

# HOMO POLITICUS

THE  
GRADUATE  
CENTER  
CITY UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW YORK

Fall 2021 Vol. 7, Issue I

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



## CONTENTS

- |           |                                     |           |   |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| <b>01</b> | Letter from the Executive Officer   | <b>21</b> | Letter from the M.A. Writing Fellow     |
| <b>03</b> | Meet Our Administrative Staff       | <b>22</b> | Alum Profiles                           |
| <b>05</b> | Awards Night                        | <b>24</b> | Alum News                               |
| <b>07</b> | Faculty Profile                     | <b>26</b> | Department Events                       |
| <b>08</b> | Faculty News                        | <b>28</b> | Spring 2022 Course Schedule             |
| <b>10</b> | Letter from the Social Media Fellow | <b>29</b> | Upcoming Submission and Award Deadlines |
| <b>11</b> | Scenes from the Street              | <b>30</b> | Warm and Fuzzy                          |
| <b>13</b> | Letter from the M.A. Advisor        | <b>33</b> | Satire                                  |
| <b>14</b> | Student Spotlight                   |           |   |
| <b>19</b> | Student News                        |           |   |

Executive Officer  
**Alyson Cole**

Deputy Executive Officer  
**Charles Tien**

M.A. Advisor  
**Forrest Colburn**

Admissions Officer  
**Peter Romaniuk**

Sub-Assistant Program Officer  
**Radhika Kashyap**

College Assistant  
**Theresa Moses**

M.A. Writing Fellow  
**Asher Wycoff**

Social Media Fellow  
**B Stone**

Newsletter Editor-In-Chief  
**Rebecca Krisel**

Newsletter Contributors  
**Stephon Boatwright**  
**Lina Maria Fajardo Vallejo**  
**Alana Pagano**  
**Saira Rafiee**  
**Brahim Rouabah**  
**Dean Schafer**  
**Osha Smith-Gittelman**  
**Michael Villanova**  
**Mercedes Wilby**

Newsletter Designer  
**Jacky Chan**

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.

---

### **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](mailto:politicalscience@gc.cuny.edu)  
**w:** <http://bit.ly/GCPoliSci>



Dear Colleagues, Students, and Alums,

I write with profound appreciation for everything each of you have contributed to maintain the spirit of solidarity, rigorous inquiry, and political engagement that make this program so unique. In contending with the ongoing challenges of COVID-19—challenges that are collectively shared but experienced differently—we continue the difficult, necessary work of creating space for both mourning and joy, for mutual support and care. Acknowledging the losses and uncertainties of this semester, we also celebrate the dedicated and exceptional work of our staff, students, and faculty. In addition to providing news about program events and the achievements of faculty, students, and alums, we pay tribute to the invaluable service and immense generosity of our APO, Earl Fleary, wishing him well in his recovery (see [page 3](#)).

This Fall we had the pleasure of welcoming many new faces to the program. A wonderful cohort of 52 M.A. and eight Ph.D students joined us in August. For those who have not yet had a chance to meet our new students, you can learn more about them in the “Student Spotlight” section of this issue (see [pages 14 - 18](#)). We also welcomed Radhika Kashyap, who joined Theresa Moses on our administrative team first as a college assistant and then as a sub-APO. They have our gratitude for their hard work to keep things running smoothly as we transitioned to both online and in-person programming and carrying on the work of our program without our experienced APO. We also had the pleasure of congratulating recent alums. Heidi A. Rhodes (Ph.D., 2021) took a position with the “Translating Race” Postdoctoral Fellowship at Tufts University’s Center for Humanities. Sally Sharif (Ph.D., 2021) accepted a Postdoctoral Research Associate position at the University of Notre Dame’s Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. Sarah Kostecki (Ph.D., 2021) began a post-doctoral research position with the Propel Project at the University of Luxembourg. And finally, Sari Krieger (Ph.D., 2021) accepted a Visiting Assistant Professor position at the University of Albany (see [pages 24 - 25](#)).

Although we were unable to return to a fully in-person semester, our program maintained and expanded its vibrant intellectual community through a variety of online events. Nowhere is this more evident than in the continued flourishing of our departmental workshops. In combination, the Comparative Politics Workshop, the Political Theory Workshop, and the Society and Protest Workshop held fifteen workshops featuring engaged discussions of wide ranging and exciting scholarship. The camaraderie, wine, and cheese of in-person gatherings were missed, but online workshops created possibilities for more distant connections as presenters joined us from six countries. Presenters included department students such as Saira Rafiee, Andrés Besserer, and Rebecca Krisel, CUNY faculty members Samantha Majic and Sofya Aptekar, and scholars who joined us from afar—Bonnie Honig (Brown), Graham Denyer Willis (Cambridge), Jodi Dean (William and Hobart Smith), Victoria Finn (Universidad Diego Portales), and Andrew Culp (Cal Arts), among others. This was also the inaugural semester for IRrelevant!—a discussion series organized by students and faculty in the International Relations subfield to foster informal exchange and meaningful discussion about timely issues in world politics. Finally, the department co-sponsored all events with the Urban Education department, including one with Mark Warren (UMass) to discuss his recent book *Willful Defiance: The Movement to Dismantle the School-to-Prison Pipeline* (see [pages 27 - 28](#)).

There is much to celebrate in the accomplishments of our students this semester (see student news section on [page 19](#)). Kyong Mazzaro (level III) was awarded a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, the AAUW American Dissertation Fellowship, and the Best Paper Award from the Venezuelan Studies Section at LASA. Aaron Stanley (level III) received a USIP-Minerva Peace and Security Scholar Fellowship. Philip Johnson (level III) accepted a lecturer position in the Undergraduate Writing Program at Princeton University. T.A. Tran (level III) was awarded first-place for a co-authored article by the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* for the 2021 Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza New Scholars Award. In this issue we also highlight the alumni experience through interviews with Amy Schiller (Ph.D., 2019) and Andrew Bast (M.A., 2009) (see [pages 23 - 24](#)).

As always, I extend my gratitude to the editorial staff of *Homo Politicus*; many thanks to our diligent editor-in-chief Rebecca Krisel and the thoughtful work of our contributors Stephon Boatwright, Lina Maria Fajardo Vallejo, Alana Pagano, Saira Rafiee, Brahim Rouabah, Dean Schafer, Osha Smith-Gittelman, Michael Villanova, and Mercedes Wilby as well as our new designer Jacky Chan. I, along with the rest of the program staff - DEO Charles Tien, M.A. Advisor Forrest Colburn, and College Assistants Theresa Moses and Radhika Kashyap - remain available to support students and faculty.

In solidarity,  
Alyson Cole



# MEET OUR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

## Tribute for Earl Fleary, Assistant Program Officer

Our department would be lost without the invaluable support from our administrative team led by our valiant Assistant Program Officer Earl Fleary who is currently on leave. Radhika Kashyap has stepped in as our Sub-Assistant Program Officer in Earl's absence. Please join us in thanking them for their hard work and dedication!

Our entire program wishes Earl a speedy and full recovery. Below are some contributions from students, faculty, and alum.

"Earl is incredibly helpful and efficient at his job. I also have noticed how quietly brilliant he is. At the last department "no-talent talent show", Dr. Tien held a trivia contest. It was, in fact, not trivial at all, and involved many subtle and complicated questions across all the department subfields. Playing against our wonderfully erudite Ph.D. and M.A. students, Earl was running away with 1st place...until he had to jump out of the game to assist a remote presenter. We look forward to your triumphant return, Earl!"

**Bruce E. Bernstein (M.A.)**

"Earl—from the first week of my program—was utterly indispensable as a resource for staying organized, planning courses, and much else. When I had to move suddenly in my second year, thus completely altering my thesis schedule, he made sure I not only could make it all work—but also helped me navigate graduation during the tumult of the early pandemic soon thereafter. Hoping his recovery is rapid and full. We miss him!"

**Christopher Putney (M.A., 2020)**

"Earl was one of the first people in the department I told when my wife and I found out we were expecting our kid (other than my dissertation advisor) and he was incredibly generous and kind in offering some specific parenting tips, including that our Cancerian baby would likely hate the dark and need a soothing nightlight (which we found to be true!). Earl, your calm and steadfast presence is greatly missed in the department, and I wish you a speedy and peaceful recovery."

**B Stone (level III)**





"The first time I spoke to Earl was shortly after I had been accepted into the program as an M.A. student. I had called up the program office to schedule a visit to meet the students and faculty, and I had a great deal of questions about the program. Upon hearing Earl's relaxed tone over the phone, I immediately became convinced that the GC's political science program was the right choice, as he answered every question I had, even taking the time to email me more information. Upon starting the program, I (like many other students) flooded Earl's email with a great deal of questions and concerns, yet there was not a moment I did not feel reassured that everything was going to work out and be solved, because Earl was there to help. Earl is someone who, in addition to being the Assistant Program Officer, I like to call the Magician of the Political Science Program: Like magic, Earl always finds a way to solve any problem that we bring forth. If Earl says "I will take care of it" regarding any issue, you can be assured that it will be taken care of, and not only correctly, but very quickly. Numerous times I have been caught in procedural issues and made mistakes, and Earl has quickly resolved it. He is truly amazing, and I feel I can speak for everyone in the Department by stating that Earl has our adoration and respect in the highest regard. Wishing you a healthy and speedy recovery, Earl! I want to thank you, personally, for all the help you have given me over the years, and for everything you have done for the department and program. Most sincerely and with the best of wishes."

**Max Fuerderer (level I)**

"I have turned to Earl—consistently professional, consistently courteous and friendly, always discreet, and exceptionally competent—countless times over the years he has been working for our program, for help with matters large and small. He has come through each and every time! Often as not: I would not have been able to do my job without him. Along with all those who know him, I wish Earl a complete and rapid recovery, and hope for his speediest possible return to our midst."

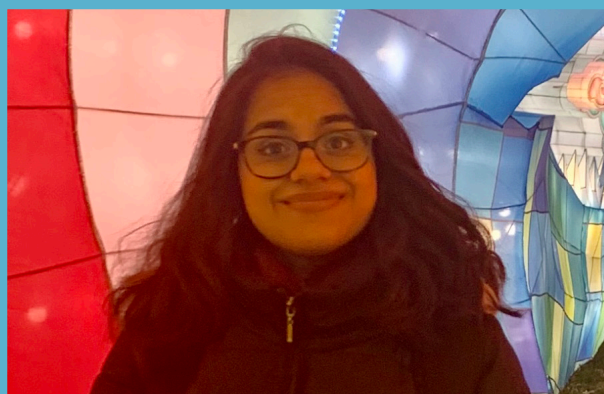
**Professor Jack Jacobs**

"I hired Earl about six years ago from among a strikingly robust pool of qualified applicants. It was his calm, steady, and compassionate disposition that distinguished him from the rest. He soon became an anchor of our program, supporting us all as we struggled to navigate various aspects of CUNY's elaborate bureaucracy. As a former football player—a quarterback I believe—he knew how to play defense on behalf of all of us. We miss him dearly, perhaps most especially me, and look forward to his return to the "field.""

**Professor Alyson Cole**



**Radhika Kashyap,**  
Sub-Assistant Program  
Officer



I'm a recent graduate from Mount Holyoke College. Previously, I was a College Assistant for the Comparative Literature Department. I am excited to join the Political Science Program while filling in for Earl as he recovers. I am passionate about environmental development and human migrations. One day, I hope to be an urban planner. But until then, I am available for your administrative needs! My pandemic hobby has been drawing which is one fun thing to come out of this chaos. I can't wait to meet everyone in person soon!



## Distinguished Alum Award

At the 2021 department's award ceremony Dr. Sidney Plotkin won the Distinguished Alum Award. Dr. Plotkin is a Professor of Political Science on the Margaret Stiles Halleck Chair at Vassar College and has served as the President of the International Thorstein Veblen Association since 2004. In addition to the political and social ideas of Veblen, his research has focused on the U.S. national and sub-national political economy, with a focus on land use and fiscal politics, as well as urban political movements. He received the Distinguished Alum Award for his outstanding contributions to the field with his academic work, his teaching, and his mentorship of the next generation of political scientists.

*We typically provide a video link to the full presentation. However, with our APO Earl Fleary out, we were not able to get access to the video file. We will share a link as soon as he returns.*



## Faculty Citizenship Award

Dr. Michael Fortner won the Faculty Citizenship Award for serving on various committees and as the department's M.A. Advisor.



## Faculty Mentor Award

The 2021 Faculty Mentor Award went jointly to Dr. John Mollenkopf and Dr. Charles Tien for their remarkable dedication to their students.

## Joseph Murphy Award

Sally Sharif won the Joseph Murphy Award for the best student paper presented at a conference for her work "Subnational Variation in Building Peace: Why Only Some Demobilization Camps Succeed?"





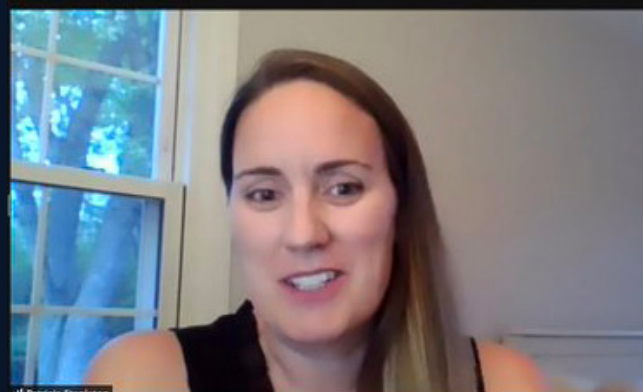
## Christa Altenstetter Award

Michelle Morazan won the Christa Altenstetter for her research on "Leaders in Immigrant Organizations: Exploring How Leadership Attributes Contribute to Success in Security Government Contracts."



## Teaching Award

Jenna Russo won the Teaching Award for exceptional pedagogy in American Policy. Jenna teaches at Baruch College.



## Pay it Forward Award

The first round of the Pay it Forward Award went to Javier Padilla Moreno-Torres, Brahim Rouabah, and Asher Wycoff. This award was created by the department's alums to support student research and travel to conferences. Patricia Stapleton (Ph.D., 2012) presented the award on behalf of alums.



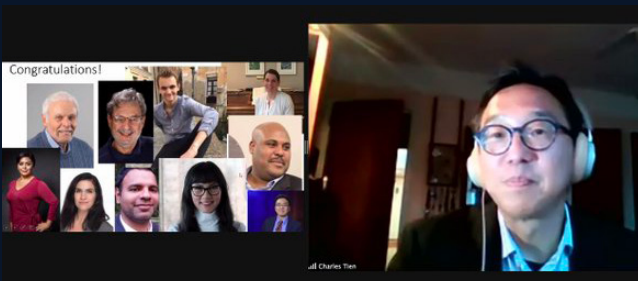
## Student Citizenship Award

Harry Blain, vice chair of the GC chapter of the PSC, won the Student Citizenship Award for his contributions to the department.



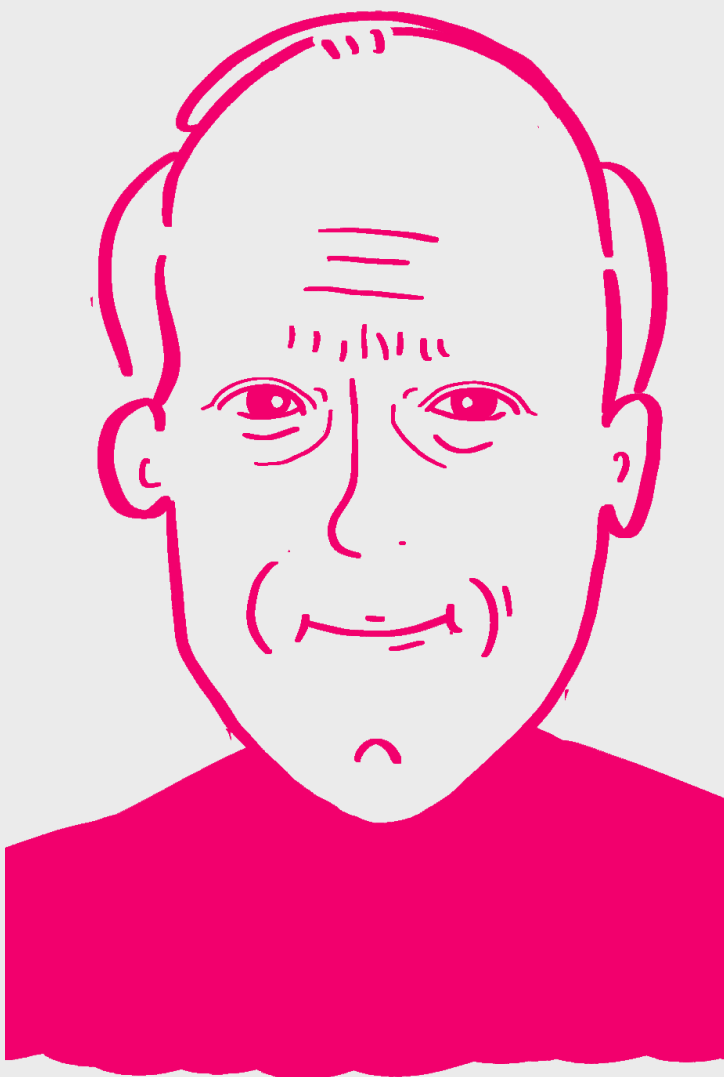
## Best M.A. Thesis Award

Navdip Hans won the Best M.A. Thesis Award for his project "The Second Kashmir (Informational) War of 1965"



## Ivo Ducachek Award

Kyong Mazzaro won the Ivo Ducachek Award for the best article published by a student for her paper "Orchestrating silence, winning the votes: Explaining variation in media freedom during elections" in [\*Electoral Studies\*](#).



**Professor  
Forrest D. Colburn**

Professor *Forrest D. Colburn* teaches political science at Lehman College and the Graduate Center, where he also currently serves as the M.A. Advisor. He has also just published a book, *Colonialism, Independence, and the Construction of Nation-States* ([Palgrave](#) 2021), which we discussed.

**Mercedes Wilby:** What inspired your book?

**Forrest D. Colburn:** The optimism, and even at times euphoria, about the “Third World” that emerged in the 1960s has waned. I wanted to explore the evolution of the poorer countries of the world, to take stock of where we are today.

**MW:** What was your experience presenting a draft of the book to the student-run Comparative Politics Workshop?

**FDC:** There are no “one draft wonders.” I wanted to avail myself not only of the advice of colleagues, but also of bright, engaged young students. I was amply rewarded. In particular, I benefited from the discussant assigned to my manuscript: a graduate student whom I had never before met, Nick Micinski. His reading of my manuscript was piercing. Implicit, though, in his criticism were suggestions for how to address weaknesses, which I did with revision of the manuscript. Other students also had helpful comments and their enthusiasm for the project gave me needed encouragement.

**MW:** What obstacles did you confront writing the book?

**FDC:** Writing a book is hard. With so many countries throughout the world to take into consideration the information to review was daunting. Developing an analytical construct to provide some order to the information was also a formidable challenge. However, the greatest challenge in writing a book is always marshaling the discipline necessary to write. It is easy to convince oneself that there are other things that need to be done. And the reward for the hard work of writing can be elusive. The fate of a published book is always uncertain. I am struck by what a colleague at Yale, James C. Scott, told me once: “We write our books for ourselves.” It is a haunting observation.

**MW:** Do you have any advice for our students, who might be embarking on a large-scale research project of their own?

**FDC:** Yes. First, think carefully about what you are going to do. A dissertation is inevitably “mined” for the first publications of a young scholar. If you cannot imagine your dissertation, after revision, being published as a book, find another project. But a good project is also one that is of keen interest to you. You will always do your best work if you are doing what you want to do. Finally, the project has to be feasible. Once you have a good project, develop a careful organization of the work, something akin to a “table of content.” With an appropriate, and lasting, organization of the large-scale research project, you can break the work into smaller projects, which might prove to be “chapters.” I cannot tell myself that I am writing a book; I would be overwhelmed. But I can tell myself that I need to write a fifteen to twenty-page essay on a set topic. Once I have finished that essay, I convince myself that I have to write another one. With discipline, you will, eventually, finish the project.



Professor George Andreopoulos organized, chaired, and participated in the International Law Section's Distinguished Scholar Panel honoring the work of Hilary Charlesworth at the 2021 International Studies Association conference. In June, he was elected as honorary member of the Greek Council on Foreign Relations.

Professor Desmond Arias received a grant from the National Science Foundation for his project entitled "The Dynamics of Illicit Governance." The three-year project will allow him to expand his research on criminal activity in Mexico.

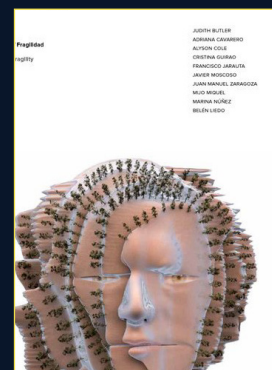
Professor Sherrie Baver published "Navigating Environmental Justice in Chile: The Case of Pascua Lama" in *Environmental Justice in the Anthropocene: From (Un)Just Presents to Just Futures* (Routledge 2021).



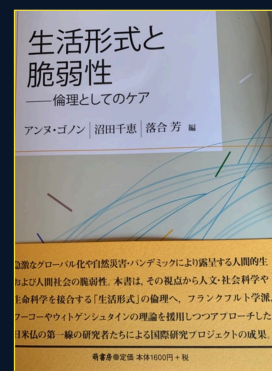
Professors Peter Beinart, Jacqueline Braveboy-Wagner, David R. Jones, and Leslie McCall participated in the panel "[The First 100 Days of the Biden Administration: A Conversation with CUNY's Experts](#)" organized by The Roosevelt House on April 29. The panel was moderated by Professor Charles Tien.

Professor Jacqueline Braveboy-Wagner chaired a roundtable entitled *Global South IR: Assessing North-South and South-South Encounters*; served as invited commentator on a special panel highlighting the recent publication of *Implausible Dream: The World-Class University and Repurposing of Higher Education*; and participated on a panel honoring CUNY Graduate Mohamed-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou at the 2021 International Studies Association meeting. Professor Braveboy-Wagner guest edited a special issue of [Third World Quarterly](#).

Professor Mitchell Cohen led a seminar for faculty and graduate students at the faculty seminar of the Centre Maurice Halbwachs about "America after Trump" in Paris on May 18. Professor Cohen published "For a Liberal Socialism" in [Dissent](#) and a French translation of his article "Irving Howe, A Socialist Life" (originally published in the Fall 2020 issue of [Dissent](#)) was published in the May issue of French intellectual journal, [Esprit](#).



Professor Forrest D. Colburn published "The Puzzle of COVID-19 in Central America and Panama" in the [Journal of Global Health](#). On August 6, Professor Colburn was invited to give a lecture to a conference organized by the Instituto Latinoamericano para la Gerencia Organizacional (ILGO) and sponsored by the International Labor Organization for business leaders from across Latin America.

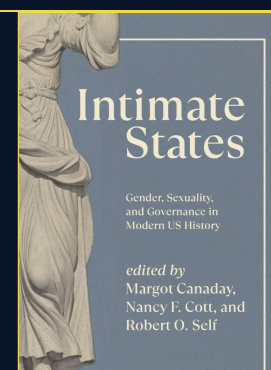


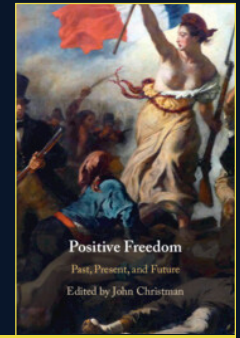
Professor Alyson Cole received a [Graduate Center 2021 Mentoring Award](#). Professor Cole published "Agnostology, Resentment, and Vulnerability in the Era of Trump" (Japanese translation) in *Forms of Vulnerability* (Kizasu Shobo Press, 2021) and "Todxs somos vulnerables, pero algunxs somos más vulnerables que otrxs: la ambigüedad política de los estudios de la vulnerabilidad, una crítica ambivalente" (Spanish translation) in *Contranarrativas* (CENDEAC 2021).

Professor Paisley Currah published "The Work that Sex Does" in *Intimate States: Gender, Sexuality, and Governance in Modern U.S. History* (The Chicago University Press 2021).

Professor Stephanie Golob is now serving as Chair of the Department of Political Science at Baruch College, the first woman to hold the position. She continues to direct the interdisciplinary Initiative for the Study of Latin America (ISLA), based at Baruch's Weissman School of Arts and Sciences.

Professor Janet Gornick presented virtual lectures at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (April 2021); the Committee on National Statistics at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (May 2021); the [London School of Economics](#) (May 2021); the [Canadian International Council Roundtable](#) (June 2021); and at a joint conference of the East Asian Social Policy Research Network & the Foundation for International Studies on Social Security ([part 1](#), [part 2](#), July 2021).





**Professor Carol Gould** published "Populism and Patriarchy During the COVID-19 Pandemic" in [Frontiers in Sociology](#), and "Reframing Democracy with Positive Freedom: The Power of Liberty Reconsidered," in *Positive Freedom: Past, Present, Future*, (Cambridge University Press 2021). Professor Gould was invited to present "Where is the Structure in Structural Injustice? Between Individuals-in-Relations and Institutional Transformation" at the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division on January 16 and the Law and Philosophy Workshop at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain on March 12. She also delivered the Keynote address "Rethinking Solidarity Through the Lens of Critical Social Ontology" at the Workshop on Solidarity, MANCEPT 2021, Manchester Center for Political Theory on September 10.

**Professor Thomas Halper** published "William O. Douglas and the Assault on Objectivity" in the [British Journal of American Legal Studies](#). Professor Halper presented a paper on "The Constitutional Basis for Equality and Universal Rights in America" at the Multinational Institute of American Studies.

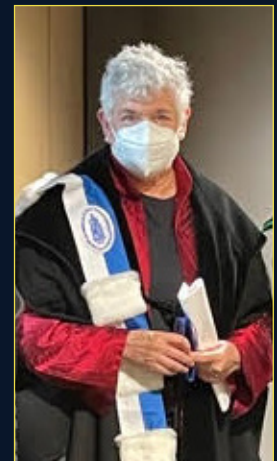
**Professor Peter Liberman** published "After 9/11, America was Out Looking for a Fight" in [The National Interest](#).

**Professor Zachariah Mampilly** published "Protests Are Taking Over the World. What's Driving Them?" in [The New York Times](#).

**Professor Robyn Marasco** is a 2021-2022 visiting member at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ. Professor Marasco published "Bataille's Antifascism" in [Contemporary Political Theory](#), "Thinking at the Extremes" in [Critical Times](#), and "Reconsidering the Sexual Politics of Fascism" in [Historical Materialism](#). Professor Marasco also wrote the Introduction to the Symposium on "Classics Revisited: John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*" published in [Polity](#).

**Professor Sanford Schram** published "Racial Liberalism Resurgent: Connecting Multi-Racial Protests and Electoral Politics Today" in [The Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics](#). Professor Schram was also a guest on the [NPR 1A](#) podcast to discuss "The Future of The Child Tax Credit."

**Professor Joan Tronto** was [awarded an honorary doctorate](#) by the Université Catholique Louvain in Belgium on October 23.



**Professor Mark Ungar** is leading a U.S. Government program to document and reform policy against extortion and organized crime in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, and supporting an initiative to stop U.S. firearms exports to Mexico and Central America with the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH). Professor Ungar is also working with the political opposition in Nicaragua to forge a post-election police reform, and recently completed a report for the U.S. Department of Defense on organized crime in Latin America.

**Professor Till Weber** published "Negative Voting and Party Polarization: A Classic Tragedy" in [Electoral Studies](#), "Voice and Balancing in U.S. Congressional Elections" in [Perspectives on Politics](#), and "How Centrist Voters Pull the President's Party back towards Moderation at Midterm Elections" in the [LSE USAPP Blog](#).

**Presidential Professor Thomas G. Weiss** talked to [IPS News Service](#) about the prospects of the Taliban government assuming Afghanistan's seat at the United Nations. Professor Weiss also gave invited lectures at Oxford, Depaul, and Kyung Lee universities, participated in an UNCTAD expert group on least developed countries, and attended the 2021 annual meeting of the Academic Council on the UN System in June.

**Professor Ming Xia** was interviewed by Mercy Kuo in [The Diplomat](#) on the topic of "China's 'Common Prosperity': The Maoism of Xi Jinping."



*B Stone is a doctoral candidate and the Social Media Fellow for the political science department.*

Dear Students, Alums, and Faculty,

**A**s the Social Media Fellow for the department, my role is modeling and promoting social media best-practices to boost the digital presence of our department, as well as the online profiles of our faculty, alums, and current students.

This semester I'll be leading a virtual Professional Development Workshop, "Developing Your Academic Digital Identity," on Monday, November 15, 12 pm EST. All current students are encouraged to attend. Check your email for the Zoom link.

The workshop will provide an introduction to the essential platforms for building your academic digital identity, including the CUNY Academic Commons (where you can create your own personal website—for free!), ORCID, Google Scholar, CUNY Academic Works, WordPress, Twitter, and more. For those who are unable to attend in person, the workshop will be recorded and available on the GC Political Science [website](#).

Be sure to follow the department on Twitter [@GC PoliSci](#) and [Facebook](#) to be the first to hear about upcoming events, workshops, and news from around the department; and join our [LinkedIn Alum-Student Network](#) to connect with colleagues past and present.

Finally, 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 department website, please contact me at [estone@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:estone@gradcenter.cuny.edu).

Socially,  
B Stone  
[@BStone\\_ABD](#)





(Photo credit: Kate Devorak and Adrienne Cohen)



From September 16 to 19, I was an exhibitor at GenCon Indianapolis 2021, the largest tabletop gaming convention in the U.S. to present a new historical tabletop roleplaying game (RPG) that I am on the design team for, called "Nations & Cannons." This RPG project allows players, educators, and students to explore the dynamics of the American Revolutionary period by taking on the roles of historically sourced characters, with a heavy focus on highlighting the experiences and contributions of women, people of color, Indigenous Americans, and immigrants from outside the Anglo-Saxon world.

- Carmen Melillo (M.A.)





(Photo credit: Rebecca Krisel)



Students in the Political Science Department meet in Prospect Park to welcome the incoming cohort and to celebrate a new academic year.



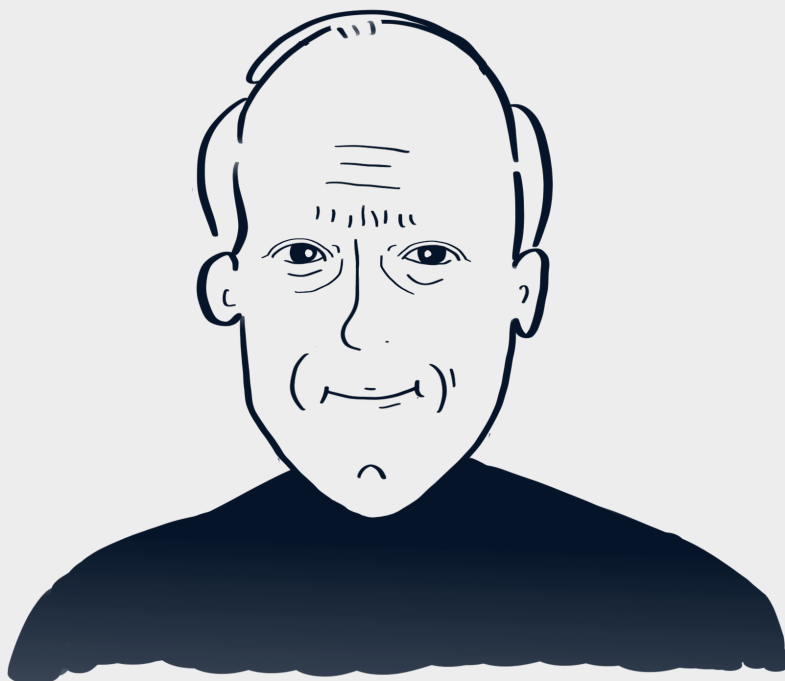
(Photo credit: Mike Stinavage)

Currently on a Fulbright Fellowship for fieldwork in Navarre, Spain. Engaged in a waste audit at the Public University of Navarre.



## Our New M.A. Advisor, Professor Forrest D. Colburn

**G**reetings and best wishes to our M.A. students in the Department of Political Science at the Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY). I am delighted to serve as your M.A. Advisor, and I pledge to do my best to be helpful. I believe in what all of you are doing: pursuing a master's degree in a subject of interest. The best investment you can make is in yourself, in fortifying yourself for what we all hope will be a long and productive career, one that is both fulfilling to you and socially useful.



These are challenging times with the pandemic and all of the restrictions it has imposed on us. But I salute you in the program for not “standing still,” but pressing ahead with your education.

I have already spoken to a number of first-year students and continuing M.A. students. For those new to the program, I have encouraged a relaxed approach, of just taking between one and three classes in subjects that are appealing. You will always do your best work if you are studying what interests you.

Writing a thesis is a Herculean project, and topics should be prudently chosen. Some believe that the most appropriate route is for students to build on a research paper that they have written for a previous class. However, I see nothing amiss with starting a thesis project “from scratch,” perhaps returning to an issue that was addressed in a class taken in the first year of the program or even earlier in one’s studies. Still, it is your thesis—and you will do best if you are writing about what you find worthy of your time.

I believe that all of you who begin the M.A. program should finish it. If you start something, finish it. If you do something, do it well. We have a good program here and it is manageable, even for those that are working full-time. When you finish the program you will always be distinguished for having a graduate degree. I am confident that you will be a more “interested and interesting” individual, and that you will have a more rewarding career.

For assistance in tackling graduate level writing for term papers or seeking assistance about writing for a thesis, our M.A. Writing Fellow for the 2021-22 academic year, Asher Wycoff, will hold Fall 2021 office hours on Wednesdays, from 1pm-3pm and by appointment on Thursdays. You can contact him at [awycoff@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:awycoff@gradcenter.cuny.edu). Your M.A. student representative is Manok Thadhani. You can contact him at [mthadhani@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:mthadhani@gradcenter.cuny.edu).

For this semester I am holding in-person office hours Monday afternoons, and “virtual” office hours on Tuesday in the late afternoon. However, at least to date, I have just been “on call.” When someone sends me an email with an inquiry, I try to respond promptly and often suggest a phone call, offering my phone number. I have had many good conversations so far, and I look forward to meeting all students in person.

Saludos,  
Forrest Colburn

**Carmel Agnant (M.A.)**

Carmel studies Public Policy and enjoys hiking and eating new foods. She also loves bubble tea and has many more flavors to try.

**Andre Arne (M.A.)**

Andre studies Public Policy and enjoys camping, hiking, cooking, dance music, and film. He recently helped start organizing a union at his workplace, the ACLU.

**Oswaldo Mena Aguilar (Ph.D.)**

Oswaldo studies Comparative Politics and Public Policy, including inequality, poverty, public institutions, and taxation. He enjoys guitar playing, hiking, and dabbles in carpentry! He also knows most of the Spanish dubbed version of Aladdin by heart.

**Leena Maria Aula (M.A.)**

Leena studies Public Policy. Her interests include current affairs, road cycling, animals, and combat sports (she is 5ft and a trained fighter!).

**Cornelius Badger (M.A.)**

Cornelius studies Public Policy and enjoys swimming and walking in Central Park. Fun fact: he still identifies as a "young buck" gettin' his butt whooped by the chessmasters in Bryant Park.

**Jacqueline Biergans (M.A.)**

Jacqueline studies International Relations and loves music, photography, dancing, and nature. She also loves exploring different cultures, particularly their cuisines, by travelling as well as taking part in cultural celebrations such as community events, matching her passion for activism.

**Max Balton (M.A.)**

Max studies Public Policy and enjoys cooking, music, NYC History, and science fiction. His great-grandfather moved to Williamsburg from Lithuania in 1907 and became the master baker at Levy's (where they still use the same sour starter from 1888).

**Sohrab Andaz (M.A.)**

Sohrab studies Political Theory and enjoys hiking, cooking, kayaking, gardening, doing shifts at the food-coop, and toying around with reinforcement learning. Fun fact: he operated a \$4.6MM 8MeV linear particle accelerator for a class in undergrad.

**Mst Sarmin Akter Mazumder (M.A.)**

Sarmin studies Public Policy, including the environment and climate change. Fun fact: she can't watch horror movies.



**Daniel Cassady (M.A.)**

Daniel studies Political Theory and enjoys literature, photography, good scotch, French bistros, Cuban music, cold martinis, Spanish tapas, pen and paper, rock and roll, and modern art. Fun fact: he can eat fifty eggs.

**Man Hei Chan (Ph.D.)**

Man Hei (Jacky) studies Political Theory and Comparative Politics and enjoys watching football games, playing field hockey, FIFA, hanging out on Netflix and Youtube, and reading comics and anime. Fun fact: his bachelor's is in Physics.

**Hazal Demir (M.A.)**

Hazal studies Political Theory and enjoys reading (lately about Byzantine history and culture), music (she knows all of the David Bowie songs by heart), cinema, exercise and mindfulness.

**Fatima Faisal (M.A.)**

Fatima studies International Relations and loves reading books, having deep and thoughtful conversations with people, making DIYs, traveling, drawing, and reading newspapers. Fun fact: she is scared of balloons popping.

**Juan Corredor Garcia (Ph.D.)**

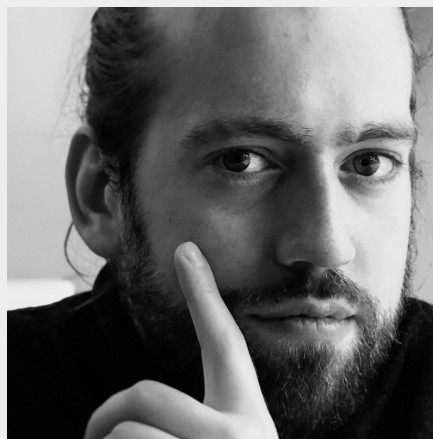
Juan studies Comparative Politics and International Relations and enjoys reading, cooking, and cycling. Fun fact: he's never been to New York City.

**Matthew Goodrich (M.A.)**

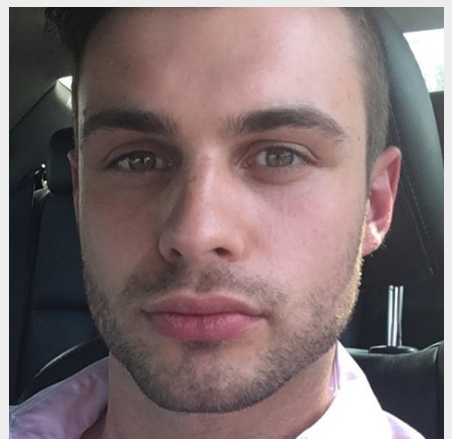
Matthew studies Political Theory and his interests include camping, music, and climate change. Fun fact: he once lived with an international bridge champion five decades older than me.

**Daniel Grjonko (M.A.)**

Daniel's interests include cooking, mutual aid, independent radio, 20th century fiction, and local politics. He grew up a Third Culture Kid - born in New York but raised in a kind of Soviet bubble with his grandmother, only speaking Russian until kindergarten. He embraces this now by translating Soviet children's literature into English in his free time.

**Ryan Hitch (M.A.)**

Ryan studies International Relations and enjoys cycling, white water kayaking, drums, and traveling. He also lived in Germany for three and a half years.

**Christopher Hongach (M.A.)**

Christopher, who was born and raised in Brooklyn, studies Political Theory, literature, and aesthetics.

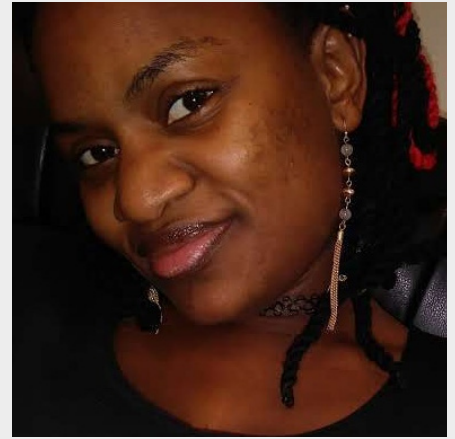


**Isabella Irtifa (Ph.D.)**

Isabella studies Comparative and American Politics and enjoys printmaking, kayaking, reading, and community organizing. She loves a good game night and is particularly good at slapjack!

**Aliana Jabbarly (M.A.)**

Aliana studies American Politics and enjoys fostering dogs, photography, and thrifting. Fun fact: she listens to True Crime podcasts to fall asleep.

**Nafisa Jabbie (M.A.)**

Nafisa studies Public Policy. She loves reading and is a very big Maya Angelou fan because she can relate to the struggles she endured to become who she was.

**Nazanin Jazayeri (M.A.)**

Nazanin studies Political Theory and enjoys tennis, piano, and cooking. She also loves turtles and has a big collection of little hand crafted turtles.

**Adam Johnson (M.A.)**

Adam studies Public Policy and enjoys Dungeons & Dragons, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, rock climbing, and volleyball. He also has 10+ terabytes of movies, tv shows, and music stored on his computer.

**William Kay (M.A.)**

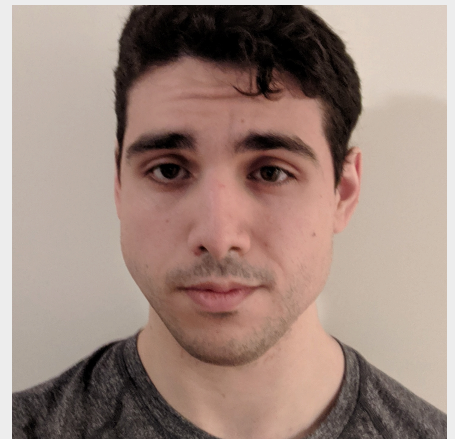
William Kay studies Political Theory and is a high school teacher in Brooklyn. His interests include baseball, craft beer, and cooking and baking.

**Kevisha Kellar (M.A.)**

Kevisha studies International Relations, including humanitarian work, homelessness, and advocating for laws surrounding mental health and basic human needs. Fun fact: her joy is in the smile of others.

**Joseph Lara (M.A.)**

Joseph studies Public Policy and enjoys mutual aid, queer theory, woodblock printmaking, graphic arts, archival maps, art history, housing and immigration policy, pain management therapy, house plants, anime, video games, visual kei and EBM music. Fun fact: they can be found on the karaoke stage singing Japanese pop.

**Gian Marc Lombardo (M.A.)**

Gian Marc studies International Relations and enjoys reading, lifting/body building, strategy games, and basketball.

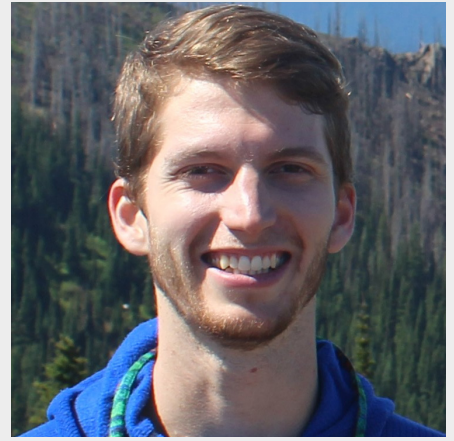


**Mary Madsen (Ph.D.)**

Mary studies Public Policy and American Politics and enjoys reading, traveling, and trying new restaurants. Fun fact: she's been a vegetarian since age 6.

**Maxine Mannheim (M.A.)**

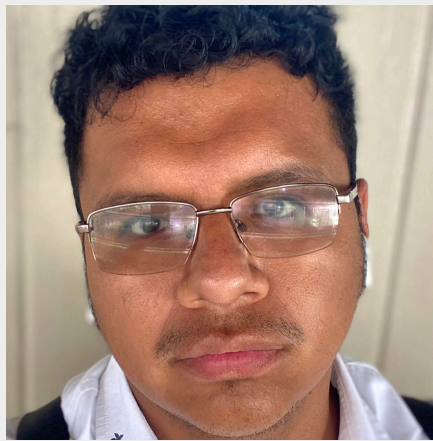
Maxine studies American Politics, including gender and women's studies and prison reform, and enjoys writing, activism, travel and reading. She especially loves sci-fi and recently finished reading every work by Octavia Butler!

**Matthew Martin (M.A.)**

Matthew studies Political Theory and enjoys rock climbing, D&D, board games, and coffee. Fun fact: he takes his cat for walks outside on a leash.

**Eli Massanh (M.A.)**

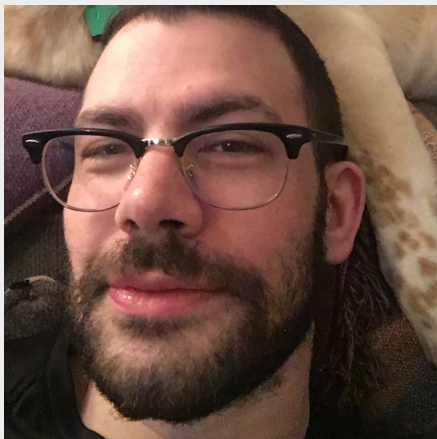
Eli studies International Relations and enjoys reading, music, and talking to people (in four languages - English, Spanish, French, and Ewe!).

**Juan Mayancela (M.A.)**

Juan studies Public Policy, including immigration, education, housing, and environmental justice.

**Margaret Mcnish (M.A.)**

Margaret studies American Politics and her interests include her cats, biking, board games, competition dating shows, podcasts, and hanging out in Prospect Park. Fun fact: she saw Call Me By Your Name in theaters three times.

**Carmen Melillo (M.A.)**

Carmen studies Political Theory and his interests include theater, fitness, dogs, sci-fi/fantasy, and tabletop RPG's. He also still does not know how to ride a bike despite having tried... multiple times.

**Helena Najm (Ph.D.)**

Helena studies Political Theory and American Politics and likes to draw, write, sing, read, and rant about music history! On most days, she can be found wandering around the city with her headphones on and an iced coffee in hand. She'll likely stop in an art supply store or secondhand bookstore.

**Sean O'Connell (M.A.)**

Sean's interests include public housing, justice, organizing, and hip hop. He once walked the entirety of Manhattan from Marble Hill to South Ferry with a friend.



**James Reilly (M.A.)**

James studies Comparative Politics and enjoys writing, film, literature, cycling, cooking, gardening, and coffee. Fun fact: he loves to see movies in theatres on opening night.

**Nicholas Reyes (M.A.)**

Nicholas studies American Politics, including legal studies, and his interests include books, sports, and food. Fun fact: he can balance a broom on his finger for a long time!

**Daniel Rogers (M.A.)**

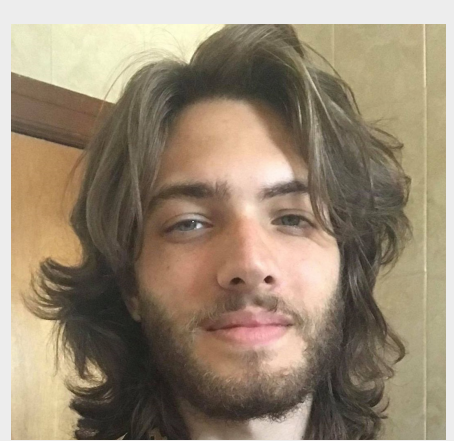
Daniel studies Political Theory and enjoys reading, basketball, and music (he can play 5 instruments!).

**Dhanajoy Roy (M.A.)**

Dhanajoy studies Public Policy and enjoys reading, writing, research, the stock market, and traveling.

**Achal Thakore (M.A.)**

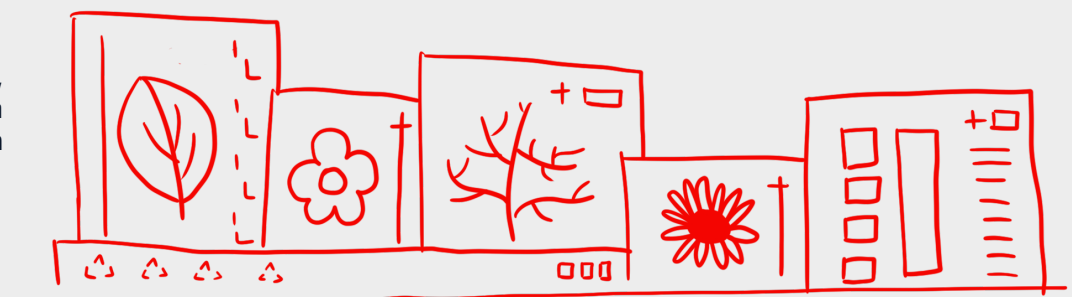
Achal studies Political Theory and enjoys biking, reading, watching movies, and, most importantly, discovering new foods and restaurants. He once tried a hot sauce so hot he had to sign a release form. The consequences were a whole day affair.

**Michael Villanova (Ph.D.)**

Michael studies Political Theory and Comparative Politics and enjoys playing guitar and autoharp, curling, and all things New York City politics. He can also (probably) perform the entirety of Rent by heart.

**Bela August Walker (M.A.)**

Bela studies Public Policy and enjoys drawing, wood carving, and hapkido. He's also a master of cardboard creations and Halloween costumes.



Andrés Besserer Rayas (level II) co-authored "Disrupting the Traffic Stop-to-Deportation Pipeline: The New York State Greenlight Law's Intent and Implementation" in the [Journal on Human Migration and Security](#). Besserer Rayas also published "Democracia erosionada" in [Proceso](#) and "Después de la consulta popular: una lucha de interpretaciones" in [Gatopardo](#).

Harry Blain (level III) published "No Gestapo: J. Edgar Hoover's World-wide Intelligence Service and the Limits of Bureaucratic Autonomy in the National Security State" in [Studies in American Political Development](#).

Diana Cassells (level III) attended the 2021 Caribbean Studies Association annual meeting, where she chaired a panel on *New Thinking, New Issues in Caribbean International Relations*.

Rebecca Krisel (level III) presented "Virtual Dance Communities and the Right to the Internet" at the 2021 annual APSA meeting and "Tracking the Tampon Tax" at the Menstruation in the Media conference. She also accepted a position as a GC Digital Fellow.

Philip Johnson (level III) accepted a lecturer position in the Writing Program at Princeton University. He published "From Front Lines to Fun Runs: Revitalizing the Exception through Official Discourse at Guantánamo Bay" in [Critical Military Studies](#). Johnson also wrote a guest post for [Political Violence at a Glance](#), entitled "What Will it Take to End Indefinite Detention at Guantánamo Bay?"

Kyong Mazzaro (level III) was awarded a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, the AAUW American Dissertation Fellowship, and the Best Paper Award from the Venezuelan Studies Section at Latin American Studies Association (LASA).

David Monda (level II) published "America is not the World's Policeman, it cannot Bring Peace to Every Region" in [Daily Nation](#), "Why IEBC Poll Campaign Financing Bill is Bad" in [Daily Nation](#), and "Why Coalitions Collapse Before Major Elections" in [The Star](#). Monda was interviewed by the [Voice of America](#)'s Kwa Undani program on U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and its global implications and by the [Deutsche Welle](#) (DW) German Swahili Service on U.S. intervention in the developing world. In addition, Monda is participating in the [COVID-19 Impact Project](#), directed by CUNY Humanities Alliance and supported by Andrew Carnegie Mellon Foundation.

Cassie Morales (level I) published "Why are there Cops in Schools?" in [The Nation](#).

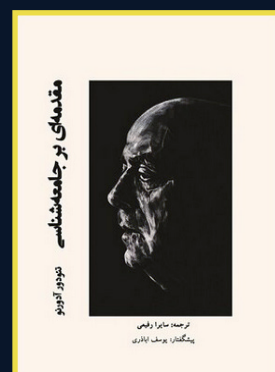
Javier Padilla (level I) and professor Keena Lipsitz presented their paper, "The Nonlinear Effects of Political Advertising" at the 2021 annual meetings of APSA and the Midwest Political Science Association. In addition, Padilla was interviewed by the Colombian newspaper [El Espectador](#) about the Spanish transition and the politics of memory.

Saira Rafiee's (level I) Farsi translation of Adorno's *Introduction to Sociology* was published by the [Research Center for Culture, Art, and Communication](#).

Brahim Rouabah (level II) published "The Colonial Counter-Revolution and the People's Revolution in Algeria (Hirak)" in the [Review of African Political Economy](#).

Dean Schafer (level III) and Andrés Besserer Rayas (level II) published "The Hidden Costs of Racist Immigration Policies" in [Foreign Policy in Focus](#).

Sarah Shah (level III) was interviewed in [International Horizons](#), the podcast of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, about developments in Afghanistan after the U.S. withdrawal.



Sitharthan Sriharan (M.A.) published "Counter-Hegemonic Visions of Self-Respect in a Novel: Ramamirthammal's Challenge to Indian Nationalism" in [\*ANTYAJA: Indian Journal of Women and Social Change\*](#).

Aaron Stanley (level III) received a [USIP-Minerva Peace and Security Scholar Fellowship](#) for the 2021-2022 academic year. His dissertation focuses on perceptions of legitimacy in post-conflict societies.

Leo Tamamizu (level II) worked as an anonymous reviewer of a manuscript submitted to the [Japanese Journal of Political Science](#) this summer.

T.A. Tran (level III) was awarded first-place for a co-authored article with their Baruch undergraduate, Chaya Halberstam, "'I Think God Is a Feminist': Art and Action by Orthodox Jewish Women" by the [Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion](#) for the 2021 Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza New Scholars Award. The article will be highlighted in the upcoming published issue of *JFSR* and announced on their website.

#### **Level 1 to Level 2**

Laura Silverman  
Cara Fitzgerald  
Kevin McGinnis  
Leo Tamamizu  
Chelsea Joliet  
Okkes Ferhat Zabunryan  
Ryan Brunette  
Aaron Braun

#### **Level 2 to Level 3**

Jorge Arboleda  
Aaron Stanley  
Jonathan Tschudy  
Mercedes Wilby

#### **Fall 2021 Ph.D. Graduates**

Heidi A. Rhodes  
Sally Sharif

#### **Fall 2021 M.A. Graduates**

Chelsea L Carrick  
Jeffrey P Smith





Strange times to be an academic!

The "post-" in "post-pandemic" is best understood in the same sense as the "post-" in "post-modernism" or "post-structuralism." The prefix signals not an end to the conditions denoted by the stem, but an augmentation of them. Even in our partial return to "ordinary" life, many things remain virtual and the shape of the future remains uncertain. As I write this, I am preparing to travel to my first in-person conference since the spring of 2019. My panel will be missing one presenter and one discussant, both of whom had planned to travel internationally—something that seemed much more feasible in March than it does now in September.

This environment of uncertainty can make writing especially difficult. It can be hard to maintain motivation to write regularly, to keep on top of deadlines, to pursue or incorporate feedback from peers, and so on. There's no real solution to this problem other than "try to do it anyway," which is frustrating albeit honest advice. The more difficult question is how one can try to maintain healthy writing habits, and it's one without a definitive answer. The single most helpful thing in my experience is maintaining a regular reading habit. It's easier to force myself to read than to write, and generally, I find reading something even tangentially related to my interests is a reliable way to stir up the sediments of the mind.

Your mileage will vary, of course. I've been fortunate to speak with many of our incoming cohort over the past month, and I know anxieties (and methods for managing them) are wide-ranging. One concern has come up enough that it feels worth addressing here: the question of formality. How much of a gap is there between popular writing and academic writing? How much higher are the expectations for graduate vs. undergraduate work? My general answer is that style is secondary to content, and that the primary concern should be clarity. The purpose of social scientific writing (als Beruf, if you will) is to map out coordinates of the social world, to demystify the processes behind events both current and historical. Ensuring that you and your reader understand what you mean by this or that concept, or why you are interpreting your evidence in this or that way—this is the central challenge, and it deserves your focus. Style and tone can always be cleaned up later.

As we all hobble through another uncertain academic year, I will be available (virtually for now) to field any questions as best I can and to look over drafts when needed. My regular hours are 1-3pm on Wednesdays, and Thursdays by appointment, but I can be a bit flexible depending on the week. You are always welcome to check in via email if you feel stuck or have more general concerns.

Go in good health,  
Asher Wycoff  
awycoff@gradcenter.cuny.edu





## Amy Schiller

*Amy Schiller* (Ph.D., 2019) is a postdoc at the Society of Fellows at Dartmouth. Her writing focuses on feminism, politics, philanthropy, and culture. She's written for *The Atlantic*, *The Nation*, *The Daily Beast*, *The American Prospect*, *Salon*, and many more places. Creating [Hey Girl Happy Hannukah](#) (the Jewish-holiday-themed Ryan Gosling photoblog) is among her proudest accomplishments to date.

**Dean Schafer:** Can you describe the research projects you are currently working on? How has your research developed since you completed your dissertation?

**Amy Schiller:** I'm writing a book that is based on, but also substantially expands, my dissertation, and publishing it with Melville House. My focus is philanthropy, which contains so much, from economics to history to literature, all of which inform my theorizing. The book is titled *The Price of Humanity: How Philanthropy Went Wrong And How To Fix It*. The dissertation had a lot of genealogical historical material about the role philanthropy played in creating a common world, as well as the ways in which it objectified and instrumentalized the poor, in order to validate the donor's virtue. As far as the book's reflection of my research growth, there's much more storytelling and theorizing based on characters, making a more assertive argument about what I believe philanthropy should be, not just the multifaceted nature of what it has been.

Beyond the book, I have a new course and a couple of papers,

one on monuments and the physical world as a container for political narrative and subjectivity, and one on the commodification of affect and the trafficking in arousal that takes place in charitable fundraising. I'm broadly interested in the erotics of charity, and look forward to delving into that once the current book project is complete.

**DS:** You have had a lot of success with public scholarship. What advice do you have for students in our program who would also like to engage in this kind of work?

**AS:** Fortunately at the Graduate Center you can take a class with Peter Beinart in Writing Politics, which is a good start to figuring out the form. You should practice writing Op-Eds—perhaps in relevant blogs for your subfield. And then when you have a clear "pitch"—a comment that you are uniquely prepared to contribute, related to something in the zeitgeist—do not hesitate to ask your professors, networks, and even me, for suggestions of editors to pitch. See if you can follow editors on Twitter, they sometimes have calls for pitches. You just need one piece to get started—once I had one op-ed in *The Nation*, I felt increasingly confident pitching more, and to other outlets.

**DS:** Shortly after graduating you received a postdoc with the Society of Fellows at Dartmouth. How did you successfully navigate the challenges inherent to the academic job market?

**AS:** Sheer mind blowing luck. I wish I had more useful advice but anyone who claims expertise in this casino of a job market is delusional. The only thing I can say is, rely on your peers, exchange applications materials, practice your job talks with one another—the Graduate Center community is really special in this regard. Solidarity is all we've got right now, and it's not nothing.

**DS:** What resources were most helpful for you during your time at the GC?

**AS:** My peers, who helped make my work better and kept me sane. And a terrific advisor who actually gave me structure and oversight, things you should consider when choosing an advisor.

**DS:** Is there anything else you would like to add?

**AS:** I would say, be kind to yourself—know when you're overloaded and need to take a break, and know when you're feeling stuck and need some structure to help get you started.

## Andrew Bast

*Andrew Bast* is a producer with the CBS News Investigative Unit. He spent six seasons at 60 Minutes and previously was a print journalist and worked in book publishing. His company, Greener Grass Productions, released the short film “What You Leave Behind” in early 2019. He completed his M.A. in 2009.

**Dean Schafer:** What story are you currently working on?

**Andrew Bast:** Two weeks ago I did a story about an Afghan national who worked as a translator for Marines and U.S. Special Forces fighting in Afghanistan. That translator has been trying to escape, as the Taliban are now hunting for people like him. The State Department is requesting he find a passport and HR letters from a former employer—not exactly easy tasks to pull off while protecting his family in a safe house.

This week we are speaking with some former U.S. service members, stateside, who’ve pulled together ad hoc organizations to airlift vulnerable people out of Afghanistan. You can imagine the mind-bending challenges they face. I’m hoping to continue with more of these stories, as there’s likely value in shining a light on the system inside the State Department, which is swamped with these unquestionably difficult immigration applications.

All of this is not to mention the thousands of Afghans now living on military installations around the U.S.! The exodus from Afghanistan since the Taliban has come to power is one of those stories that anywhere you look there’s something to be examined and heartbreaking human stories of struggle and triumph to be told.

**DS:** What is one of your fondest memories from your time at the Graduate Center?

**AB:** My fondest memories are the superstar professors I had! Tom Weiss taught me international law. Susan Woodward taught me how theory connects directly to real conflicts in the world. And Forrest Colburn hammered into me the most important lesson of all: If you don’t write well, no one will read you, so don’t half-ass it, organize your thoughts, and present them clearly!

Also, I hope they never updated the elevators in the library. Those cast-iron cages screamed old New York, and they were awesome.



**DS:** How did an M.A. in Political Science help prepare you for a career in journalism? Which skills translate readily, and, just as importantly, which skills special to journalism need to be developed independently?

**AB:** Forgive the echo, but writing, writing, writing! It’s too bad that so much academic work is so poorly written, and it’s been a while since I’ve been in a classroom or photocopied journal articles (do students still do that?), but I think, at least in some academic quarters, that dense, impenetrable style is actually encouraged. Gripping aside, the Writing Politics program guided me clear of the academic tendency to hide behind jargon. In addition to writing skills, I find myself needing to research and organize on difficult topics. There’s no question that preparing my master’s thesis provided a solid foundation on that front.

**DS:** What advice would you give to current students who have similar career ambitions?

**AB:** What I did with my master’s degree was not typical, but I’d suggest it to anyone. I’m a big believer that the best way to learn journalism is just by doing it, so it’s better to become an expert in an interesting subject area (i.e. international relations, American politics, etc.), then go out into the world, ask some questions, and present what you find.

William D. Adler (Ph.D., 2011) published *Engineering Expansion: The U.S. Army and Economic Development, 1787-1860* (UPenn Press 2021).

Elena Cohen (Ph.D., 2020) accepted a full-time visiting position in the Undergraduate Law program at the Drexel Kline School of Law.

Toby Irving (M.A., 2021) published "The telling Ben & Jerry's Backlash: Even a Targeted Economic Pressure Campaign against Israel's Settlements Meets a Vitriolic Response" in the [New York Daily News](#).

Adrienne Jones (Ph.D., 2015) published (with Professor Andrew Polsky, Hunter College) "How to Win the "Long Game": The Voting Rights Act, the Republican Party, and the Politics of Counter-Enforcement" in [Political Science Quarterly](#), and "Georgia's Election Disaster Shows how Bad Voting in 2020 Can Be" in [The Conversation](#). Jones was a panelist on the Georgia Public Broadcasting radio program, Political Rewind [6/21/21](#), [7/1/21](#), [7/19/21](#), [8/2/21](#), [8/18/21](#), [9/1/21](#). She appeared as an expert on *The World Tonight*, BNC and in Australia Broadcasting Corporation News TV program [Planet America](#). Jones was also an interviewer for "Conversations About Women in International Relations and Global Aspects of Gender Equality" at the [International Women's Day Leadership Forum of Atlanta](#).

Sarah Kostecki (Ph.D., 2021) accepted a post-doctoral research position in political science at the University of Luxembourg where she will be working on the Propel Project that evaluates the links between housing policy and socio-economic inequalities across high income countries and the politics of housing policy development. Kostecki published "Work-Family Reconciliation Policies: Good or Bad for Gender Employment Inequalities," an article summarizing her dissertation research, in the [LIS Quarterly Newsletter](#). Kostecki also adapted the leave and childcare policy indicators from her dissertation into a public use dataset, also now available on the LIS [website](#).

Sari Krieger (Ph.D., 2021) is a Visiting Assistant Professor for the 2021-2022 academic year at the University at Albany.

Conner Martinez (M.A., 2021) started a Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Notre Dame where he plans on studying anti-immigration policies and their impact on U.S. politics and Latinx political involvement.

John McMahon (Ph.D., 2016) published "Sonia Sotomayor's Legal Phenomenology, Racial Policing, and the Limits of Law" in [Polity](#). He also published with co-authors Emily Crandall (Ph.D., 2019), and Rachel H. Brown (Ph.D., 2016) "Magicians of the Twenty-First Century: Utopia, Work, and Domination in Silicon Valley" in [Theory & Event](#).

J. Patrice McSherry (Ph.D., 1994) published "Is this the Year of Structural Change in Chile?" in [Jacobin](#); "El Significado del Estadio Víctor Jara (ex Estadio Chile)" and "La Globalización de la Nueva Canción Chilena Después del Golpe" in [Pagina19](#). The Harvard Undergraduate Foreign Policy Initiative invited her to join its Speakers' Bureau in January 2021. McSherry's book *Chilean New Song* (Temple University Press 2015) was licensed for translation and publication in South Korea.

Nicholas R. Micinski (Ph.D., 2019) started a tenure-track faculty position as Libra Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Maine. Micinski published *UN Global Compacts: Governing Migrants and Refugees* (Routledge 2021) and two articles: "Threats, Deportability and Aid: The Politics of Refugee Rentier States and Regional Stability" in [Security Dialogue](#) and "Refugee Commodification: the Diffusion of Refugee Rent-seeking in the Global South" in [Third World Quarterly](#). He was also featured in an episode of [Rights Talk](#) focusing on refugees, migrants, and global governance; and published "Why Biden's Plan to Slow Immigration through International Aid is Unlikely to Succeed" in [The Washington Post](#).





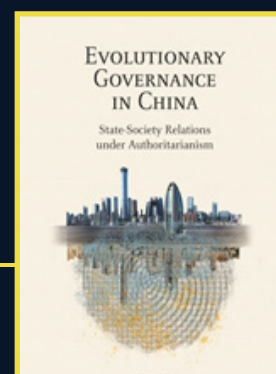
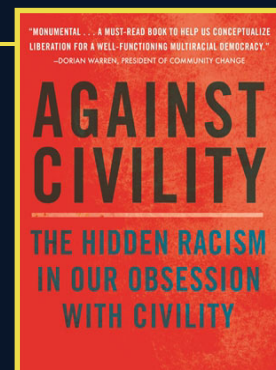
Alex Zamalin (Ph.D., 2014) was interviewed by the [Graduate Center](#) about his latest book *Against Civility: The Hidden Racism in Our Obsession with Civility* ([Beacon](#) 2021).

Mohamed-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou (Ph.D., 1996) was designated the Global South Caucus' Distinguished Scholar for 2021-2022 at the 2021 annual International Studies Association conference. Previously, Mohamedou served as Mauritania's Foreign Minister before joining the Geneva Institute of International Studies in 2010 where he is now Chair of the International History and Politics Department.

Heidi Andrea Rhodes (Ph.D., 2021) is a "Translating Race" postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Humanities at Tufts University.

Sally Sharif (Ph.D., 2021) accepted a Post-Doctoral Research Associate position at the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. She was also a Teaching Assistant at the ICPSR summer program for Simultaneous Equations Modeling.

Weiting Wu (Ph.D., 2014) became the director of the Graduate Institute for Gender Studies at Shih Hsin University in Taiwan. Wu published "State-Society Interactions in the Campaign Against Domestic Violence in China" in *Evolutionary Governance in China: State-Society Relations under Authoritarianism* ([Harvard University Press](#) 2021).



## IN MEMORIAM KWAME AKONOR



Kwame Akonor (Ph.D., 2004) passed away on March 31, 2021. Dr. Akonor completed his master's degree at CUNY in 1996 and went on to work as project manager at an advertising agency while working on his Ph.D in political science. He completed his doctorate, for which he won the Best Dissertation in International Politics Award from the Graduate Center at City University of New York in 2004. He then joined the faculty at Seton Hall University where he remained until his passing. As a student of Professor George Andreopoulos, they collaborated on several occasions over the years.



SEP  
09

Comparative Politics Workshop,  
Saira Rafiee (GC),  
"Social Movement Theory and the Neoliberal Objectivity"

SEP  
10

Political Theory Workshop,  
Bonnie Honnig (Brown University)  
Discussant: Michael Villanova (GC)

SEP  
24

Political Theory Workshop,  
Uday Singh Mehta (GC)  
Discussant: Astrid Hallaraaker (GC)

OCT  
07

M.A. Workshop,  
"Applying for Doctoral Programs,"  
Forrest D. Colburn and Maxwell Fuerderer (GC) (PSC MA Students only)

OCT  
08

Political Theory Workshop,  
Jodi Dean (Hobart and William Smith)  
Discussant: Aaron Braun (GC)

OCT  
07

Comparative Politics Workshop,  
Sofya Aptekar (CUNY/SLU),  
"Undocumented Immigrants and the U.S. Military"

OCT  
12

Department event: Book talk on Mark Warren's (UMass) new book *Willful  
Defiance: The Movement to Dismantle the School-to-Prison Pipeline*  
([Oxford](#) 2021)

OCT  
14

IR-elevant Workshops  
4:15 - 6:15pm

OCT  
20

Society and Protest Workshop  
12 - 1:30pm, Colleen Wood (Columbia University),  
"Strategies and Symbols of Contentious Politics in Central Asia"

**OCT  
21**

**Comparative Politics Workshop**

11:45am - 1:45pm, Graham Denyer Willis (Cambridge)

"Making Sense of Mundane Mass Graves: Considerations from São Paulo, Brazil"

**OCT  
28**

**Comparative Politics Workshop**

11:45am - 1:45pm, Victoria Finn (Universidad Diego Portales)

"Political Embedding as Growing (New) Roots: People, Places, and Migrant Participation"

**NOV  
03**

**Comparative Politics Workshop**

11:45am - 1:45pm,

Marisa McGlinchey (Coventry University)

**NOV  
05**

**Political Theory Workshop**

4:15pm - 6:15pm, Andrew Culp (Cal Arts)

Discussant: Asher Wycoff (GC)

**NOV  
11**

**IR-relevant Workshop: Research Questions,**

4:15pm - 6:15pm

**NOV  
17**

**Society and Protest Workshop**

12 - 1:30pm, Andrés Besserer Rayas (GC) and Eglė Šumskienė (Vilnius University)

"Outside-in: Political Strategies in the Face of Exclusion"

**NOV  
18**

**Comparative Politics Workshop**

11:45am - 1:45pm, Rebecca Krisel (GC), Sara de Benedicts (Brunel University), Kaitlyn

Mendes (University of Western Ontario) "Tracking the 'Tampon Tax'"

**NOV  
19**

**Political Theory Workshop**

3:00pm - 5:00pm, Asad Haider (York College)

Discussant: Milo Ward (GC)

**DEC  
01**

**Society and Protest Workshop**

12 - 1:30pm, Laure Bereni (Center Maurice Halbwachs, Paris) "The Women's Cause in a Field: Rethinking the Architecture of Collective Protest in the Era of Movement Institutionalization"

**DEC  
03**

**Political Theory Workshop**

3:00pm - 5:00pm, Jishnu Guha-Majumdar (Queens University)

Discussant: Matthew Mautarelli (GC)

# SPRING 2022 COURSE SCHEDULE

28

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:30am-11:30am					
11:45am-1:45pm					
2:00pm-4:00pm		<b>The Law and Politics of Emergencies</b> Feldman (PT) PSC 80608  <b>Critical Urbanisms and Just Cities: Reimagining Social Infrastructures and Politics from Below</b> Su (PP) PSC 82505 *cross-listed (PSYC/UED/EES)*			
4:15pm-6:15pm	<b>Security Studies</b> Liberman (IR) PSC 76400  <b>Data Analysis for Urban Politics and Public Policy</b> Mollenkopf (PP) PSC 72500 *crosslisted (SOC)*	<b>Comparative Political Institutions</b> Woodward (CP) PSC 77902/ 87800  <b>Women, Work, and Public Policy</b> Gornick(PP) PSC 73101  <b>Participatory Democracy and Social Movements</b> Su (PP) PSC 73904 *cross-listed (PSYC/UED/EES)*	<b>Politics of the Image</b> Buck-Morss (PT) PSC 71906  <b>Core, Theories &amp; Concepts in American Politics</b> Schram (AP) PSC 72000  <b>Comparative Foreign Policy: Non-Western countries</b> Braveboy-Wagner (IR) PSC 86105	<b>PROGRAM EVENTS</b>	
6:30pm-8:30pm	<b>Workshop on the Dissertation Proposal</b> Woodward (G) PSC 89100  <b>MA Core Course</b> Colburn (G) PSC 71000	<b>U.S.-China Relations</b> Xia (IR) PSC 86401  <b>Middle East Politics</b> Schwedler (CP) PSC 87620 *cross-listed (MAMES)*	<b>Quantitative Methods I: Regression Analysis</b> Tien (G) PSC 85507	<b>Polarization in American Politics</b> Jones (AP) PSC 82602  <b>Politics of Identity</b> George (CP) PSC 87800	

AP – American Politics  
 <>PT – Political Theory

<>CP- Comparative Politics  
 <> PP – Public Policy

<>IR – International Relations  
 <> G – General Course



# UPCOMING SUBMISSION AND AWARD DEADLINES

NOV  
02

**Application deadline**

for the [Social Science Research Council's International Dissertation Research Fellowship](#).

NOV  
05

**Application deadline**

for the [Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship](#) to support final year Ph.D. dissertation writing concerned with religious or ethical values.

DEC  
01

**Application deadline**

for grants from the [Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy](#) to support doctoral research with a social policy application.

DEC  
09

**Application deadline** for the Ford Foundation Fellowships Program of the National Academy of Sciences to support Ph.D. [dissertation](#) writing or [post-doctoral](#) study for individuals committed to a career in teaching and research at the university level in social sciences.

DEC  
16

**Application deadline**

for the Ford Foundation Fellowships Program of the National Academy of Sciences to support [pre-doctoral](#) graduate study.

JAN  
04

**GC application deadline**

for the Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship.

JAN  
14

[American Political Science Association \(APSA\) abstract submission](#) deadline for the 2022 Annual Meeting "Rethink, Restructure, Reconnect: Towards a Post-Pandemic Political Science" in Montreal, Quebec.

JAN  
14

**Application deadline**

for the [CUNY Graduate Center Dissertation Fellowship Competition](#).

JAN  
26

**Application deadline**

for the Boren Fellowship for graduate research abroad and intensive language study central to U.S. interests.

JAN  
31

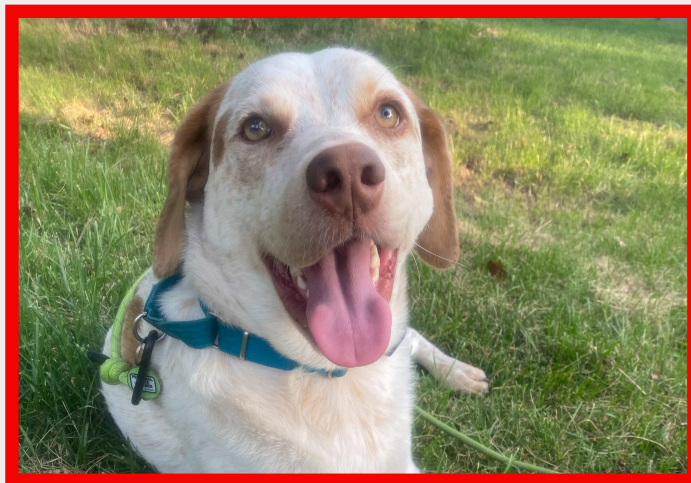
**Application deadline**

for the [Graduate Center Doctoral Student Research Grant \(DSRG\)](#).



Ziggy reclining by a copy of *Towards a Feminist Ethics of Nonviolence*, which is a collection of reflections on Adriana Caverero's argument about inclination versus rectitude.

(Photo credit: Alyson Cole)



This is Jacob—half hound, half cattle dog, 100% weirdo: He collects abandoned baseballs around the city. New balls are not welcome—only those that no one else wants (smelly, underground, and covered in dirt.) The collection is currently 70+ strong, and he houses them in our living room.

(Photo credit: Leena Aula)



Cunycorn refuels in the lounge."

(Photo credit: Till Weber)



This is my dog Tycho at my wedding this summer. It's also the look he gave me after I tried to argue with just correlations and no causal mechanism.

(Photo credit: Sohrab Andaz)



This is Tank, our pandemic pup, and my daughter Amina goofing and being silly - which proved to be the best medicine during this pandemic.

(Photo Credit: Nadina Resulani)



Peggy, our rescued angel, turned 10 years old this summer!

(Photo credit: Elena Cohen)





Another image of Tank enjoying the view in a semi-empty plane to Europe.

(Photo credit: Nadina Resulani)



Professor Susan Buck-Morss with new furry friend Harry the Dog.

(Photo credit: Susan Buck-Morss)



Bridger kept Sally sane while she wrote up her dissertation.

(Photo credit: Sally Sharif)



Sally and Bridger spent the best summer of their lives in Lake Placid.

(Photo credit: Sally Sharif)



Zeynab Rosa Rouabah's 3rd Birthday.

(Photo credit: Brahim Rouabah)



Zeynab Rosa Rouabah taking Leila (dog) for a dip in the lake.

(Photo credit: Brahim Rouabah)





Zeynab Rosa Rouabah leaving home for her 1st day at 3-k school.

(Photo credit: Brahim Rouabah)



Parker's still working on thinking outside of the box.

(Photo credit: B Stone)



Mahsheed (right) and Bacha (left).

(Photo credit: Dena Motevalian)



"Rest is resistance!" - Zelda

(Photo credit: Rebecca Krisel)



Pandemic pup Leonard "Lenny" Cohen (and his moose) helping us with our move to Brooklyn.

(Photo credit: Alana Pagano)





(Image credit: Asher Wycoff)



## 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.

