

Awards Night 2017

Our annual Awards Night brings the Program together to honor the achievements of outstanding faculty, students, and alum. This year's event was held on May 4th in the Skylight Room, and boasted a healthy turnout.



Professor John Bowman received the Faculty Mentor Award for his unflagging commitment to his students.

Professor John Mollenkopf received the Faculty Citizenship Award for continuing in his tremendous service to the Department – even while on sabbatical!



On the student side, Elizabeth Newcomer received the Student Citizenship Award for her unparalleled dedication to the Program.



Eric Apar received the Best M. A. Thesis award for his study of Louis Brandeis's conception of freedom.



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Sumru Atuk received the Joseph Murphy Award for her paper "Perils of Civil Society: When Discourses of Human Rights are Replaced by Those of Biopolitics" at the Western Political Science Association 2016 annual meeting. Joanna Phua also received the Joseph Murphy Award in absentia for her paper, "Circuits and Transfers of the Cold War: From Prescriptive to Neo-Developmental Urbanism," presented at the InterAsian Connections V conference in Seoul, South Korea.



Finally, Pierre Losson received the Ivo Duchacek Award for his article, "Does the International Trafficking of Cultural Heritage Really Fuel Military Conflicts?" in *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*.



Dr. Gallya Lahav on her work:

"In 1986, when I completed my first Master's at the London School of Economics, Jean-Marie Le Pen took a seat along with thirty-three ministers in the French National Assembly. A few years earlier, he barely had 500 signatories and didn't even qualify to run. Today, as we know, his daughter is in a very important runoff, in the same party [*Front National*], with immigration at the center of its agenda, wagging the anti-immigration flag everywhere. No longer is immigration a peripheral issue. ... The policy and normative challenges for Western democracies have been how to reconcile their liberal ethos and market interests with their protectionist security impulses to more restrictively control migration. I have persistently investigated the attitudinal and policy responses of citizens and elites across advanced industrialized democracies."

On her time at the Graduate Center:

"Three main threads embodied my CUNY Graduate Center experience: a commitment to social science with an eye to interdisciplinary learning; a commitment to becoming a teacher-scholar; and a commitment to policy relevance in my work. My graduate training here introduced me not only to politics as a vocation, but to politics as a science: rigorous, robust, systematic."



The keynote speaker for the evening was alum Gallya Lahav (1995), Professor of Political Science at Stony Brook University (SUNY), and recipient of our Distinguished Alum Award. Dr. Lahav was honored for her pioneering work in the study of immigration over the past two decades. Dr. Lahav's full keynote is available on the Program's YouTube [channel](#). Some excerpts are reproduced here.

On the discipline:

"The important responsibility that we have as scholars, as political scientists, to the greater community is not necessarily to change people's values, but to put out the facts so that people can check their own values against them. (And I would have to say that at no time has this become more important than today, being a political scientist working on immigration in the age of President Donald Trump.) This, after all, is the great challenge between subjectivity and objectivity that differentiates us from journalists."

