a country with a vibrant civil society, dense international ties, a long experience with democracy and multi-party politics, a flourishing middle class and an economy that depends on international trade with no natural resources to sustain authoritarianism. ...So, this is my puzzle! What happened in just less than 8 years that such a thriving country has taken a shortcut to authoritarianism and has become the world’s fastest deteriorating democracy? ...Growing up in an intensely unstable and repressive country [Turkey], I became a political scientist to understand why. I thought if I could understand why all this was happening, I might feel more secure. However, after almost 25 years of immersion in political science, even though I partly understand why, I do not feel more secure. I only feel secure in rooms like this when we can talk and discuss freely without fear of reprisal; where we don’t have to choose sides by aligning ourselves one way or the other in great national conflicts; where we can avoid losing our critical edge and social and moral responsibilities. After 25 years of reading political science, I now know at least that I feel secure in the process of understanding. Although we are all potential scholars at risk, no power-holder can take this form of security from us.”

Professors Charles Tien and Peter Liberman received Faculty Citizenship Awards.

Professor Mark Ungar’s work supporting students was recognized with the Faculty Mentor Award.

Sumru Atuk (level III) received the Student Citizenship Award.

Tyler Olsen (M.A. 2017) received the Best M.A. Thesis Award for “Rescinding Rancière.”

Nicholas Micinski (level III) received the department Teaching Award and the Joseph Murphy Award for his paper “The Politics of Neighbors: Comparing Iraqi and Afghan Refugee Resettlements to the United States.”

Adam McMahon (Ph.D. 2018) and Elizabeth Stone (level II) received the Ivo Duchacek Award for their publications “Unchained Succubus: A Queer New Institutional Analysis of U.S. Supreme Court Nomination Hearings” and “Is There ‘Hope for Every Addicted American?’ The New U.S. War on Drugs,” respectively.

Sumru Atuk (level III) Student Citizenship Award
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.

The Project on Peacebuilding, a partnership between the EU Studies Center and Most Mira, brought together 20 students from nine countries to study post-conflict politics in rural Bosnia (photo credit: Nick Micinski).

Sally Sharif travelled to Iran’s western province of Lorestan to explore levels of support for the incumbent administration among the Lurs, the country’s most parochial ethnic group (photo credit: unknown).

Osba Smith-Gittelman conducted preliminary dissertation fieldwork on extralegal violence in Mexico (photo credit: Anayeli Contreras).

Aaron Braun at the PSC rally on Wall Street (photo credit: Saira Rafiee).

Sumru Atuk and Saira Rafiee attended the Transatlantic Summer Workshop on “Globalization, Nationalism, and Populism in the Transatlantic World” in Bochum, held jointly by the GC and RUB (photo credit: unknown).
Anh Tran preparing a petition scroll to present at the GC president’s community meeting, demanding he negotiate with grad student workers to restructure our funding packages towards full funding & equity (photo credit: Nina Connelly).

Professor Kin-man Chan, one of the leaders of Occupy Hong Kong with Love and Peace (which led to the Umbrella Movement), is writing traditional calligraphy to sell as gifts in order to raise money to pay for his and 13 other activists and politicians’ legal fees at the Chinese New Year Lunar Festival in Victoria Park. He is facing up to seven years in prison for charges related to instigating the Umbrella Movement (photo credit: Jessica Mahlbacher).

I believe women because... do we really need a reason for that? (photo credit: Beth Stone).

Jessica Mahlbacher at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where she is doing her Cantonese studies for the Boren Fellowship (photo credit: Amin Huynh).
Dr. Susan L. Woodward is professor of political science at the Graduate Center, where she teaches courses in comparative politics and international relations. She has taught at Yale, Williams College, Mount Holyoke, and Northwestern. She is the author of three books, including her latest, *The Ideology of Failed States*, and more than 100 articles in journals and edited books. Her employment outside academia includes the UN and OSCE, the Brookings Institution, and the Centre for Defense Studies, King’s College, London.

Andrés Besserer Rayas: You’ve had such a distinguished career, combining academic research with policymaking. How did your academic training bring different elements to policymaking?

Dr. Susan L. Woodward: I would reverse your question to say that I got involved in policy by a fluke, I was invited as a visiting senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. After I left Yale, I was at Stanford’s Hoover Institution on a fellowship, but that was 1989-90. The director of Foreign Policy Studies at Brookings realized that events in Eastern Europe were momentous, so they got money from the Ford Foundation to produce a book about the upcoming transition there. I arrived, however, when Yugoslavia was starting to fall apart; suddenly, there were all these journalists wanting to understand events, people I could educate, as a Yugoslavia expert. So, it was more pedagogical than scholarly in my interaction.

ABR: In *Socialist Unemployment* you argue that economic factors were crucial to the dissolution of Yugoslavia; many blamed ethnic divisions. Could you talk about this?

SW: Washington was just brutal on that. People would accuse me of making an economic argument, as if that was ideological. Part of the reason for *Socialist Unemployment* was that I am interested in unemployment. I still am. There is a rich history about unemployment, including Marx and Polanyi, but as a political scientist, I saw it as a political paradox that a socialist country (Yugoslavia) would have high unemployment and not face a legitimacy crisis. Same thing with *Balkan Tragedy*; the idea in Washington that there were political aspects to Yugoslavia’s economic crisis made people furious. The causes must be “ancient ethnic hatreds”!

ABR: Could you speak a little about your teaching?

SW: I have to say I love that *Basic Theories and Concepts* course [taught at the GC] because it is unending fascination. Every year I re-read everything almost entirely. And I think it is the students here that make the teaching just wonderful. You guys are fabulous! You are willing to take on the hard work and to engage with the literature and to talk to each other. How much more fun can one have as a professor?

ABR: What are you working on now?

SW: While researching my last book, with grants from the Ford Foundation and Carnegie Corporation of New York, I also held many workshops on its focus and commissioned many papers from scholars and peace activists in the Global South. I am editing one set from people who have attempted peacebuilding in their own countries. What can people from the inside, as we called it originally, tell us rather than always focusing on the internationals? I have papers from Mozambique, East Timor, Sri Lanka, Macedonia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Nicaragua. Second, I’ve been wanting to put together a book of my essays, many never published and others, published, that could benefit from new commentary. Long delayed, it is a serious project this fall. Third, I have piles of documents and notes from my work with UNPROFOR that I want to resurrect. I was in the Balkans at a very important time and I cannot tell you what a learning experience it was to work for a UN mission. The literature on the Balkans in the 1990s is now huge; I’ll see what I can still contribute.
Professor George Andreopoulos recently co-edited *On the Rule of Law in an Era of Change* (Springer 2018). In addition, he guest-edited a special issue of *Human Rights Review* titled *Human Rights and the Media: Issues and Challenges* with alum Shawna Brandle (Ph.D. 2013). Last April, he received a special award from the University of Macedonia, Greece, for his contribution to the study of human rights.

Professor Jacqueline Braveboy-Wagner chaired a roundtable on “Diplomatic Strategies of Global South States” at the joint FLACSO (Latin American School of Social Sciences) - International Studies Association conference held in Quito, Ecuador, July 25-27 (photo credit: Professor Braveboy-Wagner).


Professor Forrest Colburn gave invited lectures for the private sector organizations COPARMEX in Puebla, Mexico and for COHEP in Tegucigalpa, Honduras over the summer. He also taught in the annual seminar for the Latin American Institute of Organizational Management (ILGO) in Alajuela, Costa Rica.


Professor Stephanie Golob participated in the interdisciplinary workshop “Circulating Across Europe? Transgressive Narratives about the Past,” at Harvard University, where she presented her paper, “The Exception that Proves the Rule? Spain’s Legal Response to History, Memory, and Historical Memory."


Professor Carol Gould published the lead article on “Democracy and Global Governance” in *The Oxford Handbook of International Political Theory* (Oxford 2018).

Professor Thomas Halper served as a commentator on American politics for both the China and Japan *Reuters."

Professor Jack Jacobs is serving this semester as a Visiting Fellow of the British Academy, and as an Honorary Research Fellow of the Pears Institute, Birkbeck, University of London.

Professor Peter Liberman is investigating the effects of a novel teaching method on undergraduates’ critical thinking skills, level of interest in politics, and long-term academic performance, with the support of an Enhanced PSC-CUNY Award. Professor Charles Tien is also supporting this pedagogical project as a co-investigator.

Professor John Mollenkopf received the Norton Long Career Achievement Award at APSA 2018 from the APSA section on Urban and Local Politics. As a recipient, he joins the late Professor Marilyn Gittell, who received it in 2001.

Professor Peter Romaniuk co-authored “What Drives Violent Extremism in East Africa and How Should Development Actors Respond?” in African Security. This followed the publication of “The Politics of Preventing Violent Extremism: East Africa Case of Uganda” in Conflict, Security and Development earlier this year. These articles were produced as part of a project funded by the UK government’s Department for International Development. Recently, Romaniuk’s chapter on “Crime and Criminal Justice,” appeared in the second edition of the Oxford Handbook on the United Nations (Oxford 2018). This summer, Romaniuk assumed the role of Director of John Jay’s Center on Terrorism.

Professor Jillian Schwedler recently published “Jordan’s Austerity Protests in Context” in the Atlantic Council. She was also the Keynote Lecture for the conference, “The Socioeconomic Dimension of Political Change: Post-Revolutionary Egypt and Tunisia, and Latin American Experiences,” at the Peace Research Institute of Frankfurt where she discussed “Conceptualizing Protests in the Middle East Before and Since the Arab Uprisings.”


Professor Charles Tien recently published “Candidates and Campaigns: How They Alter Election Forecasts” in Electoral Studies. He was also featured in Marketplace, Reuters, and Sabato’s Crystal Ball.

Professor Mark Ungar’s work on environmental enforcement, focusing on countries’ ability to halt deforestation, has led to several grants and invited talks. In January and April, he worked with officials and gave talks in Colombia as part of their effort to incorporate prosecution of mass deforestation into the country’s Peace Accords. In June and July, as part of a joint grant with the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, he conducted fieldwork in the forest reserves of Borneo, another epicenter of global deforestation.

Professor John Wallach’s book Democracy and Goodness: A Historicism Political Theory (Cambridge 2018) was honored at an author-meets-critic panel at APSA.
In Memoriam
Young Kun Kim

Professor Young Kun Kim passed away peacefully in the presence of his friends and family on May 17, 2018. As a beloved member of our community, many colleagues and alum shared heartfelt tributes. Below is one from his close friend and colleague, Professor Stanley Renshon.

It is very difficult to say a final goodbye to a decades-long friend, especially one whose essence suggested that his better angels had taken up permanent residence in his gentle soul.

Young Kun Kim became my colleague in 1972. He became my friend over decades of faculty meetings, shared rides to and from CUNY and our Upper West Side homes, hot chocolate at Zabars, and mutually commiserating with amusing but often serious discussions of our political science programs and our professions, sharing sake and closeness while leavening life’s difficulties with friendship.

I got to know Young Kun by small degrees—his modesty, the nuance of his judgments and his acknowledgement of human frailty, including his own.

He was no stranger to adversity. Born in Korea and losing his father at an early age, he was sent by his mother at age four to study Chinese classics, mainly Confucian classics, under a Buddhist monk in a Buddhist temple in Dopyong-ri, a village not far from his native village. He commuted there from home for four and a half years. As a young man, he personally felt the brutal lash of foreign occupation, yet completed college at one of Korea’s most prestigious centers for learning—Seoul National University.

He then immigrated to the United States, leaving the comfort of familiarity behind on his way to building a new life—one of scholarship, family devotion, and community service. He received his Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University and was a devoted husband to Hei-Gyoon and a devoted father to two sons—Minsoo Kim and Jinsoo Kim.

Young Kun was a scholar’s political theorist, full of understanding and perspective. Whether the subject was Freud or Theodor Adorno and the Frankfurt School, he could be counted on for knowledge and thoughtfulness.

He translated the works of scholars in Korean, English, Japanese, and German. He specialized in the history of Western political thought with an emphasis on German political ideas since the eighteenth century. And he also had wide-ranging and abiding interests in classical Chinese philosophy, and modern Chinese, Japanese, and Korean social and political thought—an unusually wide-ranging oeuvre.

Young Kun Kim spent the last years of his scholarly life working on a significant and paradoxical project, for a Buddhist, the importance of life’s “small pleasures.” As a psychoanalyst, I know that there is little “small” about them.

Young Kun Kim’s Buddhist identity, developed as a very young child, teaches that ego and worldly treasures are ephemeral. Yet here is the adult scholar, a lifelong student of Buddhist theory, arguing for the importance of life’s “small pleasures.” How freethinking. How cosmopolitan. How so very much like Young Kun Kim.

The world is a much poorer place without Young Kun Kim living in it. Yet those of us who have had the good fortune to be his friends and colleagues are immeasurably richer for it. His life reflects a deep sense of integrity, responsibility, and gentleness and serves as a reminder of what we can all be more capable of, if we try.

I will miss you my friend.

Stanley Renshon, Professor
Rodrigo Saad
M.A. Student, International Relations
Post-GC Goals: Primary goal is to conduct field research in Latin America and Africa on issues related to good governance, political participation, and human rights.
Why the GC?: Having taken courses as a non-matriculated student in Fall 2017, I quickly discovered that the GC is an excellent academic institution with highly esteemed faculty and knowledgeable students from diverse professional backgrounds.

Ankita Aggarwal
Ph.D. Student, Public Policy
Post-GC Goals: I want to go back to India to pursue an academic career. Simultaneously, I want to continue my work on India’s welfare programs.
Why the GC?: The GC is the only place that offers public policy as a subfield.

Zachary Laub
M.A. Student, Comparative Politics
Post-GC Goals: International affairs journalism.
Why the GC?: Faculty of extraordinary breadth, and a commitment to public scholarship.

Lee Torres
Ph.D. Student, International Relations
Post-GC Goals: To serve as a US foreign policy analyst either at the State or Defense Departments.
Why the GC?: The Ph.D. program in Political Science offers the most academic flexibility relative to others in the area.

Tatiana Kai-Browne
M.A. Student, Political Theory

Ayse Obali
Ph.D. Student, Comparative Politics

Sam Goodson
M.A. Student, Comparative Politics
Post-GC Goals: Continue education in political science and eventually teach.
Why the GC?: Diversity of faculty interests and variety of different talks, seminars, and other educational opportunities.

Abegail Dobson
M.A. Student, Political Theory

Erik Garcia
M.A. Student, Public Policy
Matthew John Mautarelli
Ph.D. Student, Political Theory
Post-GC Goals: Was hoping to figure that out while here, an aim about which I’m tentatively optimistic given the very thin line between academic and professional life at the GC versus at other schools. Why the GC?: Impressive faculty, politically engaged student body, disciplinary flexibility.

Giovanna Kuele
Ph.D. Student, International Relations
Post-GC Goals: Researching and teaching. Why the GC?: Excellent faculty, location in the heart of NYC, and the possibility of combining academic and policy-oriented research.

Jane Lee
M.A. Student, Comparative Politics
Post-GC Goals: To learn about the CP subfield in greater detail, and then to specialize in US-East Asia relations. Why the GC?: Great faculty and programs, lots of good influences.

Eleonora Kirkizh
Ph.D. Student

Michael Stinavage
M.A. Student, Public Policy
Post-GC Goals: Put my education to public use, publish a book of short stories, talk to people about environmentalism and compost, perpetuate sustainable food systems. Why the GC?: Because it’s a public school with a tuition that’s somewhat feasible for a working person. None of that private school junk.

Brent Landon
M.A. Student, International Relations

Christopher Putney
M.A. Student, American Politics
Post-GC Goals: Going on to do the Ph.D., and then to work in American politics in an advisory capacity to those serving in government. Why the GC?: First because of its strong faculty, second, per the mission, ethos, and location of the CUNY system, and lastly because of the structure of, and numerous learning opportunities contained within, the political science program.

Sarah Lenfest
Ph.D. Student, Political Theory

Parker Quinlan
M.A. Student, American Politics
Eric Apar
Ph.D. Student, American Politics
Post-GC Goals: I’ve been a practicing attorney since 2014, but have always felt the pull of academia. My aim is to merge my legal background with academic ambitions. Why the GC?: I earned a master’s degree from the Graduate Center in 2017, and have always been extremely fond of the students and faculty here. Few institutions are as devoted to the fusion of theory and practice, and few places offer such a wide diversity of faculty and students.

Marlon Guzman Valdera
M.A. Student, Political Theory
Post-GC Goals: My main goal is becoming a professor. However, context and a myriad of factors will determine what I do. In the meantime, I’m really enjoying being a part of the GC community. Why the GC?: The huge number of things that are always happening here. An incredible sense of community, great scholars, many resources available; in short, everything a student needs to succeed can be found here.

Toby Irving
Ph.D. Student, Public Policy
Post-GC Goals: I hope to be working to improve NYC anti-poverty policy development and implementation, from any number of standpoints—government, non-profit, or media. Why the GC?: Native new yorker, committed to public service—it was almost a given.

Samuel Hellman
M.A. Student, Political Theory
Post-GC Goals: I want to do some research in China and then apply to History Ph.D. programs. Why the GC?: Because of the interdisciplinary focus of a lot of the faculty and because of the intellectual history and critical theory experts within the department.

Ryan Brunette
Ph.D. Student, Comparative Politics
Post-GC Goals: Academic, policy-relevant, and policy work. That list leans towards the former, but somewhere thereabouts will do. Why the GC?: Big questions, practical intentions, and a critical departure.

Nicole Baltzer
M.A. Student, American Politics
Post-GC Goals: Hoping to get into a Ph.D. and eventually teach. Why the GC?: My research is heavily rooted in gender and feminist theory, and after meeting some faculty members and other students, it felt like one of the only programs where I would be able and encouraged to pursue more interdisciplinary interests.

Aaron Stanley
Ph.D. Student, Comparative Politics

Rebecca Krisel
Ph.D. Student, Public Policy
Post-GC Goals: City government work, policy research, and writing. Why the GC?: Based on interests in studying NY policy, specifically mental health service delivery at the city level.
STUDENT NEWS

Sumru Atuk (level III) received an International Fellowship from the American Association of University Women, a Graduate Center Dissertation Year Fellowship, and a travel grant from the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa for Politics of Femicide: “Woman” Making and Women Killing in Turkey.

Andrés Besserer Rayas’s (level I) Fulbright scholarship was renewed for the 2018-19 academic year.

Harry Blain (level I) published four op-eds for Foreign Policy in Focus, including an analysis of economic warfare against the Gaza Strip, the decline of Congressional input on American foreign policy, and the eerie parallels between the United States in World War I and today. He also wrote an essay on declining trust in media, scientific and academic knowledge for Open Democracy’s Transformation series.

Elena Cohen (level III) is starting her tenure as President of the National Lawyers Guild in November, following her two terms as the President of the New York City Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

Sarah Kostecki (level III) received a short-term research position at UN Women where she will be supporting research for their “Progress of the World’s Women” report. Sarah also joined the Scholars Strategy Network where she published a policy brief about best practices in paid family leave. Finally, Sarah received a data fellowship from the Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies where she will be producing a sole authored report for the Center this fall.

Drake Logan (level III) is the M.A. Writing Fellow for AY 2018-19. He received the Dean K Harrison award from The Office of Educational Opportunity & Diversity (EOD) and the Gittell Urban Studies Collective’s Summer Dissertation Research Fellowship.

Pierre Losson (level III) received a Graduate Center Dissertation Year Fellowship for Claiming the Remains of the Past: The Return of Cultural Heritage Objects and the Articulation of the Nation in Latin America, 1911-2011, in addition to a summer 2018 Research Travel Fellowship from the Center of Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies. In August, he also presented “The Patience of Montezuma: Building Coalitions to Claim the Return of Cultural Heritage Objects in Mexico, Peru, and Colombia” at the 10th International Conference on Cultural Policy Research in Tallinn, Estonia.

Jessica Mahlbacher (level III) received a Boren Fellowship to conduct her dissertation research and study Cantonese in Hong Kong, China.

Chris Michael (level III) received a Louis O. Kelso Fellowship for AY 2018-2019 from the Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations.

David Monda (level I) received an APSA Minority Fellowship for summer research on the construction of national identity in developing contexts focusing on the Garifuna, an Afro-Belizean diaspora community in Belize. He presented “How Somali Piracy Exacerbates the Challenges of Refugee Policy in the Horn of Africa” at Baruch College’s Immigrant & Refugee Rights Conference. He was awarded the William Randolph Hearst Graduate Assistantship at the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society researching diaspora transnational migrant communities with an emphasis on Belize.

Saira Rafiee (level I) published "Iran’s Quiet Counterrevolution" in Jacobin.

Heidi Andrea Rhodes (level III) presented "Governing the Political: Law and the Politics of Resistance" at a workshop at the Oñati Institute for the Sociology of Law, in the Spanish Basque Country. She also presented the paper at the 2018 Hic Rosa Studio in Materialist and Decolonial Politics and Aesthetics, which took place in Brno, Czech Republic. She was also awarded the Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize, a national first book poetry prize for Latinx poets, awarded by Letras Latinas, the literary initiative of the Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

Amy Schiller (level III) received a Mario Capelloni Dissertation Fellowship for Caring Without Sharing: Philanthropy’s Anti-Political Present. She also accepted a position as faculty and Director of Development at the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research.

Sally Sharif (level II) received the Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM) scholarship to attend two four-week sessions of the 2018 ICPSR Summer Program at the University of Michigan. She was EITM certified for courses on Generalized Linear Models, Time-Series-Cross-Section Methods, and Survival Analysis.


Wilford Pinkney (level III) is a FUSE Corps fellow and working for a year in St. Louis with the Mayor’s office and other stakeholders on designing a comprehensive pretrial bail reform initiative.

Merrill Sovner (level III) presented "Creating Constituencies for Advocacy NGOs in Central and Eastern Europe" at the APSA’s Comparative Democratization" poster session.

Rosa Squillacote (level II) and Professor Lennie Feldman have a chapter titled "Police Abuse and Democratic Accountability: Agonistic Surveillance of the Administrative State" in Police Abuse in Contemporary Democracies (Palgrave-Macmillan 2018).

Elizabeth Stone (level II) was the Graduate Student Host of the Methods Café at the 2018 APSA meeting in Boston, MA. The Methods Café offers graduate students an opportunity to discuss all things qualitative methods-related with experts in the field.

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Advanced to Level II
Michael McCabe
Rosa Squillacote
Anais Wong
Scott Ratner
Ursula Levelt
Lina Maria Fajardo Vallejo
Andrew Wilkes
Sally Sharif

Advanced to Level III
Nicholas Petalidis
Jessica Mahlbacher
Drake Logan
Heather Mir
David Firester
Francisco Fortuño-Bernier
Fernando Aquino

Graduating Ph.D. Sept. ’18
B Lee Aultman
Elizabeth Eisenberg
Elí Karetñ
Christopher Michael
Nicholas Pehlman
Milton Ottensoer

Graduating M.A. Sept. ’18
Sabera Azizi
Aaron Linas
Angela Moore
Jacqueline Ross
LETTER FROM THE MA WRITING FELLOW

Drake Logan (level III) is the M.A. Program Writing Fellow for the 2018-19 academic year. Drake is available to assist students in any aspect of their writing process during his weekly virtual office hours on Wednesdays from 5-7pm, and by appointment.

Dear MA Students,

Aloha from Hawai‘i Island, where I spend a good portion of my time on lava fields next to a military live-fire training area, doing environmental monitoring with the surrounding community. But I’m reaching out to you here in my other capacity—this year’s MA Program Writing Fellow—to invite all of you to get in touch about any aspect of your writing process.

Learning to write well as a graduate student is like trying to walk through molasses: a slow and difficult process. If you’re coming into the program with English as a second language (or third, fourth, or fifth!) I salute you, because it was hard enough for me with English as a first language. Please do get in touch with me via email or during my Skype office hours (contact info below), to explore how I can assist you in your writing process this semester. We can go over your drafts, decipher assignment requirements, think about stylistics, or talk about how to engage in a more effective writing process from outlining to a finished piece.

Think of me as a “critical friend” who you can consult about any aspect your writing process or product. By “friend” I mean that I believe in offering collegial, positive feedback—which can be sorely lacking in scholarly circles. I’ve had my MA thesis draft called “BS” by a professor (not at CUNY), and have had a journal article accepted for publication by peer-reviewers who hardly complimented the work. By “critical friend,” I mean that I will both reflect what’s already strong about your work, and offer constructive feedback. I believe in critique, and I also believe critique is more potent when it does not try to cut folks.

It can be daunting to share your writing with others—it is for me too, because I greatly value writing well. To mitigate the risk, I’d like to offer that you can send me a short writing sample, not of your latest and greatest work, but of anything you’ve written recently. Send a note with it about what you like already and what you’re keen to improve. Or feel free to get in touch about your latest and greatest, too.

I think that part of what qualifies me for this role is that I do many kinds of writing, and I believe good writing exists across many styles and genres. In the last handful of years, I’ve written everything from advocacy research reports, to blog posts, a community-based science proposal, a hundred response papers, a thousand grant applications, and a dissertation proposal. Graduate school is, in part, a struggle to learn to be a different kind of writer across sub-fields and genres. I’m not going to try and help you write like I want to write, but like you want to write. It wouldn’t be helpful to try and make Jasbir Puar write like Paul Krugman.

Instead, it would be my pleasure to help you gain your own scholarly voice and style. Please do reach out via e-mail to make an appointment if my Skype office hours don’t work for you.

Aloha,

Drake Logan
Skype: drakepurple / Email: dlogan@gradcenter.cuny.edu
ALUM SPOTLIGHT

Lindsay Green-Barber is the founder, CEO, and principal consultant of The Impact Architects (www.theimpactarchitects.com), a media impact and strategy consultancy whose clients include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Open Society Foundations Program on Independent Journalism. Prior to starting her business, Dr. Green-Barber worked at the Center for Investigative Reporting and taught at Hunter College. She completed her Ph.D. at the GC in 2012.

Matt Mautarelli: What led you to start your own consultancy?

Lindsay Green-Barber: One of the things that’s interesting about companies and philanthropic foundations is that they think a lot about social change in terms of evaluation, and I don’t think about my work as being evaluation. I think of it as strategic research, and I’m actually most interested in the strategy side of it, which is also what separates it from academic research. I felt like a traditional evaluation consulting firm wasn’t going to be a good fit for me and the kind of work I want to do. And when I looked into going into another organization, I found a lot of interesting places, but I wanted to be more expansive in my interests than what I could do within one organization. So this felt like a way I could dip my toes into a bunch of different subjects and see what I like, and it panned out. I get to do all kinds of different work, work with different clients, and intellectually it’s really exciting and stimulating to be able to follow my interests professionally.

If there’s one thing that would be worth sharing with students it’s that this wasn’t my plan. This is not a career path that people set out for. A lot of it just kind of happens. I was talking to Dr. Susan Woodward and I said I felt really lucky and she said “don’t say that you’re lucky, say that you worked hard.” And I did work hard, but in the end, like with anything, it was probably a little bit of both.

MM: As an academic whose work is rooted in social justice movements, how did you approach working in the professional world of media and communications technology?

LGB: So when I came into media organizations I was like, “what you care about is social change, or accountability, or people having access to more information. Whatever sort of way you talk about change, if that’s what you care about, then let’s figure out how to strategize and do research about those things.” Starting from there, I introduced a lot of alternative research methods, to “measure” the impact of what people were doing. And that was really exciting, since no one knows what to do with qualitative data, and there is this, as you said, a huge emphasis in media and tech on innovation and quantitative data without any real understanding or interrogation of what the data are telling us or what our actual questions are. Introducing ways to think about generating qualitative data, to understand what it tells us, and to use other tools like structured interviews and whatever, was new to that space, and it really resonated. That was the way I was able to be in that space with my background, and I found that people were really excited to have an alternative perspective presented to them.

MM: How has your work-life balance differed in your academic and private sector jobs?

LGB: My work-life balance right after the GC, when I went to work immediately in a private organization, was to be honest a little challenging. But now my work-life balance is pretty amazing. I can make my own schedule. A friend of mine recently asked if I work more, less, or the same now that I’m on my own, and the answer is definitely more. More than when I worked in an office for sure. But I can structure my time so that I’m being hyper-productive in the hours when I am working, getting things done, and then when I’m not I can go do other things. I have hobbies now! Which I didn’t have time for in grad school. I cook and I have a cooking blog (whimsycooks.com). I cooked in grad school, but I was broke. And I can read fiction now without feeling like I should be reading something else.
Elizabeth Eisenberg (Ph.D. 2018) defended her dissertation and is working as a research analyst in the New York City Office of Labor Relations.

Ben Epstein (Ph.D. 2011) is an assistant professor in political science at DePaul University. He recently published his first book *The Only Constant is Change: Technology, Political Communication, and Innovation Over Time* (Oxford 2018).

Heather Katz (Ph.D. 2016) accepted a tenure-track position as assistant professor of political science at Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Jeffrey Kraus (Ph.D. 1988) is now the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Wagner College.

Naoko Kumagai (Ph.D. 2009) is a tenured associate professor at the International University of Japan, based in Niigata, Japan. She recently co-authored a chapter "Gender Equality in Japan: Internal Policy Processes and Impact, and Foreign Implications under Prime Minister Abe’s Womenomics" in the Routledge Handbook of Japanese Foreign Policy (*Routledge* 2018).

Adam McMahon (Ph.D. 2018) was recently hired as an assistant professor of political science at Rider University.


Michael Miller (Ph.D. 2017) was accepted into the eighth annual cohort of Mellon/ACLS Public Fellows. The Fellowship includes a two-year, full-time position with the Social Science Research Council as a program officer with their Media and Democracy Project.


Jacqueline Anne Ross (M.A. 2018) is starting a Ph.D. program in Sociology this fall at the University of Bristol in Britain where she was awarded the University Studentship.


Hamideh Sedghi’s (Ph.D. 1992) 2017 article “Trumpism: the Geopolitics of the United States, the Middle East and Iran” in *Socialism and Democracy* was also catalogued in *International Political Science Abstracts/Documentation Politique Internationale* in 2018.

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**Jill Simone Gross** (Ph.D. 1998) is the President Elect (2019-20) for the Urban and Local Politics Section of the American Political Science Association. She recently co-authored "The Role of Governance Networks in Building Metropolitan Scale" in *Territory, Politics, Governance*. She contributed a chapter "The Governance of Superdiversity: A Tale of Two North American Cities" in *The Routledge Handbook to the Cities of Migration* (*Routledge* 2018). In the spring 2018 she was invited to participate in a program titled "Scholars as Bridge Builders" sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Urban Clinic at Hebrew University.

**Michael J. Thompson** (Ph.D. 2005) is a Professor of Political Theory at William Paterson University. His co-edited book *Anti-Science and the Assault on Democracy* was recently released (*Penguin* 2018).

**Weiting Wu** (Ph.D. 2014) is an assistant professor at the Graduate Institute for Gender Studies, Shih Hsin University, Taipei, Taiwan. Wu recently published a book review article of *Shanghai Lalas: Female Tongzhi Communities and Politics in Urban China, Hong Kong* in the *Journal of Women’s and Gender Studies*. 

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DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Executive
Beth Stone
Sarah Shah
Andrés Besserer-Rayas

Admissions & Awards
Ariel Mekler
Dean Schafer

Curriculum & Exams
Mike McCabe
Philip Johnson
Asher Wycoff
Saira Rafiee
Harry Blain

Colloquium Committee
Andrés Besserer-Rayas
Harry Blain
Nigel Cambridge
Tyson Himes
Caroline Sigler
Sofia Sedergren

Elections
Julie Goldberg
Andrés Besserer-Rayas

Faculty Membership
Caroline Sigler
Dean Schafer

Listserv Manager
Asher Wycoff

Master’s Student Representative at the DSC
Hillary Donnell

Graduate Council
Anh Tran

Diversity Committee
Sarah Shah
Hillary Donnell
Alyssa Filoramo
David Monda

Alum Committee
Alyssa Filoramo
Beth Stone
David Monda
Mette Christiansen
Nick Micinski
Patricia Stapleton (alum)

Report from the Alum Committee:
Our newly formed Alum Committee held a reception at APSA this year, generously hosted by Patricia Stapleton (2012) and Jeffrey Broxmeyer (2014) and supported by the department. Over a dozen alum, students, and faculty attended. The Committee is currently planning future receptions and is working to develop an alum-student mentoring network. If you are an alum and would like to be paired with a student currently on the job market, please email the department APO, Earl Fleary, at efleary@gc.cuny.edu.

We also announced at that reception the new “Pay It Forward: Alum Student Support Fund” that allows alum to contribute directly to the costs of students’ conference attendance and expenses. We hope you will consider making a contribution to the Pay It Forward Fund, either by writing a check and including “Pay It Forward” in the memo line, or by going to this link and mentioning “Pay It Forward” in the comment box: https://tinyurl.com/GCPoliSciDonate.

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

August 22 - New Student Orientation and Reception
September 12 - Comparative Politics Workshop: Veronica Michel (John Jay) “Specializing Justice: NGOs and the Rule of Law in Latin America” (co-authored with Shannon Walsh)
    Discussant: Sumru Atuk (GC)
September 13 - Team Pegasus: Welcome (back) Party
September 20 - Political Theory Workshop: Helena Rosenblatt (GC) “The Lost History of Liberalism”
EVENTS CONT'D

September 26 - Comparative Politics Workshop: Nick Smith (GC & CCNY) “The Emotional Turn in Political Violence Research”
October 02 - The Many Faces of Liberalism Conference
October 03 - Comparative Politics Workshop: Philip Johnson (GC) “Counterinsurgency Without Insurgency: Preliminary Findings on Narco-Communication in Mexico,” Discussant: Desmond Arias (Baruch College and GC)
October 03 - Civil Society Workshop: Sujatha Fernandes (University of Sydney) “Out of the Home, Into the House: Storytelling and Philanthropy in Domestic Worker Legislative Campaigns”
October 10 - Comparative Politics Workshop: Hélène Landemore (Yale) “When Public Participation Matters: The 2010-2013 Icelandic Constitutional Process”
October 11 - Civil Society Workshop: Leigh Graham (GC and John Jay) “Race, Risk and Resilience in Rockaway”
October 18 - Political Theory Workshop: Hélène Landemore (Yale) “Legitimacy and Representation Beyond Elections”
October 18 - Team Pegasus: Student Social
October 24 - Comparative Politics Workshop: Julia Maria Rubio (Columbia) “Before and After Evo: Who Participates in Bolívia?”
October 25 - Department Colloquium: Nathan Kelly (University of Tennessee, Knoxville) “Economic Power, Political Power, and the Congressional Agenda”
November 01 - Civil Society Workshop: Li Yang and Fei You (Beijing Normal University and Baruch) “Does Enforcement of China’s Overseas NGO Law Affect US-based NGOs in China?”
November 06 - Team Pegasus: “Election Night Watch Party”
November 07 - Civil Society Workshop: George Mitchell (Baruch) and Thad Calabrese (NYU) “Instrumental Philanthropy and the Problem of Institutional Design”
November 13 - Ralph Bunche Forum/European Union Studies Center: Michael Minkenberg (European University Viadrina) “The Radical Right in Europe”
November 14 - Comparative Politics Workshop: David Monda (GC) “The Cultural, Historical and Political Basis of Belize Foreign Policy” Discussant: Jacqueline Braveboy Wagner
November 14 - Fall 2018 Program Open House
November 15 - Civil Society Workshop: Mary Roldán (GC and Hunter) “Foundation(al) Fictions: Corporate Philanthropy, the Catholic Church, and the Alliance for Progress in Colombia”
November 16 - Department Colloquium: John Sides (George Washington University) “Donald Trump and the Rise of White Identity Politics”
November 28 - Department Colloquium: Julia Azari (Marquette University) Title TBD
November 29 - Political Theory Workshop: John Wallach (GC and Hunter College) “Interpreting Democracy and Goodness”
November 29 - Civil Society Workshop: Susan Chambre (Emerita at Baruch) “Historical Trends in Volunteerism: Continuities and Discontinuities in Rates, Styles and Motivations”
November 29 - Team Pegasus: Student Social
November 30 - Department Colloquium: Dara Strovitch (Princeton University) “When Bad Things Happen to Privileged People”
December 06 - Department Colloquium, co-sponsored by the Ralph Bunche Institute, Women and Gender Studies, Comparative Politics Workshop, Students of the State: Kelly Oliver (Vanderbilt University) “The Special Plight of Women Refugees”
December 13 - Political Theory Workshop: Nicholas Lemann (Columbia) and Peter Beinart (GC) “Journalism and Political Knowledge”
December 13 - Civil Society Workshop: Sarah Sunn Bush (Yale) “Density and Decline in the Founding of International NGOs in the United States”
December 14 - End of Year Workshop
December (TBA) - Team Pegasus: End of Semester Party
SPRING 2019 COURSES

MONDAY 2:00-4:00pm:
- Beinart, “Writing Politics II” (G/WP)
- Golob, “Research Seminar on Globalization: Between the Sovereign and the Trans-Sovereign” (IR/CP)

Monday 4:15-6:15pm:
- Mollenkopf/Gutman, “Core Seminar in Urban Studies” (PP)
- Mills, “The Philosophy of W.E.B. Du Bois” (PT)

Monday 6:30-8:30pm:
- Woodward, “Dissertation Proposal Workshop” (G)
- Erickson, “State & Society” (CP)
- Buck Moss, “Walter Benjamin” (PT)

TUESDAY 11:45am-1:45pm:
- Weiss, “The Politics of Wartime Humanitarian Action” (IR)

Tuesday 2:00-4:00pm:
- Liberman, “Teaching Political Science” (G/PD)

Tuesday 4:15-6:15pm:
- Woodward, “Comparative Political Order” (CP)
- Gornick, “Women, Work & Public Policy” (PP)

Tuesday 6:30-8:30pm:
- Weber, “Applied Quantitative Research” (G/M)
- O’Brien, “Power, Resistance, Identities, and Social Movements” (G/AP/WP)

WEDNESDAY 2:00-4:00pm:
- Jacobs, “Marxism” (PT)

Wednesday 4:15-6:15pm:
- McCall, “Politics of Inequality” (PP)
- Halper, “Civil Liberties” (AP)

Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm:
- Colburn, “Latin American Politics” (CP)
- Andreopoulos, “War and Law” (IR)
- Wallach, “Political Interpretation: On Meaning & Power” (PT/M)

THURSDAY 11:45am-1:45pm:
- O’Brien, “American Political Development” (AP)

Thursday 2:00-4:00pm:
- Cole, “Feminist Political Theory” (PT)

Thursday 6:30-8:30pm:
- Jones, “Political Parties & Polarization” (AP)
- Braveboy-Wagner, “Comparative Foreign Policy” (IR)
November 7: Application Deadline for the Social Science Research Council’s International Dissertation Research Fellowship.

November 15: Application deadline for the The Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships to support final year Ph.D. dissertation writing concerned with religious or ethical values during the 2019-2020.

December 1: Application deadline for research grants from the Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy. This fund supports doctoral research with a social policy application on either a global or local level.

December 6: Application deadline for the Ford Foundation Fellowships Program of the National Academy of Sciences to support pre-doctoral, dissertation and post-doctoral fellowships for individuals committed to a career in teaching and research at the university level in social sciences.


January 15: American Political Science Association (APSA) abstracts due for the 2019 Annual Meeting, “Populism and Privilege”, in Washington, DC.

January 16: The Graduate Center Dissertation Fellowship Competition deadline. The fellowship is open to Level III Graduate Center doctoral students in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Sciences.

January 31: The Graduate Center Doctoral Student Research Grant (DSRG) application for June 2019 - May 2020. The grant is open to Level III Graduate Center doctoral students in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Sciences, for expenses related to dissertation research.

January 30: Application deadline for the Boren Fellowship for graduate research abroad and intensive language study central to U.S. interests.

Check for more upcoming conference deadlines, and coordinate conference travel with your classmates, on our shared Google spreadsheet.
Having heard that Saira has started doing Yoga, Koleocheb (Cookie) is trying to keep up (photo credit: Zahra Yaziri).

Eleanor Mills says Kava-nope! Dawn with patriarchal (photo credit: Rosa Squillacote).

Kristofer Petersen-Overton’s daughter Ollia (photo credit: Kristofer Petersen-Overton).

Prof. Schwedler’s sons, Nick and Jake, with their doggie, Teddy (photo credit: Jillian Schwedler).

Pierre Loson translating interviews while his cats desperately try to get inside (photo credit: Jose Gutierrez).

Andrés’ dog Tuna “Tuna means prickly pear in Spanish, the thorny fruit of the cactus. Tuna is from Mexico” (photo credit: Andrés Bossier Rayas).
WARM & FUZZZZZZY

Frida Simone Kohlo (photo credit: Mike Miller).

Thunder Cat will save you! (photo credit: Anais Wong).

Philip Johnson’s cat is helping him select sources (photo credit: Philip Johnson).

Leo Squillacote (photo credit: Rosa Squillacote).

Ellie Sovner Erickson is shocked (shocked!) to discover that there are some political scientists roaming around Boston (photo credit: Merrill Sovner).

The Stone cats are unmoved by your anthropocentric disciplinary gaze (photo credit: Beth Stone).
A Brief History of Liberal Indignation

This Goldwater guy is going to blow up the world! Whatever happened to sensible conservatives like Eisenhowter?

1964

Reagan’s an actor, for God’s sake! How could a reasonable Republican like Goldwater support him?

1980

Bush is an embarrassment! The G.O.P just isn’t the Party of Reagan anymore.

2008

Trump is going to destroy the country! At least Bush was a true leader...

2016

Want to support the Political Science Department at the CUNY Graduate Center and have something to show for it? Well, now you can! Simply donate $15 or more at: https://tinyurl.com/GCPoliSciDonate, and receive a stylish, 100% cotton tote bag featuring Aristotle climbing the Empire State Building. Impress your friends! Devastate your enemies! Carry groceries, maybe! And most importantly, help support the dedicated students of America’s greatest public university system.