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

Dear Colleagues, Students, and Alums,

These politically contentious times can be depleting, but they also affirm the necessity of critical political thought and scholarly collaboration. Now in its fifth year of production, *Homo Politicus* has become a critical forum to share the work and accomplishments of our program and to foster intellectual community.

We were delighted to welcome our new cohort of 19 M.A. and 15 Ph.D. students in August. If you have not had the chance to meet them in person, you can learn more about them in the student profile section of this edition. Our department shined at this year’s APSA, with impressive student, faculty, and alum participation, as well as a joyous reception hosted by the Department Alum Committee. (See the Department Events section for details and pictures.) This Fall, we made some modest structural alterations to the organization of our program, creating a distinct Awards Committee and separating the responsibilities of Deputy Executive Officer (DEO) and Chair of Admissions. These changes will allow us to share the important labor of governing our program; permitting our DEO, Charles Tien, and M.A. advisor, Michael Fortner, to focus more of their attention on professional development and advising, while our Chair of Admissions, Peter Liberman, continues recruiting the best students to our program.

In October, Frances Fox Piven joined organizer Stephen Lerner and long-time activist Lisa Fithian to discuss Fithian’s new book, *Shut it Down: Stories from a Fierce, Loving Resistance*. In December, the program celebrated the publication of Corey Robin’s new work, *The Enigma of Clarence Thomas*. The department also co-sponsored “Workers’ Movements in Iran: Past & Present” with the Iranian Studies Initiative at NYU, alongside the CUNY Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center (MEMEAC), the Social and Political Theory Student’s Association (SPTSA), Students of the State, Advanced Research Collaborative (ARC), and the Doctoral Student’s Council (DSC).

On the professional development front: B Stone, our Social Media Fellow, hosted a PD seminar on popular platforms for building students’ academic digital identities. DEO Charles Tien offered additional professional development workshops on academic work-life balance, beginning and finishing a dissertation, publishing scholarly articles, and career planning. M.A. advisor Michael Fortner held a workshop aimed specifically at our M.A. students, on the richly-varied career paths of our M.A. graduates. See more in his letter from the M.A. advisor.

The Political Theory Workshop had an exceptional lineup this semester. The workshop hosted Professors Anuja Boss (U Minnesota), and Anne Norton (UPenn), in addition to our own Professors Leonard Feldman, Robyn Morasco, and Richard Wolin, as well as Ph.D Candidate Alison Parks.

The Comparative Politics Workshop continues to be a *tour de force*, having invited external scholars including Colleen Wood (Columbia) and Elisabeth Wood (Yale), as well as our own faculty, Sherrie Baver, Janet Johnson, and Julie George this semester. The workshop also hosted works in progress by GC students Harry Blain, Jessica Mahlbacher, Sally Sharif, and Anh Tran.

Having received authorization from President Myskens and Provost Wrigley this fall, we are excited to resume our search for a new faculty member in American Politics. More details to follow soon.

As always, I want to extend thanks the *Homo Politicus* staff – Felix Padilla Carbonell, Max Fuerderer, Toby Irving, Rebecca Krisel, Javier Padilla, Laura Silverman, Leo Tamamizu, and editor-in-chief B Stone – for their marvelous work on this newsletter.

Warm regards,

Alyson Cole
At the Spring 2019 Political Science Department Awards Ceremony, Dr. Bernd Reiter (Ph.D. 2003) received the Distinguished Alum Award. Dr. Reiter is the Director of the Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean (ISLAC), and Professor of Political Science for the School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies at the University of South Florida. His research focuses on democracy, citizenship, and decolonization, and he recently delivered the keynote address at the 2018 World Social Forum in Salvador-Bahia, Brazil. Below are excerpts from his remarks at the Alum Awards Ceremony: ‘In Defense of Res Publica: How Elitism Undermines American Democracy, and What to Do About it.’ You can listen to the entirety of Dr. Reiter’s comments, here and here. The excerpts below have been edited for clarity.

“It seems elitism has penetrated the very fabric of American society, culture, and politics, threatening to undermine the very foundations of this country. I first became suspicious when I had a Professor, who shall remain unnamed, who kept touting the fact that his children attended a private Ivy League university, rather than saying he was proud that he worked here. At first, his saying this made me angry, but also made me realize for the first time that being here was the right decision for me.”

“What my colleague also said was that there was some sort of unspoken rule, which I had not been aware of, that Ivy League schools are set apart from the rest, not allowing any crossovers. All of this is probably not news to you, but for me, it produced a series of shocks. It made me think of the very promises of this country, and how rank and status can curb achievements of individuals. ... It made me think that rank and aristocracy was making a comeback. This to me suggested that there was a secret vow, in reserving positions that really matter to graduates of a small number of universities. It appears that there is a glass ceiling, one that I was not aware of, which basically allows for the existence of all of these colleges and universities nationwide, as long as they do not dispute access for the wealthy few.”

“As a graduate of the largest public university system in this country, I feel confident in saying here that too many of my colleagues have focused their research on the excluded, the marginalized, and contributing, willingly or not, to making it appear as if they constitute a problem. I want to suggest that it is not the poor or the middle classes, and certainly not the marginalized, who are a problem. It is the rich and the privileged. Thus, instead of producing layer upon layer of knowledge about the poor and excluded, I want to encourage you to produce more studies about the rich and the privileged. Instead of debating minimum wage, and minimum standards of living, I think it is high-time to focus on theories of upper limits. Upper limits to income, particularly upper limits to wealth. I would like to suggest that we have to rethink democracy and reform in such a way, that average people can regain control over collective political decision making, by wresting power away from elites, collective or not.”
“I believe that those serving the public interest, professionally, serving as career administrators should not be allowed to send their children to private institutions, period. I believe that universities, like this one, ought to be tuition-free. The best educators, and I believe those working in universities like this one, and my own in Florida, ought to restore fitness and faith in Res Publica: public control of these public spaces, public schools, public universities and colleges.”

“As you can tell, I am a proud alum of CUNY Graduate Center, and I want to encourage all of you to put more effort into utopian futuristic thought and research, and to analyze not just the problems we currently face, but to also investigate the possibilities for a fair and more sustained future. I know from my own experience that this is the perfect place to do so, right here at the CUNY Grad Center, with its faculty that is actively pursuing social justice more than any other place one could possibly go to college.”
Dr. Charles Tien is Professor of Political Science at Hunter College and the Graduate Center. He currently serves as Deputy Executive Officer at the GC. He is a former Fulbright Scholar in American Politics at Renmin University in Beijing, China, and subsequently worked as a Congressional Staffer on Capitol Hill. His specialties include American Congress, Quantitative Research Analysis, and Representation of Women and Minorities in Congress.

Max Fuerderer: Tell us a bit about your academic background.
Dr. Charles Tien: My academic background involved a lot of quantitative methods training, or just methods training in general, and also a lot of legislative behavior. And those both have influenced my academic pursuits since then. When I started, my actual intention was to do Comparative Politics! But in the end, my fields included American Politics and Game Theory.

MF: Did your experience as a Congressional Staffer on Capitol Hill influence your research interests?
CT: Absolutely. That informed my interests in American Politics and Legislative behavior. I went to D.C. (again, I was not initially interested in American Politics!), but more interested in Comparative Politics and International Relations. I studied abroad in China and had lived there, and so was interested in Chinese politics and looked for some type of work in Washington related to that. But jobs are limited in those areas. They’re abundant in Legislative Aide positions, so I took a position as a Legislative Aide. The domestic focus of the job led to me becoming more fascinated with domestic policy, labor politics, American Politics, voting behavior, and elections.

MF: What do quantitative research methods contribute to our discipline?
CT: This is an excellent question. I like to think that I have an open mind about political science. But, we are all “captive” to our training and our interests. I don’t think that any method or approach has a distinct advantage over any other approach in trying to figure out whatever it is we’re trying to figure out. Why do humans behave the way they behave, politically? That’s a difficult question to answer, and so political science, as a discipline, is trying to answer the same questions, but it is our approaches and methods that differ.

However, the different methods and approaches can all benefit from each other, and I think we work best as a discipline when we work collaboratively, rather than in opposition. To answer your question more directly: Quantitative methods have an important role, but are certainly not the ONLY methods that should be used to understand politics.

MF: Can you tell us a little bit about the research you are currently working on?
CT: One of my interests is descriptive representation. I’m interested in how minorities, ethnicity, and gender influence the institutional setting, particularly Congress. One paper that I’m working on is trying to better understand the phenomenon of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. She has been receiving much attention, and is what we would consider a ‘descriptive representative.’ She is a young woman, a Latinx representative, but there are others that are like her.

I want to understand what, if anything, she is doing differently or similarly to other representatives, especially those that share her descriptive attributes. If she’s behaving similarly, in terms of her social media use, her participation in hearings, her questioning of witnesses, then I want to know what it is about her that’s causing her to get so much attention. So, empirically, I want to know what is different or similar to other members.
Dear M.A. Students,

It is truly a pleasure and honor to welcome you to a new and exciting academic year! As M.A. Advisor, my goal is to support your academic and career goals and to assist your progress toward completion of your degree. Feel free to stop by 5200.03 in the Political Science Lounge to discuss any questions or concerns, ranging from program requirements and guidelines for completion of the Master’s Thesis to potential advisors. My office hours are Wednesdays, 5:00PM to 7:00PM or by appointment. But feel free to email me anytime at mfortner@gc.cuny.edu.

Of course, I am part of a larger team. You can contact my Graduate Assistant, Maxwell Fuerderer, a graduate of the M.A. program, who can share his personal insight and address any questions or concerns. His email is mfuenderer@gradcenter.cuny.edu. Together, we are dedicated to your academic success and professional development. On October 24, we invited former graduates of the M.A. program to return and discuss their career paths. This was a great opportunity to interact with former graduates, explore job opportunities, and contemplate life after the M.A.

Nicole Baltzer is your M.A. Representative. Her email is nbaltzer@gradcenter.cuny.edu. As your elected representative, she is a member of Team Pegasus—a liaison between the M.A. students and the program’s student governing association. She is available to discuss any questions about the department or the M.A. program. You can share any concerns you might have regarding classes, faculty, and so forth. She is also part of the planning committee for Team Pegasus events, such as the welcome back party and the upcoming student conference, so she would be glad to hear your ideas for other events.

For assistance in transitioning from undergraduate to graduate-level writing, or for further support on a working paper, please see our M.A. writing fellow, Philip Johnson. His email is pjohnson@gradcenter.cuny.edu. Philip’s fall office hours, held in room 5211, are Tuesdays, 4:00PM to 6:00PM, and Wednesdays, 6:00PM to 8:00PM. Writing consultation via email is available throughout the year.

I look forward to getting to know all of you.

Best wishes,

Michael Javen Fortner

Professor Mitchell Cohen wrote on philosopher Agnes Heller, pupil of Marxist philosopher Georg Lukacs, in the fall issue of *Dissent*.

Professor Alyson Cole, with co-editor George Shulman (NYU), published *Michael Paul Rogin: Derangement and Liberalism* (Routledge 2019). Professor Cole also gave three invited talks this summer: “(Re)made in America: Survie après l'holocauste” for “La vie d'après” at the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris, France; “Resisting Vulnerable Subjects” at the Manchester Center for Political Theory; and “Ethnicity, Race, and Gender in American Politics” at the Fulbright Institute at NYU.

Professor Forrest D. Colburn published “The Decay of the Central American Left,” in the *Journal of Democracy*.

Professor Emerita Joyce Gelb was a discussant on a panel on comparative reproductive rights at the European Consortium on Politics and Gender in Amsterdam, Holland in July 2019.

Professor Carol Gould presented “How Democracy Can Inform Consent: Cases of the Internet and Bioethics” at the 2018 Annual Lecture of the Society for Applied Philosophy at King’s College London, UK, which was published in the spring issue of the *Journal of Applied Philosophy*. Professor Gould also presented a paper on “Rethinking Solidarity Through the Lens of Critical Social Ontology” at the University of Vienna and at the European University Institute, Florence, Italy in May.

Professor Rob Jenkins published “India 2019: A Transformative Election?” in *Pacific Affairs*.
Professor Robyn Marasco co-edited a special issue of Rethinking Marxism with Banu Bargu (UCSC) on “The Political Encounter with Louis Althusser,” which also included her essay “Althusser’s Gramscian Debt: On Reading Out Loud.”

Professor Corey Robin published The Enigma of Clarence Thomas (MacMillan, 2019), a portion of which was published in The New Yorker as “Clarence Thomas’s Radical Vision of Race.”

Professor Peter Romanik was an invited speaker at the conference, “Global Policies on Countering Extremism: Lessons Learned from Syria and Iraq,” hosted by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Maison du Futur and the Martens Centre, in Beirut, Lebanon in September.


Presidental Professor Thomas G. Weiss is spending his sabbatical year as Distinguished Resident Fellow, Global Governance, at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and also as a non-resident Distinguished Professor at the Global Peace Institute at Kyung Hee University, Korea. He was also invited to speak at the Yale Center for the Study of Globalization in April. A second edition of Rethinking Global Governance (Polity 2019) was released in April.


Professor Susan Woodward was invited to speak at the Harvard University Center for European Studies 50th Anniversary Series “Yugoslavia Revisited” in September. She also presented “Why do International Security and Aid interventions fail? A New Interpretation” at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada in October. Finally, Professor Woodward contributed “Fragile Development,” a chapter in Sustainable Development Goals (UN Association of the United Kingdom 2019) alongside Lou Charbonneau (level I) who also contributed a chapter entitled “Multilateralism Under Threat.”


Professor John Mollenkopf received the 2019 Contributions to the Field of Urban Affairs Award at the Urban Affairs Association annual meeting in Los Angeles in April.

Professor Till Weber published “Issue Yield, Campaign Communication, and Electoral Performance” in West European Politics.

THE SEDUCTION OF UNREASON
THE INTELLECTUAL ROMANCE WITH FASCISM FROM NIETZSCHE TO POSTMODERNISM
RICHARD WOLIN
AUTHORS OF HANDEGGER’S CHILDREN

TA ΠΑΙΔΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΧΑΙΝΤΕΓΚΕΡ
Χάνος: Άλκης, Καρλάντ Άββα, Χάνος Γιόνατ, Χάνος Γιόνατ, Χάνος Γιόνατ, Χάνος Γιόνατ
Αριστερή: Κυριάκος Τόμας, Κυριάκος Τόμας, Κυριάκος Τόμας, Κυριάκος Τόμας
Εκδόσεις Πανεπιστημίου Πατρών


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Dear Students, Alum, and Faculty,

My duties as the department Social Media Fellow this semester continue apace – managing the digital presence of the department on our website, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, as well as our Alum-Student Network on LinkedIn.

This semester I also hosted a Professional Development Workshop on “Developing Your Academic Digital Identity” for students. The workshop was an introduction to several key platforms, including CUNY Academic Works, ORCID, Google Scholar, CUNY Academic Commons, WordPress, Twitter, and more.

At the workshop we compared platforms and purposes – e.g., comparing the for-profit Academia.edu with lesser known, but less “evil,” alternatives; considered the possibilities and pitfalls of having an academic social media presence – such as using Twitter to connect with colleagues in your area of expertise, while being aware of the risks of encountering trolls and resisting the urge to get lost for hours scrolling through an unending stream of content – and discussed options for building a professional website through the CUNY Academic Commons platform.

Students left the workshop with a list of next steps. My presentation slides are available here for those who were unable to attend.

Socially,

B Stone

@BStone_ABD
Scenes From
The Street

Sarah Kostecki presented her dissertation research at the European Network for Social Policy Analysis (Espanet) Annual Conference in September 2019 held at Stockholm University in Sweden. Former student Young-Hwan Byun (Ph.D., 2015) is now a researcher at the Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI) at Stockholm University and also presented at the conference. Sarah and Young-Hwan spent a lovely afternoon together after the conference (photo credit: Sarah Kostecki).

Nick Micinski and Ariel Mekler met at the Global Development reception at ISA honoring CUNY GC alum Nancy Fraser (photo credit: Nick Micinski).

Students at the NYC Climate Strike and Rally on September 20, 2019 (photo credit: Mercedes RP Wilby).

Sally Sharif interviewed 120 ex-combatants and former commanders of the FARC as part of her research on the DDR program in Colombia (Photo credit: John Doe.)

Sally received UN support to go to La Elvira, an otherwise inaccessible FARC demobilization camp in Cauca, Colombia (photo credit: Jane Doe).

Sally Sharif interviewed the former President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, who won the Nobel Prize for the peace agreement with the FARC (photo credit: John Doe).

And she was certified as a keelboat sailor upon completion of a sailing course in Hammond, Indiana (photo credit: Jane Doe).

Philip Johnson and B Stone at the CUNY reception at WPSA (photo credit: B Stone).
The cool kids of CUNY at APSA [pictured, L-R: Dean Shafer, Jessica Mahlbacher, Sally Sharif, Aaron Stanley] (photo credit: Sally Sharif).

Alums Karin Riedl, Shawna Brandle, and Nayma Qayum at APSA 2019 (photo credit: Shawna Brandle).

Drake Logan at the climate strike on September 20, 2019 with co-researcher at ecoAmerica, where they do public opinion research on climate change (photo credit: Drake Logan).

Alums Tricia Stapleton, Shawna Brandle, and Daniel Skinner at the CUNY Reception at APSA (photo credit: Shawna Brandle).

Anaïs Wong ran into M.A. graduate Jamell Henderson at the NYC #ClimateStrike march and met Saira Rafiee at the rally (photo credit: Anaïs Wong).

Tom Waters spoke about housing conditions for immigrants across New York State at a Make the Road NY press conference in April. To cut to the chase, we need “good cause eviction protections” (photo credit: Tom Waters).
Suna Buse Ağkoç (M.A.)
Academic Interests: My main academic interest is enriching in myself in various theoretical perspectives in politics as much as possible and pursuing a Ph.D. program.

Chelsea Carrick (M.A.)
Academic interests: I have been fortunate to spend much of the last few years in Central and South America, which has inspired me to further pursue Latin American post-conflict politics.

Tyler Crown (Ph.D.)
Academic Interests: My present research interests include modern political and economic thought, social movements, Jewish political history, and nationalism and the state.

Guney Demir (M.A.)
Academic interests: I am mainly interested in regime transition, electoral politics, populism and polarization. I intend to do work in Turkey and Latin America.

Danielle Garcia (M.A.)
Academic Interests: My main academic interests are comparative politics, specifically comparative identity politics.

Lance Griffin (M.A.)
Academic interests: I love the push and pull involved in the American political process. I want to learn more about the US government and American politics in particular.

Robert Martinez (M.A.)
Academic interests: I'm most interested in the political history of the American working class. I'm also interested in the history of American political thought, social movement, and labor politics.

Kate Corenthal (M.A.)
Academic interests: At this point I am most interested in the European Union, Eastern Europe and South-East Europe and would like to study them beyond the context of conflict management.

Christian Covington (M.A.)
Academic interests: Race and Policing.

JeanCarlo Amorini (M.A.)
Academic interests: Politics of terror, queer theory, gender and sexuality studies, postmodernism, post-structuralism and meta-structuralism, postcolonial and neocolonial studies, the politics of neoliberalism, bio-, necro-, and noo-politics.

David Joseph (DJ.) Deutch (Ph.D.)
Academic interests: My primary interest is a critique of liberalism, and its attached institutions. Essentially investigating the extent to which they control and contain, rather than facilitate freedom.

Maxwell Fuerderer (Ph.D.)
Academic interests: American politics and government, campaigns and elections, American presidency, presidential power and its development. My main focus is on the unitary executive theory and its practice, and whether or not it is conducive to presidential success.

Kevin McGinnis (Ph.D.)
Academic interests: My interests are political violence, state formation, state failure, Middle East politics, and intersections and divergences of revolutionary and parliamentary politics.
Javier Padilla (Ph.D.)
Academic Interests: My main interests are in the area of political dimensionality and electoral politics. I would like to study the political dimensions used by the voters to decide which party is closest to their political preferences.

Candice Ramoutar (M.A.)
Academic interests: My main academic interest is to expand my knowledge in political science and learning about different laws. I enjoy learning and listening to different theories and strategies discussed in political science debates.

Brandon Vigil (M.A.)
Academic interest: I am very interested in studying American and international politics. I want to study how U.S. politics affects the lives of marginalized communities, as well as how policies have recently changed the United States' place in the global hierarchy.

Laura Silverman (Ph.D.)
Academic Interests: I am interested in the erasure of histories of genocide and racialized violence in landscape, specifically in the construction of green spaces that have come to be associated with the aesthetics of the natural.

Gennady Yusim (Ph.D.)
Academic interests: I am interested in studying and promoting public civic education, and how public policy affects civic involvement and civic culture through educational institutions and policies that promote and incentivize civic involvement.

Tyler James Olsen (Ph.D.)
Academic Interests: I study the emergence of diverse forms of participatory democratic authority, with particular attention given to the case of ancient Athens and the case of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Felix S. Padilla Carbonell (Ph.D.)
Academic interests: Political theory, analysis of culture, and political sociology.

Shirley SanAndres-Alonzo (M.A.)
Academic Interests: I am very interested in public policy, mainly as it relates to urban planning given my current role with a local Bronx Community Board.

Leo Tamamizu (Ph.D.)
Academic interests: My interest is in theory and history of military alliances. My deep motivation comes from the somewhat frustrating domestic debate in Japan over whether a militarily weaker country like Japan will always forced to maintain an alliance with a stronger ally.

Dena Motevalian (Ph.D)
Academic Interests: Transitional Justice, Sanctions

Michael Villanova (M.A.)
Academic Interests: I find myself most preoccupied with the intersection between political theory, urban politics, and public policy as I research the aesthetic and cultural effects of recent economic developments on New York City.

Julia Wood (M.A.)
Academic interests: I am invested in studying political science at this point in time, though I also enjoy history, as well as any information about space that I can understand.

Milo Ward (Ph.D.)
Academic interests: I study the ways certain kinds of violence, suffering, domination, etc... are reconciled within liberalism. Now I am studying colonial/carceral democracy through forms of participatory violence---e.g., cops.

Okkes Ferhat Zabun (Ph.D.)
Academic Interests: I mostly study on the intersection of international relations, international law and linguistics.
Ankita Aggarwal (level I) published ‘The Political Project of the MGNREGA’ in *Economic & Political Weekly*.

Sumru Atuk (level III) co-authored “What’s in a Hashtag? Feminist Terms for Tweeting in Alliance” with Professor Alyson Cole in *philoSOPHIA*.

Harry Blain (level II) published four op-eds via *Foreign Policy in Focus*, two of which were syndicated through *Common Dreams* and *Counterpunch*. He also presented a paper on civil liberties in the United States during WWI at a conference organized by Columbia University’s Harriman Institute in Moscow, participated in a DC-based seminar on American foreign policy, and conducted preliminary archival research on the Pinkerton Agency at the Library of Congress.

Lou Charbonneau (level I) published ‘Multilateralism Under Threat’ in *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* (UN Association of the United Kingdom 2019).

Walter Fields (M.A.) was mentioned in *The New York Times* for his advocacy in local education politics in New Jersey.

Samuel Hellmann (M.A.) gave a talk at LaSalle College in Singapore as part of the 13th Asian Cinema Studies Society Conference. His talk, ‘Filming Temporality and The Spatial Horizons of Utopia’, discussed the reproduction of urban space in Chinese language films from the Maoist period and the present day. He also received the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship from the Taiwan Ministry of Education to study advanced Mandarin Chinese at National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei. (Pictured right)

Sarah Kostecki (level III) received a dissertation year fellowship from the Graduate Center for the 2019-2020 academic year. She contributed statistical support as well as writing, editing, and proofreading to the 2019-2020 UN Women flagship report *Progress of the World’s Women: Families in a Changing World*. She presented her dissertation research and another ongoing research project at the European Network for Social Policy Analysis (Espanet) Annual Conference in September held at Stockholm University in Sweden.

Drake Logan (level III) was awarded the Gittell Collective’s Dissertation Fellowship for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Pierre Losson (level III) received the Best Graduate Student Paper Award from the New York State Political Science Association. (Pictured left)

David Monda (level I) was awarded the Summer 2019 - CUNY Office of Research Johannesburg Graduate Student Research Fellowship to study the impact of xenophobia on the ability of migrant Africans to establish small businesses in Johannesburg. He was also awarded the American Political Science Association (APSA) Lee Ann Fujii Travel grant to attend the Annual APSA Conference for 2019 in Washington D.C.

Michelle Morazan (level III) received the Dean K. Harrison award for the academic year of 2019-2020.

Kamran Moshref (level III) received a Dissertation Fellowship from the Committee on Globalization and Social Change and a WAC At Large Fellowship at Brooklyn College.

Tyler Olsen (level I) published ‘Capitalism Set the Fires in the Amazon Rainforest’ in *Jacobin*.

Alison Parks (level III) received the 2019 American Association of University Women fellowship, the Mellon Graduate Research fellowship, a Graduate Center Dissertation Fellowship, and the Graduate Center Award for Excellence in Teaching. (Pictured right)

Wilford Pinkney (level III) published ‘Changing The Conversation On Bail Reform’ in *Law 360* and his research was featured in ‘St. Louis Wants Judges Thinking Beyond Cash Bail’ in *Next City*. He was also recently appointed the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Children, Youth & Families in Saint Louis, MO.

Christopher Putney (M.A.) presented a paper at APSA entitled ‘The Metapolitics of Illiberalism and Constitutional Decay: The Alt-Right in American Political Development’ for the panel ‘(Neo)Liberalism in the Age of Donald Trump.’ He also authored a project on postcolonial domestic empire entitled: ‘Empire, Republicanism, and Territorial Expansion: Report on the History and Legacy of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787’ for the Program on American Citizenship, the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C.

Saira Rafiee (level I) was interviewed by *112BK* on ‘Faux Feminism: Wolves in Allies’ Clothing.’
Brahim Rouabah (Level I) published ‘Reclaiming the narrative of the Algerian Revolt’ in *Front Fanon Foundation, Africa is a Country,* and *HuffPost Maghreb.* He was also invited to speak on ‘African Revolts’ at the People’s Forum NYC on August 31st.

Dean Schafer (level II) presented “Do Popular Norms Matter for Democratic Backsliding?” on the panel “Does Popular Support for Democracy Matter?” at the APSA annual meeting.

Sally Sharif (level II) published ‘The Art of Winning a Peace Agreement: The Case of the FARC’ in *Political Violence at a Glance.* She was a Visiting Scholar at the Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia over the summer. Sally presented her research on the DDR program with the FARC to the Faculty at UniAndes upon completion of her position. She received the Scholarship for Political Science Research to attend the ICPSR summer program at the University of Michigan and was EITM certified for machine learning methods. At APSA 2019, she presented, “When are Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) Programs Successful? Introducing the DDR-18 Dataset (1980-2018).”

Osha Smith-Gittelman (level II) presented “And These Are the Disposables: Social Cleansing in Colombia and Mexico,” at the Critical Perspectives on Human Rights Conference at City College of New York in March.

Merrill Sovner (level III) published “Sustaining Civil Society: Lessons from Five Pooled Funds in Eastern Europe” in *Philanthropy in Focus.*

B Stone (level III) presented “Pathologies of Power: An Ordinary Language Analysis of ‘Addiction’” at the Terms of Engagement public workshop of the International Research Network, “Vulnerable and Dynamic Forms of Life.” B was also the graduate student host of the Methods Café at the APSA annual meeting.

### IN MEMORIAM

Our dear student, colleague, and friend, Ursula Levelt, passed away this summer surrounded by her brothers, partner, and son in Amsterdam, Holland. Outside her academic work, which focused on public policy and regulation of the labor market, Ursula was a member of the New York State Workers Compensation Board. Her mentor, Professor John Mollenkopf, eloquently expressed his grief at her passing: “Ursula was one of those extraordinary people who make it so rewarding to be a professor because it was possible for me to help her satisfy her evident thirst for a better understanding of her world, while also learning a great deal from her. Our conversations always involved her keen insights about the questions, issues, and texts we were studying, along with her delightfully mordant sense of humor about what really motivated people, especially if it concerned public bureaucracies. I miss her deeply, and I grieve for the brilliant work she did not have time to do. Yet we can all treasure the moments that we were able to spend together.”

A celebration of Ursula’s life will be held on Friday, November 22, at 4pm in the Political Science lounge.

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**Level 1 to Level 2**
- Andrés Besserer Rayas
- Harry Blain
- Ariel Mekler
- Jenna Russo
- Dean Schafer
- Mercedes Wilby

**Level 2 to Level 3**
- Daniel Rogers
- Sarah Shah

**M.A. Graduates: Fall 2019**
- Mette Christensen
- Carolyn Fisher

**Ph.D. Graduates: Fall 2019**
- Maxwell Burkey
- Pierre Losson
- Amy Schiller
- Pamela Whitefield
My name is Philip Johnson, and I’m a doctoral candidate now in my sixth year at the Graduate Center. As the M.A. Writing Fellow for this year, I want to briefly explain my role and mention other writing (or vaguely writing-related) resources at the GC.

I see my main job as to get you writing. This writing does not have to be polished, and it does not have to be formal or academic; it just has to happen. Following Octavia Butler’s lead, I think the key to good writing is to prevent the anguish of trying to find inspiration on a deadline, and to do so by making writing a habit that you can’t shake.

Of course, I am available to workshop those course papers that start to appear – or to need to appear – as the semester progresses. However, you don’t need to have a ready-to-share draft to come and chat with me during office hours, or to reach out via email. Get in touch to talk about how you will write. Get in touch to talk about different kinds of writing: course papers and theses, but also applications, stories, emails, tweets. There’s no reason to limit a writing habit to academic content. I’d say the habit will be stronger for sprawling across genres.

My office hours are Tuesdays from 4-6pm, and Wednesdays from 6-8pm. I am in office 5211 which is just around the corner from the lounge.

Beyond the department, there are a wide range of resources available to help you get in the habit of writing, and writing in different ways.

The Writing Center offers one-on-one writing consultations, workshops, and ongoing programs. During the fall, the center hosted workshops on:

- Returning to Academic Writing (Sept 17)
- Setting Writing Goals (Sept 24)
- Writing a Conference Abstract (Oct 23)
- English Language Tools and Resources – webinar (Nov 13)
- Revising an Article for Publication (Dec 5)

The Writing Center is housed within the Office of Career Planning and Professional Development, which also runs Career Services, and other resources.

The PublicsLab is another useful stop for writing resources. During the fall, the lab hosted workshops on how to pitch your work, how to write an op-ed, and other writerly topics. If you are interested in taking your writing beyond the Word doc, Digital Initiatives offers resources including office hours, working groups, and introductory workshops. The library hosts regular workshops on writing-related topics, such as citation managers and predatory publishing practices.

Philip Johnson
pjohnson@gradcenter.cuny.edu
Dr. Milton D. Ottensoser, Ph.D., J.D. manages his own law practice in Miami Beach, Florida where he practices trust and estate law and real estate law. He completed his Ph.D. at the GC in 2018. In May 2019, he presented his dissertation research, “Oil Pollution on the High Seas” at the GC dissertation showcase, a forum for graduates to present the impact and importance of their work in just three minutes each.

Leo Tamamizu: What led you to complete both a J.D. and a Ph.D.?
Dr. Milton D. Ottensoser: I enrolled at the Graduate Center as a Ph.D. student in 1966, and completed all of my requirements except for the dissertation in less than three years. I was already working on my dissertation in 1969 when I was offered a full time college teaching position at Long Island University in Brooklyn. I taught at LIU for 14 years. Since my dissertation dealt with certain legal issues, I realized that I could not complete the necessary research without knowledge of legal concepts. That’s what led me to pursue a J.D., which enabled me to practice law for many years—in fact, I had my own office only about six blocks from the Graduate Center!

Three years ago, I decided to finish my dissertation. Even though it had been over forty years since I started the project, I spent eight months updating the draft and submitted it to Executive Officer Alyson Cole, who helped me put together a committee. Sixteen months later, I successfully defended my dissertation and was awarded my Ph.D. in September 2018.

LT: What did you research for your dissertation?
MDO: My dissertation focused on the role of non-state actors (shipping interests, insurance and oil companies) and their interactions with states to establish the terms of liability incorporated into a landmark 1969 treaty dealing with oil spills on the high seas. I used some theoretical concepts to explain how the non-state actors were able to influence state actors into accepting terms and limits of liability which were relatively favorable to these non-state actors.

LT: What were some of the barriers you faced in researching and writing your dissertation?
MDO: The heavy research was completed in the 1970s—I interviewed decision-makers at the Brussels Conference, and I had the requisite factual information. But it’s much easier doing research today than it was forty years ago. Today, just about every journal can be accessed online, and companies like Amazon will deliver almost any book to your door. In the 1960s and 1970s, there was no such thing, and one had to spend days in a library hoping to find the needed books and journals, and then making copies of the needed information page by page. Sometimes, we had to travel extensively to find the right library which had the book or journal we were looking for.

LT: What class at the GC would you say was the most transformative for you?
MDO: I studied under many remarkable professors, but the two that stand out are Professor John Stoessinger, who taught international organization, and Professor Arthur Schlesinger Jr., who taught a course on American foreign policy. Both combined broad theoretical knowledge along with practical experience in their fields. Professor Stoessinger had broad experience at the United Nations, and Professor Schlesinger had been an important adviser to Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson.
Section 2

Kate Duguid is a bonds and currency reporter at Reuters. Most recently, she has covered the U.S. economy and trade in articles, including “Two-Year Yields Tick Up On Steady U.S. Job Growth Data,” “Yield Curve Steeper After Trump Threatens China Delisting,” and “Dollar lifted by U.S.-China Trade Optimism.” She graduated from the GC with an M.A. in 2017.

Leo Tamamizu: How did your experience in the M.A. program better prepare you for your job as a reporter for Reuters?

Kate Duguid: I use the skills I learned at the Graduate Center in my work every day. I’m better at understanding complex systems, building arguments, and reading texts closely because of my coursework in political theory. Working under Paisley Currah for my Master’s thesis made me a better and more coherent writer. I rely on knowledge gleaned from classes with David Jones on political polarization, and Corey Robin on the history of conservatism, every time my financial reporting has delved into politics.

LT: How did you transition from academic work to journalism? Do you have any advice for GC students looking to work in journalism?

KD: When I started at the GC, I initially thought I wanted to do academic work. Learning that I was better suited for a different kind of writing may be the most valuable lesson I learned in the program. And even after that realization, there was still loads to gain from my coursework that has made me a better reporter. For students interested in working in journalism, I would suggest finding an area of expertise. The most in-demand reporters I’ve met are those who are experts on certain topics or methods of analysis – feminist economics or regression analysis, for example.

LT: Which skills you learned at the GC that are most critical to your work as a journalist?

KD: The ability to critically assess sources of information and use them to build an argument and to write clearly and plainly.

LT: What’s your fondest memory of your time at the GC?

KD: I loved reading Hegel with Susan Buck-Morss and writing my thesis with Paisley Currah. Susan is among the best living Hegel scholars, and is responsible for one of the few truly original analyses of the master-slave dialectic in the last 50 years. It was a pleasure to learn from her.
William D. Adler (Ph.D., 2011) along with co-author Julia Azari (Marquette) received the Founders Award for “best paper on executive politics” for their 2018 APSA presentation, “The Party Decides (Who the Vice President Will Be).”


Jill Gross (Ph.D., 1999) was promoted to Full Professor at Hunter College in the Department of Urban Policy and Planning (effective August 27th), and she joined the editorial board of a new refereed journal, *Race, Ethnicity and the City*. She is also President of the Urban Politics section of the APSA.

Nicholas R. Micinski (Ph.D., 2019) published “Everyday Coordination in EU Migration Management: Civil Society Responses in Greece” in *International Studies Perspectives*. He received the 2019-2020 James N. Rosenau Postdoctoral Fellowship from the International Studies Association and is a visiting researcher at the Center for the Study of Europe, Boston University.

John McMahon (Ph.D., 2016) co-authored with recent alum Amy Schiller (Ph.D., 2019): “Alexa, Alert Me When the Revolution Comes: Gender, Affect, and Labor in the Age of Home-Based Artificial Intelligence” in *New Political Science*. He also published “Producing Political Knowledge: Students as Podcasters in the Political Science Classroom” in *Journal of Political Science Education*.


J. Phillip Thompson (Ph.D., 1990), Deputy Mayor for strategic policy initiatives for New York City, was awarded the President’s Distinguished Alumni Medal at the Graduate Center’s 2019 commencement.

Anthony Aggimenti (M.A., 2016) helped to lead a successful unionization movement at Mercy College, resulting in the unionization of all non-tenure track faculty. He was interviewed by local TV station, News 12 Westchester.

Adrienne Fulco (Ph.D., 1981) is Associate Professor of Legal and Policy Studies and directs the Public Policy and Law Program at Trinity College in Hartford. She received the Thomas Brownell Prize for Teaching Excellence at Trinity’s May 2019 commencement.

Fanny Lauby (Ph.D., 2014) published “Diversity, Leadership and Authenticity in the Undocumented Youth Movement” in *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Politics* and “Transportation and Immigrant Political Incorporation” in *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.


Joshua Sperber (Ph.D., 2017) was interviewed by the CBC about his book *Consumer Management in the Internet Age* (Lexington Books 2019).
August 22: New Student Orientation
August 30: CUNY Graduate Center APSA Reception (pictured right)
September 3: Comparative Politics Workshop: Anh Tran (GC), “I think God is a Woman,” coauthored with Chaya Halberstam
September 10: Comparative Politics Workshop: Sally Sharif (GC), “When are Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) Programs Successful?”
September 12: Welcome back party hosted by Team Pegasus
September 18: Comparative Politics Workshop: Janet E. Johnson (Brooklyn College), “The Politics of Domestic Violence in Russia”
September 19: “Workers’ Movement in Iran: Past & Present,” co-sponsored by the GC Political Science Department, Iranian Studies Initiative at NYU, the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center, the Social and Political Theory Students Association, Students of the State, the Advanced Research Collaborative, and the Doctoral Students’ Council
September 20: Ralph Bunche Institute: Robert Reich (UC Berkeley) “Just Giving: Why Philanthropy is Failing Democracy and How It Can Do Better” with discussant Amy Schiller (GC)
September 25: Comparative Politics Workshop: Jessica Mahlbacher (GC) “The Ties that Bind: International Linkages and the Post-Colonial Hong Kong Democracy Movement”
September 26: Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society: discussion with Inese Danga, Delphine Valette and Tongting Xiao
September 26: Political Theory Workshop: Robyn Marasco (Hunter College/GC), “Beyond Social Reproduction” with discussant Emily Crandall (GC)
October 2: Comparative Politics Workshop: Harry Blain (GC), “The Evolution of Democratic Repression: War, Civil Liberties, and Local Politics in New York City”
October 3: Professional Development Workshop: “Developing Your Academic Digital Identity” with the Social Media Fellow B Stone
October 10: Book discussion: Lisa Fithian, *Shut It Down: Stories from a Fierce, Loving Resistance*, with Frances Fox Piven (GC) and Stephen Lerner
October 11: Fall 2019 Career Fair
October 15: Comparative Politics Workshop: Julie George (Queens College/GC), topic TBA
October 17: Political Theory Workshop: Alison Parks (GC), ‘Becoming Queer, Becoming Suicidal: Pathological Entanglements and the Queer Subject’
October 22: Comparative Politics Workshop: Sherrie Baver (CCNY), topic TBA
October 24: M.A. Professional Development Workshop: Michael Fortner (GC)
November 5: Comparative Politics Workshop: Elisabeth Wood (Yale), topic TBA
November 12: Comparative Politics Workshop: Jorge Alves (GC), topic TBA
November 14: Political Theory Workshop: Anuja Bose (U Minnesota), “Vigilance as a Practice of Post-Colonial Freedom”
November 21: Political Theory Workshop: Anne Norton (UPenn), topic TBA
December 4: Book Signing Event: Corey Robin (Brooklyn College/GC), “The Enigma of Clarence Thomas’
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<td>1:45pm - 1:45pm</td>
<td><em>Marsaco</em>, &quot;Contemporary Political Theory&quot; (PT)</td>
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<td><em>George</em>, &quot;Basic Theories &amp; Concepts in Comparative Politics II&quot; (CP/M)</td>
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<td>4:15pm - 6:15pm</td>
<td><em>Majic</em>, &quot;Advanced Qualitative Methods (G/M)&quot;</td>
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<td><em>McCall</em>, &quot;Politics of Inequality&quot; (PT)</td>
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<td>6:30pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td><em>Mollenkopf</em>, &quot;Immigrant Communities &amp; Politics in NYC&quot; (PP)</td>
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<td><em>Liberman</em>, &quot;U.S. Foreign Policy&quot; (IR)</td>
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<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td><em>Beinart</em>, &quot;Writing Politics II&quot; (G/WP)</td>
<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
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<td><em>Fortner</em>, &quot;Race and the Evolution of Public Policy in the U.S.&quot; (PP/M)</td>
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<td><em>Woodward</em>, &quot;Dissertation Proposal Workshop&quot; (G)</td>
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<td><em>Tien</em>, &quot;Regression Analysis&quot; (G/M)</td>
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<td><em>Wolin</em>, &quot;The Political Thought of Hannah Arendt&quot; (PT)</td>
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<td><em>Milanovic</em>, &quot;Within National Inequalities: From Pareto to Piketty&quot; (PP)</td>
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**Article IX: Upcoming Submission Award & Deadlines**

**November 5:** 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.

**December 1:** Application deadline for research grants from the Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy to support doctoral research with a social policy application.

**December 10:** 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 9:** American Sociological Association (ASA) paper submission deadline for the 2020 Annual Meeting “Power, Inequality and Resistance at Work” in San Francisco, CA.

**January 15:** American Political Science Association (APSA) abstracts due for the 2020 Annual Meeting “Democracy, Difference and Destabilization” in San Francisco, CA.

**January 29:** Application deadline for the Boren Fellowship for graduate research abroad and intensive language study central to U.S. interests.

**January 31:** The Graduate Center Doctoral Student Research Grant (DSRG) application for June 2020 - May 2021. The grant is open to Level III Graduate Center doctoral students in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences, for expenses related to dissertation research.
What do you call a cat with two bodies and one head? (B Stone).

Robyn Marasco’s daughter just started first grade! (Robyn Marasco).

Former feline combatant of the 36th Front at the FARC demobilization camp of La Fila (Sally Sharif).

Sango dreaming of cat world domination after humans go extinct (Anaïs Wong).

Nora and Leo (Rosa Squillacote).

Reggie trying to look her best in portrait mode given the lack of canine representation in this newsletter (Toby Irving).

Fanny Lauby’s kids, Gabrielle and new baby Simon! (Fanny Lauby).

Cuny vs. CUNY (Till Weber).
Do me a favor, though – buy a tote bag!

We just figure, while you’re here, wouldn’t it be great for you to do something? Make a public announcement? …of your support for the Political Science Department by buying a tote bag? It’s beautiful! A perfect tote.

Simply donate $15 or more at http://bit.ly/GCPoliSciSwag, 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.