

Homo Politicus

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

**THE GRADUATE
CENTER**
CITY UNIVERSITY
OF NEW YORK

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

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

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Letter from the Executive Officer



Dear Colleagues, Students, and Alums,

So much feels different, and yet the same, since publishing our Fall 2020 Newsletter. A new but familiar President is now in office. COVID-19 vaccines are being approved at record speeds, offering us all a hesitantly-hopeful sense that we may be within hailing distance of resuming something resembling life from the “before times.” Still, vaccine distribution data highlights enduring inequalities in terms of access to technology, evidence-based information, and proper healthcare, which disproportionately affect lower-income communities of color. Furthermore, this January, in addition to witnessing white supremacists storm our capital, nearly 80,000 Americans died from COVID-19, making it the deadliest month of the pandemic in the U.S.. Although deaths are now declining, the U.S. reached a grim milestone of 500,000 deaths in February, and the suffering of many in this country, and around the globe, is staggering. It is overwhelming, yet we can take some solace, I hope, in the possibility of using our skills as researchers to expose and address these inequalities. This newsletter highlights how our faculty, students, alum, and staff continue to work tirelessly—both inside and outside of the classroom—for a more just and equitable world. Though we aim to curate the content of our newsletter to showcase the diversity of the members of our program, current and former, the gendered imbalance of work has been intensified under the pressures of the pandemic. Thus, this issue is, unfortunately, sorely lacking in gender balance.

In addition to our usual faculty, student, and alum updates, in this issue we share reflections from our students who are juggling their studies and research while also serving as caregivers. We also highlight the experience of one of our M.A. students who, because of the pandemic, is completing his coursework remotely from Istanbul, Turkey, while also working as a journalist covering the protests against his government’s attempt to control academic institutions. Since our 2020 Department Awards night was only held this Fall, we share portions from our Distinguished Alum Award winner, Professor John Flateau (Ph.D., 2005), who presented his research on emerging policy landscapes stemming from the 2020 Census.

Even with the challenges our online world brings, our program continues to assemble for intellectual discourse. The Political Science Program hosted a book talk with Zachary Shirkey (GC and Hunter College) to discuss his recently published *American Dove: US Foreign Policy & the Failure of Force*, moderated by Stuart Gottlieb (Columbia University) and Peter Lieberman (GC and Queens College). The American Politics Workshop welcomed Erin Mayo-Adam (Hunter College) to discuss their recently published book, *Queer Alliances: How Power Shapes Political Movement Formation*, and Viviana Rivera-Burgos (Baruch College) to discuss their article “Language, Skin Tone, and Attitudes toward Puerto Rico in the Aftermath of Hurricane Maria.” The International Relations Workshop hosted a book talk with Michael Lee (Hunter College) to discuss his forthcoming *From Malaise to Meltdown: The International Origins of Financial Folly, 1844*. The Political Theory Workshop organized paper talks with Jonathon Flatley (Wayne State University), Melinda Cooper (University of Sydney), and Bernardo Zacka (M.I.T.). Our Comparative Politics Workshop included paper presentations on migrants from Victoria Finn (Universidad Diego Portales), the breakdown of democracies from Şebnem Gümüşçü (Middlebury College), political cleavages within democracy from Clara Martínez-Toledano and Amory Gethin (Imperial College London and Paris School of Economics), protests in Jordan from Jillian Schwedler (GC and Hunter College), taxation by rebel groups from Zachariah Mampilly (Baruch College), exploitative revenue collection in the criminal justice system from Joe Soss and Josh Page (University of Minnesota), and democracy breakdown in Turkey and South Africa from Sebnem Gumuscu (Middlebury College). Additionally, the Society and Protest Workshop hosted a series of panels and paper discussions responding to the topic of “precarity” with Nidhi Srinivas (The New School), Javier Auyero (University of Texas at Austin), Omar Sirri (University of Toronto), and GC students.

Our students never cease to impress us, as captured on page 13. With great pride, we recognize Thuy Anh Tran (level III) who was awarded a 2020 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant by the American Political Science Association for her work on political repression, social movements, and political violence. We also commend Sarah Shah (level III) who received the World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship by the Smith Richardson Foundation for her dissertation titled “The Politics of Post-Counterinsurgency Statebuilding in Northwestern Pakistan.” Finally, we congratulate Heidi Andrea Rhodes who was awarded a Spring 2021 Mellon Arts and Practitioners Fellowship at the Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration.

In this newsletter, we also memorialize the loss of Drake Logan (Ph.D., 2020) and Guy Padula (Ph.D., 1995).

As always, deepest appreciation to the *Homo Politicus* staff—Claudia Benincasa, Toby Irving, Maxwell Fuerderer, Alana Pagano, Carly Ransdell, Saira Rafiee, and our superb editor-in-chief Rebecca Krisel—for their excellent work on this newsletter. The program office—DEO Charles Tien, M.A. Advisor Michael Fortner, APO Earl Fleary, and I—remain available to support students and faculty.

In isolationship, Alyson Cole

Caregiving and Raising Children While in Graduate School

In addition to being stellar scholars, some of our students are balancing their academic commitments with responsibilities as caregivers to both children and elders. In this feature, we pass-the-mic to five students who share their experiences being graduate students while also being parents.



"I got pregnant in my second year of the Ph.D. program and I quickly learned that I wasn't going to have the luxury of large blocks of time to work. Instead, I would have to grab a few hours here and there to read and write where I could. Still, during my pregnancy, I took my comprehensive exams for my minor and was also working full-time. My daughter is now 5 years old. I continue to struggle with carving out time for the dissertation in addition to working while also being around for my daughter. While I tend to prioritize my commitments to other people rather than the one I made to myself to finish this dissertation, I found that it was only when I stopped being so hard on myself that

I was able to move forward with my dissertation research. Ironically, I've gotten more work done during the pandemic. The increased flexibility in my hours and my not needing to commute has freed up a few more hours of my day and left me less exhausted at the end of it. Luckily, the professional world is also more understanding of balancing child rearing and work; no one seems to mind if my daughter wanders into a Zoom meeting. I hope the new normal incorporates these lessons." - Merrill Sovner (level III)

"While it's probably not recommended to begin a Ph.D. while raising a newborn in the midst of a global pandemic, to borrow a line from a more famous NYC dad, life is apparently what happens when you're busy making other plans. Speaking of plans, I have found that the close coordination of schedules—via the all-knowing kitchen calendar—between my partner, parents and I has been key to making this work since we must strictly adhere to our rotating baby shifts.

During my shifts, deep dives into political science theories are juxtaposed by bottle feeding and sporadically launching into silly voices and songs, sometimes inspired by what I just read. It turns out there is an audience (of at least one) for lullabies about Gramsci!" - Ken Silverman (level I)

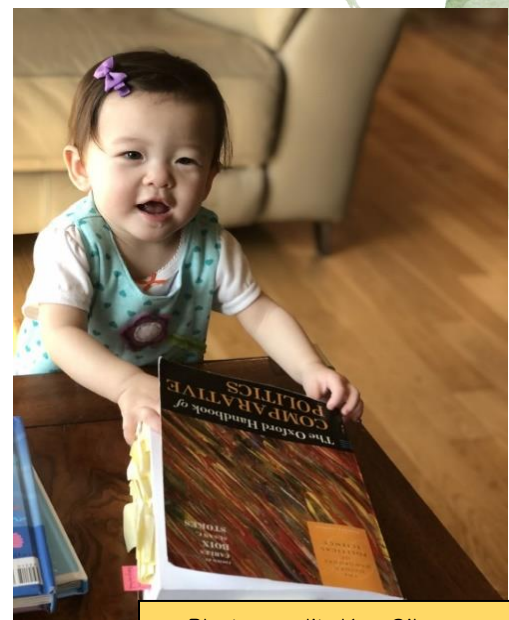


Photo credit: Ken Silverman

“Going to grad school is a great way to develop expertise in your subject area—for me, that’s the protection of civilians in conflict settings. Going to grad school while raising kids has also made me an expert at a number of other things: typing while a child sits on my lap; getting up to make snacks every 45 seconds without losing my train of thought; and tuning out noise and distraction while still keeping an ear open for any real emergency. I’ve learned there is no silver bullet to achieving work life balance. Instead, I’ve decided to ditch the impossible balancing act. In the end, my kids are loved and they get to watch me put my heart and soul into work that I care about. Yes, it’s messy. But also beautiful and sort of perfect in its own way.” -Jenna Russo (level III)

Photo credit: Jenna Russo



“In my experience, the key to surviving a Ph.D. program while raising a family and juggling a full-time job to boot is time management. When I was working on my masters at CUNY City College 10 years ago, it was even more difficult as my two sons were much younger, but when I started my Ph.D. in political science in 2017, it was a bit easier because my sons were older and didn’t need help with homework (my older son has since graduated from college and has a real job!). But they still needed attention. On top of that, there’s always my work at Human Rights Watch, which eats up the bulk of the work week. So I’d devote the bulk of my weekends to studying for classes—with a few hours set aside for weekend bike trips or visits to the beach. Somehow I survived. Now I’ve finished my coursework, passed all my exams, and am a full Ph.D. candidate. All that’s left is ... writing my dissertation!” -Louis Charbonneau (level III)

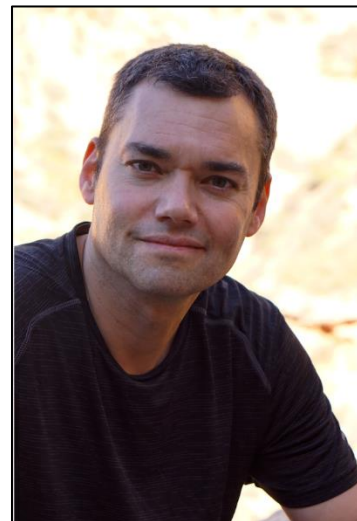
“I’m not sure where to begin. I keep getting stuck on the etymology of care and for whatever reason keep coming back to Silvia Federici’s concept of reproductive labor. Being pregnant, giving birth, and stumbling into parenthood during a once in a century pandemic has been wild. From COVID exposure scares that keep my partner from holding her child, to the heartbreak that still persists as we anxiously wait for our little one to meet her grandparents, it’s hard to think of caretaking at this moment, outside of the lived reality that COVID brings and all its unforeseen subtle impacts. And yet, through it all, I’m eternally grateful for the ability to care-give, care with, and be cared for by my given and chosen family.” - Ariel Mekler (level III)



Faculty Profile:

Peter Beinart

Peter Beinart is an associate professor at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism and the Graduate Center's political science department, where he teaches the Writing Politics course. Beinart is a contributing opinion writer at the *New York Times*, editor-at-large at *Jewish Currents*, a contributor at CNN, and a Fellow at the Foundation for Middle East Peace.



Alana Pagano: Can you share a bit about your background and how you ended up teaching journalism?

Peter Beinart: I went to graduate school a long time ago and I thought about getting a Ph.D. and trying to become a historian or political scientist. I was already doing some journalism. I ended up stopping after getting a Master's in international relations and then went to work for *The New Republic* where I had already been an intern. I was a journalist for about ten years and worked for a couple of think tanks. Over time, because of the changes in journalism, I began to realize that if I wanted to do the journalism I was really interested in, it would be great to have a kind of base outside of journalism where I could teach and also have the time to do the kind of writing that I wanted to do, that would hopefully be complementary with my teaching. I was lucky enough to find a home at CUNY.

AP: What led you to the Writing Politics program?

PB: When I was hired to teach in the journalism school and in the political science department, the idea from the very beginning was that this was where I would do my teaching. The program had already existed but since I had been the editor at a political magazine and a political writer, this was something that was very familiar to me—thinking about what constitutes good political writing, helping people formulate ideas, editing the work, etc. I think it was a natural fit that that would be the program I taught in.

AP: What do you consider the purpose of the Writing Politics courses?

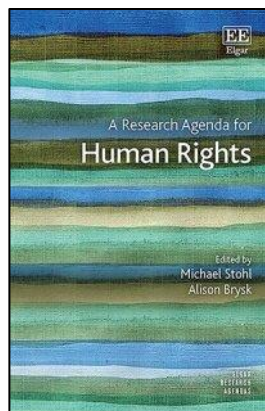
PB: People who are getting a Master's or a Doctorate, whether it's in political science or some other discipline, are gaining a lot of knowledge that hopefully, they can share with more than just an academic audience. Yet, the style of writing that is emphasized in academia, while valuable in a lot of ways, does not translate so easily into more popular mediums. The imperatives are different. So, what I try to do is teach students how to take the things that they are learning and write about them in a way that will be attractive to a wider audience.

AP: What advice would you give to political science students interested in writing for non-academic audiences?

PB: I would start by saying that if you want to do good public political writing, you need to be reading good public political writing. It doesn't only have to be in politics or even be non-fiction, but you have to be constantly kind of infusing yourself with beautiful writing. So, that in some organic ways will help. There are also a series of basic principles about good writing that I emphasize and also a set of principles about how to structure an argument in this kind of discourse, for let's say the Op-Ed page of a newspaper, or for a journal or magazine with a mass audience. We look at what those principles are and then we try to have the students execute them.



Faculty News



Professor George Andreopoulos published "Academic Freedom as a Human Right," in *A Research Agenda for Human Rights* ([Edward Elgar Publishing](#) 2020) and "Embracing our Common Humanity" in *A Community of Scholars* ([Columbia University Press](#) 2020). As of January 2021, Professor Andreopoulos is the Editor-in-Chief of [Human Rights Review](#).

Professor Sherrie Baver was appointed as a member of the [Earth System Governance International Research Fellows Network](#). She also published "Nature Conservation, Extractivist Conflicts, and Indigenous Rights in the Americas" in [Global Environmental Politics](#).

Professor Emeritus Mark Blasius co-edited *More Tomboy, More Bakla than We Admit: Insights into Sexual and Gender Diversity in Philippine Culture, History, and Politics* ([Vibal](#) 2020).

Professor Jacqueline Braveboy-Wagner published "Caribbean Foreign Policy" in the [Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies](#).

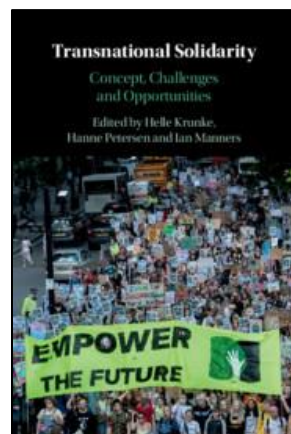
Professor Heath Brown and Professor Charles Tien were guests on the podcast, "[A Divided Country, But Still a Democracy](#)."

Professor Mitchell Cohen's book *The Politics of Opera: A History from Monteverdi to Mozart* was republished in paperback ([Princeton University Press](#) 2020). His article, "Irving Howe: A Socialist Life," appeared in the Fall issue of [Dissent](#).

Professor Forrest D. Colburn published *Colonialism, Independence, and the Construction of Nation-States* ([Palgrave Macmillan](#) 2021). An early draft of the work was presented in the department's Comparative Politics Workshop.

Professor Alyson Cole published "(Re)Made in America: Survivorship after the Shoah" in the [European Journal of Cultural Studies](#) and "Breaking the glass slipper: Can Marjorie Taylor Greene succeed as 'Trump in drag'?" in [Fortune Magazine](#). She also was elected to the Activist Educators Collective of the [NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault](#).

Professor Michael Fortner was featured by the [Graduate Center](#) in an interview discussing safeguarding Black communities.

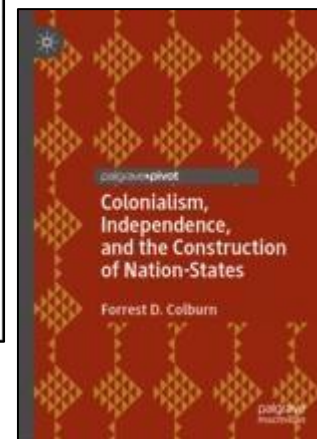
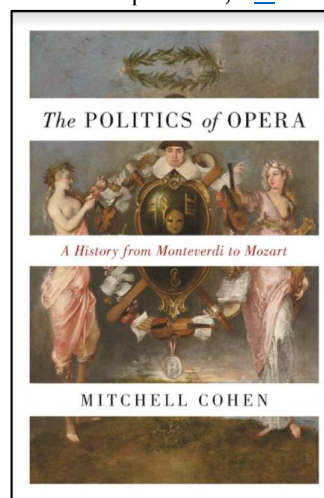


Professor Emeritus Joyce Gelb contributed "Hiroko Hayashi: A Fond Remembrance and Celebration of Life," in *Scholar Lawyer and University President* (Komyasha Press 2020). She was also a consultant on social movement theory to Ray Brescia's book *The Future Of Change: How Technology Shapes Social Revolutions* ([Cornell University Press](#) 2020).

Professor Janet Gornick appeared on [CUNYTV](#) with Laura Flanders.

Professor Carol Gould published "Solidarity between the National and the Transnational: What Do We Owe to 'Outsiders'?" in *Transnational Solidarity: Concept, Challenges and Opportunities* ([Cambridge University Press](#) 2020).

Professor Thomas Halper published "The Living Constitution and the (Almost) Dead Contracts Clause," in the [British Journal of American Legal Studies](#).



Faculty News

Professor David Jones published “Gender, Sex, and Trust in Government” in [Politics & Gender](#) and “Institutional Context and Accountability for Political Distrust” in [Political Research Quarterly](#). Professor Jones was featured by the [Graduate Center](#) for his consulting work as an exit poll analyst for *The New York Times* and CBS for the past 20 years.

Professor Leslie McCall published “To Reduce Inequality, We Need a More Democratic System of Political Representation” in [The Thought Project](#).

Professor John Mollenkopf moderated “Rethinking NYC: Governing a Diverse City,” a panel on minority and immigrant empowerment in city politics at the [Graduate Center](#).

Professor Corey Robin published “[The Professor and the Politician](#)” and “[Trump and the Trapped Country](#)” in *The New Yorker*.

Professor Sanford F. Schram published “Racial Liberalism Resurgent: Connecting Multi-Racial Protests and Electoral Politics Today,” in the [Journal of Race, Ethnicity and, Politics](#).

AMERICAN DOVE



US FOREIGN POLICY AND THE FAILURE OF FORCE

Zachary C. Shirkey

Professor Zachary Shirkey published *American Dove: US Foreign Policy and the Failure of Force* ([University of Michigan Press](#) 2020).

Professor Nicholas Rush Smith published *Contradictions of Democracy: Vigilantism and Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa* ([Oxford University Press](#) 2019)

Professor Yan Sun published *From Empire to Nation State: Ethnic Politics in China* ([Cambridge University Press](#) 2020)

Professor Till Weber published “The Proof of the Pudding: Issue Yield at the Ballot Box” in *Conflict Mobilisation or Problem-solving? Issue Competition in Western Europe* ([Routledge](#) 2021).



CONFLICT MOBILISATION OR PROBLEM-SOLVING?

ISSUE COMPETITION IN WESTERN EUROPE

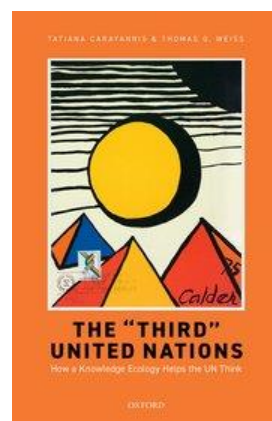
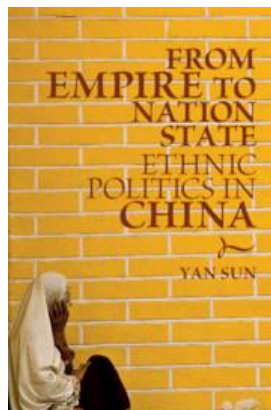
Edited by
Lorenzo De Sio and Romain Lachar

Professor Thomas Weiss co-authored with Tatiana Carayannis (Ph.D., 2017) *The “Third” United Nations: How a Knowledge Ecology Helps the UN Think* ([Oxford](#) 2021).

Professor Susan Woodward appeared on [International Horizons](#) to discuss the outcomes of Balkan peace.

Professor Ming Xia published *Explaining Power with Political Science: Misgovernment by*

Demagogues from China to U.S., 2010-2020 ([Bouden House](#) 2021) and he co-authored “Opinion: ‘Twin Guardians of Civilizations’” in [DailyClout](#).



Letter from the Social Media Fellow

Dear Students, Alum, and Faculty,

As the department social media fellow, my objective is to model and promote social media best-practices in order to boost the digital presence of our department, as well as the online profiles of our faculty, alums, and current students.

This semester I'm focused on promoting best practices on LinkedIn. LinkedIn is best known for professional networking and job opportunities, but it is also an important space for promoting your work as students, alum, and faculty.



I invite you to review this post on the Social Mediums blog—the social media fellow's program site—"Dos and Don'ts on LinkedIn." It covers the basics for creating a professional LinkedIn profile, including choosing the right profile photo, the most effective ways to describe your experience and skills, and the importance of building and maintaining relationships with current and former colleagues via LinkedIn.

One asset I've been working on, in conjunction with the Alum Committee, is growing our [LinkedIn Alum-Student Network](#), a LinkedIn group for alums and current students to foster connections across cohorts and support graduates of our program to make meaningful professional connections. I encourage you to join if you are an alum or student, and invite your colleagues to do the same!

If you are a new student or thinking about your digital academic presence for the first time, please review the slides from the Professional Development Workshop "[Developing Your Academic Digital Identity](#)." The workshop provides an introduction to the essential platforms for building your academic digital identity, including the CUNY Academic Commons (where you can create our own personal website—for free!), ORCID, Google Scholar, CUNY Academic Works, WordPress, Twitter, and more.

Finally, follow the department on Twitter [@GC_PoliSci](#) and on [Facebook](#) to be the first to hear about upcoming events, workshops, and happenings in the department; and don't forget about the great resources available on our [website](#) for current students, including a catalogue of [funding opportunities](#) and more.

If you have any questions about digital strategies, or if you have updates for the Political Science Department website, please contact me at estone@gradcenter.cuny.edu.

From a social distance,
B Stone
[@BStone_ABD](#)

Department Awards Night

October 1, 2020 on Zoom

Distinguished Alum Award

At the 2020 Political Science Department Awards Ceremony, Dr. John Flateau (Ph.D., 2005) received the Distinguished Alum Award. Dr. Flateau is a Professor of Political Science and Public Administration at Medgar Evers College, where he served as Vice President and Dean of its School of Business. He also co-founded and directs the DuBois Bunche Center for Public Policy and US Census Information Center at Medgar Evers College.

A nationally recognized expert and strategist, Dr. Flateau has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including the 2017 President's Award by the National Association of Health Service Executives (NAHSE), New York Region and the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award by the New York State Chapter of the National Association of Minority Contractor. A scholar activist, Dr. Flateau has also served as: Chief of Staff and campaign coordinator for Mayor David Dinkins, Deputy Secretary—New York State Senate, Executive Director—New York State Black, Hispanic, Asian Legislative Caucus, and Senior Vice President—Empire State Development.

Dr. Flateau shared his research on "The Emerging Policy Landscape," describing the effects of demographic changes and redistricting based on the 2020 Census count to project a changing policy landscape. You can listen to the entirety of Dr. Flateau's comments, [here](#).



Faculty Mentor Award

Dr. Susan Woodward received the Faculty Mentor Award. She is the only faculty member to have received this award twice—this speaks to her tireless commitment as a mentor to her students. Dr. Woodward's mentoring style has been described as collaborative, candid, and very hands-on, which students deeply appreciate. She is constantly encouraging students to develop, and write, at every stage of their doctoral journey. Furthermore, Dr.

Woodward is a supporter of the student-led Comparative Politics Workshop and runs a dissertation proposal writing group. For these reasons, and more, she is considered a great mentor to many.

"As the conductor of the L.A. Philharmonic Gustavo Dudamel said: "I am nothing without my musicians." Well, I am nothing without my students. The privilege and utter pleasure of working with our students at the Graduate Center in political science has been the crowning glory of the last decades of my career. I am so happy and grateful for this honor, but I really see it as an honor to our students and how lucky we are as faculty. I certainly have been and I am." - Dr. Susan Woodward

Faculty Citizenship Award

Dr. Keena Lipsitz received the Faculty Citizenship Award. Dr. Lipsitz has served as the Chair of the American Politics Subfield and the American Politics First Examination Committee. She has also been a member of the American Politics Search Committee, the Methods Committee, the Admissions Committee, and the American Politics First Examination Committee.

Faculty Citizenship Award: Prof. Keena Lipsitz

- American Politics Subfield Chair, 2019-2020.
- American Politics Hiring Committee, 2018-19, 2019-20.
- Methods Committee, 2019-20.
- Admissions Committee, 2015-16, 2017-18, 2018-19.
- American Politics First Examination Committee, Chair, 2018-2019.
- American Politics First Examination Committee, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18.



Department Awards Night

Student Citizenship Award: Andres Besserer Rayas

- Student Representative on the Executive Committee (2018-2019 and 2019-2020)
- Member of the Student Colloquium Committee (2018-2019 and 2020-2021)
- Member of the Elections Committee (2018-2019 and 2019-2020)
- Member of the Admissions and Awards Committee (2020-2021)
- Member of the Comparative Politics Workshop Organizing Committee (2018-now)
- Representative for the Pol. Science Department at the DSC (2019-2020)



Student Citizenship Award

Andrés Besserer Rayas received the Student Citizenship Award. Andrés has served on the Executive Committee, the Student Colloquium Committee, the Election Committee, the Admissions and Awards Committee, and as a representative of the political science department at the DSC. He is also a member of the Comparative Politics Workshop Organizing Committee.

“It is a special honor to receive this award from a

department like our own, where there is a true sense of community and shared common goals. If we are to take the standard academic CV as a roadmap to what contemporary US academia values, we will find that citizenship is not necessarily in high esteem. On academic CVs, activities labeled “citizenship” or “service” are often left towards the bottom of the document. This is, in my opinion, quite an ironic thing. So many of the items listed on the front part of an academic CV depend precisely on what lies below. How many papers are published because there is a group of committed students and professors who meet periodically to discuss works in progress? How many academic grants are the product of collective work in the department? What academic department can thrive without its members participating in service?”

Christa Altenstetter Award: Rebecca Krisel

• The Christa Altenstetter Award

This year's award of \$2,000.00 for a political science doctoral student's dissertation research, especially travel.

The research must meet the following criteria:

1. Focused on at least one of the following:
Western European countries, the European Union and/or the Transatlantic relationship; Comparative policy research; Regulatory policy and/or health policy
2. Method of inquiry primarily empirical and applied, esp. use of case studies and/or qualitative methodology.

Rebecca Krisel. *Legislating the Taboo: From Internet Communities to Public Policy.*

- Link between internet communities on illicit topics (e.g., depression, sex work, menstruation, psychedelics) and emergence on policy agenda.
- Case studies in France, Germany, UK, NYC, Oregon.



Christa Altenstetter Award

Rebecca Krisel received the Christa Altenstetter Award for her project “Legislating the Taboo: From Internet Communities to Public Policy.”

Teaching Award

Harry Blain received the Teaching Award.

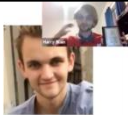
Teaching Award: Harry Blain

Harry aims for a classroom rich in the following:

- Laughter
- Disagreement and controversy
- Zealous Devil's Advocates
- Studied reflections and instinctive reactions (shooting-from-the-hip is permitted, sometimes encouraged)
- Moments of sanctuary for the shy; moments of humility for the not-so-shy
- and, most importantly, solidarity from student-to-student and from student-to-teacher

Adjunct Lecturer, John Jay College. GTF, City College.

- U.S. Congress; U.S. Political Parties, Interest Groups and Social Movements; US Constitutional Law (Institutions); Criminal Justice and Civil Liberties in the US



Best MA Thesis Award: Hristo Voynov

- MA Thesis Advisors to nominate students who submitted their MA Thesis during Spring 2019, Fall 2019 or by the January deadline to deposit their thesis for the February 1, 2020 degree confirmation.

- The Jihadist Marketplace: Understanding Competition between al Qaeda and ISIS

- Sponsor: Prof. Peter Romaniuk



Best M.A. Thesis Award

Hristo Voynov received the Best M.A. Thesis Award for his project “The Jihadist Marketplace: Understanding competition between al Qaeda and ISIS.”

Joseph Murphy Award

Kyong Mazzaro received the Joseph Murphy Award for her paper “The Electoral Logic of Restrictions on Media Freedom: Evidence from Venezuela (2002 - 2015)”

Ivo Ducachek Award

Philip Johnson received the Ivo Ducachek Award for his paper “The Crime and State Terrorism Nexus: How Organized Crime Appropriates Counterinsurgency Violence.”

Joseph Murphy Award: Kyong Mazzaro

- The Joseph Murphy Award goes to the best student paper presented at a conference in the previous calendar year. This award is named in honor of Professor Joseph Murphy, who was Chancellor of the City University before joining our doctoral faculty in the Political Theory subfield.

The electoral logic of restrictions on media freedom: Evidence from Venezuela (2002-2015)

Kyong Mazzaro
The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Prepared for the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association
Washington, DC Aug 29- Sep 1, 2019

Abstract

Researchers agree that democratically elected governments can not restrict on media freedom as a strategy to win elections and stay in power, but they differ in their accounts of the electoral logic behind



Ivo Duchacek Award: Philip Johnson

- The Ivo Duchacek Award is for the best article published by a student in a refereed journal or referred book in the previous calendar year. This award is named for Professor Ivo Duchacek, a member of our doctoral faculty, specializing in International Politics, and a former Executive Officer of the Program.

PERSPECTIVES ON TERRORISM

Volume 13, Issue 6

The Crime and State Terrorism Nexus: How Organized Crime Appropriates Counterinsurgency Violence

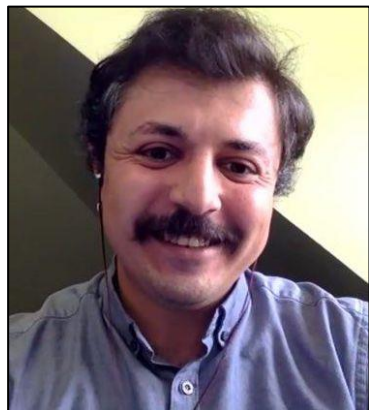
by Philip Luke Johnson

Abstract

Studies on the connections between organized crime and terrorism tend to focus on non-state armed groups, and on the convergence of violent tactics. This article demonstrates that such a focus can overlook well-documented connections between state terrorism and organized crime. Particularly in post-Cold War Latin America, criminal groups recruit violence specialists from military and paramilitary units with histories of using indiscriminate violence and other forms of terrorism during counterinsurgency campaigns. Through this



Notes from the Frontline



Ekim Kilic (M.A.) is attending courses remotely from Istanbul, Turkey, where he also works as a journalist. He has been covering the recent protests against the government's efforts to control academic institutions.

I decided to return to Istanbul in January, to complete my Spring 2021 semester remotely from my home, and was looking forward to being somewhere familiar during these uncertain times. Yet, days after my return, Istanbul became once again an epicenter of protests against the government's goal to take control of academic institutions. Though I was happy to just be home, I was also psychologically ready to see and experience unexpected and sad events that might affect me emotionally.

On February 2nd, Bogazici University students held a demonstration against their unjustly appointed University Director, and for their detained friends. On February 4th, the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) deputies tried to declare their new political coalition with several activist groups. However, the authorities didn't let the deputies read their statement. As a local journalist, I've been on the frontlines covering the violent attacks of the police against the demonstrators.

After witnessing the protests against police brutality in the U.S., I understand the importance of the slogan "I can't breathe." Turks, Kurds, Armenians, Arabs, and others can't breathe under Erdogan's iron fist. Turkey will devolve into fascism unless all opposition forces understand this reality and unite against Erdogan's dictatorship. That is a sad reality now. Although workers from several sectors, academics, students, and women struggle against the one-man dictatorship and the hardship it creates, a national political alliance to storm the streets against this dictator is a necessity.

Meanwhile, I am an M.A. student in our program and I am currently enrolled in three courses. I join my classmates over Zoom in the Marxist and Socialist Theory class at 7.45 p.m. Turkish Time on Mondays, the American Politics: Core Theories and Concepts and Modern Political Thought courses at 12:15 a.m. Turkish Time on Mondays and Wednesdays, respectively. Being in the throes of a contentious struggle for rights on the streets of Istanbul while reading about political theory is a surreal experience. However, seeing my classmates' faces is always energizing. Most of my classmates were full of passion during the Fall semester, despite the pandemic's daunting conditions, and there is no doubt in my mind that people who go to the streets to liberate them also know how to love, respect, and joke.

These parallel experiences in my life can be very exhausting because there is a significant disconnection between the two worlds. The one that you live in overwhelms you emotionally. This trembles the meaning of this online world from time to time. But for my take, a scientific concern develops here. I am asking myself how people in the U.S. and in Turkey can inform others in the struggle for freedom of oppression.



Female HDP Deputies surrounded by the police. I am in the top-right corner with the pink/purple backpack, filming the protests for my newspaper. (Photo credit: /i 22 00)

Student Profile:

Andrés Sebastian Besserer Rayas

Andrés Sebastian Besserer Rayas is a level II Ph.D. student in the Comparative Politics subfield who studies migration.

The interview below was edited for clarity and brevity.

Claudia Benincasa: You've written about and presented on state control and immigration, particularly, state control's effects on migrants. What are you currently working on and have you been involved in any related organizing work?

Andrés Besserer: I like to think that I've found what Orwell thought of as the best motivation to write: political purpose. He advised people to write about a subject through which they might "push the world in a certain direction, to alter other people's idea of the kind of society that they should strive after." For me, it's migration. Taking Dr. Michael Sharpe's brilliant course on the politics of immigration helped lead me there. Working with Dr. Robert Smith on researching undocumented and DACAmented people is another influence and our findings ended up being used in an *amicus* brief in the Supreme Court in favor of DACA—it was exhilarating to see research have that sort of impact (and such a relief that SCOTUS upheld DACA!). Volunteering for immigrant-serving organizations during the Trump era and the pandemic has also provided a sense that this topic is important to research and write about. I think finding such motivation is really important.

I'll be presenting some research on transit states at WPSA with my colleague Dean Schafer (co-authoring has been great!) and I'm waiting to hear back from APSA. Last year, I presented at APSA and ASA, and it was really good.

CB: You've had the opportunity to study, teach, and research at several places of higher learning. What sets the GC Political Science department apart?

AB: So many things! I think the sense of community is a big one—students really work together, help each other out, and learn from one another. Professors at the GC are also accessible; it is easy to get advice and insight from incredible career researchers. This is truly remarkable. Finally, student voices count a lot in our department. And, because of this supportive environment, student initiatives frequently take off.

CB: You were born in Mexico City and worked at the Instituto Nacional Electoral (INE) before returning to school. What led you to ultimately pursue academia?

AB: I worked organizing elections in Mexico's electoral management body for quite a while. I did research and policy design/evaluation—specializing in campaign finance regulation. It was a really exciting job, especially when the institute started adopting technology as part of its procedures.

Despite being so interesting, I guess I always knew I wanted to go into academia. Working at the INE felt a little like procrastinating, like doing something fun but knowing that you must eventually turn to what matters most. Academia always felt *much* more like a calling or vocation.

CB: As a recipient of a Fulbright fellowship, what advice do you have for students to produce quality applications while also teaching, taking classes, and doing their own work?

AB: Start writing your application and gathering the documents early, much earlier than what seems reasonable. You'll do a lot of re-writing so you want to get the initial draft down soon. It is crucial to have generous readers to support you, including professors, fellow students, friends, and former employers who want you to succeed. For me, the ideal generous reader is someone who encourages you as much as shows you how to improve what you've written and challenges your argument to make it better. Having readers to help you also keeps you accountable to deadlines.

CB: What inspired you to make your podcast, [The Ballot Box: Elections Around the World](#)?

AB: I work with two friends from my Master's degree at University College London, Chris and Johnny, who are now Ph.D. students in the U.K.. Doing the podcast is so much fun! It is good to reconnect with friends and it allows us to see each other regularly. We think through elections together: how they are organized, why they matter, how the rules shape political incentives, and what sort of contextual knowledge is required to make sense of them. This is basically what we talk about on the podcast. Some of my favorite episodes so far are "[2021 Preview](#)," the "[Ecuador and Lichtenstein](#)" one, and the one on "[Catalonia and 14F](#)". But we launch about two episodes per month, so there'll be more soon!



Student Profile:

Michael Stinavage



Mike Stinavage is an M.A. student currently in Spain completing a Fulbright Fellowship at the Public University of Navarre. His research focuses on waste management and organics recycling.

The interview below was edited for clarity and brevity.

Claudia Benincasa: What started your journey into the world of composting?

Mike Stinavage: In college I lived in co-ops where we composted, at times haphazardly. We had a three bin system in our backyard and there was also an organics collection provided by the city of Ann Arbor. Later, when I first moved to New York, I began volunteering at the GrowNYC food-scrap drop-off at Grand Army Plaza. It was at that point that I became curious about the status of organics recycling/compost in NYC. A few years down the line, I began working at the environmental non-profit Big Reuse. Although I'm biased, I have to say Big Reuse is an amazing organization. In addition to their reuse center, they also had a compost processing site (under the Queensboro Bridge) as well as the outreach and enrollment for the Department of Sanitation's curbside composting program. I loved working for DSNY's curbside composting enrollment. Then the pandemic touched down in NYC and The Mayor's Office turned off the lights on almost all public composting programs.

CB: You're currently in Spain on a Fulbright. What are you researching and how has COVID-

19 impacted your experience?

MS: The pandemic has added an element of uncertainty to the fellowship. I arrived in Pamplona in January and in the months leading up to my departure, there were many moments when it looked like the fellowship might be paused or cancelled entirely. I am grateful that it was only postponed from September 2020 to January 2021. I am also grateful that in Spain the university is open and I've been able to audit a course about organic waste and composting, in-person and both masked and socially distanced. Field research and human subject research during COVID-19 have also been uncertain. There have been complications and additional steps in the IRB process, though I am very grateful to be working with Professor Julie George on this administrative side of things. In a few weeks I'll begin interviewing.

CB: You also write fiction. How has this been connected to your overall academic pursuits?

MS: It's been connected, and it hasn't. My academic training in politics has been useful in building characters, undoubtedly. Reading and writing fiction—writing in general—is a great way to practice the craft and to develop one's voice. Especially in times of COVID. I'm currently finishing a collection of short stories, most of which would be considered speculative fiction. The stories are playful and satirical in that there's serious subject matter and lines of political/environmental/psychoanalytical interest that are undermined by frivolity.

CB: What made you decide to come to the GC to study political science?

MS: The benefits of a graduate degree are somewhat pragmatic. An M.A. is one way to continue to develop one's way of thinking while also opening the door to teaching. As a part-time student, CUNY has allowed me to work full-time while taking night classes. It's also more affordable than most M.A. programs. As for the question of political science, I chose to study waste from this vantage point in order to better understand how to bring topics of the climate crisis and circular economy into democratic processes.

CB: Do you have any particularly fond memories about your time at the GC?

MS: When I first got to the GC, I met with a student representative to get a lay of the land. At that time the rep was Hillary Donnell and since then we've continued to be close friends. Academically speaking, I have a lot of appreciation for Dr. Jorge Alves and his research methodologies course. The semester before this fellowship, I took his course and I believe it prepared me well.



Student News



Ankita Aggarwarl (level II) published “Why are MNREGA wages so low?” in [Ideas For India](#).

Fernando Aquino (level III) is running for New York City Council’s [14th District](#).

Harry Blain (level III) published “America’s Lame Duck Period is Palestine’s Nightmare,” in [Foreign Policy in Focus](#) and “Civil Liberties and the Post-Trump Constitution: Thinking Beyond Executive Power,” in [The Thought Project](#). Harry also received an Early Research Initiative Catalyst Grant.

Toby Irving (level I) presented her paper, “The NYPD and City Council: A Network Approach to the Geography of Power in New York City” at the New York State Political Science Association Conference.

Rebecca Krisel (level III) published “Why is Income Inequality Growing?” in [Contexts Magazine](#) and received the Early Research Initiative Digital Initiatives Connect New York summer fellowship. She also presented “Internet Dance Communities and the Right to the Internet” at the “Augmented Cities - Where did the night go?” conference organized by The Berlin Institute for Migration and Integration Studies and the Institute for European Ethnology at Humboldt University.

Conner Martinez (M.A.) presented his paper “El Pueblo Unido: How Threats Increased Latino Turnout in Arizona’s 2020 General Election” at Arizona State University’s Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium Conference.

Ariel Mekler (level III) received an Early Research Initiative PublicLabs Public Research grant.

David Monda (level II) was awarded a Fellowship for the Covid-19 Impact Project from the CUNY Humanities Alliance as well as the GC Digital Research Fellowship from the Graduate Center Digital Research Institute. David also published “Reimagining foreign policy: Joe Biden’s first foreign policy speech and its implications for international affairs” in the [GC Advocate](#).

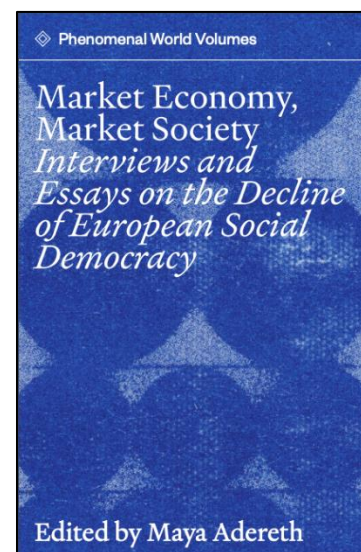
Cassie Morales (level I) published, “How mutual aid can help save America” in [Daily News](#).

Javier Padilla (level I) provided research support for *Market Economy, Market Society: Interviews and Essays on the Decline of European Social Democracy* ([Phenomenal World](#) 2021) and published “Coronavirus and American Elections: A Story of Polarization” in [The Thought Project](#). He was also featured in [El País](#) for his upcoming book on rock and politics in Spain’s Andalusia during the 60s and 70s.

Heidi Andrea Rhodes (level III) published “Impossible Word: Toward a Poetics of Aphasia” in [Poetry](#). She also published “Defense Strategies” in the Hic Rosa Collective’s edited collection, *Falsework, Smalltalk: Political Education, Aesthetic Archives, Recitations of a Future in Common* ([Some Beloved](#) 2021). Rhodes was awarded a Spring 2021 Mellon Arts and Practitioners Fellowship at the Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration.

Brahim Rouabah (level III) published “The Colonial Counter-Revolution: the People’s Revolution in Algeria (Hirak)” in the [Review of African Political Economy](#). He also received an Early Research Initiative Pre-Dissertation Summer Research grant.

Dean Schafer (level III) received an Early Research Initiative Catalyst Grant.



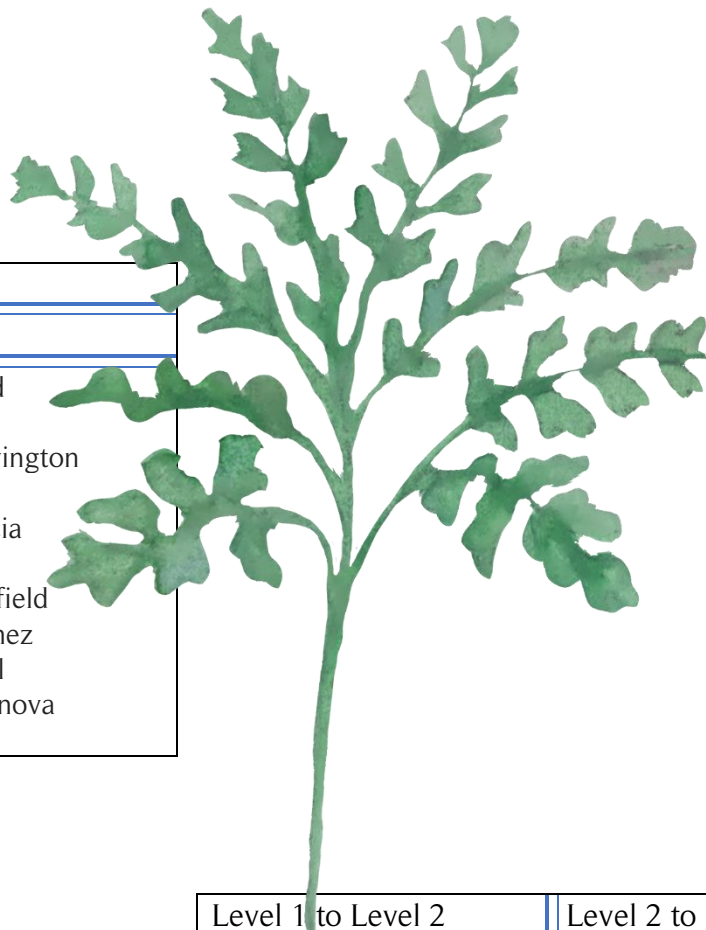
Sarah Shah (level III) received the World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship by the Smith Richardson Foundation for her dissertation titled "The Politics of Post-Counterinsurgency Statebuilding in Northwestern Pakistan." She also received an Early Research Initiative Catalyst Grant.

Sally Sharif (level III) presented three papers at the ISA Convention 2021: "Volatility and Violence: A Duration Model of Economic Instability and Intrastate War;" "Subnational Variation in Building Peace: Why Only Some Demobilization Camps Succeed;" and "When are Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) Programs Successful? Introducing the DDR-18 Dataset (1980-2018)."

B Stone (level III) received an Early Research Initiative Archival Research Award for American Studies.

Leo Tamamizu (level I) published "Australia to ANZUS Kiki, Doumei Gakai ni okeru Meihou no Ninski to Taiou [Australia and the ANZUS Crisis, 1984-1986 : The Third Ally's Perception and Reactions under the Intra-Alliance Dispute between the Other Allies]," in [Kokusai-Seiji](#). Tamamizu was invited to speak at the 2020 Annual Conference of the Japan Association of International Relations.

Thuy Anh Tran (level III) was awarded a [2020 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant](#) by the American Political Science Association.



Graduations

| PhD | MA |
|--|---|
| Jessica Mahlbacher Sari Krieger-Rivera Sarah Kotseki Paul Celentano Alison Parks | Aaron Azerad Nicole Balzer Christian Covington Ben Geier Danielle Garcia Navdip Hans Bradley Highfield Robert Martinez Brandon Vigil Michael Villanova |

| Level 1 to Level 2 | Level 2 to Level 3 |
|--|---|
| Sarah Lenfest Maxwell Fuerderer Brahim Rouabah John Tschudy | Ariel Mekler Rebecca Krisel Louis Charbonneau Nicholas Reynolds Dean Schafer Andrew Wilkes |

Letter from the M.A. Writing Fellow



Unless you are one of those rare creatures that thrives in isolation, dread, and mourning, the last twelve months were likely not great for your writing. Since now is as good a time as any to start putting the pieces back together, I thought I would offer a few thoughts on recovering a semblance of your writing practice.

Write Often: The most important aspect of any practice is doing it regularly and consistently. Waiting for the spark of inspiration is a strategy of self-sabotage, as my own extensive experience suggests. Don't do it. Seriously. It doesn't work. Instead, write a little every day, taking into consideration your own particular challenges. If you are plagued with distractions, try the Pomodoro technique, focusing solely on writing for 20-minute intervals, followed by five-minute breaks to stretch, eat a snack, or doom scroll. If it is crushing anxiety that ails you, schedule your writing after a walk, exercise, meditation or some other activity that provides respite. If your demon is a

fierce inner critic, try writing continuously for a set amount of time without pausing to think, pressing delete, or passing judgement on the content. The result probably won't be pretty, but you will have written, and chances are, you will be able to salvage something usable from your word vomit.

Writing with others (or finding accountability): It can be a challenge to find the self-directedness, discipline, and confidence to finish pieces of writing and share them with the world. Unless you are naturally endowed with these qualities or have done extensive inner work to develop them, writing with others can provide much-needed affirmation, encouragement, and accountability. Meeting regularly with your professors, organizing a writing group among your colleagues, and signing up to present at one of the department workshops can all be helpful paths to establishing external accountability and support. The Writing Center also offers one-on-one consultations, thesis clinics, and other excellent resources. And if you do nothing else, contact me to set up a time to chat about a draft or get feedback on an ongoing writing project.

Not writing: For many, not writing is both more common and more emotionally fraught than writing. The department is full of good writers who communicate complicated ideas clearly and effectively, often with grace, fluidity, and lyricism. And yet, the relatively constant guilt, shame, and frustration that arise during lapses in "productivity" often infiltrate and damage the writing process itself. What would it mean to develop a different relationship to not writing—one characterized more by curiosity, compassion, and openness, and less by contempt, despair, and failure? Such an orientation to not writing might open up space for a more inspired and generative experience with writing.

Know thyself, and since that is a tall order, work on knowing thy struggle and finding a set of writing strategies that help you to spend at least a little time writing every day.

In solidarity,

Osha Smith-Gittelman
Doctoral Candidate in Political Science
M.A. Writing Fellow
osmithgittelman@gradcenter.cuny.edu



Alum Profile:

Rachel Faulkner-Gurstein



Dr. Rachel Faulkner-Gurstein (Ph.D., 2015) has been a Research Fellow in Social Science in the Faculty of Life Sciences and Medicine at King's College London for the past three years. Dr. Faulkner-Gurstein's dissertation focused on the institutionalization of harm reduction and she now uses that work to provide policy insights about national healthcare systems like the U.K.'s National Health Service (NHS).

The interview below was edited for clarity and brevity.

Claudia Benincasa: How did the GC Political Science program prepare you for your work post-grad?

Rachel Faulkner-Gurstein: The methodological pluralism of the GC's brand of political science has helped me to recognize and adapt to opportunities where I find them. Professionally, what I value most from the GC is space afforded to read widely. While it may seem like taking classes on ancient and modern political thought or urban policy and ethnography would not be relevant to my current role in a public health department, I am actually very grateful for the depth and range of my training. As far as memories from my time at the GC, I look back with fondness to the many hours spent strategizing with comrades in the Social and Political Theory Student Association (SPTSA office.)

CB: What are your current areas of interest and how have they evolved since your time at the GC?

RF: My Ph.D. research was on harm reduction policy in New York City. This topic came from my experience in a harm reduction organization in Vancouver, BC in the early 2000s. I was particularly interested in the intersection between public health and criminal justice—how progressive policy shifts in what was/is a highly stigmatized area were achieved. The dual and sometimes dueling camps of social justice activists and public health technocrats made for interesting bedfellows. My research now focuses on the clinical research infrastructure embedded within the U.K.'s national health service. It centers on the role of feminized care labor in the production of both epistemic and economic value within a state-funded research system designed to maximize both patient health and national wealth. It may seem like a departure from my previous research, and in many ways it is. But while the NHS and clinical research may be new areas for me, analysing the political economic rationalities that underpin national policy is something that, thanks to my time at the GC, I am well prepared to do.

CB: Though currently on hold, your digital media startup, Oma Media, created an app, Meema, that utilizes play to connect very young children and distant friends and family. What was it like starting this process that though based on current research, was not through typical academic/institutional channels?

RF: Oma Media was a partnership between me and a friend who was also a postdoc in London at the time. She was an American anthropologist and mom of three-year-old twins whose research focused on digital media use by children and families, and I was the mom of a two-year-old who was looking for ways for my daughter to connect with my dad in Canada who had been diagnosed with cancer. I came to her with an idea about creating an app that could facilitate meaningful interactions between young children and their faraway loved ones through shared reading. She liked the idea, so we wrote a grant for £100,000 in development funds from Innovate U.K., a government business grant scheme. Amazingly we were funded, and we partnered with a local tech company to develop the app, Meema. It was a great experience, but ultimately we decided not to pursue it. I had done the bulk of the app development work while on maternity leave with my second child and my return to work meant something had to give. The app itself wasn't connected to my research, though it was very relevant to my partner's area of expertise. Working on the app helped her to transition out of academia and land a great job in her field at a big tech company in California. What I've taken from the experience is a knowledge of how to apply academic techniques—like researching, grant writing, communicating to diverse audiences—to other domains. And it was a lot of fun to moonlight as a tech founder, even if only briefly!

Alum Profile:

Adam Sachs

Adam Sachs (M.A., 2020) currently serves as the Director of Finance at Heights and Hills, a Brooklyn based organization dedicated to serving older adults. While completing his degree, Adam worked for the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) and his M.A. thesis focused on how the arts are funded in cities across the U.S.

The interview below was edited for clarity and brevity.

Claudia Benincasa: In a recent [interview](#), you shared your experience of losing a job during the crisis—something not everyone would be comfortable doing. Do you feel strongly about serving as a mentor through hard times?

Adam Sachs: There shouldn't be any shame in losing a job, especially due to a financial crisis or pandemic, both of which we've lived through in recent memory. If I felt empowered it was perhaps because I had just gotten a new job—so it seemed like a good time to encourage others to keep looking. I was out of work for six months which felt like a long time and no time at all. It did give me time to finish my M.A. thesis and graduate. And also finish every season of “The Great British Bake Off.”

CB: What made you decide to pursue a graduate degree in Political Science and not another field? Can you tell me about your M.A. thesis?

AS: I returned to school after having worked for nearly 15 years since my undergrad. While I looked at other programs, like one in arts administration, I felt it was more of what I was already doing, whereas the course listing at the GC struck me as interesting and I thought I could get something out of them even if I was less sure how they would apply professionally. That part came with time. My thesis was my attempt to marry my professional career up to that point with everything I had learned at the GC. My thesis studied cities as the largest source of government support for the arts—how funding decisions are bound by a local government's ownership of arts facilities and cultural buildings. Decisions from the 1800s regarding NYC ownership of buildings in Central Park creates and binds hundreds of millions in arts funding in today's city budget.

CB: Did any courses, workshops, or similar activities at the GC specifically prepare you for your new job?

AS: I came to our program to learn about city government, particularly NYC's. So having the opportunity to work at a social services organization that contracts with a major city agency, I feel extra prepared due to my time at the GC. We talk so much about public policy in a theoretical sense, it's fulfilling to be on the front lines of policy implementation. My first course was “Politics and Government of New York” with John Mollenkopf and that set me on the right path. The research design class I took with Keena Lipsitz was also a highlight—taking the time to deconstruct how all this work in our field gets done.

CB: You currently serve as the director of Finance at Heights and Hills. Do you have advice for students entering more professionalized roles?

AS: I had been working in nonprofit finance when I started at the GC, at BAM in Brooklyn. When I came to NYC I found an entry level job at an arts organization, and just learned on the job for the next 10+ years. It was the mission that drew me in, nothing really about finance. And now as the Director of Finance at a social service agency that provides assistance to older residents in Brooklyn, it's still the mission that motivates the work. Every staff meeting starts with our amazing staff sharing stories about how they impacted a client's life in the last two weeks. Find a place you want to be and then learn how to be useful with whatever skills or aptitude you have. That's basically what I've done the last 17 years I've lived in New York.

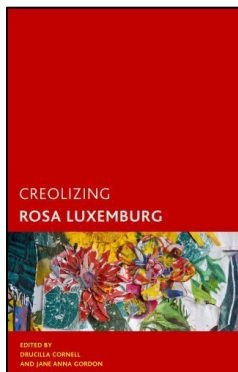
CB: In undergrad, you majored in theater and writing. Do you miss it?

AS: The reason I live in NYC is because of the arts. Theater, the comedy at places like the now closed UCB Theater—I moved here to do those things. I stopped performing when I no longer found the grind of it fulfilling but it's still the thing I love most about our city. I can't wait to get back to seeing live theater. I'm so tired of Netflix.



Sumru Atuk (Ph.D., 2020) published "Femicide and the Speaking State: Woman Killing and Woman (Re)making in Turkey," in the [Journal of Middle East Women's Studies](#).

Shawna Brandle (Ph.D., 2013) published "Games, Movies, and Zombies: Making IR Fun for Everyone," in the [Journal of Political Science Education](#).

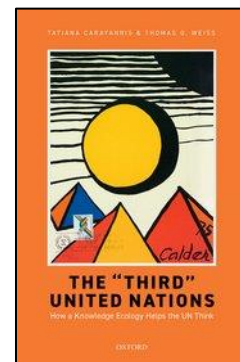


Rachel Brown (Ph.D., 2016) and John McMahon (Ph.D., 2016) co-authored "Rosa Luxemburg and the Primitive Accumulation of Whiteness," in *Creolizing Rosa Luxemburg* ([Rowman & Littlefield](#) 2021).

Tatiana Carayannis (Ph.D., 2017) co-authored with Professor Thomas Weiss *The "Third" United Nations: How a Knowledge Ecology Helps the UN Think* ([Oxford University Press](#) 2021). She also published "Can the 'Third UN' Reimagine Post-Covid Global Cooperation?" in [PassBlue](#) for the occasion of the UN's 75th anniversary.

John Flateau (Ph.D., 2005) was a featured guest on the "Rethinking NYC: Governing a Diverse City," a panel on minority and immigrant

empowerment in city politics at [The Graduate Center](#).



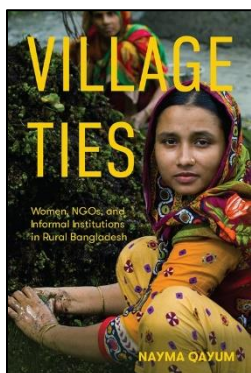
Danielle Garcia (M.A., 2020) discussed her timely master's thesis "The Politics of Hip Hop: A Political Analysis of Hip Hop's History and Its Complicated Relationship with Capitalism" with [The Graduate Center](#).

Peter Hoffman (Ph.D., 2012) was appointed Director of the Graduate Programs in International Affairs at The New School.

Larry Ladutke (Ph.D., 2002) organized three events in observation of the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims on March 24th.

J. Patrice McSherry (Ph.D., 1994) published two articles: "Chile's Struggle to Democratize the State" in [NACLA Report on the Americas](#), and a personal memoir of Max Berrú in [Pagina19](#). McSherry was invited to be a regular columnist for the latter publication. McSherry also was interviewed by [Jacobin Magazine](#) on Operation Condor.

Nicholas Micinski (Ph.D., 2019) published "Migration and Development in the UN Global Compacts," in *Routledge Handbook on the UN and Development* ([Routledge](#) 2020). He also accepted a tenure track position at the University of Maine.



Antoinette Pole (Ph.D., 2005) co-authored and published "Prevalence of Seafood Consumption Among United States Adults, 2013-2014" in [Food Studies](#).

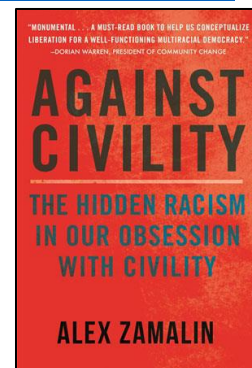
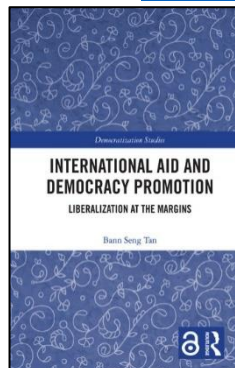
Nayma Qayum (Ph.D., 2014) published *Village Ties: Women, NGOs, and Informal Institutions in Rural Bangladesh* ([Rutgers](#) 2021).

Dan Skinner (Ph.D., 2009) is the editor of [World Medical & Health Policy](#).

Patricia Stapleton (Ph.D., 2012) received the Graduate Center's [Graduate of the Last Decade award](#). She also published, "Knowledge Surveys as an Assessment Tool of Simulation Course Outcomes," in the [Journal of Political Science Education](#).

Bann Seng Tan (Ph.D., 2013) published *International Aid and Democracy Promotion: Liberalization at the Margins* ([Routledge](#) 2021).

Alexander Zamalin (Ph.D., 2014) published *Against Civility* ([Beacon Press](#) 2021) and "Civility Won't End Racism" is [Yes! Magazine](#). He was also interviewed on MSNBC's *Majority Report* to discuss *Against Civility*.



In Memoriam

Drake Logan

Drake Logan (Ph.D., 2020) died by suicide on September 19th, 2020 at age 36. Drake was a committed member of the Political Science Department, a transgender activist, citizen scientist, and scholar. Drake entered our program as a doctoral fellow in 2014, specializing in comparative politics and public policy, and continuing his work on U.S. militarism and toxic violence in Iraq while teaching at Hunter College. His research later shifted toward similar issues in Hawai'i, as he got involved as a researcher with the Indigenous Peoples Leadership and Participation Project, and founded and coordinated the first independent, community-based scientific initiative gathering data on potential depleted uranium (DU) contamination from military sources on Hawai'i Island. In September 2020, he defended his dissertation, titled,



“Searching for Pōhakuoloa: A Citizen Scientist’s Journey in Aloha ‘Āina,” and passed with Distinction. A pillar of his many communities, Drake’s friends, colleagues, and family describe him as an artist and wordsmith who imbued everything he touched with magic and spirit. Below are some of our memories.

“Drake Finn Logan, a life and world singular, irreplaceable, and too brief. We moved to Brooklyn together after falling in love in 2012 at the foot of a hill in San Francisco, where Drake was making every effort to organize for our workers’ rights in what was a consistently oppressive work environment. We began our doctoral studies at CUNY a year apart from each other in this department, fueled by our shared passion for social justice, for praxis-based work of bringing critical thought together with liberatory practices, in community with others. Over meals at our kitchen table, we’d read each other’s writing and discuss philosophy, art, history, racism and the police, anti-militarism and anti-colonialism, gender expansiveness and queer politics and activism. I assisted him in his work on a people’s tribunal and a report co-authored with Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), addressing the right to heal, and issues of depleted uranium’s toxic violence affecting US veterans and Iraqi civilians; just as he assisted me in digging through the Library of Congress archives for evidence for an international human rights case on which I was working.

Across the years, Drake attended anti-police protests, painted with oils on canvas, created an art installation commenting on oil consumption and its environmental and political impacts. He read poetry at BART stations and cafes in San Francisco, and at NYC’s Bowery Poetry Club. We were family, co-conspirators, partners, collaborators, and the best of friends. We parted ways in 2017, but in the best of times between us, many of you knew us, shared classes and burgers and tacos and beers, read books together or engaged each other’s work, saw theater together, traveled together, presented at conferences together, celebrated birthdays and grad school milestones, made our own corner of an intellectual home in that particular kind of scholarly togetherness. To those of you who were there with us, there with and for him in other moments without me, thank you. I know, dear readers, colleagues, departmental comrades, students and professors, that you understand how impossible it is to paint for you the universe we shared in the converging of our worlds, our communities, our political commitments, our lives.” - Heidi Andrea Rhodes (level III)

“As one of the few faculty members of my generation to have served (albeit unwillingly) in the armed forces during the Vietnam era, and as an organizer of Reservists Against the War at that time, it was really great to meet a colleague in our program who was actively organizing around veterans' rights and needs, and to be able to share stories of what life for troopers was actually like. Drake's work and scholarship were important contributions to understanding a dimension of citizenship that too often remains in the shadows.” - Distinguished Professor John Mollenkopf

"I would like to share my favorite memory of Drake. Years ago, I traveled to the National Archives in Maryland to conduct research for my dissertation. As I was working through a box I looked up and sitting across from me randomly was Drake! It was a really nice surprise and good to see a classmate while away from school. Drake and I have some research overlap, and over the past few months whenever I write I find myself asking "how would Drake analyze this?" because I know he would be more critical than me. I don't know what to say here other than I wish for one more chance to run into Drake in the faculty lounge at Hunter... I'll miss him." - Adam McMahon (Ph.D., 2018)

“I met Drake at 15 when we were both new to high school. The story I tell most often is that he changed the course of my life in a high school history class. He looked over at a Coca-Cola I was holding and said, “Coke is buying up water sources people need for survival in India.” It was the kind of comment that, at age 15, radically alters the way you see the world. I was never the same. Even though we kept in touch off and on in our twenties, I earned my Ph.D. in political science at the GC with roots in that high school history class. Less than a year after defending my dissertation, I emailed Drake to re-connect and he told me that he had enrolled in the same Ph.D. program. We found our friendship again in NYC. By then, he was enmeshed in the struggle to end toxic militarism, working with veterans to fight the violence of systems that intersect with so many different oppressions. Drake was the kind of person that felt the world deeply and understood the parts of it that needed to be broken down and rebuilt. His quest for a better world eventually took his research to studies of U.S. military-origin environmental toxicities. He worked closely with contacts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and then indigenous communities in Hawaii to understand and fight the toxic effects military depletions can have on communities. He defended his dissertation on 9/4/20 and passed with Distinction while his mother looked on. Early during the COVID pandemic, he organized weekly virtual karaoke sessions that he called Saturday Nite Demil Fever Karaoke. This is the Drake I'll remember. We spent high school singing together while he strummed his guitar. Drake would joyously belt out Britney Spears' "Toxic" while reminding us all we could do better; there were violent systems to fight. I never left a moment with Drake feeling anything less than driven to be a better person. It started at 15 and will take me through the rest of my life. He had that effect on everyone. I will miss him always but already feel his spirit every time I get that inkling that something isn't right and that there's something I can do about it.” -Taylor Owen Ramsey (Ph.D., 2016)

“In class, Drake would sit very quietly, but laser focused, and then usually make an interjection that was ...completely unintelligible to me. I'd ask him to explain what he meant, sometimes even twice. In the moment—or more often later—I would come to realize that Drake had reframed the discussion so radically that it had taken me to some new sublime precipice of understanding, and revealed what my conventional ways of seeing had hidden from me. Drake's dissertation, a riveting ethnography of citizen science and activism challenging the military's toxification of Hawai'i Island, exposed the world of poisons hidden in plain sight by the federal government's “domestic” and cultural governance. I miss his presence in the world. A group of Drake's friends, citizen science fellow travelers, and advisors are working to ensure that his book, *Searching for Pōhakuloa: A Citizen Scientist's Journey in Aloha 'Āina*, finds the audience it deserves.” - Professor Paisley Currah

Guy Padula

Guy Padula (Ph.D., 1999) passed away on November 29th, 2020, age 55, from glioblastoma. As a beloved member of our community, many colleagues and alum shared heartfelt tributes. Below is one from his close friend and advisor, Professor Thomas Halper.

With tremendous sadness, I write to report the death of Guy Padula, age fifty-five, from glioblastoma (brain cancer). Guy received his degree from the program in 1999, and was the author of two wonderful books, *Madison and Marshall: Popular Sovereignty, Natural Law, and the U.S. Constitution* ([Rowman](#) 2001), a brilliant comparative analysis of the ideas of two seminal figures in *American Political Thought*, and *Color Blind Racial Profiling: A History, 1974 to the Present* ([Routledge](#) 2018), an extraordinary investigative inquiry into the theory and practice of institutional racial profiling. After receiving his GC degree, Guy taught at Baruch as a full time substitute, but unable to secure a tenure track position in the New York area, he enrolled at Cardozo Law School, obtained a law degree, clerked for a federal judge, worked at Jones Day, and with his wonderful wife, Jennifer Holdaway, a China scholar and also a GC alum, moved to



Beijing, where he taught law at Renmin University, China's premier law school. As a scholar, Guy was remarkable for his analytical rigor, his openness to new ideas, and his fair mindedness. Struck down in his prime, he doubtlessly would have produced additional high quality work, had his career not been fatally interrupted.

I cannot compose this notice without selfishly contemplating my own loss, and I suspect Guy's many friends must feel the same. We met often, discussing constitutional law, the Knicks, and everything in between, and my visits to him and Jennifer in Beijing and Oxford left me with memories I shall cherish for the rest of my days. His intelligence, his kindness, his sense of fun topped by a grin that could charm an ogre—all this is gone decades too soon.

Thomas Halper

Department Events

February 3: Comparative Politics Workshop, Jilian Schwedler (GC) “The Shifting Stakes of Protest in Jordan.”

February 5: Political Theory Workshop, Asher Wyckoff (GC Ph.D. Program) “Parties of Catastrophe: Keynes and the October Revolution.” Discussant: Aaron Braun

February 17: Comparative Politics Workshop, [Andrés Besserer Rayas and Dean Schafer \(GC Ph.D. Program\)](#) “Remote Control Reversed.”

February 18: Book Talk, Zachary Shirkey (Hunter and GC), Stuart Gottlieb (Columbia), Peter Lieberman (Queens College and GC) “American Dove – US Foreign Policy & the Failure of Force.”

February 18: Society and Protest Workshop, [Nidhi Srinivas \(The New School\)](#), [Kristen Miller \(GC Ph.D. Program\)](#), [Jacob Rosette \(GC Ph.D. Program\)](#) “Response to Precarity.”

February 19: Political Theory Workshop, Milo Ward (GC Ph.D. Program) “Problems with Authority: James Q. Wilson’s Political Theory of the Police.” Discussant: Tyler Olsen

February 24: Comparative Politics Workshop, Ken Silverman (GC) “Global Holdout or Regional Norm? An Analytical Reframing of Japan’s Restrictive Dual Citizenship Policy.”

March 5: Political Theory Workshop, Tyler Olsen (GC Ph.D. Program) “Ranciere’s Disempowering Dualism.” Discussant: Tyler Crown

March 10: Comparative Politics Workshop, Zachariah Mampilly (GC) “Taxation by Rebel Groups.”

March 11: Society And Protest Workshop, Rafael Munia (GC) “Precarity as Break or as Continuation? Re-centering narratives of precarity in Japan.”

March 17: Comparative Politics Workshop, Joe Soss and Josh Page (University of Minnesota) “Preying on the Poor: Criminal Justice as Revenue Racket.”

March 19: Political Theory Workshop, Jonathan Flatley (Wayne State University) “Black Leninism.” Discussant: Tyler Crown

March 24: Comparative Politics Workshop, Vicki Finn (Universidad Diego Portales) “The Political reSocialization of Immigrants.”

April 7: Comparative Politics Workshop, Ian Kaufman (GC Ph.D. Program) “Oil, Inflation and Democracy in Venezuela under Chavez.”

April 9: Political Theory Workshop, Melinda Cooper (University of Sydney) Discussant: Milo Ward

April 14: Comparative Politics Workshop, Sebnem Gumuscu (Middlebury College) “Why Democracies Break Down: Comparing Intraparty Dynamics in Turkey and South Africa.”

April 21: Comparative Politics Workshop, Clara Martinez Toledano (Paris School of Economics) and Amartya Gethin (Paris School of Economics Ph.D. Program) “Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities in Fifty Democracies 1948-2020.”

April 23: Political Theory Workshop, Bernardo Zacka (MIT) Discussant: Laura Silverman

May 5: Comparative Politics Workshop, Leo Tamamizu (GC Ph.D. Program) “Military Alliance, Repression and Social Movements.”

May 6: Society and Protest Workshop, Rebecca Krisel (GC Ph.D. Program) “Dialogic Opportunities and Poverty-Discourse Fragmentation in the United Kingdom.”

May 12: Comparative Politics Workshop, Elizabeth Stein (Clarkson University)



Fall 2021 Course Schedule

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|------------|---|---|--|---|
| 11:45-1:45 | | | | Weiss, Grant Writing Seminar (G) |
| 2:00-4:00 | Beinart, Writing Politics I (G/WP) | Krinsky, Introduction to Public Policy (PP) | Mehta, Global Political Theory (PT) | |
| 4:15-6:15 | Halper, Constitutional Law (AP) Colburn, Politics of Development (CP) Mollenkopf, Government & Politics in New York City (PP) | Woodward, Basic Theories & Concepts in Comparative Politics (CP) Gould, Rethinking Democracy, Socialism and Feminism (PT) Gornick, Social Policy & Socio Economic Outcomes in Industrialized Countries (PP) | Cronin, Basic Theories & Concepts in International Relations (IR) Buck-Morss, Theory as Method (PT) Lipsitz, Research Design in Political Science (G) | |
| 6:30-8:30 | DiGaetano, Comparative Urban Politics & Policy (PP) | Weber, Applied Quantitative Research II (G) Sharpe, M.A. Core Course (G) | Andreopoulos, International Organizations (IR) Fontana, Ancient & Medieval Political Theory (PT) Milanovic, Global Inequality: Measurement, analysis and political implications (PP) | O'Brien, American Political Thought (AP) Path, Asian Security (IR) |

Submission and Awards Deadlines

January 15: Deadline to apply for the [Graduate Center Dissertation Fellowship Competition](#)

January 31: Deadline to apply for the Graduate Center Doctoral Student Research Grant

February 1: Deadline to apply for Vera Institute/CUNY Graduate Center fellowships for Ph.D. with interests in criminal or immigration justice and the work of the Vera Institute

February 25: Deadline to apply for the Graduate Center Provost's Pre-dissertation Research

March 15: Deadline to apply for Morgan Library & Museum Graduate Archival

March 4: Deadline to apply for the Early Research Initiative/PublicsLab Summer Public Research Fellowships

March 29: Deadline to apply for The Christa Altenstetter Award

March 31: First exam registration deadline for August 2021

March 31: Deadline to apply for Independent Study for Fall 2021

March 29: Deadline to apply for scholarships to attend the [2021 ICPSR Summer Program](#) in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, all virtual

April 1: Proposal submissions deadline to present at annual conference of the [Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action \(ARNOVA\)](#) on November 18-20, 2020 in Atlanta, GA

April 1: Course withdrawal period ends; Last day to drop with a "W"

April 30: Last day to deposit dissertation or thesis for May 2021 degree

Warm and Fuzzy

This empty-nester adopted a pandemic puppy, Ziggy! Of course, Ziggy is a big feminist! (Photo credit: Alyson Cole)

Willow the kitten spent her first holiday season exploring the Christmas tree. Who says you can't be naughty and nice? (Photo credit: Nicole Balzar)



Sophie learns about US foreign policy during Sally Sharif's lecture. (Photo credit: Salome Sharif)

All I want for Christmas is universal child care! (Photo credit: B Stone)

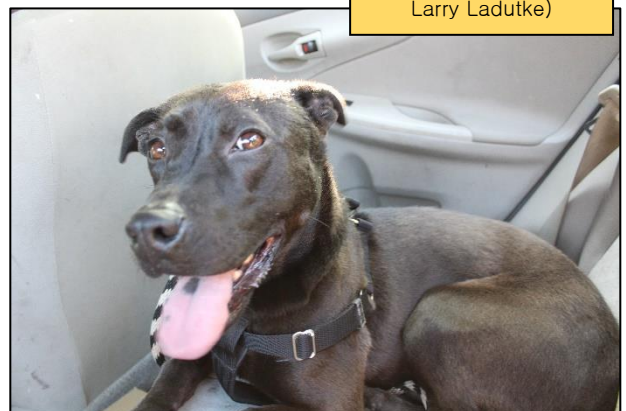
In her spare time, Parker is a snowsuit model. (Photo credit: B Stone)



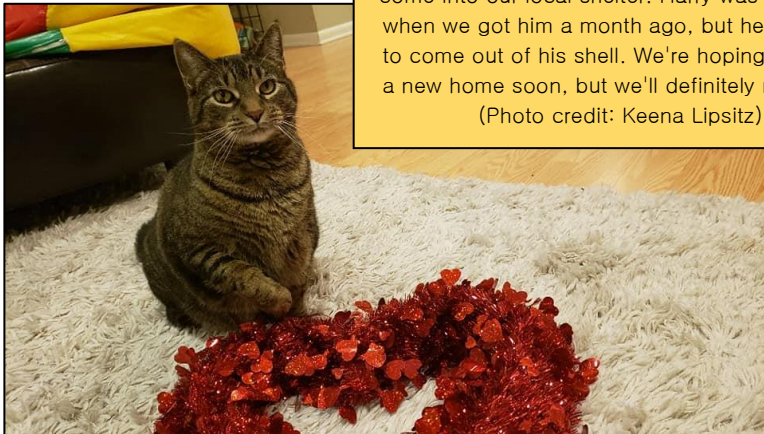
When we cannot travel to wilderness, the wild comes to our windowsill. (Photo credit: Ming Xia)

"I am FINALLY ready for my closeup!" – Allagash (Did you ever try getting a cat to pose?) (Photo credit: Larry Ladutke)

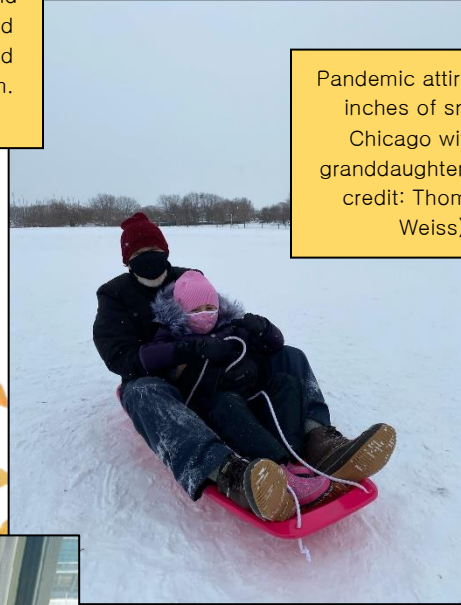
"I'm always ready for my closeup, Pop!" – Nikki (Photo credit: Larry Ladutke)



Warm and Fuzzy



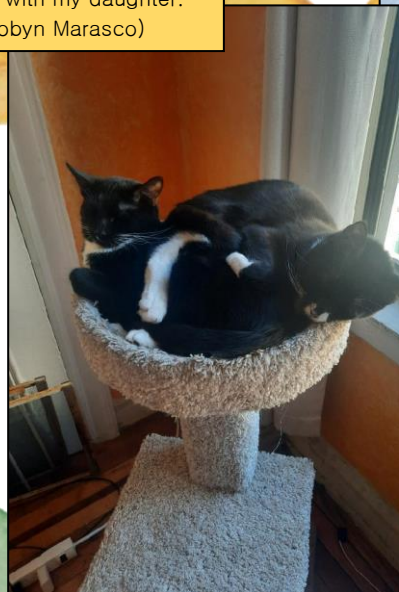
This is a picture of our foster cat, Harry. My daughters and I foster lots of kittens/cats that come into our local shelter. Harry was very timid when we got him a month ago, but he's started to come out of his shell. We're hoping he'll find a new home soon, but we'll definitely miss him.
(Photo credit: Keena Lipsitz)



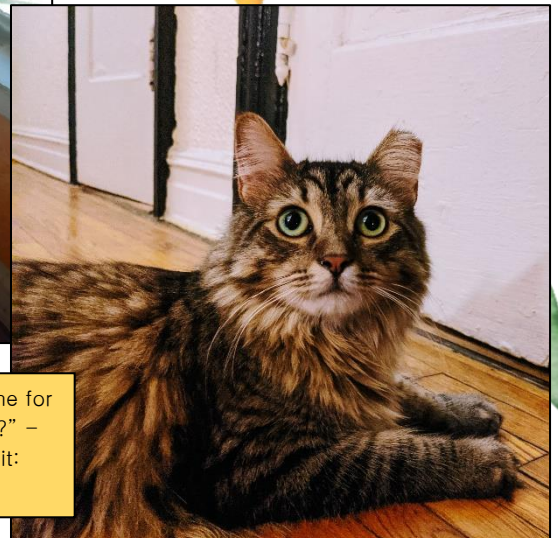
Pandemic attire and 18 inches of snow in Chicago with my granddaughter. (Photo credit: Thomas G. Weiss)



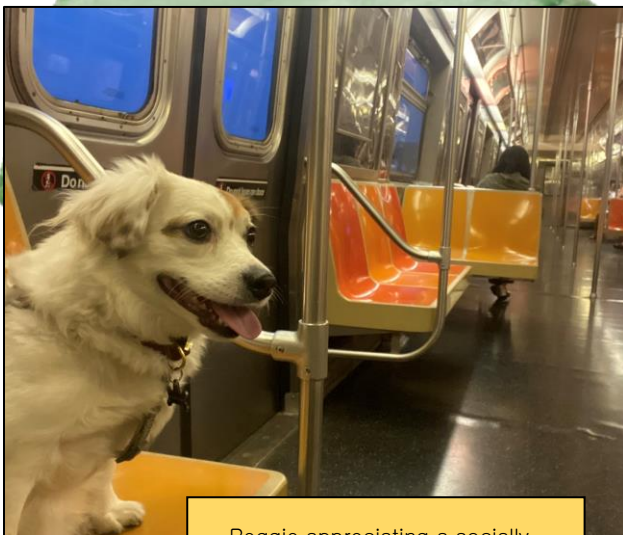
We adopted a new puppy named Cherry. Here she is with my daughter.
(Photo credit: Robyn Marasco)



These are my two furry creatures, Daryoush and Kourush, left to right.
(Photo credit: Scott Ratner)



"I will be in quarantine for the rest of my life!?" – Zelda (Photo credit: Rebecca Krisel)

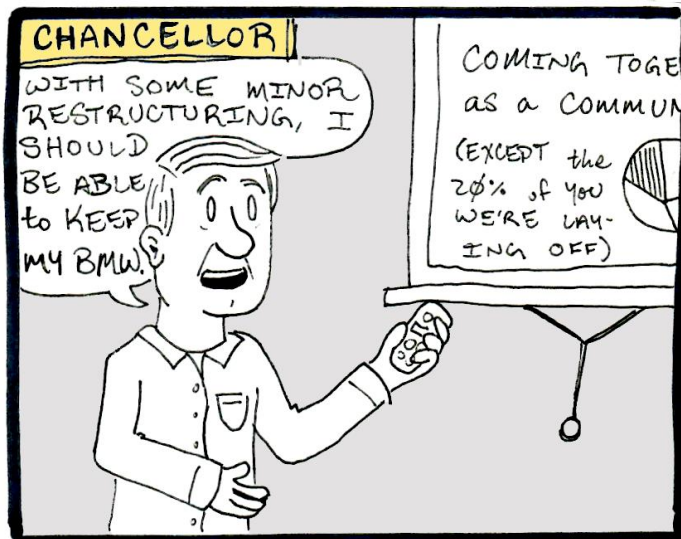


Reggie appreciating a socially-distanced empty subway ride
(Photo credit: Toby Irving)



East, West, horn's best.
(Photo credit: Till Weber)

HOW HAVE UNIVERSITIES HANDLED the PANDEMIC?



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.

