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HOMO POLITICUS



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

EDITION

HIGHLIGHTS

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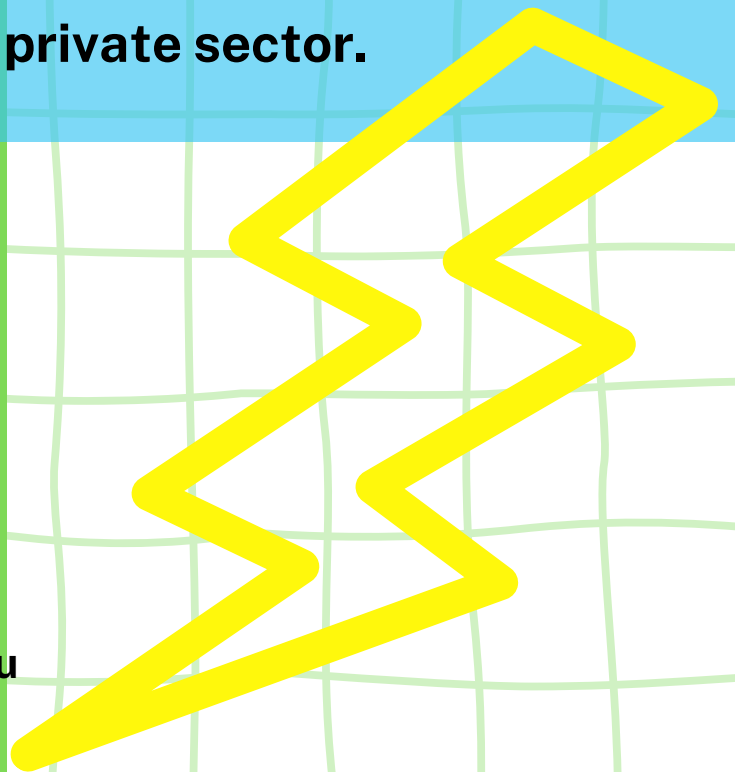




The Political Science Program at the Graduate Center, CUNY consists of a community of scholars dedicated to the tasks of acquiring, expanding, and transmitting reliable knowledge about political phenomena. Its essential function is to educate professional political scientists, capable of independent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

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LETTER FROM THE EO

Dear Students, Alum, Colleagues, and Friends,

Most of you know that I became Acting EO of the Political Science Program in August of 2022, taking over from Professor Alyson Cole, who worked long and hard for our program over a period of years, and who did a terrific job. But while you are likely to know that I am serving as EO, the continued impact of the pandemic has had, as one result, that we may well not have met in person, or even interacted much via Zoom or other means. I am looking forward to working with you, and am hoping that we will get to know one another. And since this ought to be a two-way street, allow me to share a bit about myself, beyond my formal academic credentials, to help you understand who I am. I was born and raised in NYC, in an immigrant household, and am a graduate of NYC's public school system. I have been teaching full-time in CUNY since the mid-1980s. I live in New York City to this very day, am devoted to it, and am also passionately devoted to CUNY, and to its core belief: That knowledge is a public good.

I have been asked, by people new to the program or unaffiliated with the Graduate Center: What does an Executive Officer do? As the title is unusual, and atypical for such positions in the academic world, I thought it might be useful to explain my roles and the ways in which my work may be relevant to you.

As Executive Officer, I am responsible for making sure that both the academic and the administrative policies of our program and of the GC are applied fairly and appropriately to all students, as well as to our program's staff and faculty. I chair the executive committee of our program, and I also chair some of our other key committees. I help to recruit and to retain both faculty members and students, I represent the interests of the Political Science Program in GC-wide bodies, like the Council of Executive Officers, and I interact on an ongoing basis with the Provost's Office, the Office of Student Affairs, and other administrative parts of our institution. I also maintain contact with the chairs of the Political Science departments at many of CUNY's constituent colleges, and, since lots of students in our program ultimately teach in one or more of the CUNY colleges, my contacts with the department chairs can sometimes help students obtain – or keep – teaching positions. I monitor enrollments, course limits, workloads, and our budget, among other matters, but helping and supporting the students, faculty, and staff of our program, is absolutely among my most important obligations and responsibilities.



I'd like to focus here on how I attempt to support students in all stages of their studies. Those of you in the PhD program will find that I am officially listed as the advisor for all first-year doctoral students. In many cases, as you get to know other faculty members whose interests are similar to your own, or with whom you want to study, you may well choose, down the line, to move on to another advisor, and this makes perfect sense.

But at this stage of your studies, when many of you who are in your first year do not yet have established relationships with other faculty members, I am here for you, and I look forward to meeting you one-on-one. Rest assured, however, that I don't work only with first year doctoral students. I am just as committed to our master's students, and to our more advanced Ph.D. students, whether they are my official advisees or not, as I am to students just beginning their doctoral studies. If there is ever a point, whether this semester or at a later point in your studies, at which any of you would like to chat: Just let me know.

I would like to underscore that I am by no means the only faculty member to whom students may turn. Prof. Peter Romaniuk, our Deputy Executive Officer, and Prof. Forrest Colburn, our MA Advisor, among others, are also here to help. However, it is important to me that you know that my door is open to you.

I try to foster positive student-faculty relations, to hear students out if they encounter difficulties, whether academic or personal, and to brainstorm with students about potential solutions to problems as they arise. I may be able to act as an intermediary between students and those with whom they are studying, and can also act as a link between students and the various academic and administrative offices of the GC as a whole. So my message to all you – not only students, but all those affiliated with our program – in this particular piece is: Please do get in touch. I'll help if I can. And I am eager to get to know not only those who might need some mentoring or support on a specific matter, but absolutely all those studying or teaching Political Science at the Graduate Center or working for our program. I welcome your advice and your ideas. Let me know, please, not only about your concerns, but also about your accomplishments. I am looking forward to helping you reach your goals, and to working with you to build and develop our community.

Yours,
Jack





EDITORS' WELCOME

Welcome or welcome back to the CUNY Graduate Center! This issue reflects some of the Political Science Program's many achievements, as well as some fun reflections on academic life. While we are ourselves new to the GC, we can earnestly say that some of the greatest attributes of this program are its sense of humor and camaraderie. When you study politics, how else do you cope with the weight of the many pressing issues you study? We hope this newsletter fully celebrates our alumni, faculty, and students, as well as brings a sense of life at the GC—from its embrace of knowledge and devotion to the public good, to the madness of logging into CUNYFirst. Have a wonderful holiday. We look forward to seeing you in 2023!

Cheers,
Cameron & Kerriann



DESIGN NOTE

The 90's called, they want their design back! The design inspiration for this edition of *Homo Politicus* is all things 90s (that's what happens when you put the elders in charge). We hope this newsletter makes you feel transported straight to an episode of "Saved By the Bell." Enjoy!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

JAWANZA WILLIAMS



***First published by the Office of Communications and Marketing
September 6th 2022***

Jawanza James Williams is entering the Ph.D. program in Political Science this fall with nearly a decade of political activism informing his outlook. He is currently the director of organizing for VOCAL-NY, a statewide grassroots advocacy group that focuses on issues ranging from AIDS and homelessness, to the war on drugs and its consequences, including mass incarcerations, overdoses, and hepatitis C.

Williams joined the group when he was homeless himself, staying in a New York City SRO where nearly all of the residents were, like him, Black. An avowed “radical queer, prison abolitionist, socialist, feminist, Christian,” he graduated from a private religious college in Kerrville, Texas, before moving to New York. Before his current position, he was a youth organizer, a statewide organizer, and lead organizer at VOCAL. Through his work, he’s spoken many times at CUNY campuses, and in 2016 appeared on a Center for the Humanities panel. Williams recently discussed his decision to enter the Ph.D. program and his goals for the coming semester. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

The Graduate Center: Why did you decide to pursue a Ph.D. now, after all your years of working as an organizer?

Williams: I’m nearing 10 years in community organizing, and engaging in New York State politics and New York City politics, and doing the sort of political education work that’s required in my organizing practices — you know, not just the mobilizations, not just the big, flashy, direct actions, but really the sort of conversations where I’m trying to help facilitate the transformation of individuals, to more fully and comprehensively understand the world around themselves. And to really locate this organization, VOCAL-NY, where I work, in a sort of larger story.

And what I realized is that I would be better equipped to do that work to help people develop that critical consciousness — to develop the lens by which they're understanding the world — if I were more developed. And then I started to ask the question, like, Well, what does that mean? So first I did just independent study for years. And then I realized that I needed to have some support and guidance in a community of people that were interested in asking these sorts of fundamental questions, and really doing a sort of deep analysis. And that it felt right to me to go to graduate school.

GC: When you started looking into the Graduate Center, was it because of a specific program or professor?

Williams: Many things led me to CUNY. I've been to many different classes throughout the CUNY system to talk about organizing, about the work that we're doing, that I've been doing for some time. Maybe perhaps a year after I moved here, I was able to speak on a panel at the Graduate Center. I was there talking about AIDS, and AIDS as a movement, AIDS as a crisis, and the fact that AIDS is not over — as a person living with HIV, and heavily engaged in AIDS activism at the time. And I remember being in that room, and just the eagerness of the people that came to witness the panel. And just the fact that I was a voice of authority and respected at that stage was really important to me. I remember leaving thinking, I wonder if I'll ever go here. The wild thing also is I only applied to CUNY Graduate Center. I wanted an environment that will encourage and foster progressivism and progressive thinking. Not treat it as some weird, utopian sort of perspective, but like a legitimate and meaningful engagement with reality, from a perspective that remembers the humanity of people.

And I think the CUNY system is intentionally engaged with community. I think that the kinds of professors that teach in the CUNY system, those that I've met and those that I'm aware of, like Ruth Wilson Gilmore — I'm obsessed with the way in which she talks about abolitionist futures and what that actually means and how to build it — I think that's been very helpful for my thinking.

GC: How did you first become involved with VOCAL-NY?

Williams: I joined VOCAL-NY in 2013 as a member. The day that I signed a clipboard, I was actually living in a homeless shelter in New York City, and at VOCAL we do outreach at shelters when we have access to them. And essentially, it was at a particular period where I was reading Angela Davis, a lot of her work, I was reading *1984*, by George Orwell. And Black Lives Matter was at one of its zeniths at this point, as a movement.

I just had this sense that there were these bigger problems at play that were affecting me, including my ending up in a homeless shelter, not having access to comprehensive health care and needing it, and also having graduated undergrad with massive amounts of debt. And then I realized while I was in that shelter that [almost] everybody in the shelter was Black, and then it sort of clicked. There was like a light bulb that went off. And I realized, or I drew the connection, that the same racism, classism, sexism, etc. are the same kind of phenomena that were leading to Black and brown people being killed, maimed, harmed by the police, and the same things that were leading to massive amounts of people who experience homelessness, in particular Black people.

And I just felt like I needed to do something, but I just wasn't sure what to do as an individual. And just like magic that day, an organizer knocked on my door.

GC: What are your goals for the coming months?

Williams: Primarily, I want to find ways for the VOCAL-NY membership to be meaningfully engaged with the community at the GC. I think that's important to CUNY, but also necessary for our membership. We need public intellectuals, we need academics, we need researchers to more fully understand what organizations like VOCAL-NY do.

[Another goal is] perfecting my ability to articulate the state of things, not just in speaking, but also in writing. That's one of the other reasons I really chose the GC — because of the writing politics piece. I think that's really important. I think that's where I'm headed in the next five, six years — more and more writing.

I'm mostly excited about expanding the network of people that I'm able to discuss the world with.



**Financial Aid
Registration Deadline**
December 31

**Filing Intent to
Graduate**
January 13

**Last Day to Drop a Course with
100% Refund**
January 24

Important

DATES

TO

Remember

1st day of classes
January 25

Deadline for level changes
February 14

Spring Recess
April 5-13

**Last day to withdraw without a W
on transcript**
February 14

End of Spring Semester
May 23



ALUM SPOTLIGHT

MICHAEL G. JOHNSON



***First published by the Office of Communications and Marketing
September 7th, 2022***

When Michael G. Johnson (M.A. '09, Political Science) was a master's student at the Graduate Center, he simultaneously worked for Cory Booker, then mayor of Newark, New Jersey, and his administration. "I had an important role to execute change to help Newark communities thrive," Johnson said. "There was total alignment between my coursework and the lectures I attended and my position in Newark." In August, after leadership roles in government, corporate philanthropy, and community development, Johnson became the president and CEO of Harlem Educational Activities Fund (HEAF), which provides college and career preparation programs to New York City public school students from underserved communities. The role marks a turn into the education sector and follows years of teaching at the Graduate Center and the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies. In a recent interview, Johnson reflected on how his Graduate Center Political Science master's degree influenced his career and led to his new job.

GC: What was your experience at the Graduate Center like?

Johnson: I loved my time at the CUNY Graduate Center, both as a student and then as faculty. I reflect upon it as a time devoted toward my own path, toward learning more about myself and my aspirations — away from my day-to-day work. It can be challenging juggling a career, family, life, and returning to school. But for me, even when I was tired and stressed after a day's work, walking into the halls of the Graduate Center felt like a welcome escape. It was a space dedicated to learning, surrounded by classmates and faculty who wanted to collaborate and embrace new ideas. It was energizing. Looking back, I see how the Graduate Center was really a microcosm of New York City. People from different careers, different cultures and backgrounds, all aligned on a similar journey toward knowledge. We formed our own unit, like a family outside of home and work. Being surrounded by other career-by-day, student-by-night individuals at the CUNY Graduate Center was certainly unique, and a different experience from full-time master's programs where students focus solely on the course material.

The more I think about it, the more my graduate experience at the CUNY Graduate Center is similar to the HEAF experience I am looking forward to cultivating. HEAF students come from across NYC, from different middle and high schools. They don't know each other when they get started, but they are all on our campus with a similar goal: academic enrichment, personal development, college prep (and acceptance, and success!), and successful careers. I've already seen that after just a short period of time these students who start out as strangers quickly become like family to one another.

I definitely want to give a shout-out to my mentor and champion, Distinguished Professor John Mollenkopf. He's advised me, advocated for me, and been the perfect combination of listener and truth-sayer. He's connected me to people throughout my career who provided insights and opportunities, and kept me connected to CUNY at every turn. To me, John embodies the CUNY Graduate Center experience. He got me started teaching too, which ultimately led me down the path to my new role at HEAF.

GC: How has your M.A. in Political Science from the Graduate Center helped you in your career?

Johnson: Almost immediately, I applied the practices and theories I was learning about the operations of urban communities to my day-to-day professional role. Our program took a critical look at politics, power, and how to build a framework for successful policy. It was invigorating. Career-wise, maybe I didn't need to pick up a second master's (following my Master of City Planning from MIT), but I can say unequivocally that my CUNY master's in Political Science gave me an edge, an understanding of the rudiments of politics and policy and how it ingrains in the work. I really honed my ability to connect with constituents, people of influence, our city and elected officials, educators, and more because of the mindset shift I acquired through the Political Science program. It also helped me sharpen my understanding not just of politics and urban policy broadly, but specifically (and critical to me and my career) the politics of New York City.

GC: What has your experience as an adjunct professor at CUNY been like?

Johnson: I've taught everything and anything involving urban issues. It's been an amazing, rewarding experience. Every year was different: new students, new ideas, and incredible dedication. I'm still in touch with so many of my past students. I feel extraordinarily fortunate to have had these experiences, and I think my time teaching at CUNY ignited my passion for education that is fair and equitable, which is why settling into HEAF and helping students access opportunities to set them on a path for future success is the right next step for me.

GC: You've had several leadership roles in economic development, corporate philanthropy, and public administration. What have been your keys to success? And what advice do you have for graduate students who aspire to lead in any of these areas?

Johnson: I think the key to success is being open to exploring new opportunities and taking new risks. The master's degree itself is foundational. It gives you confidence and purpose, but it shouldn't necessarily define you or put you in a box. My success across different industries and roles has always been based on taking risks, being willing to leave my comfort zone and jump into new sectors, for example.

Your graduate studies should embolden you to say, "I can do anything." With the evolution of work and career paths these days, you never know what you might discover if you are willing to try something unknown to you.





COMMUNITY NEWS

PUBLICATIONS

FACULTY

Professor George Andreopoulos

Justice and World Order: Reassessing Richard Falk's Scholarship and Advocacy (coauthored and coedited with Henry Carey), (Routledge, 2022).

Professor Jacqueline Braveboy-Wagner

"The Challenge to the Liberal Order: Norms of the Global South." In: *Universal Values and Foreign Policy*. Edited by Muqtedar Khan, (New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy, 2022).

Professor Alyson Cole

"Why Can't Trump Say 'Yesterday'?" *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (August 4, 2022).

"Trump's Gender Trouble" *Political Theology*, 23: 4. (2022).

Professor Jill Gross

"Who Benefits from Place Governance and Who Is Accountable for Its Oversight? The Case of Business Improvement Districts." In: *Hyperlocal: Place Governance in a Fragmented World*. Edited by Jennifer S. Vey and Nate Storing. (Brookings Institution Press, October 25, 2022).

Professor Thomas Halper

"Orwellian Opinions: The Language of Power and the Power of Language." *British Journal of American Legal Studies*, 11:153 (2022).

Professor Jack Jacobs

"Marxism, Socialism, and Antisemitism." In: *The Cambridge Companion to Antisemitism*. Edited by Steven T. Katz. (Cambridge University Press, 2022).

Professor Samantha Majic

"It's Blue and It's Up to You! Policy narratives and anti-trafficking awareness in the United States." In: *D. Citizenship on the Edge: Sex/Gender/Race*. Edited by N.Hirschmann and D.Thomas. (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2022).

Professor Till Weber

"Quantitative Populism: Of Shapes and Shades." *Polity*. 54:3 (2022).

Professor Susan Woodward

Review of *Liquid Nationalism and State Partitions in Europe*, by Stefano Bianchini. In: "Can We Learn From Yugoslavia?" *Nationalities Papers* (2022,) 1-6. doi10.107/nps.2022.44

The Ideology of Failed States: Why Intervention Fails (Cambridge University Press, 2017).

STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

Juan Acevedo

"Una nueva etapa en las relaciones sino-colombianas." *Foreign Affairs Latin America*. (September 5th, 2022).

Oswaldo Mena Aguilar

"México: progresa el salario mínimo, pero las políticas sociales son regresivas." *Agenda Publica*. (March 23rd, 2022).

Ryan Brunette

"Appointment and Removal in the Public Service and Municipalities." In: *Reforming Public Administration in South Africa: A Path to Professionalisation*. Edited by Jonathan Klaaren. (SiberInk, 2022).

"Comments on the Public Administration Laws General Amendment Bill." Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration, National Assembly of South Africa, Cape Town, 2022.

"Personnel Practices in the Public Administration." State Capture Commission Conference: Understanding the Findings and Recommendations of the Zondo Commission. Public Affairs Research Institute and the Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, 2022.

and B. Fogel. "South Africa: From Populist Inertia to Insurrection." In: . *Populists and the Pandemic: How Populists Around the World Responded to COVID-19*. Edited by Nils Ringe and Lucio Rennó. (Routledge, 2022).

and J. Klaaren. "Reforming the Public Procurement System in South Africa." In: *Reforming Public Administration in South Africa: A Path to Professionalisation*. Edited by Jonathan Klaaren. (SiberInk, 2022).

Juan Corredor Garcia

"¿Qué quiere decir la paz? Sociología de los medios en el Acuerdo de La Habana." *Revista Sociedad y Economía*.

J. Patrice McSherry (Political Science, 1994)

She writes a monthly column for the on-line Chilean journal página19. Recent articles included "El Homenaje a Víctor Jara en el Festival de Arte y Memoria (FAM) 2022 (October 2022)," "La Cuestión de la Impunidad en la Nueva Constitución de Chile" (August 2022), and "El Programa Secreto de la CIA, MK-Ultra" (July 2022).

Nick Micinski (Political Science, 2019)

"Threats, Deportability, and Aid: The Politics of Refugee Rentier States and Regional Stability." *Security Dialogue*.

and Luisa Feline Freier and Gerasimos Tsourapas. "Refugee Commodification: The Diffusion of Refugee Rent-Seeking in the Global South." *Third World Quarterly*.

and Will Jones. "Digitization without Digital Evidence: Technology and Sweden's Asylum System." *Journal of Refugee Studies*.

and Caroline Lindey. "Celebrity Refugees and US Foreign Policy: The Politics of Fame in International Protection." *Global Studies Quarterly*.

Michael J. Thompson (Political Science, 2005)

Twilight of the Self: The Decline of the Individual in Late Capitalism. (Stanford, 2022).

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Cameron Espinoza

Junior Scholar, Stone Center on Socio-Economic inequality.

Juan Corredor Garcia

Cátedra Fulbright Grant from the Fulbright Commission (Colombia)

Andrés Sebastian Besser Rayas

Irwin Polishook Graduate Student Award

Jenna Russo

Dissertation Award, Academic Council on the United Nations system

B Stone

American Studies Dissertation Fellowship

GRANTS

Professor Samantha Majic

and her co-PI, Dr. Melissa Ditmore, received a \$320,000 grant from the Woodhull Freedom Foundation to conduct research about sex workers' experiences with the online platforms they use to advertise, offer, and collect payment for sexual services (among other things), and the effects of "de-platforming," whereby sex workers (and others) are removed from online platforms because of the content they produce and share.

Professor Mark Ungar

PI on a \$1.2 million US government grant to assess organized environmental crime in Latin America, August 2022.

TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

FACULTY

Profesor Thomas Halper

“The Constitutional Basis for Equality and Universal Rights in America” for the Institute on US Culture and Society at NYU.

Professor Samantha Majic

Cornell University, Department of Government, "Studying Sex Work and Online Platforms", Sept 30, 2022

Professor Yan Sun

Speaker at Georgetown University’s Initiative for U.S.-China Dialogue on Global Issues, on “China's Xinjiang Region: How Should the International Community Respond?” April 27, 2022.

STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

Juan Corredor Garcia

presented "War on deforestation. Framing new enemies while “protecting” the environment" at the Latin American Centre’s University of Oxford in June 2022.

Larry Ladutke

Presentation at the NJCU LATI Colloquium on April 7, 2022 — right after Bukele declared the state of exception that has led to massive human rights abuses in El Salvador. Session 6: Migration II Room: GSUB 317

Oswaldo Mena

Stone Center LIS Summer Workshop Award to attend the Luxembourg Income Study Summer Workshop.

PANELS AND CONFERENCES

Professor Jacqueline Braveboy-Wagner

Chaired a panel entitled “The Caribbean in a Multipolar World: Critical Perspectives” at the Caribbean Studies Association annual meeting.

Participated in a roundtable at the International Studies Association convention on prospects for collaboration between ISA and APSA on Global South initiatives.

ADVANCEMENTS

Level 1 to Level 2

Kaufmann, Ian
Yusim, Gennady
Padilla-Carbonell, Felix
Ransdell, Carly
Crown, Tyler
Conn, Zachary
Braun, Aaron

Level 2 to Level 3

Curry, Michael
Rafiee, Saira
Ratner, Scott
Tamamizu, Leo

Fall 2022 Grads

Ph.D. Students

Yu Aoki
Fernando Aquino- Rodriquez
Kyong Mazzaro
Osha Smith-Gittelman
Jonathan Tschudy

M.A. Students

Nicholas Edwards
Zachary laub
R. Tiger Li
Jasmine Pybas

SPOTTED



SOME OF THE
FIRST YEAR
DOCTORAL
STUDENTS TAKING
ON CENTRAL PARK
AND THE WORLD
CUP!





**CUNYCORN &
THE
SABBATICATS.
BY PROFESSOR
TILL WEBER**



**FALL '22
POLITICAL
SCIENCE MEET
UP**



APSA: LIKE BEARDED
CONTINGENT OF GRADUATE
CENTER PHD APSA PRESENTERS.
LINE UP FOR PHOTO
DEAN SCHAFER; KAMRAN
MOSHREF; JAVIER PADILLA
MORENO; ANDRÉS BESSERER
RAYAS

PROFESSOR FORREST
COLBURN HAD A DINNER
PARTY FOR STUDENTS AND
GUEST SPEAKERS IN THE
SPRING 2020 MA CORE
SEMINAR.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT IN THE PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER HONGACH, NAFISA JABBIE, PROFESSOR
FORREST COLBURN, ELI MESSANH, MAXWELL FUERDERER, ACHAL THAKORE, AND KEN SILVERMAN. 22



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

CARMEN MELILLO

KS: What made you want to pursue a master's in political science ?

CM: I had wanted to go to Grad School for some time and had not managed to get my act together on my original timeline (roundabouts 2016). I had been taking some non-accredited adult education classes in Brooklyn. One of the instructors there was an advanced PhD student at the Graduate Center in the Political Science department. She encouraged me to apply at the time, but, alas, life got in the way in the form of an ill family member and financial constraints. When COVID-19 hit I was stuck at home and finally had the time to get my act together, largely because I wasn't commuting to three jobs anymore. I have always been interested in politics and theory, so it seemed like a natural fit.

KS: Why did you choose CUNY?

CM: Because this is a public school, is one of the only affordable advanced degree programs in the region/country, has great faculty and research institutions, and because our student body rocks, to use the scholarly term. Our program is much more openly left which is rare for political science, many other programs are more moderate/centrist liberal if not outright conservative in orientation. Even the professors here who may have ideological differences from me have been very encouraging of, say, appropriating some of the liberal and conservative thinkers towards left interpretations and redeployments. Also, CUNY at large is a working class institution and one of the few powerful educational opportunities for students from working class backgrounds and for precarious working adults in this increasingly unaffordable city. That's important to me. (That said, CUNY should be free and should pay adjuncts and staff more! Work still to be done).

KS: What is your concentration and why?

CM: Theory, because I naturally work along conceptual/interpretive lines and like to ask normative questions. Also the theory program here is quite good, and in my experience has encouraged us students to pursue our weird interests; I'm someone who's into weird shit so that's great for me!

KS: What was your journey to CUNY, what did you do before you got here?

CM: This would take too long to answer properly haha. I finished undergrad back in the "aughts" so it was...12 years between that and arriving at the GC. I started out as a professional theatre actor/semi-professional director. I had a one-person show in Canada for a bit. When I came back I was a performing arts teacher, a paraeducator, then a college access counselor, a personal trainer, a learning disability support tutor, and a professional game designer for TableTop RPGs. Might be forgetting a couple things but that's

KS: What has been your favorite class here and why?

CM: Hard to say! I loved SMB's [Susan Buck-Morss's] "Politics of the Image." I also really enjoyed Prof. Schwedler's "Middle East Politics", and any class with Uday [Mehta] is great (in "Modern Social Theory" with him now).

KM: Tell us about your thesis

CM: Oh boy, so, as previously mentioned, I'm into weird shit, so my thesis is somewhat reflective of that. I'm writing about a novel concept of eroticized authoritarian representation I call "The Authoritarian Daddy". Basically, it seeks to develop a concept around the question of, "Why do so many people think Trump is sexy?" I'm drawing on Adorno and the literature on authoritarianism and mass-reproduction. Since contemporary mass media largely reproduces political meaning via digital representational forms (like memes) I'm aiming to also draw on concepts of digital modernity and digital aesthetics. But it's not at all limited to Trump or right-wing figures. My intervention is looking to link the representation of liberal figures as connected to the appropriation of those forms by fascists and the far right. Andrew Cuomo is an example I cite as a liberal "Authoritarian Daddy", as is Zelensky now that Cuomo is on the outs.

KS: Any advice for a student considering a MA here at CUNY?

CM: So much. 1. Read the "Student Handbook" back to front, many of the answers to your questions are there, if hidden. 2. Keep track of the various logins and passwords- you have up to three different tech accounts with the school, which will be different from the one you made to apply 3. If you have any documented disability or think you might have a disability, apply for Disability Accommodations (Student Affairs has an officer, Claire Wilson, who will guide you through this process). 4. There is a student bill of rights at CUNY you can and should be aware of as it covers some of the protections we have as students. 5. Your peers are your best resource in the program- connect to the student community early and often. We are not segregated by MA or PhD so you will have regular contact with people with 2-5+ years of experience navigating the program. Likewise remember our classes are doctoral level classes, which means they count towards a PhD program if you choose to carry on after the MA. 6. MA students have representation to the department through the DSC, but lack representation to the larger institution. As such, organizing and aligning around the union is the best hope MA students have of achieving some kind of representation within the larger institution of CUNY, and I encourage MA students to get involved in the labor activism at our campus and around the city, as well as supporting many other of the political causes represented on our campus. 7. I've only scratched the surface here but reach out to me if you want with more questions! I feel strongly that institutional knowledge should be shared and am happy to offer whatever small pieces of info I can. (You can find me in the lounge more often than not).



**CARMEN AND
CALVIN**

SPRING 2023 SCHEDULE

Ph.D./M.A. Program in Political Science – Spring 2023 Course Schedule				
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
11:45am – 1:45pm	PSC 80606 (PT) Robyn Marasco Feminist Political Theory 4 credits Class# 51418 Rm			PSC 89101 (G) David Lindsey Quantitative Analysis 1 4 Credits Class# 51383 Rm
2:00pm – 4:00pm	PSC 79002 (G) Peter Beinart Writing Politics II 3 Credits Class# 51434 Rm PSC 80608 (PT/M) (Hybrid) Susan Buck-Morss Political Theory as Method 4 Credits Class# 51353 Rm	PSC 76300 (IR) Ming Xia International Political Economy 3 credits Class# 51351 Rm PSC 70100 (PT) Uday Mehta Ancient Political Thought 3 Credits Class# 51378 Rm PSC 73906 (PP) Celina Su Participatory Democracy & Social Movements 3 Credits Class# 51416 Rm Cross list w/ UED, WSCP, EES	PSC 80300 (PT) Jack Jacobs The Frankfurt School 4 credits Class# 51377 Rm Cross list w/ PHIL 76200	PSC 77904 (CP/M) Julie George Basic Theories and Methods in Comparative Politics II 3 credits Class# 51421 Rm PSC 80609 (PT) Naomi Zack Philosophy of Race 4 credits Class# 51430 Rm Cross list w/ PHIL 77900 PSC 71909 (PT) Comparative Revolutions: From 1688 to the Arab Spring Helena Rosenblatt 3 credits Class# 51431 Rm Cross list w/ HIST 72100
4:15pm – 6:15pm	PSC 86101 (IR) Peter Liberman US Foreign Policy 4 credits Class# 51428 Rm PSC 73901 (PP) Janet Gornick Women, Work & Public Policy 3 credits Class# 51390 Rm Cross list w/ WSCP 81000	PSC 82003 (AP) David Jones Congress 4 Credits Class# 51424 Rm PSC 87801 (CP) Susan Woodward Comparative Political Orders 4 credits Class# 51385 Rm	PSC 73907 (PP) Leslie McCall Politics of Inequality 3 credits Class# Rm Cross list w/ SOC 84600, WSCP 81000	PROGRAM EVENTS
6:30pm – 8:30pm	PSC 89100 (G) Susan Woodward Dissertation Proposal Workshop 0 Credits Class# 51379 Rm	PSC 72100 (AP/PT) Benedetto Fontana American Political Thought 3 credits Class# 51417 Rm PSC 77908 (CP) Sherri Bayer Latin American Politics 3 credits Class# 51354 Rm		
				PSC 86207 (IR) Peter Romaniuk Global Terrorism 4 Credits Class# 51352 Rm PSC 73908 (PP) John Flateau Race & Public Policy 3 credits Class# 51425 Rm Cross list w/ WSCP 81000

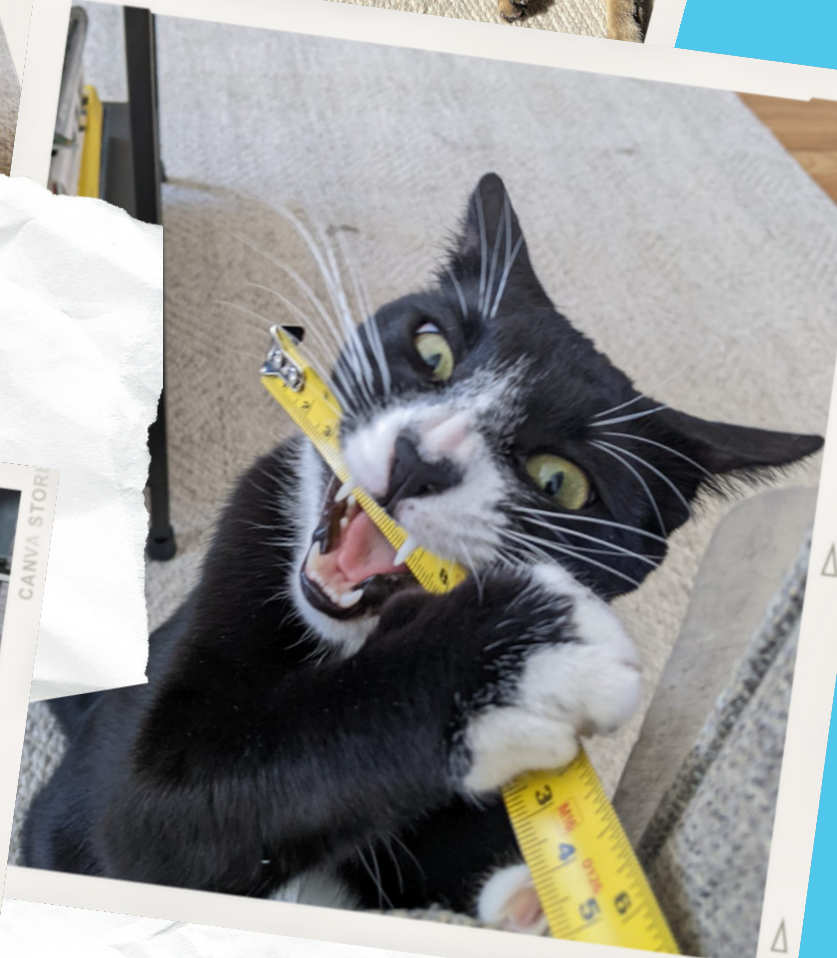
MIXED
MEOW
THODS

Warm

AND FUZZY



SALSA
&
CHIPS



OUR HUMAN:
CAMERON
ESPINOZA

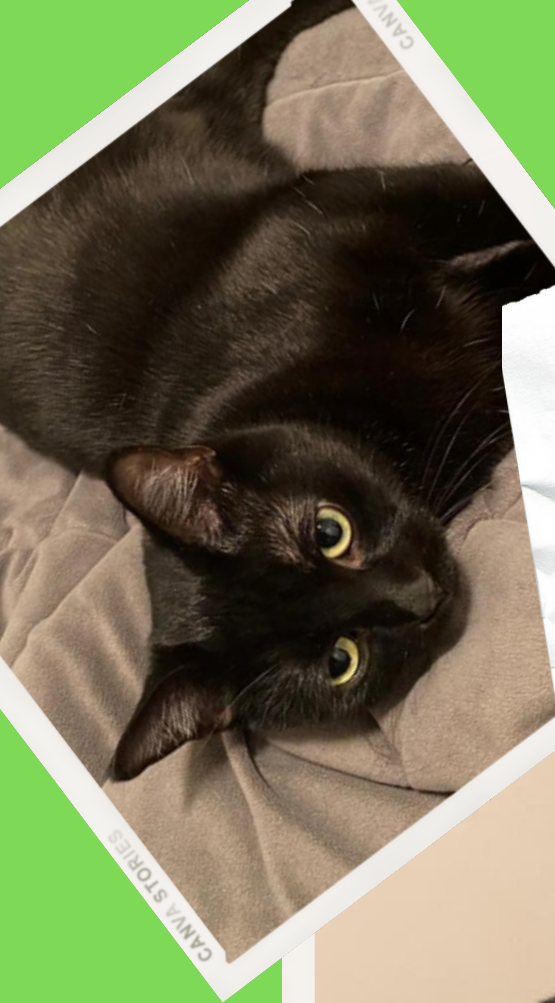


LUNA



**MY HUMAN:
KERRIANN
STOUT**





BAGHIRA



**MY HUMAN:
KEVIN
MCGINNIS**

**MY HUMAN:
PEYTON
CORDERO**



BENJAMIN



**CALVIN,
WINNIE, &
INDIO**



**OUR HUMAN:
CARMEN
MELILLO**





OUR HUMAN:
KRYSTINA
FRANCOIS





BRUNO
WHEN HE
WAS
A WEE
FLOOF BALL



PARKER
STONE LIKES
TO ENJOY THE
FINER THINGS
IN LIFE:
PUBLIC
LIBRARIES AND
LOCAL CORN
(B STONE)



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

PROFESSOR JOHN MOLLENKOPF

First published by the GC's Office of Communications and Marketing

Eric Adams, the second elected Black mayor of New York City, inherited a city embattled by the the Covid-19 pandemic, a slow recovering economy, and a sustained spike in crime that continues to rise.

Distinguished Professor John Mollenkopf (Political Science and Sociology), a consummate analyst of New York City politics, says there's a widespread feeling that public spaces have become less enjoyable, more insecure, and even more threatening. He says this feeling goes beyond violent crime to pedestrian safety from cars and cyclists. He also discusses how homelessness and associated mental illness makes obvious the need to build affordable housing.

Listen to the full episode of the Thought Project podcast that explores the first six months of Eric Adams mayoralty and the challenges that confront his administration in America's biggest city.

[Listen here](#)



