



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.



Dear Colleagues, Students, and Alum,

As we head into our third year of publishing Homo Politicus, I am privileged to reflect on the accomplishments of current and former members of our program. I am also excited to welcome once more our new group of M.A. and Ph.D. students whose research interests and various talents complement our already exceptional student cohort. Please take a moment to review their profiles included in this edition.



Dr. Alyson Cole

Our programming this semester has been robust. Our first Department Colloquium featured a lively panel discussion on Professor Susan L. Woodward's new book, *The*

Ideology of Failed States (Cambridge University Press, 2017), including John Bowman (Queens College), Janet Johnson (Brooklyn College), Barnett Rubin (NYU), Jack Snyder (Columbia), and panel chair Sarah Shah (Graduate Center, Ph.D. Student). In October, the Department hosted a conference and evening plenary titled, "Insurgency from Below and the Future of American Democracy." Organized around themes animating Frances Fox Piven's work, the daytime panels examined what the Trump presidency means for American democracy, social movements, electoral politics and the remnants of the welfare state. The conference features activists, practitioners, and academics including Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, Ai-jen Poo, Laura Flanders, Alice Kessler-Harris, Barbara Ehrenreich, Leo Panitch, Fred Block, Joel Rogers, and CUNY's own inimitable Frances Fox Piven. If you missed the conference, it was taped by one of our generous supporters, the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung—New York Office, and can be viewed at politicalscience.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2017/10/27/pivenvideo/.

We have many plans for the spring semester, including our annual graduate student conference, a book launch for Professor Mark Ungar's 21st Century Fight for the Amazon (Palgrave, 2017), and a co-sponsored event on February 14, 2018, to celebrate the launch of WSQ's special issue on "Precarious Work." Framed more as a poetry slam than a rereading of published articles, it promises to be a fun evening of anti-love letters to work and precarity, and other disavowals. All are welcome and encouraged to participate.

We have continued to grow the infrastructure supporting our M.A. students. In addition to our M.A. advisor, Charles Tien, we added an M.A. Writing Fellow for the 2017-18 academic year, Bradley Young. Bradley is available to assist students in transitioning from undergraduate- to graduate-level writing during his weekly office hours. He offered an orientation and introduction at the beginning of the semester and returned for mid-semester and finals support.

The department has also formed an alum relations committee to improve our communications with our alums and encourage their participation in department colloquia and professional development workshops. If you are interested in presenting your work or being a discussant at one of these events please contact the department. The committee also created a LinkedIn Alum-Student network to connect alum and students with colleagues past and present.

I am also thrilled to announce that Mr. Sobukwe Odinga Ph.D., recent alum of our department, received the prestigious 2017 Lynne Rienner Best Dissertation Award for his outstanding scholarship in African politics. The award was presented to Mr. Odinga during the American Political Science Association Conference in San Francisco this past August.

In closing, I would like to reiterate CUNY's response to Trump's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Our department, like the rest of CUNY, is committed to supporting all DACA students. CUNY is continuing to provide free and confidential legal support on several campuses in partnership with Citizenship Now! to any DACA student seeking guidance. The contributions of our DACA students to our community is immeasurable and we will continue to provide as much support as we can during this divisive time.

As always, I want to thank our Homo Politicus Editor-In-Chief Elizabeth Newcomer, and the newsletter staff: Harry Blain, Ariel Mekler, Kamran Moshref, Saira Rafiee, Caroline Sigler, Asher Wycoff, and Isa Vásquez for their incredible work.

Warm regards,

Alyson Cole





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.







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.





Awards Night 2017

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.





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.

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."

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."



Faculty Profile

Till Weber is Associate Professor of Political Science at Baruch College and is teaching Applied Quantitative Research at the Graduate Center this semester.

By Harry Blain

Harry Blain: Talk a bit about your academic background and how you became interested in your current areas of research.

Till Weber: My academic training was in Europe – I went to grad school in Florence and did my undergraduate degree in Berlin. And now I'm in the United States – which makes sense, I think, if you have a broad interest intellectually and want to work internationally. This background helped me become a "natural" comparativist, interested in the empirical study of democracy. This involves a lot of things – voters, parties, legislators, media, cabinets, presidents – and for me, American politics is one case in a broader comparative context. I've never been particularly satisfied with the explanations I have been given as a student or citizen about why politics works the way it does. If you look at one country at a time, you tend to end up with ad hoc explanations and I always wanted something more systematic: how does democracy really operate? If you take this step back, you can then also more easily identify particular questions for your research.



Dr. Till Weber, Baruch College, CUNY

HB: What classes are you teaching at the Graduate Center? Do you have an idea of classes you might teach in the future?

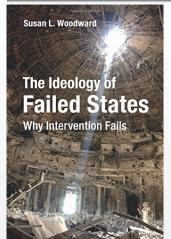
TW: Right now I am teaching the class on Applied Quantitative Research, which I also taught last fall. It is quantitative, yes – which is the word that most people will see initially. But it's not a pure statistics class; above all it's applied, in the sense that we are interested in statistics as tools for our own research. Everybody comes to class with some kind of research interest and most likely it's very different from my own (so I get to learn a lot) and, with this in mind, the overall aim of the class is to help people do what they are doing anyway, but with a more powerful and versatile toolkit. In terms of the future, I have proposed a course blending comparative and American politics. I'm not a big fan of sub-field differences, so I asked Keena Lipsitz, who is an Americanist, if we could co-teach a course on representation, campaigns and elections which brings our sub-fields together. Let's see if it happens!

HB: As a specialist in methodology, what kind of advice would you give to students at the Graduate Center who are thinking about research design and methods?

TW: I have two answers to this, and they are exact opposites. The first one is: go play; find things; dig around; and see what is out there. It's easy to believe that whatever you've done in the past should be repeated in the future. I was a qualitative person at first, but then changed when I found something that was better for me. You know the Ani DiFranco quote: "how are you going to know what you like till you been around the block on that bike?" So that's the first answer. The other answer is: at some point you've got to choose. Most obviously, you have to choose a thesis topic, but after the thesis you will be on the job market, then (hopefully) you will be running research projects, and so on. Each step involves important questions: What kind of research can you do? What intellectual experience do you have? Where in the world will you live? All this is strongly affected by method – method choices are fundamentally life choices. Keep this in mind; play around as much as possible, but at some time you've got to commit.



Faculty News



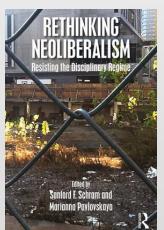
Professor Susan L. Woodward gave invited talks on her new book, *The Ideology of Failed States: Why Intervention Fails* (Cambridge, 2017) in the United Kingdom at the Royal United Services Institute; St. Antony's College, Oxford; Reading University; the UK Department of International Development and the Foreign Office; the London School of Economics and Political Science; and Cambridge University. In the United States, Professor Woodward was invited to speak at the School of International Affairs at Columbia University. In addition, she will speak at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Oslo.

Professor Mark Ungar published 21st Century Fight for the Amazon: Environmental Enforcement in the World's Biggest Rainforest (Palgrave Macmillan, October 2017). This book is the most updated and comprehensive look at efforts

to protect the Amazon, home to half of the world's remaining tropical forests. The Department of Political Science will be hosting a book launch in Spring 2018.

Professor Charles Tien was interviewed by the <u>Gothamist</u> about the electoral college, and was invited to present a paper on polling in the 2016 election at UC Riverside. Professor Tien also has an article titled, "The Racial Gap in Voting Among Women: White Women, Racial Resentment, and Support for Trump" forthcoming in the 50th anniversary edition of *New Political Science*.



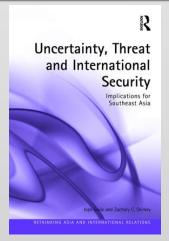


Professor Sanford Schram published this past August a volume co-edited with Marianna Pavlovskaya, Geography, *Rethinking Neoliberalism: Resisting the Disciplinary Regime* (Routledge, 2017), and published a co-authored article with his long-time collaborator Rich Fording, "The Cognitive and Emotional Sources of Trump Support: The Case of Low-Information Voters" in *New Political Science*, October 2017.

Professor Zachary C. Shirkey published *Uncertainty, Threat, & International Security: Implications for Southeast Asia* (Routledge, 2017) with Ivan Savic; "Going Beyond the Existing Consensus: the Use of Games in International Relations Education," co-authored with Michael Lee, in *PS: Political Science and Politics*; and "Military Intervention in Interstate and Civil Wars: A Unified Interpretation" in

Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Empirical International Relations Theory, William R. Thompson (ed.) (Oxford University Press), 2017.

Professor Peter Ranis gave the keynote address at the Canadian Association for the Studies on Co-operation at Ryerson University, Toronto, May 30-June 2, 2017 entitled "The Alienated Working Class and the Trump Phenomenon."



Professor Keena Lipsitz published an article in *Political Behavior* titled "Playing with Emotions: The Effect of Moral Appeals in Elite Rhetoric," in which she argues that the moral appeals in political advertising elicit explicitly emotional reactions from viewers.

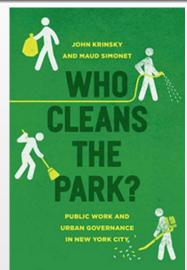


Faculty News

Professor Peter Liberman published "Revenge in US Public Support for War Against Iraq" in *Public Opinion Quarterly*'s Fall 2017 issue, in which he uses integrated data from two unrelated surveys to measure the impact of the American public's desire for revenge for the 9-11 attacks on their willingness to go to war.

Professor John Krinsky published a new book, *Who Cleans the Parks? Public Work and Urban Governance in New York City* (University of Chicago Press, 2017). The book examines the intersections of welfare, civic engagement, criminal justice, and public/private cooperation through the lens of maintenance of the city's parks.

Professor David Jones had his chapter, "Party Brands, Elections, and Presidential-Congressional Relations" published in the 6th edition of *Rivals for Power* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017). On April 25, his commentary, "This Is Why the 'First 100 Days' is a Ridiculous Standard for Judging Presidents," appeared in the *Washington Post*.



Professor Jack Jacobs delivered invited lectures in April on racism and antisemitism at Birkbeck, University of London, and also delivered lectures in Sweden this August, at Södertörn University and at the Workers' Educational Association of Stockholm, on matters related to Jews and the Left.

Professor Thomas Halper's "A Right to the City?" appeared last year in *Urbanization and Political Development* (also on SSRN). He has briefed scholars and diplomats from Indonesia, Israel, and Azerbaijan on American federalism for the State Department, and spoken to visiting Fulbright scholars at NYU on American civil liberties.

Professor Carol Gould presented an invited paper entitled "Solidarity between the National and the Transnational: What do we owe to 'Outsiders'?" to the School of Politics and Global Studies, Arizona State University, March 2017. Gould also gave a paper "The All-Affected Principle and Labor Rights" at the Workshop on Democratic Inclusion in a Globalized World held at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Kennedy School of Harvard University in June 2017.

Professor Janet Gornick in her role as Director of the Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, directed the third annual one-week workshop on inequality research held at the Graduate Center, titled "Inequality by The Numbers" in June 2017. Professor Gornick also directed the Seventh Biennial Meeting of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ) in July 2017.

Professor Stephanie Golob published an op-ed entitled, "Memoria sin excepciones" ["Memory, Without Exceptions"], comparing political controversies over historical monuments in Spain and New Orleans, in <u>El País</u>, Spain's major national newspaper. Professor Golob also presented her research report entitled "Inside Out: Transnational Legal Learning and Mass Grave Exhumation," at the annual meeting of the <u>Subtierro/Below Ground Research Team based</u> at the Spanish National Research Council.



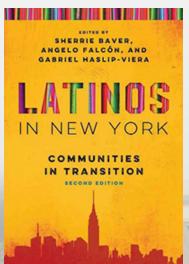


Faculty News

Professor Leonard Feldman's article "Police Violence and the Legal Temporalities of Immunity," was published in the journal *Theory & Event* (April 2017). Professor Feldman's chapter "Police Reform and Neoliberalism," was published in Rethinking Neoliberalism (Routledge, 2017) edited by Sanford Schram and Marianna Pavlovskaya. Professor Feldman also gave an invited talk on "Realist Political Theory and the Police Power" at the University of Virginia, Program in Political Philosophy, Policy and Law.

Professor Forrest Colburn published "The Left that Never Was," an essay about Venezuela, Ecuador, and Bolivia, in the winter 2017 issue of *Dissent*.

Professor Mitchel Cohen was interviewed by the <u>Princeton University Press</u> <u>blog</u>, "Mind Over Matter Since 1905" about his new book, *The Politics of Opera: A History from Monteverdi to Mozart* (<u>Princeton University Press</u>, 2017).



Professor Sherrie Baver published the second edition of her co-edited book *Latinos in New York: Communities In Transition* with Angelo Falcón and Gabriel Haslip-Viera (Notre Dame Press, 2017), a comprehensive reader on the experience of New York City's diverse Latino population.

Professor George Andreopoulos organized a research workshop with GC alum Shawna Brandle (2013) on Media and Human Rights in June. The



papers from the workshop will appear in a special issue of the journal *Human Rights Review* which Andreopoulos will guest-edit. Professor Andreopoulos was also awarded a Mercator Fellowship by the German Government and is spending the fall 2017 semester in Berlin as a Visiting Professor at the Free University.





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.







Nick Micinski was coordinator for the Project on Peacebuilding, a week-long course on the history, context, and changing politics of peacebuilding, which hosted 15 students in Prijedor, Bosnia. The Project on Peacebuilding is partnered with the EU Studies Center at the Ralph Bunche Institute. (Photo cred: Nick Micinski)





September 2017: Political Science students rallied with other CUNY adjuncts and graduate assistants to demand 7k per course for adjuncts. (photo cred: Anh Tran)





Pictured is Milo Ward at the Summer Studio in Materialist and Decolonial (MAD) Politics and Aesthetics, organized by the Hic Rosa Collective June 2017, in Andalusia, Spain. The primary objective of the Studio is to provide an egalitarian international platform for transdisciplinary work and collaboration in political theory and aesthetics accountable to and in conversation with materialist and decolonial imperatives (Photo cred: Milo Ward).



Student Spotlight

We asked our new students to share a little bit about their backgrounds and the experiences that shaped their academic interests, leading them to the Graduate Center.

Joseph Andrach

M.A. Student

Field: American Politics

Ideal future career: Professor and scholar of

Courts and Iudicial Politics.

Reason for choosing the GC: The dynamic

and exciting program will permit me to explore my interests and further my research goals.



M.A. Student



Zeynep Bayar

M.A. Student



Andres Besserer Rayas

Ph.D. Student

Field: Comparative Politics

Ideal future career: Researching and teaching. Reason for choosing the GC: Great professors and a department that is balanced in terms of fields and approaches.



Harry Blain

Ph.D. Student

Field: International Relations

Ideal future career: Half journalist, half academic; government watchlist either way. Reason for choosing the GC: Political Science



at the GC has not (yet) been colonized by economics, unlike most other American universities.

Nigel Cambridge

Ph.D. Student

Field: Political Theory

Ideal future career: If not teaching and researching full time, I have an interest in political journalism, writing, and the media.



Reason for choosing the GC: The culture of the school and the department, the professors, and the location. Coming from small town Ohio, I wanted to attend graduate school in a city that would be almost opposite of a sleepy Midwest town.

Peter Carlino

Ph.D. Student

Field: American Politics

Ideal future career: Nonprofit analyst. Reason for choosing the GC: Access to NYC internships and the writing politics

concentration.



Louis Charbonneau

Ph.D. Student

Field: International Relations Ideal future career: Teaching and/or researching in NYC while continuing my current work as the U.N. Director for

Human Rights Watch.



Reason for choosing the GC: I did my Master's at City College and found the professors and students to be outstanding overall. That's why the GC was my first (and only) choice for a Ph.D.

Caroline Cleaver

M.A. Student

Field: International Relations

Ideal future career: Working for an NGO

fighting human rights abuses.

Reason for choosing the GC: Location, affordability, and high praise from a

former colleague of mine who attended the GC.



Alexander Collins

M.A. Student

Field: Political Theory

Ideal future career: Academia.

Reason for choosing the GC: Great staff and an amazing city for politics.



Zachary Conn

Ph.D. Student

Field: Political Theory

Ideal future career: I'm supposed to say professor, but in the back of my mind I'll always want to be an over-educated late

night writer.



Reason for choosing the GC: Listening to the Always Already Podcast, run by some GC students, convinced me that I could enjoy myself in academia. The GC being a public institution and its wide theory offerings sealed the deal.



Hillary Donnell

M.A. Student

Field: Political Theory

Ideal future career: Teaching and studying youth participation in secondary schooling. Reason for choosing the GC: The superb



faculty, the focus on "engaged scholarship," and the Public

Science Project.

Alyssa Filoram

M.A. Student

Field: Public Policy

Ideal future career: Still figuring it out, but definitely something concerning education. Reason for choosing the GC: The faculty,



courses, small size of the program, location, and overall mission.

Carolyn Fisher

M.A. Student

Field: Public Policy

Ideal future career: Policy analyst.

Reason for choosing the GC: Excellent faculty and affordability for working people.



Maxwell Fuerderer

M.A. Student



Colin Gibson

M.A. Student



Julie Goldberg

Ph.D. Student

Field: American

Ideal future career: Research and advocacy

at a nonprofit of NGO.

Reason for choosing the GC: The location

and variety offered were a major draw. I also wanted the

freedom to pursue qualitative research.

Erica Gonzalez

M.A. Student



Jamell Henderson

M.A. Student

Field: American Politics

Field: American Politics

Ideal future career: President of the United

States of America.

Reason for choosing the GC: To be among

the best in NYC, focusing on the progressive direction of American Democracy.

Bradley Highfield

M.A. Student

Field: Political Theory

Ideal future career: Professor and writer. Reason for choosing the GC: The convivial environment among faculty and students.



Tyson Himes

M.A. Student

Field: Public Policy

Ideal future career: Working on housing

Reason for choosing the GC: Small classes,

approachable faculty, location, and an affordable and highquality program.

Danni Mei

M.A. Student

Field: Comparative Politics Ideal future career: Political

communications strategist.

Reason for choosing the GC: Awesome

professors and a great location in the heart of NYC.

Ariel Mekler

Ph.D. Student

Field: International Relations

Ideal future career: Professor and LGBTIQ

Reason for choosing the GC: The faculty and the opportunity to gain hands-on

teaching experience.



David Monda

Ph.D. Student

Field: International Relations

Ideal future career: Teaching and

researching in the Political Science field, or

working for a think tank or international

public/private agency.



Reason for choosing the GC: A diverse faculty with varied research interests and offers professional development opportunities in teaching political science, job talks, and conference presentation support. I also like the consortia arrangement the GC has with other institutions in the area.



Faraz Motaghedi

M.A. Student

Field: International Relations

Ideal future career: Ambassador, national security and foreign policy advisor at DOS or DOD, UN political affairs officer, and university professor.



Reason for choosing the GC: Since my true interest lies in the practice of diplomacy, studying at the GC with students and faculty, some of whom are UN experts and distinguished authors in IR, provides me with a great opportunity to broaden and deepen my knowledge.

William Novello

M.A. Student

Ideal future career: Writing about politics as a journalist, or potentially as a staffer for a politician.

Reason for choosing the GC: It was very affordable. The quality of the staff is the best of all CUNY put together. Due to the location in the heart of the city and in the political culture, it is a great place to be part of the organizing efforts in the city.



M.A. Student

Field: Political Theory

Ideal future career: Tyrant slayer.

Reason for choosing the GC: It made sense.



Diana Osorio M.A. Student



Jessica Perez M.A. Student



Emily Pollak Ph.D. Student

Field: Comparative

Ideal future career: Working at a small but effective NGO/lobby organization for women's and migrants' rights in the EU.

Reason for choosing the GC: Incredible faculty in an incredible city.

Jacqueline Ross

M.A. Student

Field: Political Theory

Ideal future career: Professor and researcher. Reason for choosing the GC: Great faculty and an environment conducive to my research interests.



Jenna Russo

M.A. Student

Field: International Relations

Ideal future career: Working either at the UN or at the US permanent mission to the UN as a policy advisor.



Reason for choosing the GC: The location, the flexibility of the program, and the faculty.

Adam Sachs

M.A. Student

Field: Public Policy

Ideal future career: Working for the City of

New York or a city agency.

Reason for choosing the GC: I'm a big

believer in the CUNY system and I think it's the best-valued education system anywhere in the country.

Sofia Sedergren

M.A. Student

Field: Political Theory

Ideal future career: Nonprofit policy agency.

Reason for choosing the GC: The

interdisciplinary focus and program structure,

with M.A. and Ph.D. students taking classes together.

Caroline Sigler

Ph.D. Student

Field: Political Theory

Ideal future career: Professor.

Reason for choosing the GC: The faculty,

the students, and the city.



Isa Vásquez

Ph.D. Student

Field: Public Policy

Ideal future career: Professor and worker at a city agency or nonprofit on criminal justice

reform.

Reason for choosing the GC: I believe strongly in the mission of CUNY and the ideal of truly public higher education, and I remain inspired by the scholarship and activism of the faculty and students.







Student News

Bradley Young (level II) is our Political Science M.A. Writing Fellow for the 2017-2018 academic year and will assist students in transitioning from undergraduate- to graduate-level writing. He will offer an orientation and introduction at the beginning of each semester, and return for mid-semester and finals support.

Mercedes Wilby's (level I) blog post, "'Bathroom Bills' Don't Take Into Account That Gender Isn't Always Clear Cut" was published by <u>United States Politics and Policy</u>, the LSE US Centre's daily blog on American Politics and policy.

Tom Waters (level III) presented on the history of New York's housing movement at a conference at New York Law School and on the city's community boards at a graduate workshop at the Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy at the University of Pennsylvania.

Rosa Squillacote (level I) published an article in <u>Portside</u> on police unions, officers' humanity, and the importance of recognizing officers as workers in the process of abolishing carceral oppression.

Osha Smith-Gittelman (level II) presented his paper on what publicly disseminated claims by non-state armed groups (e.g., cartels, gangs, and militias) reveal about the role of violence in regulating illicit activity in Mexico at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in San Francisco, CA.

Merrill Sovner (level III) published two blog articles on <u>philanthropy</u> and <u>human rights</u> for the Human Rights Funders Network.

Sally Sharif (level I) held a consultancy position at the Social Science Research Council, composing a critical literature review on the UN Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) programs for the project "Return, Responsibility, and Reintegration in Central Africa." She received a scholarship from the Network for the Advancement of Social and Political Studies to do the Young Investigator Training Program in Political Studies and attend the Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models summer program. She also received the 2017 Center for Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies Travel Fellowship for her field research on FARC reintegration in Colombia.

Heidi Andrea Rhodes (level III) presented her paper, "The Blood that has Dried in the Codes: Sovereignty, Right, and the (Im)possibilities of Freedom," at the "Diverse Unfreedoms and their Ghosts" Conference at Rutgers University, March 2017.

Tyler Olsen, (M.A.) was awarded a ten-month Fulbright grant to travel to Brazil, where he will study the local participatory assemblies that have contributed to various state-level Participatory Budgeting processes over the past two decades.

Elizabeth Newcomer (level II) was the graduate student host of the Methods Café at the 2017 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in San Francisco, CA.

Kamran Moshref (level I) attended the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University, an intensive, interdisciplinary 6-week seminar on critical thought, exploring debates in and across literary studies, political theory, history, philosophy, art, and anthropology. He received funding to attend from the Graduate Center's Doctoral Student Research Grant, and from Cornell University.

David Monda (level I) had three op-ed pieces published in the *Daily Nation*, Kenya's largest newspaper, on "Tough choices for Raila as case set to begin at Supreme Court," "What Trump's immigration bill means for Kenyans," and "Five foreign policy challenges for Kenya after election." He also published a piece in the European Policy Network's Journal *Politheor*, "Reserved seats in Parliament hurt rather than help Kenyan female candidates."

Nick Micinski (level III) published a chapter "Dual Citizenship and Youth Identity in Bosnia and Herzegovina," in *Changing Youth Values in Southeast Europe: Beyond Ethnicity*, Tamara Pavasovic Trošt and Danilo Mandić, eds. (Routledge, 2018) co-authored with Jasmin Hasić. Micinski was also coordinator for the Project on Peacebuilding, a week-long course on the history, context, and changing politics of peacebuilding, which hosted 15 students in Prijedor, Bosnia. The Project on Peacebuilding is partnered with the EU Studies Center at the Ralph Bunche Institute.

Chris Michael (level-III) was hired as Director of Employee Ownership for the City of Newark's main economic development agency, the Newark Community Economic Development Corporation, implementing a major new initiative of Mayor Ras Baraka.

Elena Cohen (level III) was elected President of the National Lawyers Guild in August. The NLG is "the nation's oldest and largest progressive bar association, whose mission is to use law for the people, uniting lawyers, law students, legal workers, and jailhouse lawyers to function as an effective force in the service of the people by valuing human rights over property interests."

Harry Blain (level I) published "<u>Urban Governance Innovations in Rio de Janeiro</u>," in the LSE Cities' New Urban Governance essay series, and "<u>What Happened To the Arms Trade Treaty?</u>" in Foreign Policy in Focus, a project of the Institute for Policy Studies. Blain also published three articles for Open Democracy: "NATO expansion in the Balkans: a dangerous gamble" with Robert Benson, "Can there be a progressive patriotism?", and "Gentrifier heal thyself?"

B Lee Aultman (level III) turned a chapter from their dissertation into a peer-reviewed article, "History is What Hurts: Trans Archives, Feelings, Narratives," in *Politics, Groups, and Identities* as a part of a symposium they co-organized for the journal's "Dialogues" section entitled "Transing Political Science."

Advanced to Level 2	New Ph.D. Candidates	Passed Dissertation Defense	Graduating Ph.D. Sept. 2017	Graduating M.A. Sept. 2017
 Elizabeth Newcomer Michael Curry Anh Tran Sarah Shah Asher Wycoff 	Sumru AtukPaul CelentanoAlison Parks	• Laura Tamman	 Puangchon Unchanam Domenico Romero Matthew Murray Aaron Shapiro 	• Yuliya Szczepanski



Alumni Spotlight

Tatiana Carayannis is the Director of the Understanding Violent Conflict Initiative at the Social Sciences Research Council. She graduated from the Graduate Center in June 2017.



By Caroline Sigler:

Caroline Sigler: Can you tell me a little about the work you do at the Social Science Research Council (SSRC)?

Tatiana Carayannis: I direct the new Understanding Violent Conflict (UVC) program at the SSRC, aimed at developing new approaches to the study of conflict in Africa and the Middle East and interventions to end them. Since 2007, I've directed the Africa program of the SSRC's Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum, which functions as an external think tank to

the UN, and spearheaded some new areas of work for the Council, including the China-Africa Knowledge Project, the Democratic Republic of Congo Affinity Group, and the Justice and Security Research Program. For the last five years I've co-directed several international research consortia that bring the SSRC together with universities in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Currently, I have a visiting appointment with the London School of Economics Africa Centre and Department of International Development.

CS: What resources at the GC would you recommend to current students?

TC: If you're a predominantly qualitative researcher as I am, take a good quantitative methods course. I took the usual statistics courses until my eyes glazed over and still felt like I knew nothing about quant methods. Then I took what was, hands down, the most practical course of all my coursework at the GC—a course called Statistics for the Humanist Researcher. It demystified stats and quant methods and gave me some basic skills that I still use today. Also, get involved in the governance of the GC. I was a member of the department's executive committee, admissions committee, and got involved with the Doctoral Students' Council where I, together with a couple of other students, founded the Africa Research Group. This gave us a platform to bring in external speakers we otherwise would not have occasion to meet, and being involved on departmental committees was a good induction into the politics of higher ed.

CS: Do you wish you did anything differently with your time at the GC?

TC: Although taking the scenic route served me well, I wish I had finished my Ph.D. faster than I did. With time, you learn that the dissertation is really not such a big deal, and with a bit of discipline and focus, it can be completed in a relatively short time, even with other tantalizing distractions along the way. As they say, a good dissertation is a finished dissertation. Also, a dissertation doesn't write itself.

CS: As someone working at the SSRC, do you have any advice for students seeking funding?

TC: As my SSRC colleague Daniella Sarnoff (head of the International Dissertation Research Fellowship) would say, it never hurts to be in touch with the funding organization to confirm eligibility etc., but be sure to inform yourself a little, read the FAQs. Keep in mind that most applications are read by people across disciplines, regions, and themes. Have someone outside your area of study read your proposal so you have a sense of what you're assuming about your readers' knowledge and disciplinary language.

CS: What is your favorite thing to do for fun in New York City?

TC: Kayaking in the Hudson River and NYC harbor. I've been a longtime volunteer (12yrs +) and former board member of the NYC Downtown Boathouse, the largest free kayaking organization in the world, based in Tribeca's Pier 26. We do this both for recreation but also to promote and preserve free public access to our local waters. It's a fun thing to do in the summer in NY, and a very rewarding volunteer activity.

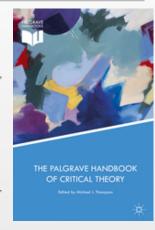


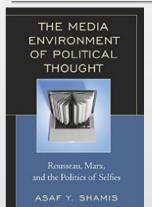
Alumni News

The department has formed an Alum Relations Committee to expand alum-departmentstudent relations. Please contact the program office if you have new contact information or a new position so we may update our records. We also have a <u>LinkedIn Alum-Student network</u> that we hope you will join to connect to your colleagues past and present.

Michael J. Thompson (2005) published *The Palgrave Handbook of Critical Theory* (Palgrave, 2017), an in-depth account of critical thought from the Frankfurt school through today.

Michael Sharpe (2008) co-published an article with James F. Hollifield titled "Japan as an Emerging Migration State" in the journal International Relations of the Asia-Pacific Volume 17, Issue 3, September 2017. Professor Sharpe serves as an Adjunct Associate Research Scholar at Columbia Weatherhead East Asian Institute while on sabbatical from York College for the academic year 2017-2018.





Asaf Y. Shamis (2014) published *The Media Environment of Political Thought: Rousseau, Marx, and the Politics of Selfies* (Lexington Books, 2017), which offers a way of looking at the tradition of political thought by reconstructing the historical media landscapes in which great political texts were produced.

Antoinette Pole (2005) co-published an article with Lauren Dinour titled "Potato Chips, Cookies, and Candy Oh My! Public Commentary on Proposed Rules Regulating Competitive Foods" in Health Education & Behavior, April 2017.

Stan Luger and Brian Waddell (1993 and 1989,

respectively) published their book, *What American Government Does* (John Hopkins University Press, 2017), in which they offer a historical analysis of the development of US government, presenting a reading of American political development that dispels the myth of a weak, minimal, non-interventionist state.



PETER KOLOZI

CONSERVATIVES
AGAINST
CAPITALISM

From the Industrial Revolution

Peter Kolozi (2009) published Conservative Critiques of Capitalism: From the Industrial Revolution to Globalization (Columbia University Press, 2017), which examines arguments against capital from the right wing of the political spectrum.

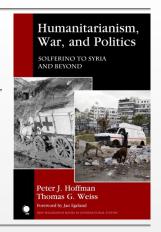
Sobukwe Odinga (2016) received the prestigious 2017 Lynne Rienner Best Dissertation Award in recognition of his outstanding scholarship in African politics. The award was presented to Odinga during the American Political Science Conference in San Francisco, California.

Anthony Maniscalco (2014) was named to the Advisory Board of the Howard J. Samuels State and City Policy Center, Baruch College, CUNY.

Joanna Tice-Jen (2017) has been appointed to a tenure track position at Las Positas College in Livermore, California, teaching American Government and Political Theory.

Peter J. Hoffman (2012) along with Professor Thomas Weiss, published *Humanitarianism, War, and Politics: Solferino to Syria and Beyond* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2018).

J. Patrice McSherry (1994) was named "Author of the Month" by Editorial Lom in Santiago, Chile after the publication of the Spanish version of her book on *Chilean New Song, La Nueva Canción chilena: El poder político de la música, 1960-1973* (Santiago: Lom Ediciones 2017). Her article "The Political Impact of Chilean New Song in Exile" was published in *Latin American Perspectives*. A short article she coauthored with Katia Chornik, "The power of Captive Songs" was published by the London School of Economics blog.



Kevin Van Meter (2014) published *Guerrillas of Desire: Notes on Everyday Resistance and Organizing to Make a Revolution Possible* (AK Press, 2017), in which he challenges Left assumptions about working and poor people, documenting the history of everyday resistance under slavery, in peasant life, and throughout modern capitalism.

Adrienne Jones (1982) secured a tenure-track position at Morehouse College in Georgia.

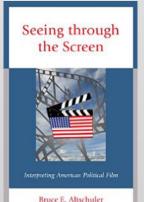
José E. Cruz (1994) published *Puerto Rican Identity, Political Development, and Democracy in New York, 1960-1990* (Lexington Books, 2017). Cruz also presented a paper "Celebrations of Citizenship: The Case of the Luis Muñoz Rivera Memorial Association in New York," at the Seminario de Otros

Mundos sponsored by the faculty of geography and history at Universidad Complutense in Madrid, Spain.

Tatiana Carayannis (2017) co-published with Louisa Lombard an edited volume, *Making Sense of the Central African Republic*, (<u>University of Chicago Press</u>, 2015). She serves as Director for the <u>Understanding Violent Conflict Research Initiative</u> and Deputy Director of the <u>Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum</u> at the Social Science Research Council.







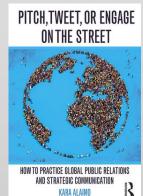
GUERRILLAS OF DESIRE

Bruce Altschuler (1981) published Seeing through the Screen: Interpreting

American Political Film (Lexington Books, 2017). The book is composed of short essays that examine American political films and their impact on contemporary political issues.

Kara Alaimo (2015) was quoted in a front-page story in <u>The New York Times</u> and published op-eds in <u>Bloomberg View</u> and <u>CNN Opinion</u> on outrage over the forced removal of a United Airlines passenger and Alabama Governor Robert Bradley's sex scandal, respectively. Alaimo's book, *Pitch, Tweet, or Engage on the Street: How to Practice Global Public Relations and Strategic Communication* (Routledge, 2016), has won praise for its

straightforward guidance on how to communicate across cultures.



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Department Events

◆ The Department Colloquium and the Comparative Politics Workshop cosponsored a book launch and panel discussion of Professor Susan Woodward's new book, The Ideology of Failed States: Why Intervention Fails on September 14th. The panel featured Professor John Bowman (Queens), Professor Janet Johnson (Brooklyn), Professor Barnett Rubin (NYU), Professor Jack Snyder (Columbia), and panel chair Sarah Shah (Ph.D. Student, GC).



- ♦ August 24, New Student Orientation and Reception
- ♦ August 30, Comparative Politics Workshop, "Predicting the End of the Syrian Civil War: From Theory to Practice," Sally Sharif (Ph.D. Student, GC)
- ♦ September 27, Comparative Politics Workshop, "From the Cuartel to the Cartel: Origins, Organization, and Violence Among Vanguard Groups," Philip Johnson (Ph.D. Student, GC).
- ♦ September 28, Political Theory Workshop, "Protecting Sexuality as Core Expressive Speech Through Comparative Constitutional Law," Elena Cohen (Ph.D. Student, GC), with discussant Professor Leonard Feldman (GC, Hunter).
- September 28, Team Pegasus Welcome Back Reception
- October 4, Comparative Politics Workshop, "Shaping Competition: Allies' Party Licensing and the Evolution of Support for the Extreme Right in Germany," Grigore Pop-Eleches (Princeton)
- ♦ October 5, Professional Development Workshop, "The 1st Digital White House: A Youtube Presidency and Hashtag Activism in the Obama Years," Jenna Brayton (NYU)
- ♦ October 11, Insurgency from Below and the Future of American Democracy: Conference in Celebration of the Work of Frances Fox Piven and Richard A. Cloward, 9:00am-5:00pm
- ♦ October 11, Comparative Politics Workshop, "Reassessing Support for Islamic political Parties: Experimental Evidence from Tunisia," Amaney Jamal (Princeton)
- ♦ October 12, Professional Development Workshop, "Human Subjects Ethics and Regulations: The IRB Process," Professor Julie George (GC, Queens)
- ♦ October 18, American Politics Workshop, "Hard to Resist?: Comparative Information and Cognitive Processing," Professor Keena Lipsitz (GC, Queens), with discussant Michael McCabe (Ph.D. Student, GC)
- ♦ October 18, Comparative Politics Workshop, "The Pipelines that Bind: The Politics of Oil and Gas Markets in the Post Arab Spring Middle East," Scott Ratner (Ph.D. Student, GC)
- ♦ October 19th, Political Theory Workshop, "The Non-Human Condition: Arendt and the Phenomenology of Living Things," Professor Ayten Gundogdu (Barnard College), with discussant Adam Bell (Ph.D. Student, GC)
- ♦ October 25h, Comparative Politics Workshop, "An International Populist Radical Right: The Europe of Nations and Freedom Group" Duncan McDonnell (Griffith University)
- ♦ November 1, Comparative Politics Workshop, "Time and Space in the Study of Protests: Insights from Jordan," Professor Jillian Schwedler (GC)
- ♦ November 8, Comparative Politics Workshop, "A country to fall in love in' Gender and sexuality in Swedish defense discourses," Sanna Strand (University of Gothenburg)
- ♦ November 9, Political Theory Workshop, Professor Joseph Carens (University of Toronto), co-sponsored by the Center for Global Ethics and Politics
- ♦ November 9, Fall 2017 Open House for Prospective Students
- ♦ November 15, Comparative Politics Workshop, "The Global South and the UN," Alanna O'Malley (George Washington University)
- November 30, Political Theory Workshop, "The 'Speaking State': Discursive Politics of 'Woman' Making and Women Killing in Turkey," Sumru Atuk (PhD Student, GC), with discussant Professor Emeritus Rosalind Petchesky
- December 6, American Politics Workshop, "New Institutionalism, Group Threat, and Diversity in Law Enforcement," Rosa Squillacote (PhD Student, GC)
- December 8, Department end-of-semester party



Spring 2018 Course Schedule

Monday 2-4pm:

- ♦ Beinart, "Writing Politics II" (WP)
- ♦ Golob, "The Rules: International Law and International Relations Approaches to Global Issues" (IR) Monday 4:15-6:15pm:
 - ◆ Tien, "Quantitative Analysis" (AP/M)
 - ♦ Buck-Morss, "Critical Reasons: The Basics" (PT/M)

Monday 6:30-8:30pm:

- Woodward, "Dissertation Proposal Workshop" (G/PD)
- Robin, "Political Theory of Capitalism" (PT)
- Wolin, "Existentialism: From Dostoevsky to Sartre" (PT)

Tuesday 2-4pm:

- ◆ DiSalvo, "U.S. Political Parties and Interest Groups" (AP)
- Mehta, "Modern Social Theory" (PT)

Tuesday 4:15-6:15pm:

- Woodward, "Peacebuilding" (CP/IR)
- Moffet-Bateau, "Qualitative Research Methods for Political Science" (PP/M)
- ◆ Rosenblatt, "The History of Liberalism from Locke to Rawls" (PT)

Tuesday 6:30-8:30pm:

Schwedler, "Basic Methods & Theories in Comparative Politics," (CP/M)

Wednesday 11:45-1:45pm:

- Dodd, "American Constitutional Development" (AP)
- ◆ Prinz, "Political Psychology" (PT)

Wednesday 4:15-6:15pm:

- Mollenkopf, "The Future of Urban Studies" (PP)
- ♦ McCall, "The Politics of Inequality" (PP)

Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm:

- Braveboy-Wagner, "Foreign Policy of Rising Nations" (IR)
- ◆ Colburn, "Development" (CP)

Thursday 11:45-1:45pm:

◆ Su, "Participatory Democracy and Social Movements" (PP)

Thursday 2-4pm:

◆ Cole, "Teaching Political Science" (G/PD)

Thursday 6:30-8:30pm:

- Fontana, "Ancient and Medieval Political Thought" (PT)
- ◆ Lee, "International Political Economy" (IR)

Submission and Awards Deadlines

- October 31: Student Affairs Conference Presentation Support submission deadline for Ph.D. students, for travel between June 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017
- November 15: The Graduate Center Political Science Department Student Conference abstract submission deadline
- December 1: New York State Political Science Association abstract submission deadline for the 2018 Annual Conference at Wagner College, Staten Island
- ♦ January 11: American Sociological Association (ASA) paper submission deadline for the 2018 Annual Meeting, "Feeling Race: An Invitation to Explore Racialized Emotions" in Philadelphia.
- ♦ January 16: American Political Science Association (APSA) abstracts due for the 2018 Annual Meeting, "Democracy and its Discontents" in Boston.
- ♦ January (date TBA): 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 (date TBA): Doctoral Student Research Grant (DSRG) application for June 2018 May 2019.
- February 14: Research Group on Development Economics papers due for the 2018 Annual Conference, "Development Economics and Policy," in Zurich.
- February 23: Regional Studies Association (RSA) abstracts due for the 2018 Annual Conference, "Global reversal, regional revival?" in Lugano, Switzerland.
- April 25: Interdisciplinary Social Science abstracts due for the 2018 Conference, "Thirteenth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences" in Granada, Spain.





Get to know your department committees!

The political science department is led by a series of committees. Elections are held each spring for the following academic year. Joining these committees is a good way to build intellectual community and learn how an academic department actually runs. Stay tuned to learn more about the business of these committees in the next issue of Homo Politicus.

2017-2018

Executive Committee

Sarah Shah Elizabeth Newcomer Anaïs Wong

Admissions

Osha Smith-Gittelman Aaron Braun

Faculty Membership

Emma Jacobs Kyong Mazzaro

Curriculum/Exams

Sarah Shah Philip Johnson Rosa Squillacote Kamran Moshref

Elections

Dean Schafer Isa Vásquez Mette Christiansen

MA Student representative to the PSGSA

Jamell Handerson

Listserv

Asher Wycoff

Colloquium

Sally Sharif
Dean Schafer
Calum McMillan
Jade Macri
Mercedes Wilby
Mette Christiansen

Grad Council

Asher Wycoff Adam Bell

Diversity

Bruce Bernstein Emma Jacobs Mette Christiansen Heidi Rhodes

Alum

Elizabeth Newcomer Nick Micinski



Warm and Fuzzy



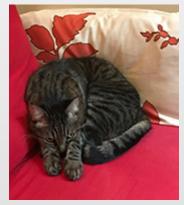
Alyssa Filoramo's new mini Australian shepherd puppy, Mia. She's 5 months old and super sassy (photo cred: Alyssa Filoramo).



Sango says: "Why yes, I am a furry book, why do you ask?" (photo cred: Anais Wong).



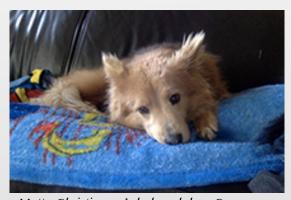
Dreams of anarchy run through his head (photo cred: Ariel Mekler).



Jezebel, age 10, professional shade-thrower (photo cred: Beth Newcomer).



Joanna Tice-Jen made a person; her name is Eleanor Tice-Jen. (photo cred: Joanna Tice-Jen).



Mette Christiansen's beloved dog, Copper. Cute and knows it (photo cred: Mette Christiansen).



Jazz the Cat is still mad about the Purrtriarchy (photo cred: Rosa Squillacote).



"You thought you could read it all right before class?" (photo cred: Sally Sharif).



Denzel loves the smell of laundry in the morning (photo cred: Isa Vásquez).





Satire



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.

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.









