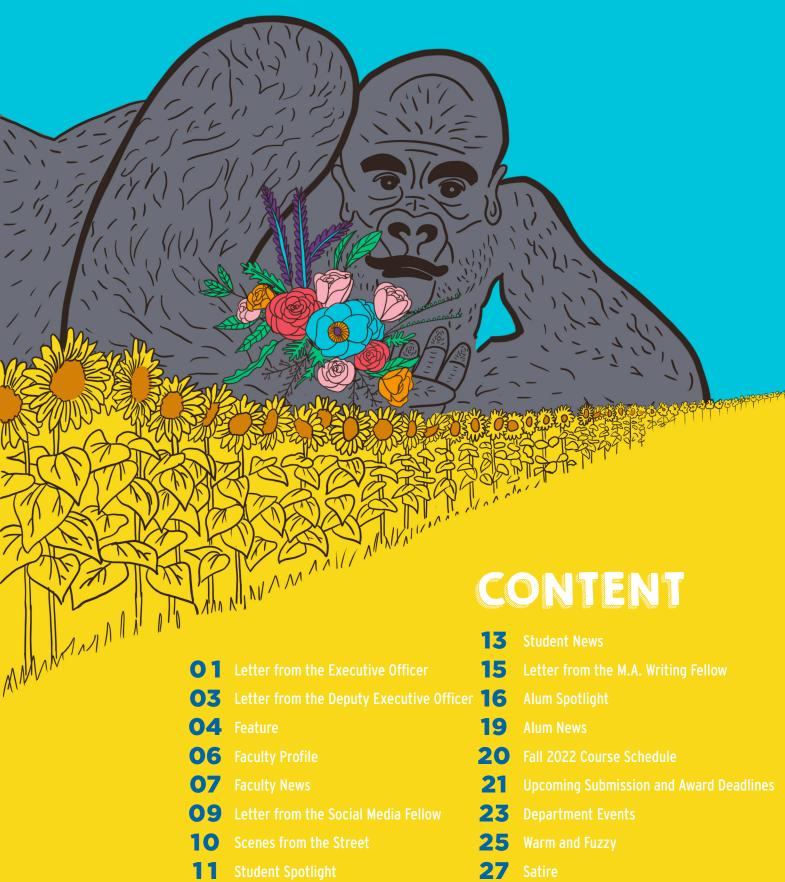
# HOMO POLITICUS

Spring 2022 Vol. 7, Issue II

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









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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.

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Dear Colleagues, Students, and Alums,

Since this is my last semester as Executive Officer, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all we have accomplished together during my tenure. It has been an honor to steward our program over the past eight years, and I am immensely proud of the many important changes we have enacted, despite unexpected challenges. In my approach to leadership I aimed to promote solidarity and an ethic of care, tackling difficult situations with a commitment to mutuality. Students are the foundation of this department, and their concerns and aspirations animated my priorities.

As EO, I listened with what Sara Ahmed calls a "feminist ear." To listen in this way is to be able to hear the generative possibilities of complaint. To acknowledge our collective shortcomings is to render them visible as opportunities to engage in the shared labor of collaborative remaking. My work was guided by a desire to cultivate a sense of the commons—as a space for intellectual community, a principle for shared governance, and a site for celebration. It was in that spirit, or with that feminist ear, that I heard the voices of our program inspiring me to initiate changes in coordination with students, faculty, alums, and staff.

There have been so very many transformations within the department during my time as EO that have enriched our program in enduring ways. Most of these initiatives were oriented towards expanding and strengthening our community. We encouraged the development of a complex ecosystem of subfield workshops and established a formal student mentoring system. We grew our M.A. program from cohorts of 5 to more than 25 students. To ensure support for this expanded cohort we created the positions of a faculty M.A. Advisor and a doctoral student M.A. Writing Fellow. To expand our reach, we improved our digital presence by redesigning our website and establishing the program's social media presence. And, to better incorporate those who have graduated, we built a robust alum network by hosting meetings at conferences, inviting alums to participate in department workshops, creating the "Pay It Forward" fund, systematizing data collection about graduates, and including alum updates in the newsletter (see Alum News and Alum Spotlight). These measures have fostered vibrant discourse, rigorous intellectual ferment, and a greater sense of departmental belonging. (I am still a social media neophyte, but I use my Twitter account mainly to #CUNYProud.)

The commons also includes the institutional architecture that supports our shared experience. Inspired by feedback from students, we have made significant changes in this area, growing and diversifying the faculty, appointing chairs for the First Exam, reintroducing course evaluations, forming a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee, and revising the Teaching Political Science and M.A. Core Seminars. We have also worked to improve support for students by creating new resources for funding opportunities, formalizing campus teaching assignments to better align with student preferences and campus needs, expanding and systemizing our methods training, and working to revise the exam process. Additionally, we have increased our offerings of professional development support through regular workshops and a variety of other initiatives. For example, B Stone (level III) and Mercedes Wilby (level III) have inherited a PublicsLab grant to help students create a professional digital presence and to support their writing for a general audience (see also, the Letter from the Social Media Fellow). In a similar vein, Ariel Mekler (level III) is implementing a grant to assist students in making their research results accessible to the public.

If complaint can be generative, the vitality of the commons also grows through celebration and mutual recognition. To this end, when we meet for our annual Awards Night, there are now two Citizenship Awards (one for faculty and one for students), a student Teaching Award, and a Best M.A. Thesis Award. Because celebration requires a public place (cf. Bonnie Honig on "public things"), early on we redecorated the lounge (what I refer to as my "Martha Stewart moment") and worked to ensure that there were regular opportunities to enjoy each other's company and break bread together. Although the temporary eternity of the pandemic has limited our ability to gather in person, we still forged digital spaces for shared joy, like the No Talent Talent Show and the Department Open House. Indeed, reviving this once-dormant program newsletter has itself been an effort to make visible and celebrate all we have accomplished together.

I offer these reflections as a way of paying homage to the tireless dedication and acts of good citizenship manifested in the efforts of the faculty, students, and staff of this department. You have all done so much to make this program what it has become. Keeping sight of the past helps us to remember that we inherit the work of those who came before and encourages us to see new concerns as sources of inspiration for future initiatives.



I am pleased to present the Spring 2022 issue of Homo Politicus. The past two years of the COVID-19 pandemic have been challenging in so many ways, and we are grateful for the gradual return to inperson activities this Spring. As we aspire to resume our new normal, it is important to pause and reflect on our collective accomplishments and the resilient vitality of this program. There is much to celebrate! Our students, faculty, staff, and alum continued the work of rigorous inquiry, community-building, and public-facing scholarship despite the many obstacles they have faced.

Whether courtesy of Zoom or in-person, our department has continued to be an active site for intellectual engagement this semester. We hosted more than a dozen events organized by the Comparative Politics Workshop, the Political Theory Workshop, the Public Policy Workshop, IRrelevant, and the Society and Protest Workshop. These gatherings showcased the work of our students-including Sandra Davidovic on post-conflict statebuilding in Kosovo and Juan Corredor García on violence against social leaders in Colombia-as well as the work of scholars from outside CUNY, such as Rafael Khacaturian (University of Pennsylvania), Yunchen Tian (Johns Hopkins University), and Justine Davis (University of Michigan). The program also organized a series of professional development workshops on navigating the Institutional Review Board, finishing a M.A. thesis, having difficult conversations in the classroom, and developing a digital academic identity. Additionally, we co-sponsored a presentation by Rupal Oza about "Sexual Violation and the Political Economy in Rural India" and a conversation with Farrah Stockman, Dana Kuhline, Heather McGhee, and Jannelle Wong on "Building Political Alliances Across Race and Class."

We also celebrate the many successes of our students. Jenna Russo (Ph.D., 2022) was hired as the Director of Research for the International Peace Institute, Philip Johnson (Ph.D., 2022) is continuing in his Lecturer position with the Princeton Writing Program, and Harry Blain (Ph.D., 2022) will be joining the faculty of California State University at Sacramento as Assistant Professor of Political Science. Students also presented

their research in a range of venues (see Student News), including Kyong Mazzaro (level III), whose article "Anti-Media Discourse and Violence Against Journalists: Evidence From Chávez's Venezuela" was published in The International Journal of Press/Politics, and Dean Schafer (level III), whose article "A Popular Mandate for Strongmen: What Public Opinion Data Reveals About Support for Executive Aggrandizement in Turkey, 1996-2018" was published in South European Society & Politics. Nigel Cambridge (level III), Sarah Shah (level III), B Stone (level III), and T.A. Tran (level III) each received Provost Dissertation Fellowships, and Ankita Aggarwal (level II), Joshua Keller (level I), Giovanna Margues Keule (level II) and T.A. Tran (level III) each received Early Research Initiative Awards from The Graduate Center.

As always, I extend my gratitude to the editorial staff of Homo Politicus. Many thanks to our new editor-inchief Alana Pagano and the work of our contributors Stephon Boatwright, Jacky Chan, Helena Najm, Saira Rafiee, Brahim Rouabah, Dean Schafer, Osha Smith-Gittelman, Michael Villanova, and Mercedes Wilby. My thanks also to our sub-APO, Radhika Kashyap, for keeping us on a steady course this academic year during Earl Fleary's unexpected medical leave in early August. I, along with DEO Charles Tien and M.A. Advisor Forrest Colburn, remain available to support students, alum, and faculty through the end of the semester.

In Solidarity, Alyson Cole





Dear Colleagues, Students, and Alums,

Welcome to the new year! We are excited to welcome you back to the Graduate Center.

Our community has endured a lot of difficulties over the past semester, and while I long for a time when resilience is no longer required of us, I admire everyone's adaptability in these difficult times. Your scholarship engages with difficult political questions that have ever-pressing consequences beyond the GC's walls, and I hope that you keep protecting your time and well-being while maintaining your commitment to improving political conditions.

As Deputy Executive Officer, I am particularly invested in helping you feel prepared for your careers during and after completing our program. Below are some of the resources available to help you navigate your time at the Graduate Center.

The Office of Career Planning and Professional Development is offering a multitude of workshops that will be of particular interest to those preparing for graduation and entering the job market. These workshops will also be helpful to students who are in earlier stages of their careers and have questions about networking and crafting their online academic presence. The Office's page allows you to register for virtual events occurring throughout the semester, or you can follow the Office's Twitter page for updates.

If Ph.D. candidates would like to practice giving job talks in preparation for academic job interviews, please contact me (<a href="mailto:ctien@hunter.cuny.edu">ctien@hunter.cuny.edu</a>) to schedule a mock job talk during the semester. We want to ensure that you have a space to communicate your ideas, respond to questions about your work, and help your research shine.

While the process of obtaining an M.A. or a Ph.D. can be daunting at times, you are all making excellent progress because of your determination and passion for the issues that you are studying. If you have any concerns about completing program requirements, please consult the <u>Degree Requirements</u> page on the department website, and/or reach out to me, EO Alyson Cole, M.A. Advisor Forrest Colburn, or Assistant Program Officer Radhika Kashyap. We are all committed to supporting you throughout this process.

Balancing coursework, teaching, and research is difficult, but we hope that you see your courses as opportunities to explore ideas that you can develop into your thesis or dissertation topics. In our classrooms, you have the opportunity to discover and develop your points of view on the field's core literature, and it is never too early to think about how these concepts feed into your greater research interests.

We are very proud of the work this cohort has done throughout these difficult times, and we hope that you are as well. The intelligence, kindness, and passion exhibited by our students is what makes our department exceptional. Thank you all for joining our community and contributing to it in brilliant fashion.

Warm Regards, DEO Charles Tien





The pandemic has changed many things in New York and all around the world. As academics, it has greatly impacted our learning, teaching, and conducting research. We still don't know much about the long-lasting implications of these transformations in academia, but it is certainly time to start reflecting on them.

"I had a plane ticket to fly to Turkey on March 25th, 2020. The plan was to attend a series of large party conferences hosted by Turkey's main opposition party as they selected their delegates for upcoming elections. For obvious reasons, that trip did not happen. It took a little while to figure out a plan B, but I found one. Instead of fieldwork, I pivoted to analyzing social media, Twitter in particular. I started by teaching myself text analysis and taking online courses learning the programming languages most often used for data scraping and language processing: Python and R. I also managed to get a scholarship to attend the ICPSR 2021 Summer Program (the Inter-university Consortium for Political Science and Social Research).

I acquired sufficient competence in these skills to present a paper at the APSA 2021 Conference analyzing the anti-democratic attitudes of Turkey's political parties. Because Twitter provides individual-level data, I was also able to look within Turkey's ruling party, the AKP, to identify if any internal-party groups tend to be more authoritarian than others. Perhaps not surprisingly, President Erdogan's personal presidential advisors form an "authoritarian avantgarde" within the ruling party: they are far more outspoken in their villainization of the media and opposition, and are more likely to condone violence. The upshot of canceling my 2020 travel plans is that I've learned that social media is a rich source of information for analyzing political sentiment. Having acquired these skills, I also don't have to spend every summer for the rest of my career doing fieldwork. Now, instead, if I go to Turkey in the summer, I can relax on the Turquoise Coast and see old friends."

- Dean Schafer, P.h.D. Candidate

### The Pandemic and the Donald Rumsfeld Principle of Archival Research

"Go to war with the archives you have, not the archives you want - this was the principle I had to borrow from one of the most odious statesmen of all time, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, after defending my dissertation proposal in September 2019. I enjoyed five months of research in physical archives, especially the Library of Congress, before the pandemic shuttered all of them with no end in sight.

Obviously, this was a rude shock - one that I initially attempted to manage by squeezing whatever I could out of secondary sources. Such sources were useful, given the fact that my dissertation was a comparative study of outcomes for civil liberties after five major (very well-known, well-documented) U.S. wars. However, with the help of our friends at the Graduate Center library, I began to find a variety of primary source collections that were digitized and remotely accessible. Perhaps the most useful were the papers of the American Civil Liberties Union, but I also found that most presidential libraries had a substantial digitized component. Thus, I could read hot-tempered exchanges between Harry Truman and Joseph McCarthy, and enjoy listening to the profanity-laden audio recordings from the Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon administrations.

What began as an effort to make the most of a bad situation became a growing body of primary source material. Weirdly, in this respect, although the pandemic disrupted my dissertation, it might have also sped it up.

Still, the overall picture for pandemic research is unquestionably bleak. I was lucky that I could keep going with the archives that I had, rather than the archives that I wanted. The CUNY Graduate Center administration offered very little financial support to its grad students during the pandemic and it probably isn't a stretch to say that most dissertations were completely derailed. This is to say nothing of the impact on mental health.

Going forward, I hope we can all go beyond the creepy language about "re-tooling," "flexibility," or "adaptation" in the context of the pandemic and address the deep, painful damage that it has inflicted on Ph.D. students (not to mention everyone else) across the country."

### - Harry Blain, P.h.D. Candidate



#### The Worst of Times

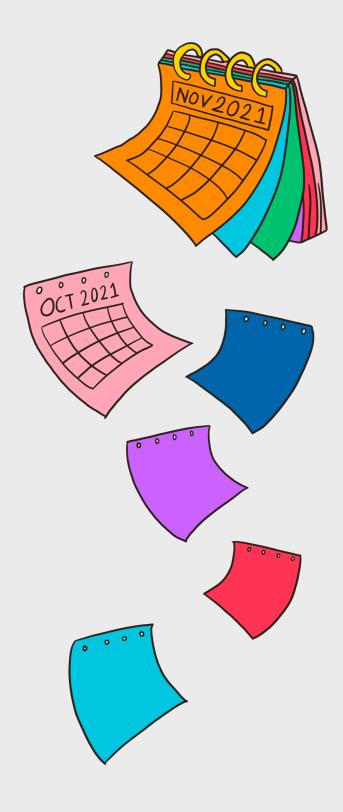
"In a futile attempt at limiting the spread of COVID-19, travel was halted. In political science, it is undoubtedly those of us in the subfield of comparative politics—who study other countries and regions of the world—who have found our ability to do research most constrained.

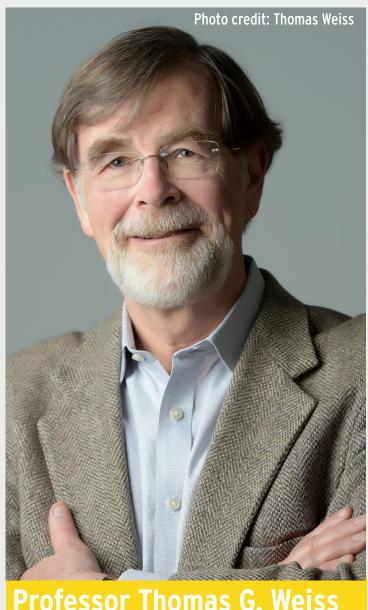
In my case, matters were further complicated by repression in Nicaragua. The country has always been an epicenter for me intellectually, but it has become grim, bereft of hope.

My close friend, colleague, and frequent co-author, Arturo Cruz, dared to run for the presidential elections in Nicaragua scheduled for November 2021 despite sharing privately that he did not think the sitting president, Daniel Ortega, would permit free elections. Still, Arturo felt he had a moral duty to "push" democracy forward by being a candidate and speaking out about the injustices in Nicaragua. Last June, though, Arturo was arrested, and he is still in prison, on the vague charge of threatening the integrity of Nicaragua. With the seven most prominent opposition candidates in jail, Ortega "won" the presidential elections. The former Sandinista has become just like the dictator, Anastasio Somoza, who he and others fought for so many years to oust. In the course of my academic career, Nicaragua has completed a politically tumultuous "circle": from dictatorship, to revolution, to a chaotic but revolutionary government, to a democracy, to an authoritarian democracy, to, finally, a dictatorship. It is depressing for Nicaraguansand for me. I think often of Arturo. And I still cannot safely travel to Latin America to do research.

Arturo and I, ironically, wrote articles together for the Journal of Democracy. Arturo knows so well the threats to democracy—and the cost of its collapse. There are seemingly so many countries today where democracy is threatened, under siege—or lost. My most recent book Colonialism, Independence, and the Construction of Nation-States explores the evolution of what we used to call the "Third World." The term used to evoke pride, and convey a sense of countries pressing forward, economically and politically. The case study of Nicaragua is employed to illustrate the argument that the poorer countries are today atomistic, competing alone in a ferocious world economy, and without a political—or moral—compass. Arturo is mentioned for his help with the book in the acknowledgments."







**Professor Thomas G. Weiss** 

Professor Thomas G. Weiss teaches political science at the Graduate Center and is the Director Emeritus of The Ralph Bunche Institute. He researches international organizations and global governance and is an expert on the United Nations.

Michael Villanova: You co-edited and co-authored books last year. What inspired these projects?

Dr. Thomas Weiss: Both represented the kind of collaboration that has characterized much of my career-I learn from struggling to refine ideas with talented colleagues with different substantive interests, often younger (of course, these days that is almost everyone). I co-authored the Oxford Press book, The "Third" United Nations: How a Knowledge Ecology Helps the UN Think, with Tatiana Carayannis, who now directs the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum at the SSRC. I co-edited Global Governance Futures with Rorden Wilkinson, a political economist at the University of New South Wales and with whom I have worked on numerous projects.

MV: As Director Emeritus of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies (RBIIS), could you speak about the work done at the RBIIS over the years?

TW: The RBIIS became a destination for scholars and practitioners analyzing the operational and ideational impact of the United Nations. I was fortunate to mobilize resources for several research projects including the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty; UN Intellectual History: Wartime Origins and the Future United Nations; and the Future United Nations Development System. The editorial office of the journal Global Governance was based here for five years as well. The RBIIS permitted me in these research endeavors to do the kind of hands-on mentoring with PhD students that I prefer.

MV: You have written on international organizations in relation to sovereignty and intervention. What is the current role of the United Nations in international politics?

TW: Shortly before joining the GC, I wrote an article, "Sovereignty Is No Longer Sacrosanct," published shortly after the euphoria of the Persian Gulf War and humanitarian interventions in northern Iraq and Somalia. Ironically today, international cooperation and the United Nations remain tough sells despite COVID-19 and climate change, crises that cannot be addressed by sovereign states, with a rise in nationalism, acting alone. So, the title of that article remains apt because sovereignty remains the unquestioned foundation of the international system at a moment when dwindling confidence in the United Nations - even in Scandinavia and countries of the Global South, among the strongest proponents of multilateralism - hinders international solutions.

**MV:** Can you tell us about your current projects?

TW: For the last three years, I have been working with the J. Paul Getty Trust on an edited volume to be published next summer, Cultural Heritage and Mass Atrocities. This has permitted me to combine my interest in the responsibility to protect with a new preoccupation, the unspeakable destruction of such treasures as the Mostar Bridge, Bamiyan Buddhas, and Timbuktu libraries, immovable structures such as Uyghur mud-brick temples in China, Christian village cemeteries in Iraq, or local Rohingya mosques in Myanmar. The intimate link between attacking bricks and blood provides a means to unite the tasks of protecting humans and heritage. Protecting heritage is no longer a "niche topic," the exclusive domain of cultural specialists. It is linked to the rescue of individuals caught in the crosshairs of violence, invariably menaced by mass atrocities.

# FACULTY NEWS

Professor George Andreopoulos published "The Use, Abuse and Misuse of Human Rights: Challenges and Prospects" in *Revista ESMAT*. Professor Andreopoulos also organized and participated in a panel discussion on "Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Academic Freedom: Challenges and Prospects," held under the auspices of the <u>Academic Freedom Committee of ISA</u>, and was featured in the Ralph Bunche Institute's <u>International Horizons Podcast</u> "Can the Human Rights Regime Survive a New World Order? The Past & Future of the Human Rights Agenda."

Professor Enrique Desmond Arias co-edited <u>Cocaine: From Coca Fields to the Streets</u> (<u>Duke</u> University Press 2021).

**Professor Peter Beinart** published commentary on Biden's foreign policy and Ukraine and Israel in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *Jewish Currents*.

**Professor Mitchell Cohen** published "Why Today's Middle East Needs Henry Kissinger's 'Less Is More' Approach" in *Politico*. Professor Cohen also participated in an online symposium in tribute to Todd Gitlin in *Dissent*.

**Professor Alyson Cole** gave the inaugural lecture for the Seminaro Internacional "Vulnerabilidad(es)" at the Cendeac Cuartel de Artilleria in Murcia, Spain, sponsored by the Ayuntamiento de Murcia and Universidad de Murcia.

**Professor Julie George** spoke to <u>Pix11 News</u> about the history of tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

Professor Janet Gornick co-authored three journal articles: "Pathways toward Inclusive Income Growth: A Comparative Decomposition of National Growth Profiles" in <u>American Sociological Review</u> with Zachary Parolin; "Wealth Accumulation and Retirement Preparedness in Cross-National Perspective: A Gendered Analysis of Outcomes Among Single Adults" in <u>Journal of European Social Policy</u> with Eva Sierminska.

**Professor Thomas Halper** published "Graham Greene and Bridges across Cultures" in *Graham Greene Studies*.

Professor Jack Jacobs published "Bundism, Zionism and Israel in the Post-Holocaust Era: The Case of Emanuel Scherer," in *Das östliche Europa als Verflechtungsraum: Agency in der Geschichte* (Metropol-Verlag 2021).

Professor Keena Lipsitz co-authored "A systems framework for remedying dysfunction in US democracy" and "The nonlinear feedback dynamics of asymmetric political polarization" in a special interdisciplinary issue of PNAS about political polarization (article 1, article 2). Professor Lipsitz also published "The nonlinear effects of political advertising" in the <u>Journal of Political Marketing</u> with Javier Padilla, and was quoted in <u>The New York Times</u>.

Professor Robyn Marasco published "Machiavelli and the Play-Element in Political Life" in <u>Political Theory</u>, and "The Uses and Abuses of Weber for Comparative Political Science" in <u>PS: Political Science</u> & <u>Politics</u>. Professor Marasco gave the keynote address at the <u>Villanova Philosophy Conference</u> this April.

**Professor John Mollenkopf** spoke to <u>The New York Times</u> about congressional redistricting, and <u>Gothamist</u> about Mayor Eric Adams' management style.





### FACULTY NEWS

**Professor Emeritus Frances Fox Piven** spoke to <u>In These Times</u> about the interaction between social movements and political parties.

Professor Emeritus Peter Ranis published a book review in the <u>Journal of Labor and Society</u>: "Victor Wallis, Socialist Practice: Histories and Theories."

Professor Corey Robin published "Why the Biden Presidency Feels Like Such a Disappointment"

The New York Times and "Republicans Are Moving Rapidly to Cement Minority Rule. Blame the Constitution." in Politico. He also discussed the state of democracy in America on The New York Times "The Argument" and the endurance of the Reagan Regime on NPR's "The United States of Anxiety."

Professor Jillian Schwedler published Protesting Jordan: Geographies of Power and Dissent (Stanford University Press 2022). Professor Schwedler was also named a Distinguished CUNY Advanced Research Collaborative Scholar for the Fall 2022 semester when she will be in full-time residence at ARC.

**Professor Mark Ungar** gave virtual talks on "Fighting Environmental Organized Crime" at the University of Texas and "Strategies against Gun Trafficking in the Americas" at the Center for American Progress.

**Professor Till Weber** published "Agenda Setting, Social Structure and Vote Potentials" in *Elections* and Voters: The 2017 Blue Book (Wahlen und Wähler).

Presidential Professor Thomas G. Weiss co-edited <u>Global Governance Futures</u> (<u>Routledge 2022</u>), published "Moving beyond R2P: Protecting Heritage and Humans" on the Social Science Research Council's blog "Items," and spoke to the <u>IPS News Service</u>.

**Professor Susan Woodward** was the keynote speaker at the annual Civil-Military Relations conference of the Tufts University chapter of the Alliance Linking Leaders in Education and the Services (ALLIES) on November 13, 2021.

Professor Ming Xia was interviewed in the documentaries *The New World of Xi Jinping* (Arte) and *China Das Drama der Uiguren* (Arte); spoke to *The New York Times* about Olympic gold medalist Eileen Gu; and spoke to *The Economist* about Wang Huning's career and political change in China.









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

Dear Students, Alums, and Faculty,

must report that my time as your Social Media Fellow is coming to a close! My appointment will end with the Spring 2022 semester, and another program at the Graduate Center will be awarded a fellow to bring social media best-practices to their program accounts, and to their faculty, alums, and current students.

Before I go, I want to alert you to some of the resources I had the pleasure to work on that are designed to serve you and future cohorts for years to come.

First, on the GC Political Science website, you can find a link to the virtual Professional Development Workshop, "Developing Your Academic Digital Identity," that I offered in 2021. On that page, you can find a link to download the slides from my presentation and a recording of the workshop. This workshop is an introduction to the key platforms and resources available to you, and I highly recommend reviewing it when you first enter the program, as well as when you approach the job market stage.

Second, the Social Mediums website includes detailed tutorials and how-to guides for using all of the major social platforms including LinkedIn and Twitter, as well as other relevant topics including podcasting, the power of pausing social media, and more. You can find those resources here.

Finally, before I go, please make sure you are following 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. Even after my tenure ends, following the program on these platforms will be the best way to ensure that you're in the GC PoliSci loop!

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.

Socially, **B** Stone @BStone ABD

### SCENES FROM THE STREET



→ Harry Blain attends #Allin4SUNYCUNY march across the Brooklyn Bridge demanding a New Deal for CUNY.

(photo credit: Saira Rafiee)



▼ Professor Colburn's dinner party for students in his "Development" class at the end of last semester. From left to right: Tyler Crown, Ryan Brunette, Nazani Jazayeri, Forrest Colbun, Tiger Li, and Jasmine Pybas

(photo credit: Carrie Parkey)



### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



**Kyong Mazzaro** 

*Kyong* is a 6th year Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Politics, whose research focuses on media freedom and electoral politics in Latin America.

**Brahim Rouabah**: Can you tell us about your research?

Kyong Mazzaro: I study the ways in which the electoral incentives that are at the heart of democracy can increase journalists' vulnerability to attacks. I show that state and non-state actors are more likely to target journalists as a strategy to advance their electoral and political agendas in contexts where historical and institutional practices normalize violence against journalists, and at times and places where levels of electoral competition are heightened.

I first became interested in the subject as an activist in Venezuela. I noticed that journalists and people seeking to disseminate political information were often the target of attacks. My intuition was that there was a pattern behind these events that needed to be researched.

BR: You have recently been awarded multiple fellowships including a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship. Congratulations! How have these fellowships facilitated your research? And what is your advice to other students applying for these fellowships in the future?

**KM**: Having funding to focus exclusively on research was instrumental in helping me publish and build a CV that made me more competitive for fellowships and awards. Inspiration and most stipends are not enough. Doing research takes uninterrupted time and money.

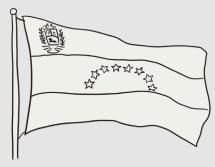
I've found three strategies to be particularly useful. First, as much as you can, value your time (and labor!). While the first years of the Ph.D. can be great to explore, you want to do it strategically. Since I joined the program, I wanted to publish on media freedom in Venezuela, so I took courses that would help me get methodological skills and a good grasp of the literature. At the same time, I set strict limits to the time I dedicated to program requirements, assistantships, and teaching commitments that did not align with my goals.

Second, as your proposal defense approaches, start applying to both small and large grants. I initially only got GC funding. Although it was rough to deal with rejection from external funders for two years, I learned from my mistakes and grew a thicker skin.

Finally, ask for help. Beyond my faculty committees' advice, I'm also indebted to the students at the GC and beyond who were generous enough to provide feedback and share their successful experiences and I am always happy to do the same for others.

**BR**: How has your overall experience been in the program and at the GC?

KM: It has been a challenging but ultimately rewarding process. Doing a Ph.D. as a first-generation college graduate, immigrant, and woman of color in a discipline that is white-and male-dominated is not only difficult but can also be a violent experience. Being part of a community of peers that is not blind to this reality and is ready to lend its support has given me the mental and emotional strength to persist and find my voice in the process.



### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Ekim Kelic is a professional journalist and an MA student in Political Theory whose research focuses on Marxist evaluations of political realism.

**Brahim Rouabah:** What made you choose the Political Science program at the GC? And how has your experience been here as an international student?

Ekim Kelic: Although the university's opportunities are limited in comparison to the other universities here in the city, the institution is representative of the scientific tradition in various senses. So there are more spaces for alternative ways of thinking, not only mainstream thought which dominates American academic culture. Back in European and Turkish academic traditions there has been a strong sentiment that stems from the struggle for enlightenment. These traditions fought religious fundamental thoughts, like church or madrasa. This historical experience provides a rich intellectual depth. On the other hand, the US is mostly free from these feudal ramifications, and thus built its universities into market relations. Despite accelerating scientific and technical development, it develops a strongly pragmatic way of processing knowledge, which ends up killing the intellectual value and ignoring the particularities.

**BR**: You are also a journalist by trade. Can you tell us about the newspaper/agency you work for, and speak to the intersections between journalism and political science?

EK: I have been working as a journalist since fall 2015. I am a correspondent for a working-class newspaper called Evrensel Daily in Turkey. Since the year it was first published in 1996, the newspaper has been a workers' newspaper that provides a platform to labor movements, the right to self-determination of Kurdish people, the rights of Alevi people, women, youth, LGBTQ, and all the oppressed. For us, it is important to be a broad platform for social struggles by embracing the richness of their political, social, and economic demands.

And this includes the US workers and the oppressed too. This country has a strong tradition of the working class and peoples' struggles. By reporting on different events, listening to the leaders of different social movements, meeting with workers, I learned a lot about US politics, the seen and the unseen. I believe that students of political science should get involved in civic journalism. A scientific approach that disregards the demands, sentiments and aspirations of working-class masses and the oppressed does not have that much to say to our world.





**Ekim Kelic** 

**BR**: What is the focus of your thesis?

EK: My concentration is on political theory. In my thesis, I am planning to work on the flaws of political realism. The question is going to be: How Marxism may evaluate the flaws and shortcomings of power, authority, and its relation to political change in Hobbes and Machiavelli. There are views on power that disregard either the voices of the oppressed or downplay the role of power. The problem here is that power is not something without a socio-economic character, which works as an engine to embolden other political and social contradictions in society. Seeing this reality makes current power holders who are the source of the problem visible, and helps us to bring about change by using the necessary means against them.

# STUDENT NEWS

**Harry Blain** (level III) has joined the faculty at California State University at Sacramento as Assistant Professor of Political Science.

**Andrés Besserer Rayas** (level II) published "Books to understand the erosion of democracy" in *Gatopardo*.

Maxwell Fuerderer (level II) presented "The Sisyphean Arrangement: How Interventions by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Have Kept Tunisia and Egypt in a Cyclical and Failed Economic Situation" and "Assessing Effects of Different Types of Incentives on Interest Group Survival: The Second Ku Klux Klan" at the 2022 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference in April.

**Ryan Hitch** (M.A.) presented "Historical Memory as a Barrier to Intimacy: An Expansion of Qin's Relational Theory of World Politics" at the NY Political Science Association's Annual Conference in April.

Adam Rego Johnson (M.A.) won Best Paper by an Undergraduate Student for his undergraduate thesis "Blocking the Blockers: Charrettes, Urban Planning, and Deliberative Democracy" at the 2021 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference. He attended an award ceremony at the 2022 MPSA conference.

**Kyong Mazzaro** (level III) published "Anti-Media Discourse and Violence Against Journalists: Evidence From Chávez's Venezuela" in *The International Journal of Press/Politics*.

**Ariel Mekler** (level III), **B Stone** (level III), and **Mercedes Wilby** (level III) were awarded a PublicsLab Doctoral Curriculum Enhancement Grant to run a series of workshops on becoming a public political expert.

**David Monda** (level II) published "COP26 was more talk than action" in the <u>Mail & Guardian</u>; "Amid voter registration in diaspora, questions of fairness need answers," in the <u>Nation</u>; and "The peril of urban migrant citizenship in a post-Covid-19 world" in the Graduate Center's <u>The Advocate</u>. He spoke at the People2People Delaware about internal migration within Sub-Saharan Africa and presented "The lived experiences of Senegalese entrepreneur immigrants in Little Senegal, New York City in the period of the COVID-19 pandemic" at the NY State Political Science Association conference in April.

Javier Padilla (level III) published "A 53 años de la muerte de Enrique Ruano" in El Pais.

Saira Rafiee (level II) was interviewed by <u>Psychoanalyse, Texte zur Sozialforschung</u> for their special edition on the 100th anniversary of the publication of Freud's <u>Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego</u>, which she has translated into Farsi.

**Jenna Russo** (level III) joined the International Peace Institute as Director of Research and Head of the Brian Urquhart Center for Peace Operations.

Dean Schafer (level III) published "A Popular Mandate for Strongmen: What Public Opinion Data Reveals About Support for Executive Aggrandizement in Turkey, 1996-2018" in <u>South European Society</u> & <u>Politics</u>, and was awarded the Warren E. Miller Scholarship from the ICPSR Council and University of Michigan Institute for Social Research.









# STUDENT NEWS

Ken Silverman (level I) presented "Global Holdout or Regional Norm? An Analytical Reframing of Japan's Restrictive Dual Citizenship Policy" at the Japan Association for Migration Policy Studies Conference in Shizuoka, Japan and "Synergistic Nativism: State-Society Relations and Japan's Nativist Right-Wing Movement Mobilization" at the 2022 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference in April. He was named a COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) Faculty Fellow at Queens College for Spring 2022.

**Mike Stinavage** (M.A.) published "Rousing the Beast," a performance review of Dimitris Papaioannou's *Transverse Orientation*, in the *Brooklyn Rail*.

Mercedes Wilby (level III) spoke about incorporating student-led current events discussions into her teaching at the "Innovations in Fostering Student Engagement Showcase" held by the <u>Baruch Center</u> for Teaching and Learning.

Nigel Cambridge (level III), Sarah Shah (level III), B Stone (level III), and T.A. Tran (level III) each received Provost Dissertation Fellowships, and Ankita Aggarwal (level II), Joshua Keller (Level I), Giovanna Marques Keule (level II) and T.A. Tran (level III) each received Early Research Initiative Awards.

#### Level 1 to Level 2

Tyler Crown Guney Demir Cara Fitzgerald Saira Rafiee

#### Level 2 to Level 3

Nigel Cambridge Javier Padilla

#### **Graduations**

Ph.D. - Feb 2022 Philip Johnson

Ph.D - May 2022 Harry Blain Lucia Green-Weiskel Jenna Russo

M.A. - Feb 2022 Suna Buse Agkoc Marlon J. Guzman Valdera Benjamin Morse David Wall

# LETTER FROMTHE M.A. WRITING FELLOW

Toward the end of Plato's Phaedrus, Socrates laments the inadequacy of written texts: "if you ask them anything about what they say, from a desire to be instructed, they go on telling you just the same thing forever" (§275d). Writing lacks the reciprocal motion of dialogue. A text is passive; it is responded to, but it does not respond. It is static, crystallized, with nothing more to offer than what it has already said.

Reintroducing movement is up to the reader. A text is like a memory: any time you return to it, you may discover something new, but only as the result of your own manipulation and reinterpretation. The text, like the recalled event, is a fixed object of the past. It can offer nothing novel on its own. We need not share Socrates's preference for spoken dialogue over writing (who among us would prefer a phone call to a text message?) to recognize this fundamental asymmetry.

Most of us enter graduate school habituated to textual asymmetry in one of its most acute forms: the term paper, a short burst of activity producing a "final" draft. But writing is a communicative process, potentially indefinite, and to "finish" a draft is just to arrest the process at a specific point in its motion. Only in review and revision is motion restored. To submit a paper to a journal, a pitch to an editor, or a thesis proposal to a committee can be intimidating, and criticism or rejection can be painful. But reviewers, editors, and faculty are providing you a service: they are helping restore the motion of writing, reintroducing the static text to a dialectic (in the Socratic sense) process.

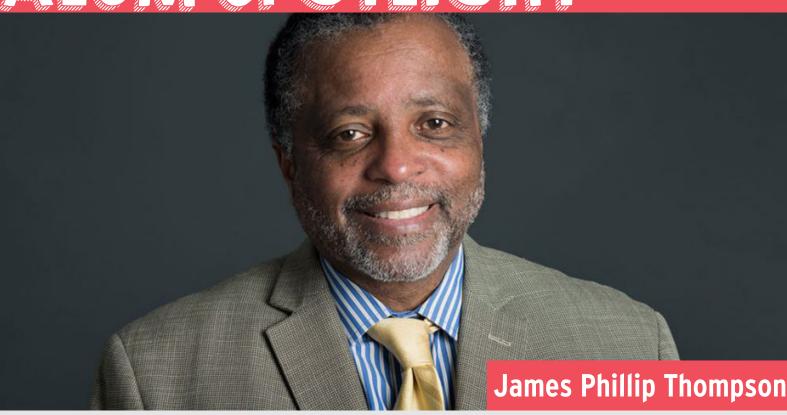
Writing is work. There is nothing mystical about it. It is not a matter of inspiration. It is not a baring of the soul or annihilation of the self or whatever. It is work. Like all work, it can be done with varying degrees of competence or sociability, but it is ultimately done for others. However solitary it feels, writing is, in the last instance, social. However lopsided, it is communication.

Keep in mind the static form in which readers will ultimately encounter your work. As the text itself cannot say more than it has already said, and as readers will likely not have you there to explain its ambiguities to them, their questions must be anticipated and answered in the text itself. There is no better way to do this than to receive regular feedback and questions from diverse sources. Take opportunities to share drafts with others, whether at conferences, workshops, or Writing Fellow office hours (11 am-2 pm Wednesdays in Room 5211, or by appointment over Zoom!), and volunteer to review others' drafts. Keeping the process in motion is vital, for yourself and your colleagues.

Go in good health, Asher Wycoff



# ALUM SPOTLIGHT



James Phillip Thompson (Ph.D., 1990, Political Science) is an Associate Professor of Political Science and Urban Planning at MIT. He received a B.A. in Sociology from Harvard University in 1977, and a M.U.P. from Hunter College in 1986. He has worked as Deputy General Manager of the New York Housing Authority, and as Director of the Mayor's Office of Housing Coordination. In 2018, Mayor Bill de Blasio recognized Dr. Thompson as "one of the foremost experts on how to better serve and lift up low-income neighborhoods" when he appointed him as the Deputy Mayor for Strategic Planning Initiatives.

**Dean Schafer:** How has your academic training facilitated the work you do in public service and community development?

James Phillip Thompson: Having a Master's in Planning and a Ph.D. in Political Science put me in the running for positions I doubt I would have been considered for otherwise. So, credentials help. More importantly, learning about the ideas and assumptions underlying various policies is invaluable in coming up with program improvements and alternatives.

**DS**: Your first job after completing your Ph.D. at the Graduate Center was with Mayor David Dinkins' administration. Do you have a story from that time you'd like to share?

JPT: I started working for Dinkins while he was running for Manhattan Borough President, and I was starting the Master's program in Urban Planning at Hunter. When I got my Ph.D, I considered applying for the Policy Director job at the New York Housing Authority, but Felice Michetti, then Commissioner of HPD, told me I was aiming too low, which is how I became Deputy General Manager of NYCHA. She was a good friend and mentor at the right time. I encourage students to find mentors who can help them navigate postgraduation.

DS: During your career, you've managed to successfully keep

one foot in academic research and one foot in government service. How did you begin your career in New York City politics?

JPT: I worked for seven years as a community organizer before starting graduate school. My parents had been involved in civil rights, and I keenly felt the need to do something to improve conditions in black and brown communities especially. I was also involved in protest movements in college, such as around African Liberation and ending apartheid, so I wanted to continue to do organizing after college. I went back to school because I felt that after winning victories, such as electing local black officials to office, we didn't have a good sense of how to take advantage of those victories to change public policy or a broader strategy for movement building. I had a better sense after working in the field of what questions I wanted to pursue in grad school. I was encouraged to work in City politics by Bill Lynch, an African American labor leader and deputy mayor during the Dinkins administration, and Dave Richardson, a community activist turned state legislator in my native Philadelphia. I worked on the Harold Washington campaign for Mayor in Chicago, and the two Jackson presidential campaigns, as well as an intern in the mayoral office of Ken Gibson in Newark. Most of this was before joining with Dinkins.

**DS**: Have you experienced any difficulties in maintaining a career that straddled the fields of academia and government service?

JPT: I have found that straddling academia and government has been rewarding, but difficult. It's difficult because much of the social sciences are not interested in solving social problems, which requires a lot of time-consuming engagement outside of the academy. Academics who do applied work often do not get credit for it when climbing the academic career ladder. It's also difficult because government agencies and elected offices, for the most part, do not view themselves as learning laboratories. They often become routinized and kill new ideas. Both of these problems can be overcome, and the reward is the ability to have social impact, but it takes great effort. Government and academia don't operate as closely together as they should. Government too often relies on (self-interested) corporate lobbying for direction and approval rather than more civicminded expertise that can be found in the academy. The academy is also too isolated from the public to gain their support for needed investments in higher education. This is bad for the entire nation as the economy becomes more of a "knowledge economy." It is also politically dangerous as much of the public thinks the academy are elitists with their own agenda disconnected from the public good (on the Right and the Left). We still have a lot to learn from John Dewey.



Conner Martinez (M.A., 2021) is a Ph.D. student in political science at the University of Notre Dame. He studies how federal and state anti-immigration policies influence Latinx political involvement.

**Dean Schafer:** Can you describe your research? Has it evolved since you've started your Ph.D. at Notre Dame?

Conner Martinez: My research is primarily focused on exploring the way immigration policy impacts Latinx politics, and the way immigration policies have and continue to shape America's conceptions of race and citizenship. Since starting my Ph.D., I've continued the work I began at the Graduate Center. It was there I found works in the area of American Political Development that were asking the kinds of questions I was most passionate about. Luckily, my work at Notre Dame has continued along this path and evolved through helpful feedback from new professors and classmates with similar interests.

**DS**: Did you know you wanted to do a Ph.D. when you started your Masters?

CM: I had the intention of pursuing a Ph.D. when I got to the Graduate Center but was not yet convinced I could get there. After my first semester, I was fully convinced that I would work towards a doctorate and learned a ton about the process. This helped make my goal feel more reasonable, and luckily it worked out.

**DS**: What resources did you find to be most helpful during your time at the GC?

CM: For me, the Graduate Center faculty were the most helpful resources. No matter if the question was related to a

particular course, personal research interests, or simply a question about how to get through graduate school, my professors were extremely helpful. Fellow students, especially those further along in the program, were also great resources. At every step of the way, they were always happy to answer any of my questions. And lastly, the Writing Fellow is a helpful resource who I would hope all M.A. students work with at least once. Even if you feel like you're a strong writer, adding a different set of eyes on a paper is a great way to become an even better writer.

Conner Martinez

**DS**: What did you do during your M.A. that best prepared you for getting into Ph.D. programs?

CM: Writing my thesis was the most helpful experience in preparation for both applying to and now working on my Ph.D. It helped me explore the topic I was most passionate about, which was helpful in then knowing where I would be a good fit. Also, speaking with my professors about the process was invaluable. The Graduate Center is extremely supportive of M.A. students, and I think that is best represented by the faculty's support.

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

**CM:** Thank you for asking me to do this interview. I'm grateful for my time at the Graduate Center and hope my answers are helpful to anyone interested in pursuing an M.A. or Ph.D. there.

**Elena Cohen** (Ph.D., 2020) accepted the position of Visiting Associate Professor at Drexel University's Thomas R. Kline School of Law.

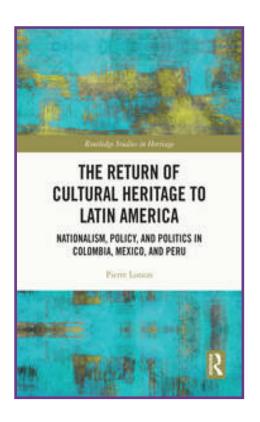
**Pierre Losson** (Ph.D., 2019) published *The Return of Cultural Heritage to Latin America: Nationalism, Policy, and Politics in Colombia, Mexico, and Peru* (Routledge 2022).

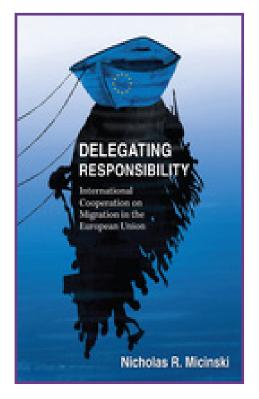
**J. Patrice McSherry** (Ph.D., 1994) published an article on Chilean New Song as a counterhegemonic movement, "El Movimiento de la Nueva Canción chilena: Cultura y contrahegemonía," in *Kamchatka*. McSherry also published "Dianna Ortiz: En Memoria de la Monja Estadounidense Sobreviviente de Tortura en Guatemala" in *página19*.

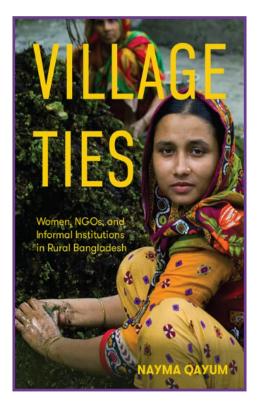
**Nicholas R. Micinski** (Ph.D., 2019) published his second book, *Delegating Responsibility: International Cooperation on Migration in the European Union* (University of Michigan Press 2022).

**Sally Sharif** (Ph.D., 2021) published "How Wartime Bonds Affect Ex-Combatant Political Attitudes: A Natural Experiment with the FARC" in *Terrorism and Political Violence*.

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







**MONDAY TUESDAY THURSDAY** WEDNESDAY **FRIDAY** 

9:30am-11:30am

11:45am-1:45pm

2:00pm-4:00pm

Schram, **American Politics:** Theories and Core Concepts (AP)

Beinart, Writing Politics I (G) Krinsky,

Social Movements and Public Policy (CP/PP)

Mehta,

**Modern Social Theory** (PT)

4:15pm-6:15pm

Mollenkopf/Lipsitz, Race, Representation, and Redistricting: The Case of New York City (AP/PP)

Gornick,

**Social Welfare Policy** (PP)

Woodward,

**Basic Theories and Concepts in Comparative** Politics (CP)

Civil Liberties (AP)

**PROGRAM EVENTS** 

6:30pm-8:30pm

Di Gaetano, Urban Politics (PP)

Wolin,

Understanding the Radical Right (PT)

Romaniuk,

**Basic Theories and Concepts in International** Relations (IR)

Weber,

**Applied Quantitative** Research (G)

Andreopoulos,

**Buck-Morss**,

(PT)

Halper,

Politics of the Image

Rules: IR and IL Approaches to Global

Issues (IR)

Colburn,

MA Core Course (G)

Lee,

Research Design (G)

Ungar,

Democratization (CP)

◇AP - American Politics ◇PT - Political Theory

**⇔CP- Comparative Politics** ♦ PP - Public Policy

◇IR - International Relations

G - General Course

### UPCOMING SUBMISSION AND AWARD DEADLINES



### **Application deadline**

Deadline to apply for Latino Studies Dissertation Summer Fellowship with the University of Illinois - Chicago

# FEB **04**

### **Application deadline**

Deadline to apply for the Belle Zeller Scholarship

# FEB **07**

#### **Application deadline**

Deadline to apply for the University of California's Postdoctoral Fellowship in Technology and International Security

# FEB 08

#### **Application deadline**

Deadline to apply to The American Council of Learned Societies's Leading Edge Fellowship

# FEB **14**

#### GC application deadline

Deadline to apply to Graduate Center Early Research Initiative/Digital Initiatives Connect New York Fellowships

### FEB 15

### **Application deadline**

Deadline to apply for NYS Excelsior Service Fellowship 2022 & Early Research Initiative/PublicsLab Summer Public Research Fellowships

# FEB **22**

#### **Application deadline**

Deadline to apply to the Vera Institute Summer Fellowship

### MAR 01

#### **Application deadline**

Deadline to apply to The NYBG Humanities Institute's Research Fellowship in Food Humanities

### MAR 04

### **Application deadline**

Deadline to apply to CUNY GC/Morgan Library and Museum Graduate Fellowships & Morgan Library & Museum Graduate Archival Fellowship

### MAR 07

### **Application deadline**

Apply to participate in the TLC's STEM Pedagogy Institute in Summer/Fall 2022

MAR MAR

### Application deadline

Deadline to apply for the Humanities Alliance Graduate Fellowship

### **Application deadline**

Deadline to apply for The Demography Program's Fellowship & Urban Design Forum and The Architectural League of New York's New City Critics Fellowship

### **Application deadline**

Deadline to apply for the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Program (DDRA)

**Application deadline** to apply for scholarships to attend the 2022 ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, all virtual & the Committee on Globalization and Social Change Fellowship & GC Digital Fellowship

MAR

First exam registration deadline for August 2022 Deadline to apply for Independent Study for Fall 2022

APR

### **Application deadline**

Deadline to apply for The Writing Center's Writing Fellowship

APR

#### **Application deadline**

Deadline to apply for The Futures Initiative Fellowship

**APR** 

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

**APR** 

Last day to deposit dissertation or thesis for May 2022 degree

MAY

Submission deadline for the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa conference

### **Application deadline**

Deadline to apply for The Smith Richardson Foundation's World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship

Sergi Martínez (European University Institute) 11:45 A.M

(Online),

**Society and Protest Workshop** (Online) Discussants: Margaret Post (Clark University), Jawanza Williams (VOCAL-NY), Gara LaMarche (Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership), Moderator: John Krinsky (City College / GC) 3:00 P.M. **IComparative Politics Workshop** (Online), Yunchen Tian (Johns Hopkins University) 11:45 A.M. **Publishing Your Research Article** (Online) 4:15 P.M. **Comparative Politics Workshop APR** (Room 5200.07), Mehda Majumdar (Australian National University/Yale University) 2:00 P.M. Political Theory Workshop (5200), Paisely Currah (GC / Brooklyn College) 3:00 P.M. **Comparative Politics Workshop** MAY (5200.07), Yanilda González (Harvard University) 2:00 P.M. **Public Policy Workshop** (Room 5200.07) 4:15 P.M. **Alumni Awards Night** (Room 5200.07) 7:00 P.M. **Comparative Politics Workshop** MAY Corredor Garcia (G.C.) 2:00 P.M.

(Room 5200.07) Juan Albarracín (University of Notre Dame) and Juan

MAY

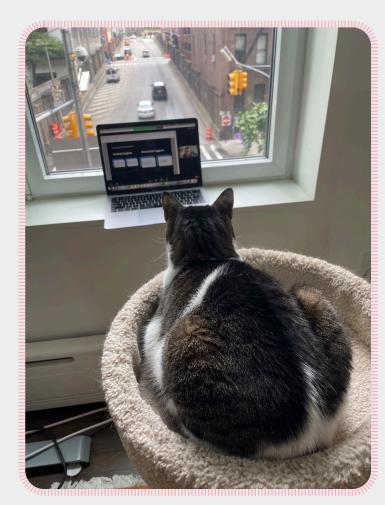
### Building Political Alliances Across Class (Online),

Farrah Stockman (The New York Times), Discussants: Dana Kuhnline (ReImagine Appalachia), Heather McGhee (CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies), Janelle Wong (University of Maryland) 7:30 P.M.

### **End of the Year Celebration**

(Lowlands) 3:00 - 6:00 P.M.

# WARM AND FUZZY



Watching a Zoom presentation with Alma.

(Photo credit: Mercedes Wilby)



Cunycorn & friends getting ready for school.

(Photo credit: Till Weber)



Zelda sniffing out the new roomie, Ezra.

(Photo credit: Rebecca Krisel)

# WARM AND FUZZY



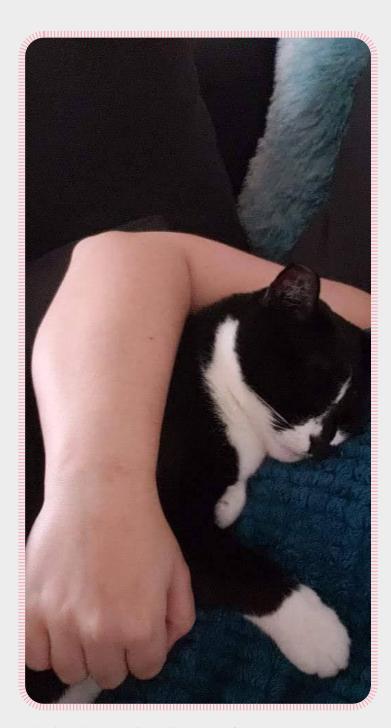
After several months in the sleepy village of Princeton, Bianca and Cherry are ready for a return to city life.

(Photo credit: Robyn Marasco)



Zoey is a gem.

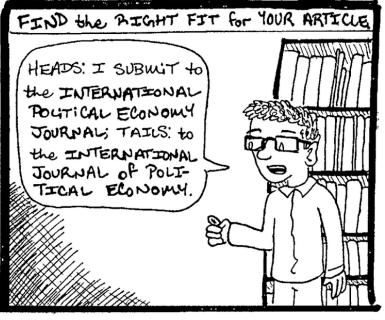
(Photo Credit: Helena Najm)

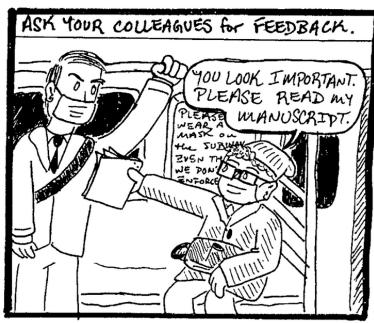


Chips is being held like a little baby, fast asleep.

(Photo credit: Adam Rego Johnsonl)

### ACADEMIC PUBLISHING: A Guide











### 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 <a href="http://bit.ly/GCPoliSciSwag">http://bit.ly/GCPoliSciSwag</a>, 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.

