

HOMO POLITICUS

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



Spring 2020
Volume 5, Issue II

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

The Graduate Center, CUNY
365 Fifth Avenue
Room 5202
New York, NY 10016
p. 212.817.8670
e: politicalscience@gc.cuny.edu
w: <http://bit.ly/GCPoliSci>

Executive Officer

Alyson Cole

Deputy Executive Officer

Charles Tien

Admissions Officer

Peter Liberman

M.A. Advisor

Michael Fortner

Assistant Program Officer

Earl R. Fleary

College Assistant

Theresa Moses

M.A. Writing Fellow

Philip Johnson

Social Media Fellow

B Stone

Newsletter Editor-in-Chief

B Stone

Newsletter Contributors

Felix Padilla Carbonell

Max Fuerderer

Rebecca Krisel

Javier Padilla

Laura Silverman

Leo Tamamizu

Newsletter Design

Toby Irving

Original Newsletter Design

Isa Vásquez

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,

I write with concern for the health and wellbeing of our program's extended family. This has been an extraordinarily trying time for everyone. Our academic work has been impacted by constrained budgets, the challenges of moving classes and life online, the inability to conduct fieldwork, and constantly shifting circumstances. Many members of our program face incredible financial hardship and personal loss. We mourn the passing of two treasured colleagues: Tom Waters, Ph.D. candidate and accomplished housing rights activist whose leadership [touched the lives of many](#), and Burton Zwiebach, professor emeritus at Queens College and the Graduate Center, whose scholarship on [civil disobedience](#) has renewed significance in our current political climate. We will honor their memories more fully in the Fall 2020 edition of the newsletter. But collective efforts within our community have already offered a critical source of hope, such as the Memorial Fund in Tom's honor. Organized by students and alum, the fund supported meals for Tom's family and made contributions to two community organizations close to his heart.

Our program has come together to face the challenges of this crisis with a great deal of care and concern. The program office — DEO Charles Tien, M.A. Advisor Michael Fortner, APO Earl Fleary, and I — remain available to support students and faculty virtually. If you or a colleague in the program is struggling, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of us. The student representatives to the Executive Committee conducted a survey in early April to learn how students have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and then hosted a virtual town hall with Charles and me to answer common questions and shared concerns. I was especially moved by the efforts of Team Pegasus, who are reallocating unused DSC funds to support students who need to purchase books for their first exams and research. Students can fill out [this form](#) to apply, and faculty and alum who would like to make a modest contribution to the project can do so [here](#) — indicate in the comment field (or in the check memo line) that it should go to the student emergency fund.

During Covid-19, our program continued offering an array of workshops and events that migrated online. The Department Colloquium Committee invited Professor Julie Novkov (University of Albany) to share her current research, "Serving on the Margins of Empire – Black Service and Rights Claim in the Spanish American and Philippine War." The Comparative Politics Workshop hosted a vital, now virtual, space for our students to present their research including Andrés Besserer, Ryan Brunette, Kyong Mazarro, and Aaron Stanley (you can read more about the history of the Comparative Politics Workshop in our features section). Some events could not be held online, including our annual Awards Night and Graduate Student Conference, which will be rescheduled in the Fall 2020.

Our Department also celebrated a number of student successes this semester. Harry Blain received a Knickerbocker Award for Archival Research in American Studies. Kyong Mazzaro was awarded a fellowship from the Dangerous Speech Project. Javier Padilla published *A Finales De Enero* ([Tusquets](#) 2019) and received the *Premio Comillas de Historia, Biografía y Memorias* (Comillas Prize for History, Biography, and Memoirs) for the book. Alison Parks was awarded of the prestigious American Association of University Women (AAUW) American fellowship for her political genealogy of queer suicidality. Amy Schiller secured a postdoctoral fellowship with Dartmouth University's Society of Fellows. Rosa Squillacote received a Center for the Humanities Teaching Fellowship, and also a Doctoral Curriculum Enhancement Grant to implement a series of student-led "Praxis Clusters" with collaboration from Philip Johnson, Kyong Mazzaro, Nick Reynolds, and support from Professors Michael Fortner and Charles Tien. In January, we convened a rigorous and warmly supportive practice job talk by Ph.D. candidate Sumru Atuk on her dissertation research, "Politics of Femicide: "Woman" Making and Women Killing in Turkey." We are overjoyed to share that Professor Atuk will begin a tenure-track position as assistant professor of political science this fall at Ithaca College.

As always, I extend my gratitude to the editorial staff of *Homo Politicus*: our tireless Editor-In-Chief B Stone, and our contributors Max Fuerderer, Toby Irving, Rebecca Krisel, Felix Padilla Carbonell, Javier Padilla, Laura Silverman, and Leo Tamamizu, for their wonderful work on this newsletter.

Warm regards,
Alyson Cole

Feature: Comparative Politics Workshop

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This semester we are featuring the ongoing success of the Comparative Politics Workshop, a student run endeavor that has been going strong for six years and has fostered a vibrant intellectual community among students, faculty, and alum.



Mike Miller
(Ph.D., 2017)



Erika Iverson
(level III)



Jessica Mahlbacher
(level III)



Nick Micinski (Ph.D.
2019)



Diego Medina (M.A.
2016).

The Comparative Politics Workshop (CPW) has been a student-led initiative since its inception in 2014. The original members of the CPW organizing committee included Mike Miller (Ph.D., 2017), Erika Iverson (level III), Jessica Mahlbacher (level III), Nick Micinski (Ph.D. 2019), and Diego Medina (M.A. 2016). As Miller described in an email pitching the workshop idea to Professor Susan Woodward: "Beyond offering a venue for people to workshop papers in a (relatively) relaxed, informal, intimate environment, we see the workshop as a community building endeavor."

And that is exactly what the workshop has become: a space for students of comparative politics to congregate with each other as well as with CUNY faculty members and outside scholars. The CPW also anchors students who are done with their coursework to the political science department: "The CPW not only helped me remain connected to my fellow students in a productive way, but also gave me a space where I could transition from thinking of myself as a student to a colleague among a multi-generational group of scholars," explained Mahlbacher.

Miller, Iverson, and other comparativists had a long-standing practice of meeting regularly as a study group during coursework, to discuss scholarship not covered in the classroom, and to study for exams. But, getting the CPW on its feet didn't happen overnight. As Iverson notes: "Mike did the heavy lifting. He attended DSC meetings, collected signatures, and took care of the hoop-jumping. He also checked out other comparative politics workshops. While some were definitely better funded than ours would be, we learned from his visits what was missing and what kind of niche we could fill." And while Professor Woodward was an enthusiastic supporter of the CPW from the outset and helped the CPW connect with many non-GC scholars, she and other faculty made it clear that this had to be a student-run initiative.

Iverson notes that the CPW's secret-sauce comes from the fact that nearly all students in our program teach: "We are able to offer feedback to works in progress without eviscerating our colleagues, in part, because we practice that over and over again with our students. That doesn't always seem to be the goal in other programs. What I really love about this group — and what I benefited from as an attendee and presenter — was the deep thought and careful reading directed at making someone else's project better." This sentiment is shared among other presenters. In fact, as Michael Sharpe (Ph.D., 2008, pictured left) noted in October 2017: "I have presented this paper at Harvard, Columbia, APSA, ISA, and universities in the Netherlands and Japan, and I must say this is by far the best and most constructive criticism and suggestions I have received!"



Michael Sharpe
(Ph.D. 2008)

Feature: Comparative Politics Workshop

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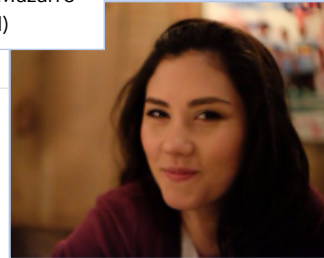
The CPW has flourished over the years. As Mahlbacher notes: "It is a difficult task to build a student organization that is both sturdy enough to endure tides of students flowing in and out of the Political Science Department, but flexible enough to adjust to their changing needs and interests. I think one of the reasons why the CPW has been able to navigate this challenge is by always ensuring that the team included multiple cohorts of students." And

along the way the CPW has established new traditions: "Over the years, our rules have jokingly expanded beyond the 'one finger' [sharing a new idea or comment] and 'two finger' rule [a short comment added to a current exchange], to include the 'Sarah Shah Rule': limit your comments to three main points as to ensure others have a chance to give their feedback. There is also the 'Till Weber Rule': always provide a remedy," adds Mahlbacher.

Today, the CPW organizing committee includes Kyong Mazarro (level III), Osha Smith-Gittelman (level III), Harry Blain (level III), Andrés Besserer (level II), Matthew Mautarelli (level I), Sarah Shah (level III), and Dean Schafer (level III). Other members of the organizing committee along the years have included Philip Johnson (level III), Hugo De Melo (M.A., 2015), Drake Logan (level III), Emma Jacobs (M.A., 2018), Scott Ratner (level II), and David Monda (level I).

For many, it is the community-building aspect that keeps them coming. "[The CPW] has taught me how important solidarity is in the production of knowledge, and how valuable it is to have an epistemic community," explains Besserer Rayas. Likewise, Blain shares: "Reading papers, asking questions, and, eventually, presenting a paper of my own, compelled me to think, above all, about the supreme task of academic communication. Not easy! But with professors and students from inside and outside the Graduate Center, I have gained a priceless glimpse of the often-intimidating world of academia, though in the comforting presence of wine, food, and matchless camaraderie."

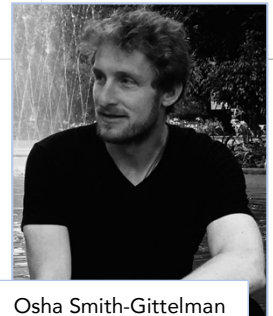
Kyong Mazarro
(level III)



Harry Blain
(level III)



Osha Smith-Gittelman
(level III)



Sarah Shah
(level III)



Andrés Besserer
(level II)



Dean Schafer
(level III)



Philip Johnson
(level III)



Faculty Profile

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Dr. Mollenkopf is a Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Sociology, directs the Center for Urban Research, and chairs the public policy subfield in political science. His research uses New York City as a case study to investigate immigrant political incorporation, urban politics, and the formation of governing coalitions.



Laura Silverman: *The Center for Urban Research has embarked on several initiatives to address hard-to-count areas for the 2020 Census. Could you describe those initiatives? What sort of impact do you think CUNY and The Center for Urban Research will have on this year's Census?*

John Mollenkopf: The CUNY Mapping Service has produced a critically important resource for the 2020 Census, a national "hard to count" interactive map that contains a wealth of information to enable local governments and grassroots organizations to ensure a full count. Many localities are using it to shape their organizing around the Census, which begins in mid-March, and it has also received widespread attention from the press. The map will soon include daily reports from the Census on how the count is progressing, enabling them to adjust their efforts in real time. We are also advising the city's Census 2020 office and assisting CUNY to manage the \$19 million in grants made to community organizations to bring about a full count.

LS: *What kinds of federal funding, services, and political representation do under-counted populations stand to lose? How do you predict the change from mail to internet counting will affect who is counted?*

JM: Census numbers drive the allocation of House seats across states and the design of legislative districts within states. So the Census is fundamental to political representation, which in turn shapes budget decisions and resource allocation. Many federal funding flows are driven by population counts and demographics that depend on accurate measurement. Regions like New York City that have a lot of hard-to-count populations stand to lose quite a bit if they are not counted fully and accurately. Switching to online counting is a huge experiment with obvious challenges, including variation across groups in terms of broadband access and comfort with online submission; just think of elderly immigrants who neither have web access nor facility with English. The Census is trying to anticipate and respond to these problems and localities are making unprecedented efforts to overcome them, but some things are sure to go wrong.

LS: *Do you think the recent efforts to push through a citizenship question on the census will contribute to problems around counting undocumented immigrants in the 2020 Census? How do you see the Census as a site of politics more broadly in the current political climate?*

JM: The debate over the citizenship question has undoubtedly raised concerns in immigrant communities that are already skeptical about the federal government because of ICE raids, deportations, and entry restrictions of the Trump administration and the NSEERS program of the Bush administration. This does not just affect the undocumented, but all the immigrant communities in which they live. The Census is fundamental to our understanding of who we are as an American people or peoples, but it is also a focus of contending forces who would like to skew how we see ourselves – or diminish the influence of immigrant communities.

LS: *How do you see the Census initiatives at CUR fitting into your work? How do you see your work as supporting these initiatives?*

JM: My work as a scholar and our policy-relevant work at the Center for Urban Research all aims ultimately to broaden access to opportunity and upward mobility, to make our politics more democratic and inclusive, and to shed light on the lives of those who have been ignored or excluded. It has a practical bent, wanting to understand how power actually works and how it could be made to work more equitably.

Professor George Andreopoulos was invited to speak on the "Use, Misuse and Abuse of Human Rights: Challenges and Prospects" at the 10th International Conference on Human Rights. In January, he assumed the position of Book Review Editor of the [Human Rights Review](#). He recently became a member of the Academic Freedom Committee of the International Studies Association (ISA).

Professor Susan Buck-Morss was interviewed by the [Los Angeles Review of Books](#) regarding her new book, *Revolution Today* ([Haymarket Books](#) 2019).

Professor Mitchel Cohen's *The Politics of Opera* ([Princeton](#) 2017) was shortlisted for the Laura Shannon Prize in Contemporary European Studies, Nanovic Institute, University of Notre Dame.

Professor Alyson Cole co-edited *How Capitalism Forms Our Lives* ([Routledge](#) 2020) alongside Estelle Ferrarese (Picardie-Jules-Verne University), and including a contribution from Professor Emerita Frances Fox Piven.

Professor Emerita Joyce Gelb delivered a lecture on "Women and Leadership" at the CCNY alumni association in Sarasota, FL on February 13.

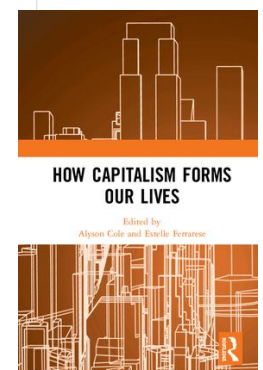
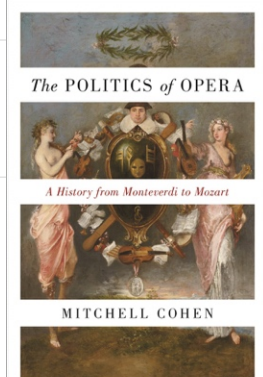
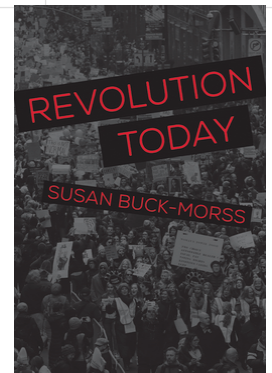
Professor Julie George was appointed associate editor of [Nationalities Papers: The Journal of Nationalism and Ethnicity](#).

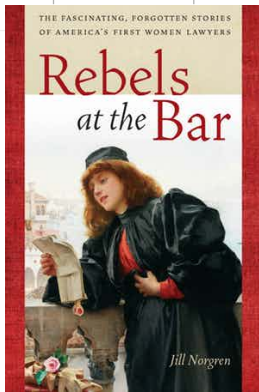
Professor Janet Gornick delivered the Harriet B. Presser Memorial Lecture at the University of Maryland in September, titled: "Women, Work, and Care: What Can We Learn from Cross-National Comparisons?" She also moderated three public panels featuring new books: *The Triumph of Injustice: How the Rich Dodge Taxes and How to Make Them Pay* ([Norton](#) 2019) and *Capitalism, Alone* ([Harvard](#) 2019) at the [Graduate Center](#); as well as *Invisible Americans: The Tragic Cost of Child Poverty* ([Penguin](#) 2020) at the Henry Street Settlement.

Distinguished Professor Carol Gould published "Protecting Democracy by Extending It: Democratic Management Reconsidered," in the special 50th anniversary issue of the [Journal of Social Philosophy](#), where she has served as editor since 2004. She also published "Diversity beyond Non-Discrimination: From Structural Injustices to Participatory Institutions," in *The Praxis of Diversity* ([Palgrave Macmillan](#) 2019).

Professor Thomas Halper published "Declaration of War: A Dead Letter or an Invitation to Struggle?" in the [British Journal of American Legal Studies](#). He lectured on "Civil Liberties in America" at the NYU Multinational Institute of American Studies and on "Federalism" at the State Department's International Visitors Leadership Program.

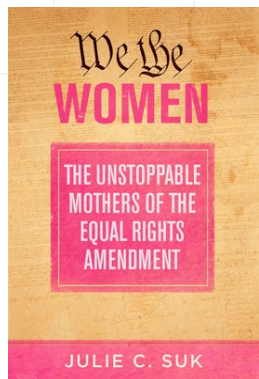
Professor Jack Jacobs delivered invited lectures on "Jews and the Left" at the College of Charleston in November.





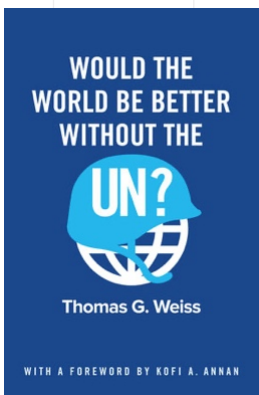
Professor Keena Lipsitz attended the "[Dialogues in Complexity](#)" workshop, sponsored by Princeton and Arizona State University, that brought together evolutionary biologists, engineers, mathematicians, and political scientists to discuss how to model the process of political polarization in the U.S. and around the world.

Professor Robyn Marasco published "On Womanly Nihilism: Beauvoir and Us" in [boundary 2](#) and "Heliotropes" in [Philosophy & Social Criticism](#). She also organized "[The Authoritarian Personality](#)" conference at Yale University in February and was the plenary speaker at the [1st Graduate Conference in Political Theory](#) at the New School in March.



Professor Emerita Jill Norgren was interviewed for a suffrage documentary about nineteenth century lawyer Catharine Waugh McCulloch. Norgren selected McCulloch as one of the eight women whose professional lives she explored in her book *Rebels at the Bar* ([NYU](#) 2013).

Professor Joe Rollins developed a [study abroad](#) course in Madrid, Spain for Queens College that will debut in the summer of 2020.



Professor Kenneth Sherrill will be on the ballot in New York's 10th Congressional District as a candidate for the Democratic National Convention.

Professor Julie Suk published *We the Women* ([Simon & Schuster](#) 2020) and "The Trump administration says the ERA is dead on arrival. It isn't," in [The Washington Post](#). She was interviewed about the ERA on [Vox Today Explained](#), [CBS News](#), and [Marketplace](#). The [House Judiciary Committee](#) also quoted Professor Suk's earlier research on the ERA in their proceedings regarding removing the deadline for ratification.

Presidential Professor Thomas G. Weiss gave a short course at Kyung Hee University on the "UN and Changing World Politics"; lectured at the University of Duisburg on his book, *Would the World Be Better without the UN?* ([Wiley](#) 2018); organized a conference with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation in Uppsala, Sweden, on draft chapters for an edited volume on "The UN and Development"; appeared on a panel on "Cultural Heritage and Mass Atrocities" at the Institute for Advanced Studies; and lectured at the Omani Diwan on "The Future of International Organizations and Global Governance."

Professor Susan Woodward was invited to speak about post-war reconstruction in Bosnia-Herzegovina at a Colloquium on "Rebuilding State and Society After Civil War," at Kent State University, held in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the massacre of Kent State students protesting the Vietnam War.

Letter from the Social Media Fellow

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B Stone is a doctoral candidate and the Social Media Fellow for the Political Science Department.

Dear Students, Alum, and Faculty,

This semester, in addition to my usual responsibilities, which include managing the digital presence of the department on our [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and our [Alum-Student Network](#) on LinkedIn, the Program Social Media Fellows cohort is undertaking a collective project entitled "Critical Scholarly Communication."

The aim of the project is to explore what we need to know as early career scholars who aim to make our work public, open, and widely circulated in a digital academic environment dominated by private interest, surveillance, data mining, and other objectionable practices. We're attending talks and interviewing experts in the field with the aim of assembling an online resource guide for GC students and academics broadly about how to be a critical consumer and contributor to digital scholarly communication.

My contribution to the project this semester is to interview our program alum [Mike Miller](#) (Ph.D., 2017) about his work at the [SSRC](#) on their [Mediawell](#) project and the [Media and Democracy](#) program. Keep an eye out for a copy of that interview in the Fall 2020 edition of *Homo Politicus*!

In the meantime, I'm interested in hearing your questions and ideas about scholarly communication in the digital age. What questions do you have about sharing and promoting your work on various platforms (social media, Academia.edu, open access), or the dangers of data analytics corporations owning the journals in which we publish? Do you consider these issues when you publish and promote your work, or have they never really crossed your mind? Is there information on specific topics or platforms that we could collect in the course of this project that would be helpful in informing your decision making as a scholar in the digital age? Send me your ideas on Twitter [@BStone_ABD](#) or email estone@gradcenter.cuny.edu.

Socially,
B Stone
[@BStone_ABD](#)

PS. If you missed the Professional Development workshop I hosted last semester on "Developing Your Academic Digital Identity," or if you're ready to create your own professional website, Twitter account, ORCID, or other digital academic identifier, please view my presentation slides [here](#), available for reference at any time.

Scenes from the Street

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Kyong Mazzaro and Lina Fajardo met for an important meeting while doing fieldwork in Santiago, Chile (photo by Kyong Mazzaro).

Sally Sharif participated as an observer in Bolivia's post-election protests in La Paz...



Professor Charles Tien in Albany urging Assembly Member Al Taylor to fully fund CUNY! (photo by Charles Tien).



spent the Day of the Dead at a cemetery in Sajama, Bolivia, doing interviews with the indigenous Aymara people inhabiting the remote national park...



And did a three-day trek across the Andes to climb Bolivia's Huayna Potosí volcano at 19,974 ft.



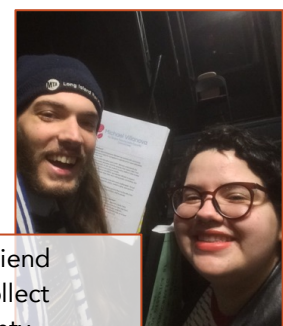
Photos by Sally Sharif and her guide



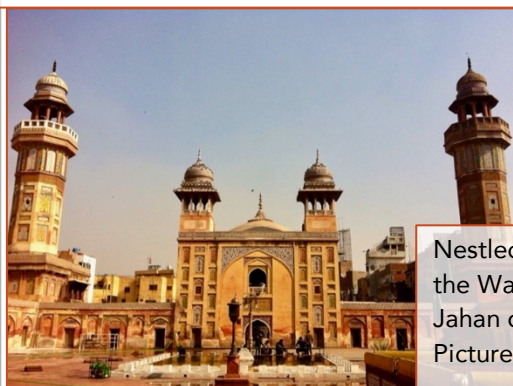
Women devotees at the shrine of Bulleh Shah, a 17th century Sufi philosopher and poet from Punjab. The inscription above is one of his couplets:
“(Orthodox) faith shows us the (correct) Path, and lays shackles to our feet;
Love inquires not (the beloved's) caste or religion;
(Orthodox) Path is afraid of Love”
Picture taken at Kasur, Pakistan by Sarah Shah.



El Tepozteco pyramid in Tepoztlán, Mexico (photo by Philip Johnson).



M.A. student Michael Villanova and his friend Susan Santiago going door to door to collect signatures for his Bronx Democratic County Committee campaign (photo by Michael Villanova).



Nestled in the heart of the crowded and bustling Walled City area of Lahore, the Wazir Khan mosque, built in the 17th century by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan offers a peaceful oasis at this late afternoon hour.
Picture taken at Lahore, Pakistan by Sarah Shah.

Student Spotlight

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Abby Dobson is a second-year M.A. student in Political Theory. While enrolled in the M.A. program she has also been working full time as a Senior Immigration Paralegal at a law firm in NYC.



Leo Tamamizu: What motivated you to pursue your M.A. at the Graduate Center while continuing to work full time?

Abby Dobson: I attend the GC part-time, juggling graduate school with my full-time job. This has been a delicate balancing act but one that I enjoy tremendously. Having graduated from undergrad many moons ago, my motivation for coming to the GC was to exercise the muscle of being a student again in a structured environment with deadlines. Just prior to coming to GC, I had begun exploring my research interests as an independent scholar, including attending and presenting at academic conferences like NWSA and ASALH. I also came to the GC to acquire better research skills, tools and knowledge to help me better

frame, contextualize and analyze my research interests, while drawing from the discipline of political science. Unable to attend school full time, I plan to begin writing my thesis in the fall of 2020, exactly two years after matriculating. I expect it to be as challenging as the time I took a full three classes while working 40+ hours at a demanding job. It was not easy and it wasn't pretty, but it was rewarding. I am motivated to do both because I am passionate about my research interests and want to continue moving towards my goal of entering a Ph.D. program after graduating from the GC.

LT: How have your interests developed through your classes and research?

AD: I started my time here at the GC with an interest in exploring the intersection(s) between art, politics and questions of citizenship, particularly with respect to the responsibilities of black female artists as civic actors. This particular intellectual, activist and artistic passion continues to burn bright. My goal at the GC has been to engage in study to help me refine the research inquiry I came in with while remaining open.

Mainly limited to evening courses because of my work schedule, I have tried to select courses that hinted at some connection to this overarching interest, even if tangential. I have been fortunate. I have taken or am currently taking courses that relate and offer me the opportunity to develop and further connect aspects of my research inquiry.

The M.A. core seminar confirmed my strong interest in and the applicability of political theory and American politics as sub fields to focus on. A course in political interpretation introduced me to John Dewey's work and enabled me to examine the connection between art, aesthetics, and the cultivation of political participation in politics in my final paper. Another course on social justice movements provided me space to theorize movement building as connected to my interest in the function of art and aesthetics in politics. Another on American Political Development offered me the opportunity to better interrogate theories of U.S. nation building that do not center the construction of race and gender. Finally, the weekly assignments for the Feminist Political Theory course I took further stretched me as a thinker and writer. The process of theorizing and articulating a politics of dignity in Black Feminist Political Thought, based on theoretical and textual analysis of seminal works, while trying to make a clear and imaginative contribution, was a joy that has opened up additional avenues of related research inquiry for me to explore. These are but four examples of many.

LT: How will your experience in the Political Science program will enhance your career after graduation?

Abby Dobson: The GC's political science program is a great academic network that I hope to continue to engage with after graduation, wherever I end up for doctoral study. I will be better prepared to enter a doctoral program because of my incredibly useful time at the GC. My only regret is to not have been able to teach a course while here due to my work schedule.

Student Spotlight

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Alison Parks is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Theory. She was awarded the American Association of University Women (AAUW) American fellowship for the 2019-20 academic year.

Leo Tamamizu: I heard that you successfully won the AAUW fellowship (Congratulations!). Could you tell me what the award is and how you feel about your winning?

Alison Parks: I was awarded the 2019/2020 American Dissertation Fellowship from the American Association of University Women (AAUW). It is a \$20,000 award for women who are advanced-level Ph.D. students in the final year of dissertation writing. I was extremely grateful to have won the award because being able to offset my costs of living without taking on additional teaching has been crucial for me to create the conditions under which I can actually write my dissertation.



LT: Could you tell me about your main research?

AP: This project explores the psychic effects of a life haunted by proximity to suicide. It begins by tracing how the queer subject came to be something pathologically distinct—from the construction of the homosexual in the nineteenth century to the so-called epidemic of queer youth suicide in the twenty-first century—and the violences that have been inflicted upon the community as a result. Through a mixed, interdisciplinary methodology that ranges from archives to the theatre, my dissertation seeks to offer a new critical approach to suicide that resists pathology and focuses, instead, on the contributions of structural oppression and points of resistance.

LT: Getting grants or fellowship is crucial for our fruitful research. Could you tell us tips for getting funds?

AP: Applying for funding can be a full-time task so it's best to start applying as soon as possible. I mainly followed the advice of Professor Cole, my advisor, which was to start small! The best way to win money, is to already have won money, so start by applying to small-stakes grants (like the DSRG offered by the Graduate Center) so that you can have those awards on your CV before you apply for more extensive funding, like dissertation-completion fellowships. Also, make sure you pay attention to the criteria for application and strategize when you apply for different things. Many larger awards only allow you to apply once so make sure you're in a position to be a viable candidate before spending all of your energy applying. That being said, don't discount anything and be willing to tell potential funders what they want to hear about your project (you may even end up discovering new elements to it you weren't planning on writing about).

LT: What are your best memories of the GC?

AP: The best part of my time at the GC has been the opportunity to connect with peers not only within the Political Science Program, but also across disciplines. Constructing meaningful support networks among my fellow students has been crucial to my success across my graduate school career. Additionally, I'm very grateful for my time with the DSC, especially the three years I spent on the steering committee. Contributing to a sense of community in an otherwise isolating environment and learning the tools required for effectively communicating with the administration in the fight for students' rights has been an invaluable experience.

Andrés Besserer (level II) published "Why School Securitization Fails. Lessons from Morrill and Musheno's Navigating Conflict" in [Metropolitics](#). He also co-authored with Javier Padilla Moreno-Torres (level I) "How to Understand Vox Voters with Ethnography" in Spain's *El País* research blog, [Agenda Pública](#).

Harry Blain (level III) published "[The Useless War Powers Act](#)," "[The Conservatism of Impeachment](#)," and "[How the Judiciary is Chipping Away at the War on Terror](#)" in Foreign Policy in Focus. Harry received a [Knickerbocker Award for Archival Research in American Studies](#).

Abby Dobson (M.A.) published "From Baldwin to Beyoncé: Exploring the Responsibility of the Artist in Society--- Re-envisioning the Black Female Sonic Artist as Citizen" in *African American Arts: Activism, Aesthetics, and Futurity* ([Rutgers](#) 2019). Abby was also elected [President of the Board of Directors](#) at The National Organization for Women, NYC Chapter in January.

Philip Johnson (level III) published "The Crime and State Terrorism Nexus: How Organized Crime Appropriates Counterinsurgency Violence" in [Perspectives on Terrorism](#). The article was covered by [CUNY's SUM](#), [The Graduate Center](#), and the [Thought Project](#) podcast. He also published "Revisiting the Battle of Culiacán" in [NACLA](#) and a book review of Angélica Durán-Martínez's *The Politics of Drug Violence: Criminals, Cops and Politicians in Colombia and Mexico* in [Strife Journal](#). Finally, Philip published "Sharing the process, not just the finished product" in the Graduate Center's [Publics Lab](#) project blog.

Rebecca Krisel (level I) published "Consent-Based Spaces in New York City after the Repeal of the Cabaret Law" in the [Columbia Public Policy Review \(CPPR\)](#). The article also appears in the 2019 CPPR [print edition](#) focused on innovation in policy.

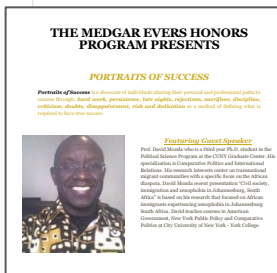
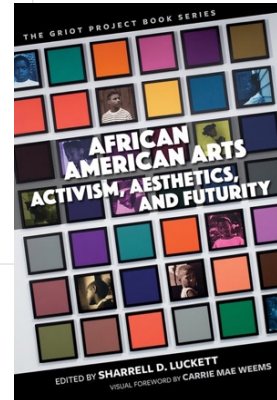
Kyong Mazzaro (level III) received a fellowship from the [Dangerous Speech Project](#) to study the relationship between government-sponsored anti-media speech and threats to the physical integrity of journalists in Venezuela.

Ariel Mekler (level II) was awarded the ISA-Feminist Theory and Gender Studies Section Convention Award for her papers "LGBTI Mainstreaming and the United Nations" and "Re-pathologizing queer bodies: The re-emergence of 'gender ideology' at the United Nations" submitted to the cancelled 2020 ISA annual convention.

David Monda (level I) was a guest speaker at the Medgar Evers Honors Programs series in December, and he presented on "Civil Society, Immigration and Xenophobia in Johannesburg South Africa" at the [Center for Philanthropy and Civil Society](#)'s workshop in November. David also published "Long Walk to Freedom: Xenophobia Continues Against African Migrants in Johannesburg South Africa" in [Political Animal Magazine](#) and the GC's [Advocate](#).

Javier Padilla Moreno-Torres (level I) published *A Finales De Enero* ([Tusquets](#) 2019) and was awarded the [Premio Comillas de Historia, Biografía y Memorias](#) for his book. The book, which was recently reviewed in the [Times Literary Supplement](#), is a biography of three members of Spain's anti-Franco student movement in the late 1960s.

Christopher Putney (M.A.) published "Trump's likely impeachment acquittal shows just how much the Constitution has decayed" on the [London School of Economics's US Centre blog](#). He was also featured on the [GC's Thought Project podcast](#) to discuss the same topic.



Scott Ratner (level II) was going to present "Getting the Bang for your Buck: Competing Strategies of Economic Statecraft in the Syrian Civil War" at the cancelled 2020 ISA annual convention.

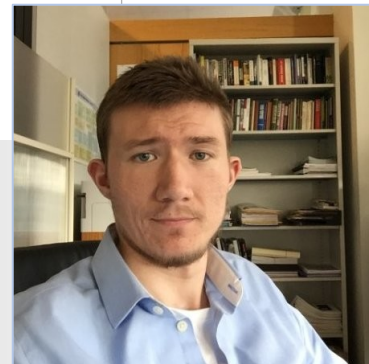
Sally Sharif (level III) wrote a book review of *When Movements Become Parties: The Bolivian MAS in Comparative Perspective* by Santiago Anria in the [LSE Review of Books](#). She presented the paper "Agents with Principles? The Role of Domestic Norms and Institutions in Conflict-Related Sexual Violence" at the Four Corners Conflict Network conference at the University of Arizona. She received the Provost's Digital Innovation Implementation Grant to complete her DDR-18 dataset and the Open Pedagogy Fellowship to develop a zero-cost syllabus for her course "Civil Wars and Peacebuilding" at Baruch College.

Rosa Squillacote (level III) secured a Doctoral Curriculum Enhancement Grant for the Political Science department to implement a series of student-led "Praxis Clusters," which focus on collaborative, reflective exploration of ethical research processes and other practices of public engagement. She worked alongside Philip Johnson (level), Professor Michael Fortner, Kyong Mazzaro (level), Nick Reynolds (level), and Professor Charles Tien. Rosa also received a [Center for the Humanities Teaching Fellowship](#).

Level 1 to Level 2	Level 2 to Level 3	M.A. Graduates February 2020
Tristan Mantel-Hoffman Milo Ward Aaron Stanley	Kyong Mazzaro Harry Blain Osha Smith-Gittelman Jenna Russo	William Novello Charles Linsmeier

In Memoriam

Our colleague and friend, Daniel Golebiewski, 29, passed away over the winter break. Dan joined the doctoral program in political science in the Fall 2015, eager to study International Relations. He worked closely with his mentor, Professor George Andreopoulos. Below is an email Professor Andreopoulos shared with his colleagues at the Center for International Human Rights:



"Dan was a star student at John Jay, a research assistant at CIHR, a graduate of the Human Rights Program at Columbia and in his second year at the Graduate Center's Doctoral Program in Political Science. In addition to his many contributions to CIHR, that included his co-authorship of two major research reports, Dan was an active member of the Interdisciplinary Studies Section (IDSS) of the International Studies Association. In the latter capacity, he served superbly as the administrative assistant to the Conference Organizing Committee of the 2016 IDSS Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece, where he also presented a very good paper on 'Responsible Solidarity': Poland's Response to the EU's Refugee Quota System. In recognition of his contributions to IDSS, the Executive Council voted to create the Daniel Golebiewski Best Paper Award. Beginning with the 2021 ISA Convention, the Award will go to the best paper by a graduate student presented in a panel sponsored or co-sponsored by IDSS/ISA at the Annual Convention. Dan was a very promising young scholar and a terrific team player. He will be sorely missed. May he rest in peace."

Letter from the MA Writing Fellow

HOMO POLITICUS

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Dear students,

The spring semester is for writing. In the fall, new students are finding their feet, and students further along in their degrees might be applying for research funding, or further grad programs, or jobs. Then the spring arrives, and for a while there aren't that many deadlines. It's a rare opportunity in which to start a project, or to dust off that neglected draft, and to do so without having to immediately worry about finishing and submitting the thing.

By the time this newsletter comes out, the spring – and hopefully a lot of writing projects – will be well under way. Here are two quick tips to help you start writing, or to keep progressing.

Timed writing

A tried and tested way to establish a writing (or really any work) rhythm is with the [Pomodoro Technique](#). "Pomodoros" involve writing in 25 minute installments, with a 5 minute break in between. Before each installment, write out your goal for the next 25 minutes (the smaller and more manageable the goals, the better).

This technique works best for me when I have a chunk of time – like a whole morning – to dedicate to writing. In these chunks of time, I often find myself drifting and losing focus. Pomodoros help me structure that time and to write steadily.

Change medium

Writing sometimes flows best when it flows across mediums. If you find yourself staring at a screen but unable to make any progress, try changing to a different type of writing. Take up a notebook and pen, and write about why you can't add to your assignment. Try some free association. Let your scrawl meander across the page – break out of the straight lines of the Word doc. Or articulate your ideas as a sketch or diagram. Once the idea is on paper, it will be easier to put it into words.

In addition to changing medium, think about changing location. If you're switching from typing to scribbling into a notebook, take advantage of the fact that a notebook doesn't need wifi or battery. Get up and take your writing somewhere else. If it's the nice end of the spring semester, take your writing outside. Look at your writing in natural light.

In addition to these tips, don't forget the writing resources at the GC. The [Writing Center](#) hosts workshops and individual consultations. The [PublicsLab](#) has workshops, fellowships, and a blog. I hold office hours on Tuesdays from 4 to 6pm, on Wednesdays from 6 to 8pm, and am also available by email. Send me a draft to discuss, or just check in for more writing tips.

Philip Johnson
pjohnson@gradcenter.cuny.edu

Alum Spotlight

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Patricia Stapleton (Ph.D., 2012) is a comparative political science and public policy scholar at RAND Corporation; her research focus is on the regulation of biotechnology in food production. Previously, she has served as an Assistant Professor of Political Science, and as Director of the Society, Technology, and Policy Program, at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI).



Max Fuerderer: Describe your work at the RAND Corporation. What are your responsibilities?

Patricia Stapleton: Right now, I'm in a period that we call "acculturation," and that can take anywhere from six months to a year, so I'm in month seven, and that's really just getting to know how RAND works. So, what I do now is different from what I will be doing, but really what I'm doing is working and collaborating with other people at RAND on projects. It's kind of like grant writing, although it's not all grants. Some of them are contracts, but it's a lot of thinking, reading, and writing out my ideas, and sorting out methods (I think of research design a lot here!). So, it's a lot of the research side of academic work.

MF: You've previously worked in academia, and now work in the private sector. Was the transition difficult for you?

PS: In terms of my transition, it's been relatively easy based on topic, because the organization has been relatively interested in topics revolving around science and technology and policy. I began to pursue these topics, in greater depth, in my position at WPI. I was offering courses that were much more geared towards science and technology, and environmental policy and politics. The more I was at WPI, the stronger my focus in technology and science became.

MF: Your dissertation concerned biotechnology and the European Union, and that is very similar to your current work. Did you initially look for a position at RAND that was colloquial to your research?

PS: RAND reached out to me, actually! I haven't asked the director specifically why, but he reached out to me in advance of APSA a few years ago because he saw the paper I was presenting which was on science, technology, and policy related to RAND's interests. I think one of the things RAND was looking for were skills that would make me a good fit for the organization, and what I was going to do. Because I had previously been doing a lot of grant writing at WPI, that made me competitive for the position.

MF: You have been the recipient of numerous grants. Do you have any advice for any students aiming to obtain grants?

PS: Getting grants is very difficult, and everyone should understand: you are going to fail a lot more than you will succeed. You do not know what the pool is. You do not know who you are competing against. It is a different kind of writing, and it really requires a team of people to get it right. Grant writing is not something that you should attempt to do all by yourself. I still have some of my cohorts at the grad center review some of my work, for clarity, so that's another good bit of advice! So, even when you're working on your own, still try and be part of a collaborative process, so that you can get feedback, which is very important. Persistence and resilience is key!

MF: Any fond memories or reflections on your time as a student at CUNY?

PS: I do have fond memories of my time at the GC! They all involved my peers. Spending time and developing relationships with other students (in Poli Sci and across departments) were critical to both my success at the GC and after I defended my Dissertation. I am glad I was able to organize and attend our departmental, DSC, and university events.

Jacqueline A. Ross (M.A., 2019) is a Doctor of Philosophy Student at the School of Sociology, Politics, and International Studies at Bristol College in England. Her research focuses on tipping as a technique of labor control, and how this technique is integral to emerging apparatuses of control in contemporary political economy of the capitalist core states.



Maxwell Fuerderer: Explain your research focus. Is it similar or different from what you worked on as a Master's student at CUNY?

Jacqueline Ross: The research is an outward extension of the work I did in my Masters work at CUNY. The research question asks: 'what can the study of tipping, with specific emphasis on the server in the restaurant industry, reveal about the generation of social relations of domination, exploitation, and appropriation in the neoliberal paradigm'? The research will look at tipping as not only a form of remuneration but as a technique of labour control which relies on norms of gender, race and class in the specific location of "The Hamptons" in New York.

The underlying objective of the research is twofold. The first objective pursues an investigation into tipping which focuses on those who are exposed to it and how they are affected economically, socially and experientially. The second objective seeks to unpack tipping in terms of its political economic function, history, and contemporary use.

MF: Your research focuses on tipping as a technique of labor control. How does this practice affect social relations?

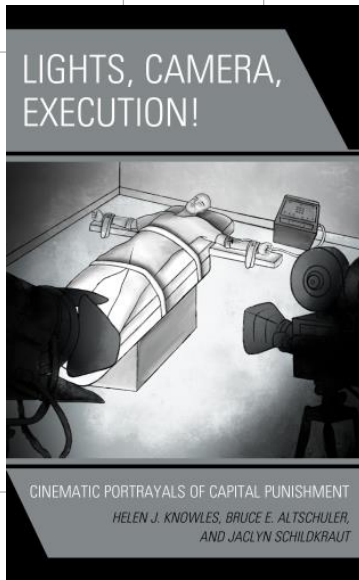
JR: Tipping is a custom reliant on customer charity, so the impersonal economic relations that exist within the wage relation between customer and worker become blurred. Social relations emergent in the realm of tipping are informalized and result in; 1) an increased need for workers to perform emotional labor subjecting them to control beyond the wage relation; 2) a control located in affective relations of power; and 3) a control akin to emerging discourses that constitute and identify neoliberalism. It is not that full-waged workers do not have to perform affective and emotional labor; it is rather that workers who are tipped are directly remunerated based on their ability to appeal to the subjective needs of various individuals.

MF: How did the Master's Program at the GC help you prepare for your doctoral program?

JR: The Master's Program at the GC was excellent in my opinion. The most important and preparatory element of the program was the calibre of teaching and the dedication of my professors. It was obvious that my professors had a sincere love for and interest in the courses they were teaching. The expectations of the professors were high but this allowed for an increased depth in conversation during the seminars that propelled them to an advanced level.

MF: Any reflections on your time as a student at the GC?

JR: Although I was not able to take part in department events as much I would have liked, due to a two hour commute each way, the social element of the department was obvious. The theory seminars in particular created a space for participation in academic conversation outside of the classroom. The dedication of professors, calibre of students, and the amalgamation of the social with the academic were all fundamental elements of the program. I still miss my seminars at the GC and would love to return in some capacity in the future!



Bruce Altschuler (Ph.D., 1980) published *Lights, Camera, Execution! Cinematic Portrayals of Capital Punishment* ([Rowman & Littlefield](#) 2019), which looks at depictions of the death penalty in cinema.

Shawna Brandle (Ph.D., 2013) will officially be a tenured professor at Kingsborough Community College, New York starting in September 2020. Shawna was also featured on the [APSA blog](#) where she shared her experiences as a community college professor.

Rachel Brown (Ph.D., 2016) published "Thinking with the Intimacy Contract: Social Contract Critique and the Privatization of US Empire" in [Political Theory](#).

Jeffrey Broxmeyer (Ph.D., 2014) published "Bringing The 'Ring' Back In: The Politics of Booty Capitalism" in the [Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era](#).

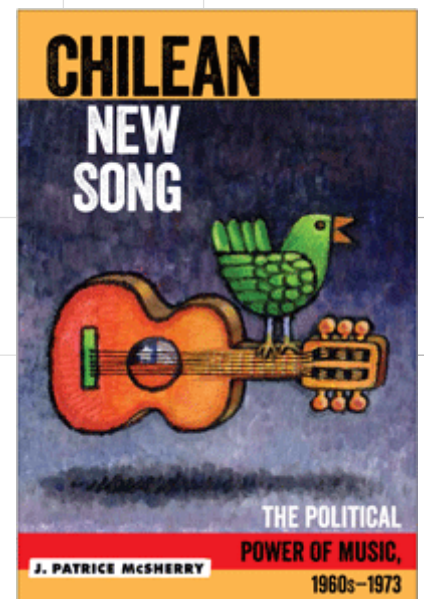
Jonathan Keller (Ph.D., 2014) published "Ambiguities of Prophecy: Old Testament Rhetoric in the American Founding Era" in [Politics and Religion](#).

Fanny Lauby (Ph.D., 2014) published "Diversity, Leadership, and Authenticity in the Undocumented Youth Movement" in the [Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics](#).

Anthony Maniscalco (Ph.D., 2014) published "A Little Island on Pier 55: Urban Austerity and the Eclipse of Publicly Made Public Space" in [Urban Transcripts](#).

J. Patrice McSherry (Ph.D., 1994) spoke at the Catholic University in Santiago on *Chilean New Song* ([Temple](#) 2015) and its relevance to the current protest movement in Chile. She published "Operation Condor and Transnational State Violence against Exiles" in the [Journal of Global South Studies](#); "La dictadura y la música popular en Chile: Los primeros años de plomo," in [Resonancias](#); "¡Compañero Víctor Jara Presente!" in [Jacobin](#); and "Explaining the 2019 Social Rebellion in Chile" in [New Politics](#).

Milton D. Ottensofer (Ph.D., 2019) published "Fifty Years Since the Brussels Conference" in the [New York University Environmental Law Journal](#).

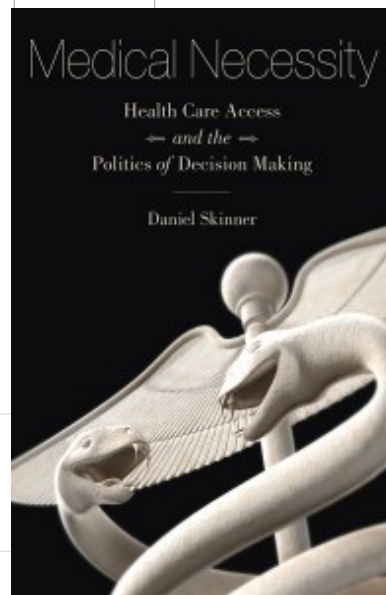


Nayma Qayum (Ph.D., 2014) received tenure at Manhattanville College.

Sofia Sedergren (M.A., 2019) is overseeing the “[CUNY Census Corps](#)” for the entire CUNY community alongside Tyler Olsen (level I) who is coordinating the efforts at the Graduate Center.

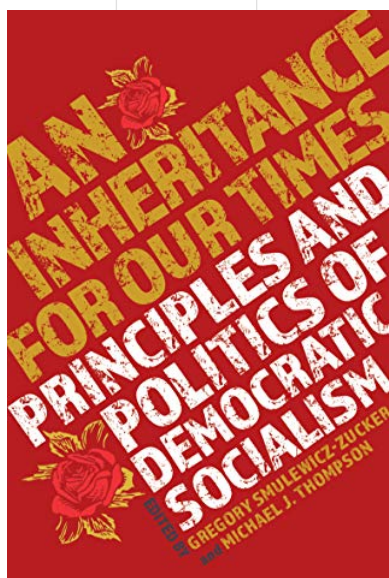
Amy Schiller (Ph.D., 2019) received a postdoctoral fellowship with the [Dartmouth Society of Fellows](#).

Dan Skinner (Ph.D., 2009) published his first book *Medical Necessity: Health Care Access and the Politics of Decision Making* ([Minnesota](#) 2019) where he argues that sustained political engagement with medical necessity is essential to developing a health care system that meets basic public health objectives.



Michael J. Thompson (Ph.D., 2005) co-edited *An Inheritance for Our Times: The Principles and Politics of Democratic Socialism* ([O/R Books](#) 2020), a reader that includes original essays in the form of both personal accounts and intellectual arguments from activists and theorists advocating a democratic socialist outlook.

Puangchon Unchanam (Ph.D., 2017) published his first book *Royal Capitalism: Wealth, Class, and Monarchy in Thailand* ([Wisconsin](#) 2020), which examines the reign of Thailand’s King Bhumibol Adulyadej or Rama IX (1946–2016) and how the crown thrived by transforming itself into a distinctly “bourgeois” monarchy that co-opted middle-class values of hard work, frugality, and self-sufficiency.



Department Events

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February 19: Comparative Politics Workshop: Ryan Brunette (GC) "The Politics of South Africa's Patronage System."

February 26: Comparative Politics Workshop: Ke Li (John Jay College) "Disputation as a State Enterprise."

March 3: Super Tuesday Viewing Party, co-hosted with Students of the State

March 4: Comparative Politics Workshop: Aaron Stanley (GC) "Manufacturing Consent: The Instrumentalization of the Invitation for Intervention in Failed States."

March 11: Comparative Politics Workshop: Andrés Besserer (GC) "Gang Truces in Central America. Ambiguous negotiations and democratic uncertainty."

March 12: Virtual Department Colloquium: Julie Novkov (SUNY Albany) "Serving on the Margins of Empire – Black Service and Rights Claim in the Spanish American and Philippine War."

March 25: Virtual Comparative Politics Workshop: Kyong Mazarro (GC) "The Local Politics of Media Freedom: Evidence from Mexico (2016-2018)"

April 1: Virtual Comparative Politics Workshop: Agnès Aubry (GC/University of Lausanne) "Neoliberalizing the Welfare State? Outsourcing Immigrants' Support Services to Nonprofit Organizations in Switzerland"

April 22: Virtual Comparative Politics Workshop: José Laguarta Ramírez (John Jay College) "Outrageous Chatter: Emotive Discourse, Colonial Capitalism, and the Puerto Rican Uprising of 2019"

April 23: Virtual Student Town Hall Meeting

Fall 2020 Course Schedule

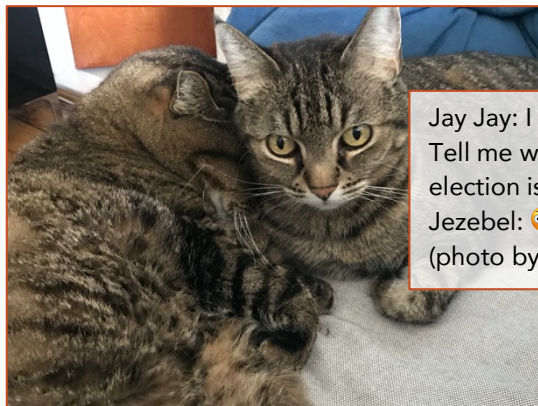
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
2:00–4:00	Beinart , "Writing Politics I" (G/WP) Lipsitz , "Campaigns & Elections" (AP)	Weiss , "The United Nations and Changing World Politics" (IR) Buck-Morss , "Democratic Socialism" (PT)	Mehta , "Global Political Theory" (PT) Mampilly , "African Politics" (CP)	Marasco , "Dissertation Proposal Workshop" (G) Rosenblatt , "Comparative Revolutions: from the English Revolutions of 1688 to the Arab Spring" (PT)
4:15–6:15	Woodward , "Basic Theories & Concepts in Comparative Politics" (CP) Mollenkopf & Smith , "Ethnography of Public Policy" (PP) Mills, "Africana Philosophy" (PT)	Halper , "Civil Liberties" (AP) Gornick , "Women, Work & Public Policy" (PP) Gould , "Critical Social Theory" (PT)	Feldman , "Political Theory of Police" (PT) Alves , "Research Design in Political Science" (G)	
6:30–8:30	DiGaetano , "Urban Public Policy" (PP) Wolin , "Neofascism: from the New Right to the Alt-Right" (PT)	Weber , "Applied Quantitative Research II" (G) Fortner , "M.A. Core Course" (G)	Andreopoulos , "Basic Theories & Concepts in International Relations" (IR) Arias , "Democratization and Regime Transitions" (CP)	O'Brien , "The American Presidency" (AP)

Warm and Fuzzy

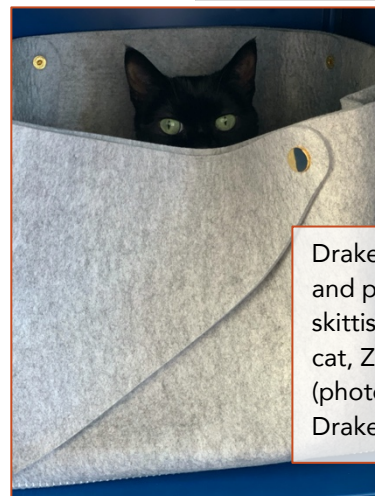
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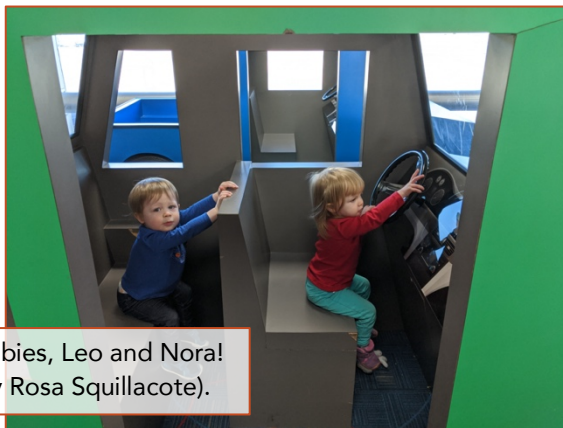
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Jay Jay: I can't look!
Tell me when the
election is over!
Jezebel: 🤪
(photo by B Stone).

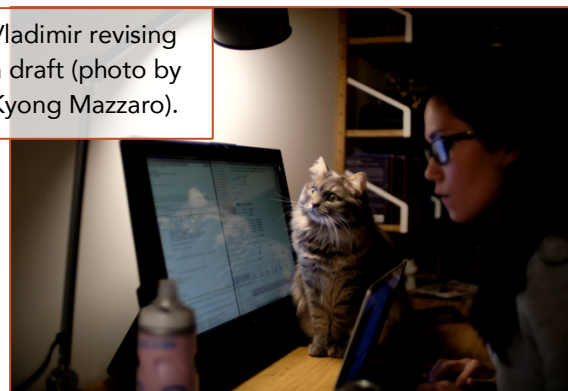


Drake Logan
and partner's
skittish alien
cat, Zephyr
(photo by
Drake Logan).

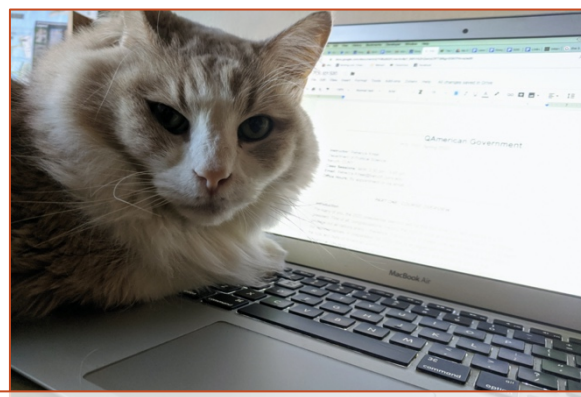


Rosa's babies, Leo and Nora!
(Photo by Rosa Squillacote).

Vladimir revising
a draft (photo by
Kyong Mazzaro).



This little alpaca
on Isla de la Luna
of Bolivia's Lake
Titicaca was born
on the island and,
without a
dissertation to
write, grazes on
the grounds of an
Inca nunnery
(photo by Sally
Sharif).

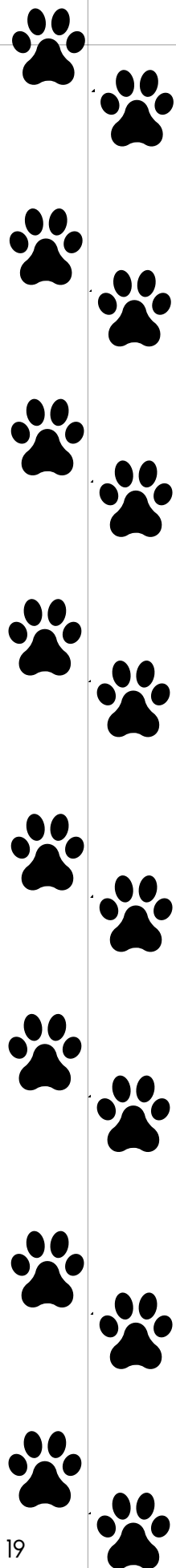
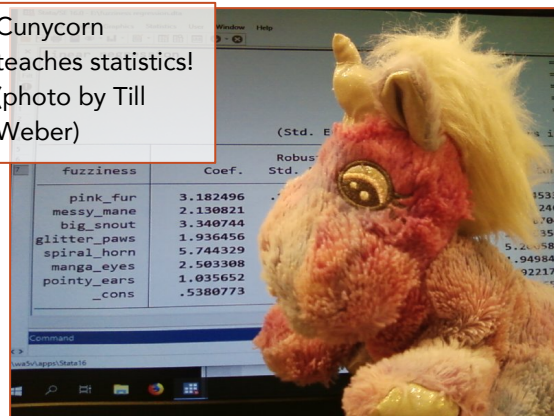


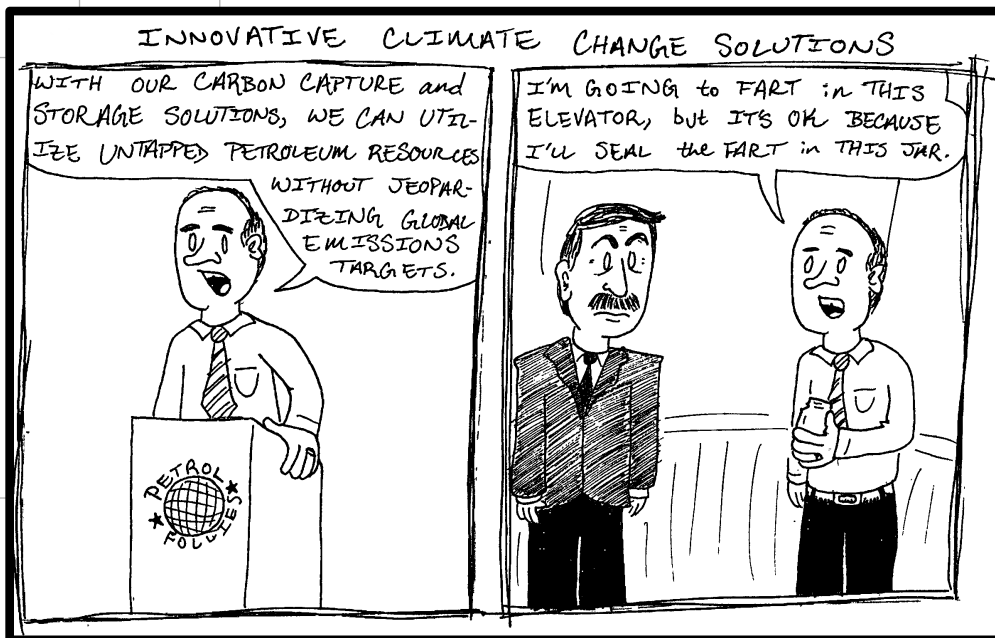
This is not a drill. I will delete your paper if you don't
pay attention to ME(N)OW! (photo by Rebecca Krisel)



Reggie and Buddy in an
epic battle over scarce
resources. (photo by
Toby Irving).

Cunycorn
teaches statistics!
(photo by Till
Weber)





Also, buy a tote bag! Want to support the Political Science Department and have something to show for it? Well, now you can! 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.