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

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The editorial board of Homo Politicus would like to extend a warm welcome to our newly appointed Graduate Center doctoral faculty members Zachary Shirkey, Associate Professor of political science at Hunter College, and Peter Romaniuk, Associate Professor of political science at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.
Dear Colleagues, Students, and Alumni,

After a successful inaugural issue, I am pleased to share with you this second edition of Homo Politicus. Much like the first edition, it is filled with exciting news from students, alumni, and faculty about their wide-ranging scholarship and professional activities. We also have some new features, including profiles of our 2015-16 cohort of M.A. and Ph.D. students.

We had a wonderfully busy and productive spring semester. In addition to our weekly Comparative Politics Workshops and monthly Political Theory Workshops, we held four professional development workshops this semester, from “Teaching with Technology” to “Finding and Obtaining Grants.” (And note: we are recording all of our PD workshops, in case you missed any and want to view what you missed.) We also now have an IRB advisor, Professor Julie George, who holds weekly office hours to assist students as they navigate that process. The Curriculum Committee, under the leadership of Professor Charles Tien, organized a thorough review of our First Exam. I want to thank Professor Tien and the other members of this year’s Curriculum Committee (Professors Woodward, Jacobs, Weiss and DiGaetano, and the student representatives, Alison Parks and B Aultman) for their work on this important review.

Thanks are also due to the members of the Admissions and Awards Committee (Professors Mollenkopf, Bowman, Feldman, Lipsitz and Shirkey, and the student representatives Nick Micinski and Rachel Brown) for all of their work, much of which occurs when most faculty and students are on holiday break in January. Special thanks to Professor Peter Liberman for chairing this committee and working tirelessly, but always with a sense of humor. We had an especially large applicant pool this year, and the Admissions Committee is delighted with the new crop of doctoral students and substantially larger cohort of M.A. students who will join us in the fall. We are forming two new task forces – one to improve and facilitate our communication with our alumni, the other to address issues relating to matters of inclusion and “diversity.” If you would like to join either task force, or even both, please inform the Program Office of your interest.

After the departure of the former Assistant Program Officer in early September, our DEO, Professor Peter Liberman, and I first hired a temporary College Assistant, Sabeel Kazi, who assisted us for several months. Then, along with Jessica Mahlbacher and Elizabeth Newcomer, we conducted a far-reaching search for a new APO. I am delighted to be able to formally introduce you to Earl R. Fleary, the new APO for our Department. A Brooklyn native, Earl received a Regents Bachelors of Arts (Mathematics and History) from West Virginia University in 1996 and was employed with the federal government for nineteen years. He and his partner Victoria have one daughter, Athena. In addition to his work at the Graduate Center, Earl is engaged with youth and elderly people in his community through the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He has also worked with other nonprofit and community organizations such as the NAACP, the Urban League, and the Harlem Children’s Zone. Earl’s positive impact on the Department is already palpable. If you have not had a chance to welcome him, please do so soon.

We also had a very successful 2016 Alumni Awards Night on May 6th with over 60 attendees. Our guest speaker was the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award winner, Dr. Jennifer Disney of Winthrop University. We also recognized Professor Paisley Currah with the Faculty Citizenship Award, Professor Uday Mehta with the Faculty Mentor Award, Jessica Mahlbacher with the Student Citizenship Award, and Elizabeth Newcomer with the first-ever M.A. Thesis Award. Awards night is always the highlight of the semester and I hope to see all of you there next year.

Finally, I want to thank our Homo Politicus editors, Adam Bell and Elizabeth Newcomer, André Guzzi for his research into the faculty accomplishments, and Isa Vásquez for attending to the visual aesthetics of the issue.

Warm regards,

Alyson Cole
Faculty Profiles

In this issue, we provide an introduction to a few of our newest Graduate Center consortial faculty.

Julie George is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Queens College, and a new Consortial Faculty member here at The Graduate Center in the fall of 2015. George published *The Politics of Ethnic Separatism in Russia and Georgia* in 2009 with Palgrave-MacMillan.

By Elizabeth Newcomer

Elizabeth: Tell us a little about your work and how you arrived at your specialization.

Julie: My specialty is post-communist politics, ethnic and national identity, ethnic conflict, state-building, democratization, and secession. My expertise is mostly on Georgia, but I also write about Russia, Moldova, and the Caucasus. I started as a Russia scholar but in studying democratization and ethnic conflict, methodologically I wanted variation, where there were similar cases that ended in war and others that didn’t, so I added Georgia. It’s so fruitful for doing research and open to scholars, that I ended up staying there.

E: What kind of ethnic politics are at work in Russia’s annexation of Crimea and the situation in Eastern Ukraine?

J: I actually don’t think ethnic politics has much to do with it at all. It’s more of a political divide that gets expressed in ethnic/nationalist terms, as many do. The underlying issues are more base than that, primarily power and money. From Russia’s perspective, Putin wants to expand his influence in the region and take back areas of the USSR. And a Western-oriented Ukraine is very threatening to that project.

E: Do you have any predictions as to what’s going to happen in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine?

J: If it parallels Russia’s behavior in Moldova and Georgia, we can expect them to maintain and perhaps move military bases in Crimea (the Navy is already there) and the statelet areas of Eastern Ukraine. Once the conflict stabilizes, we’ll see these areas maintain autonomy with Russian support. They’ll remain on the “map” with Ukraine, though they’ll be ungovernable from Kiev. Obviously with Russia claiming Crimea, Putin has won there, whereas in eastern Ukraine Russia probably won’t make a claim to them. There will be no real resolution, and Russia’s interests are served fine without one.

E: You’re the new Institutional Review Board (IRB) advisor for the department. What is the most important thing students should know about the IRB process?

J: What IRB does is apply federal regulations to human subjects research. There is an official resource here at the GC – the HRPP, and anyone who needs IRB approval should speak with them as well. My goal is to demystify the process. Many people don’t understand the IRB’s mission or purpose. IRB helps people craft studies that keep human subjects in mind. No one wants to hurt subjects or put anyone in danger, and the IRB can help researchers design projects that mitigate risk.

E: Do you have any gems of wisdom to share from your international fieldwork?

J: I highly recommend fieldwork. It’s very inefficient and it’s the hardest work to do, in a way. But it’s very rewarding. Physically traveling the country informs my work as much as the quantitative evidence I offer. But it’s a style of work that is bittersweet. It disrupts your family life. When I was a graduate student, I didn’t realize what I was committing my life to. I don’t think I would’ve changed it, but I would’ve liked to know. It’s exciting of course, and I’m very lucky to be able to do the things I do. But I wish it had come with a warning sticker.
John Krinsky is an Associate Professor of political science at The City College of New York and recently joined the Graduate Center as a consortial faculty member. He is the author of *Free Labor: Workfare and the Contested Language of Neoliberalism* University of Chicago Press, 2007 and is co-editor of *Marxism and Social Movements*, Brill, 2014.

By Adam Bell

Adam: How did you come to be an editor for Metropolitics and what role do you see the journal playing in the politics of the city?

John: I became a co-editor of Metropolitics after the sociologist, Rich Ocejo (at John Jay), with whom I was in a writing group, introduced the group to Stephane Tonnelat. Stephane sought to develop a US site for the French online journal, Metropolitics. Since the writing group was all working on urban issues, we decided we would be the initial editorial board. As for the role I see Metropolitics playing, I'd like it to be a platform by which academics working on urban issues can write and be read by wider audience. The article format is short, which imposes a terrific discipline on academics to write plainly and directly. I would like it to be something like a Gotham Gazette or City Limits by (mostly) academic writers for a larger audience, and one beyond NYC.

A: You've done quite a bit of research related to workfare and neoliberalism as they play out in New York City. Can you share how you have seen workfare and movements against it evolve since the 2008 financial crisis?

J: From the standpoint of workfare and the movement against it, there are three things, in particular to say: First, Mayor Bloomberg began to expand workfare in places from which it had largely disappeared—in parks, for example—shortly after the crisis. Workfare, again, is where welfare recipients are forced to work as a condition of receiving benefits. They are not, officially, paid for the work they do, and they don’t have exactly the same rights as regular workers do. These experimental expansions stopped, however, less because of protest and more because workfare is both cumbersome to administer relative to existing transitional jobs programs, and deeply unpopular among public employees. Second, during this whole time, the movement against workfare has been focusing on the state level in order to take the provision for unpaid work experience programs out of the state welfare reform law of 1997. Led by Community Voices Heard, the efforts to get rid of workfare on the state level are ongoing. Third, the combination of Occupy Wall Street and long-standing community organizing campaigns set the tone for the De Blasio candidacy and mayoral victory. De Blasio’s welfare commissioner, Steve Banks, is committed to phasing out the program altogether by the end of this year. This is hugely significant, and can show that, on a state level, workfare is unnecessary; but without a change in state law, it could be reversed by a workfare-friendly mayor.

A: What projects are you working on?

L: I have just finished a book with a fantastic co-author, Maud Simonet, a French sociologist, on parks workers and the transformation of public work in New York City: Who Cleans The Park: Public Work and Urban Governance in New York City (Chicago, forthcoming). The book takes a ground-up view, based on 140 interviews of parks workers and others involved in parks maintenance to understand the transformation of public workplaces and then to trace that all the way up through the reorganization of the local state. I’m also working on advising my first PhD dissertation at the GC, which is a wonderful thing. I was lucky that Julie Hollar asked me to advise her very, very smart dissertation comparing marriage equality debates in the US and Argentina, and, as apparently the case with advising excellent students, I have found that I’ve learned a lot in the process, too.
Faculty News

Professor George Andreopoulos’ most recent book is *Private Military and Security Companies and the Quest for Accountability*, with John Kleinig, eds., (Routledge 2015). At the 2015 ISA Annual Convention, he was elected President of the Comparative and Interdisciplinary Studies Section of the Association (CISS/ISA). In addition, he was selected as a Senior Visiting Scholar at the University Seminars Program of the Alexander Onassis Foundation (USA) for the fall semester of 2015. As part of this appointment, he visited three campuses: University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Santa Barbara, University of North Carolina-Asheville and the World Affairs Council of Western North Carolina, and delivered lectures on a broad variety of themes, including: “The Greek Crisis and Its implications for the Future of Europe,” “From Humanitarian Intervention to the Responsibility to Protect,” and “States of Emergency: Lessons from the European Human Rights Regime,” “Trials and Tribulations: The Fall of the Greek Junta and the Quest for Accountability,” and “Human Rights in Greece: Challenges and Prospects.”

Professor Peter Beinart hosted a collection of “Conversations in the Commons” events at the Graduate Center to discuss pressing issues in American politics. Events included: “Understanding Election 2016” with Joy-Ann Reid of MSNBC and Reihan Salam editor of the National Review; “How Has Barack Obama Changed America?” with David Remnick editor of the New Yorker; “Election 2016 Update” with Glen Thrush of Politico and Maggie Haberman of the New York Times and CNN, and “Islam in America” with Daisy Khan of the Women’s Islamic Initiative in Spirituality & Equality and Arsalan Iftikhar, author of *Islamic Pacifism: Global Muslims in the Post-Obama Era*.

Professor Jacqueline Braveboy-Wagner spent Oct-Nov 2015 and Feb-Mar 2016 in India, interacting with academic and societal actors as part of a continuing foreign policy project to analyze the relationship between domestic (development) factors and external postures in the nations of the global south. In October she spoke at the University of Mumbai where she discussed plans to hold a mini-workshop on the global south, to be co-sponsored by the Global South Caucus of the International Studies Association, which she founded and chaired from 2011 to 2016. She has edited a new book entitled *Seeking to Lead: Diplomatic Strategies of Rising Nations in the Global South*, forthcoming from Palgrave-Macmillan. In the book, there are contributions from scholars from the global south, including two Graduate Center alumni: Paul Adogamhe and Diana Cassells. Students interested in joining the Global South Caucus of ISA should go to the ISA caucuses website for more information.

Executive Officer Alyson Cole’s article “The big microaggression lie: The real story behind the right’s phony war on political correctness” was published in *Salon* in January 2016. In April 2015, Professor Cole co-organized the daylong symposium “Risquer la Vulnérabilité: Risking Vulnerability,” at the Graduate Center. The event aimed to identify what vulnerability means in the contemporary social sciences and humanities and included renowned international academics in the fields of Law, English, Political Science, and Philosophy.


Professor Janet Gornick was featured in a number of public events at the Graduate Center this academic year. She moderated a debate on social and economic inequality between New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and Nobel Prize-winning economist and distinguished professor of economics at the Graduate Center, Paul Krugman; discussed *Heather Boushey’s new book, Finding Time: The Economics of Work-Life Conflict*; and explored the complex relationship between globalization and inequality with Graduate Center Professors Branko Milanovic and Paul Krugman.

Professor Anna Law, who is teaching at the GC for the first time this semester, won a prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to further research on women asylum seekers. For more information on the research please visit her blog.
Over the past year, **Distinguished Professor Frances Fox Piven** gave invited talks in Berlin and Paris, at Penn State University, the University of California at Berkeley, the Eastern Sociological Association, the American Sociological Association, and the Association of Applied Anthropology, where she also received the Malinowski Award. She published a series of articles co-authored with Lorraine Minniti, a GC alumna, on the new welfare state policies that are being pioneered in middle income countries, as a reflection both of popular turmoil and their relatively exposed state structures. Much of her recent research was published in the chapter “Poor People’s Politics” in the *Oxford Handbook of the Social Science of Poverty*. She has also published essays in *Perspectives on Politics, Dissent*, and in a collection on urban politics edited by James DeFilippis. Recently, she appeared on MSNBC to discuss Bernie Sanders’ campaign and what it means for the United States. **Full screening available here.**


**Professor Stanley Renshon** has recently published articles on the electoral primaries: “9/11: What would Trump Do?” *Politico Magazine*, March 31, 2016; and “You don’t know Trump as well as you think,” *USA Today*, March 25, 2016.

**Professor Corey Robin** published the essay “The Trials of Hannah Arendt” in *The Nation* in June 2015 on the controversy over Hannah Arendt’s Eichmann in Jerusalem. This past fall, his dialogues with distinguished French historian Patrick Boucheron were published in France as *L’exercice de la peur. Usages politiques d’une émotion*. It has since been reviewed in such outlets as *Slate* (France) and has been the subject of an interview in *Libération*. In October 2015, he delivered the keynote address at the annual conference of the Society for the Study of U.S. Intellectual History, which was subsequently published as a lengthy essay, “How Intellectuals Create a Public,” in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 2016. In February he delivered the keynote address “The Political Theory of Capitalism” at the Political Science Graduate Conference at the University of Pennsylvania, and in March he delivered a public lecture at Brown University’s Cogut Center for the Humanities: “The Capitalism of Clarence Thomas.”

**Professor Thomas Weiss** gave a keynote in Geneva on “The Imperative to Change” for a retreat by UN Under-Secretaries-General at the World Economic Forum in April 2016. He was awarded “Distinguished 2016 IO Scholar” at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association in March 2016. His recent publications include the third edition of *Humanitarian Intervention: Ideas in Action* (Polity), and a book he co-edited, *Emerging Powers and the UN: What Kind of Development Partnership?* (Routledge). In October 2015 he was the cosponsor of the UN Day of “The Global South, 1945 and 2015” at SOAS University of London resulting in a special issue (July 2016) of Third World Quarterly for which he is guest editor. Professor Weiss was also named an Andrew Carnegie Fellow in April 2016, a prestigious award, which will fund his research exploring the concept of a world without the United Nations.

**Professor Susan Woodward** was a member of a Roundtable on “Europe: Internal Crisis and External Challenges,” with Jacques Rupnik, Jan Svejnar, and Milica Uvalic, Association for the Study of Nationalities annual convention, Columbia University, April 24, 2015. She was the discussant of an article by Graciana del Castillo and Alvaro de Soto, revisiting their 1994 article, “Obstacles to Peacebuilding,” at the Bunche Institute panel, November 16, 2015. She made a presentation and critique of Steven Pinker, *The Better Angels of our Nature: Why Violence has Declined*, for the Graduate Center’s Committee on the Study of Religion, February 3, 2016. She also formally contributed, in the affirmative, to the debate: “Humanitarian organizations should be implicated in the post-conflict development process of global crises,” at conference on Humanitarianism Exposed, 10th annual conference on Peace, Conflict, and Justice, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, February 6, 2016. She was interviewed by *Politika*, a premier Serbian daily newspaper, “Conversation of the Week” series, 10 October 2015, “Yugoslav Lessons for Syria and Ukraine.”
Student Spotlight

In an effort to build community, our Student Spotlight section is devoted to short profiles of each of the students who joined the department in Fall 2015.

We asked each student to respond to three questions:

1. What were you doing before you came to the GC?
2. What is the current focus of your studies?
3. What is your favorite thing about the GC?

Adam Bell
1. Before attending the Graduate Center I worked in property and casualty insurance.
2. Currently I am exploring the linkages and ruptures between structuralist and post-structuralist philosophers. I am also quite interested in the Aristotelian lineage in contemporary thought.
3. I enjoy interacting with the great theorists we attract to the GC, both in terms of our faculty and the participants in our workshops and institutes.

Daniel Golebiewski
1. Before I came to the GC, I was an M.A. student in Human Rights Studies at Columbia University.
2. My current focus of study is in international relations, specifically human rights, humanitarian affairs, and international organizations.
3. The GC is the penthouse in the CUNY system!

Aaron Labe Linas
1. I worked in parks and recreation giving nature tours to kids.
2. Right now I am looking at how non-state actors gain political legitimacy.
3. My favorite aspect is the international diversity of the students.

Tristan Mantel-Hoffmann
1. Before joining the Graduate Center, I was enjoying a gap year improving my Arabic and teaching ESL in Lebanon and Palestine.
2. Currently, I am interested in political Islam in MENA, the failure of secular Arab nationalism, and the role of transnational markets in the events leading up to the Arab Spring.
3. I've really enjoyed the courses so far, particularly the seminar discussions, and appreciate the camaraderie amongst us, the laborers.

Mike McCabe
1. Prior to attending CUNY, I was working on a master’s degree in urban and regional planning at the Bloustein School at Rutgers University.
2. My current research is situated at the intersection of urban policy, political economy, and environmental policy pertaining to climate change adaptation and mitigation.
3. In addition to providing students with strong training in political science, I am very appreciate of the many opportunities that the GC provides students to pursue applied political science in the various research centers associated with the University.

Tyler Olsen
1. Before I came to the GC I was studying Plato and Heidegger in the philosophy program at Arizona State University as an undergraduate.
2. The current focus of my studies is on radical democratic theory and participatory institutional reform.
3. My favorite thing about the grad center is the variety of courses available for students interested in critical theory and post-structuralism, both in the political science department and in other disciplines.

Heidi Andrea Rhodes
1. I was a researcher for the Center for Justice and Accountability and the Cardozo Law School Human Rights and Atrocity Prevention Clinic. I was also, as always, undertaking various creative justice and intellectual projects.
2. I currently have two very different threads of focus for my scholarly pursuits. One is that I continue to expand on my previous work with Afro-Colombian communities and victims of state and parastate violence in the context of Colombia’s armed conflict. The second thread of my work reaches into various traditions of emancipatory thought in the interest of decolonizing the genre of ‘the human’.

3. Finding people in various departments with shared political, ethical, and intellectual commitments for sustainable knowledge production, social transformation, and the work of justice.

Sarah Shah

1. Before coming to the Graduate Center I obtained a Masters in Political Science at NYU (specializing in political economy) and thereafter, I taught political science at the Lahore University of Management Sciences, in Pakistan.

2. My research interests include the political economy of conflict, post-conflict state-building, and the question of state sovereignty in post-colonial states.

3. My favorite thing about the GC is its intellectual eclecticism and the communal environment. The professors are very accessible and helpful. They are always willing to guide you if you seek them out. Likewise, the students are very welcoming and helpful and one finds it easy to become part of the community, sharing ideas and resources. The freedom to choose and pursue one’s research interests is another strength of GC; students can draw on their strengths and those of their professors in multiple fields.

Sally Sharif

1. I was doing a joint Master’s program in Political Philosophy and European Politics at the University of Leuven (Belgium) and University of Nanterre Paris X (France). I was also working as an EU Correspondent in Brussels.

2. I am currently focused on two broad research themes: civil wars and authoritarian regimes.

3. I am amazed by the level of collegiality both among first-year students and in their relation to senior students in the Department. It is often difficult to maintain a degree of friendliness in a competitive academic environment. It has only been a semester but I can say that the GC has become a second home.

Jonathan Voisich

1. I was getting my undergraduate degree in political science from St. Joseph’s College.

2. My current focus of study is pretty broad at the moment but my interests lie in IR.

3. My favorite thing about the Grad Center is that it feels like a place where everyone is fully invested in their academic career.

Andrew Wilkes

1. Prior to GC, I served - and continue to serve – as an associate pastor of social justice and young adults (ages 21-39).

2. I’m leaning towards a focus on comparative politics and public policy. I have graduate degree focusing on political theology and political philosophy and retain strong interest in those lines of inquiry as well.

3. The graduate center has great staff at the library as well as strong holdings between GC and the CUNY campus. The faculty is uniformly excellent in my experience thus far. The constant flow of lectures and movie screenings are a plus. The Dining commons has great food. Also, I appreciate the heterodox approach to economics that is ascendant here, along with a vibrant group of political science faculty and doctrinal students.

Anaïs Wong

1. I finished my undergrad studies at Hunter college in Spring 2014 with a BA in the “Philosophy of International Relations.” Then I spent a year off with my family in France, volunteered at local organizations, and became increasingly aware of and concerned about the injustices of the French and US immigration regimes, which gave me the will to apply to a PhD program at the GC.

2. Right now I know that my focus will be political theory, and that my research will be centered around immigration ethics, but I am taking the time to explore the different ways I could go about doing this.

3. What I love about this place is that students are here for each other, and that’s a mindset I really appreciate.

Asher Wycoff

1. Before coming to the GC, I studied political science and sociology at Western Washington University.

2. My emphases are political theory and comparative politics. I am particularly interested in critical theory, the politics of identity, and political theology.

3. My favorite thing about the GC so far is the strong sense of community within the department.
**Scenes from the Street**

One of the great strengths of the Program is that, in addition to being exceptional scholars, our students, faculty, and alumni are active in field research, international and domestic social movements, and contentious politics.

**May Day March**

Students and faculty marched through Flatbush, Brooklyn, to commemorate International Workers Day, April 30, 2016. (Photo: Isa Vásquez)

**Rosa Squillacote**

has been working with the Raise the Age campaign: New York is one of only two states that still prosecutes all youth as adults when they turn 16. Governor Cuomo’s Executive Budget includes funding and statutory language to Raise the Age. We need your help to urge legislators to change the law this session. For more information go to: raisetheageny.com (Photo: RaisetheAgeNY.com)

**Political Science Ph.D. and M.A. students**

joined the #CUNYRising protest outside of Governor Cuomo’s office calling for the state to fully fund CUNY and for contracts for all CUNY workers (pictured from left to right: Andis Wong, Beth Newcomer, Adam Bell, Mike McCabe, Drake Logan, Asher Wycoff, Tyler Olsen, Francisco Fortuño Bernier)

**Movimento Passe Livre Protest**

is a movement that demands free public transportation as a basic right. The movement claims that 37 million Brazilians are excluded from the public transportation system due to not being able to afford the fares, and that the increase in fares excludes low income citizens who are forced to live in the outskirts of the cities because of increasing housing prices, and are impeded from travelling to central areas for work or leisure. (Photo: Hugo De Melo)

**I’m Voting Yes on the Strike Authorization Vote**

A dozen students from the program met with PSC GC chapter chair Luke Elliott-Negri to discuss the strike authorization vote and additional upcoming actions to put pressure on the state, city, and management to fully fund CUNY. Learn more about what the PSC and the GC chapter is doing to secure a contract here: http://www.psc-cuny.org/

**Students from the department**

joined the #SaveCUNY march across the Brooklyn Bridge to fight back against the drastic cuts proposed by Governor Cuomo, and to demand a tuition freeze, an increase in public funding, and an equitable contract for CUNY faculty and staff. (Photo: Osha Smith-Gettelman)

**New York is the only state other than North Carolina that prosecutes all youth as adults when they turn 16;**

Rosa Squillacote has been working with the Raise the Age campaign: New York is one of only two states that still prosecutes all youth as adults when they turn 16. Governor Cuomo’s Executive Budget includes funding and statutory language to Raise the Age. We need your help to urge legislators to change the law this session. For more information go to: raisetheageny.com (photo: RaisetheAgeNY.com)
Sumru Atuk, a level II doctoral candidate majoring in political theory, received a Provost’s Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship to conduct preliminary fieldwork with anti-femicide activists in Mexico and Turkey in preparation for her dissertation proposal.

Fernando Aquino, a level II doctoral candidate majoring in American politics, received an award in recognition for his outstanding work from the Dominican College of Journalists. An article about Fernando’s work and the nature of the award was subsequently published in El Diario.

Rachel Brown, a level III doctoral candidate majoring in political theory, had her article, “Multiple Modes of Care: Internet and the Formation of Migrant Caregiver Networks in Israel/Palestine,” published in the April 2016 issue of Global Networks. Additionally, her first collection of poems, Atop the Staircase, was published in February 2016 by Pomegranate Gallery Press. Rachel was also a recipient of the Randolph L. Braham Dissertation Award, an award for dissertation-level students whose doctoral research is in the area of Jewish, East European politics and government, or Holocaust-related studies.

Nina Connelly, a level I doctoral candidate studying immigration policy, has been invited to attend the Graduate Center-Humboldt University Summer Seminar in June. Nina will be comparing persistent urban inequalities in Germany and New York City.

Elena Cohen, a level III doctoral candidate majoring in political theory, was appointed the Executive Vice President of the National Lawyers Guild. Elena also filed a federal civil rights lawsuit, along with Gideon Orion Oliver, against the City of New York, NYPD Commissioner William Bratton, and two police officers, claiming assault and battery, violations of Fourth Amendment and First Amendment rights, and other injuries following the NYPD’s use of the Long Range Acoustic Device (“LRAD”) sound weapon against protesters and journalists.

Elizabeth Eisenberg, a level III doctoral candidate majoring in public policy, received a David Garth Dissertation Award in Public Policy as well as a Marilyn J. Gittell Dissertation Fellowship, established in honor of the late Political Science Professor at the Graduate Center.

Julie Hollar, a level III doctoral candidate majoring comparative politics, won the Lanahan Best Graduate Student Paper Award from the Northeastern Political Science Association for “After Victory: The Impact of Divergent Marriage Equality Discourses on Movement Opportunities,” which she presented at their 2015 annual meeting.

Emma Jacobs, a level II doctoral candidate majoring in international relations, received a dissertation proposal development fellowship from the Social Science Research Council, and will be conducting research in Washington DC this summer.

Drake Logan, a level I doctoral candidate majoring in comparative politics, was accepted to the Critical Language Scholarship program, a US State Department program, which awarded full funding
to complete an intensive advanced Arabic language program this summer in the Middle East or North Africa.

Christopher Michael, a level III doctoral candidate completing a dissertation on the history of worker cooperatives, had his article “Grantor Trusts: A Path to Employee Ownership” accepted for re-publication in the NYU Review of Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation.


Nick Pehlman, a level II doctoral candidate majoring in international relations received a Provost’s Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship to conduct fieldwork on police reform in Ukraine and to receive Russian language training in Ukraine.

Heidi Rhodes, a level I doctoral candidate majoring in political theory, had her article “Dreams and Dignity: Confronting Gendered Violence in Colombia” published in teleSUR English. She was also invited to present at the “Posthuman Futures Symposium” at NYU in April.

Joyce Rivera, a level III doctoral candidate majoring in public policy, was recognized in a New York Times article for her work as Executive Director of the St. Ann’s Corner of Harm Reduction, which has provided health and healing community services in the Bronx for over twenty-six years.

Sally Sharif, a level I doctoral candidate majoring in international relations, will hold an internship at The Office of Disarmament Affairs at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. As a Political Affairs intern, she will spend the summer working with the Conventional Arms Branch.

Joanna Tice, a level III doctoral candidate majoring in political theory, received the American Studies Dissertation Fellowship Award from the Graduate Center for the 2015-2016 academic year. Joanna is also a finalist for the prestigious Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Puangchon Unchanam, a level III doctoral candidate majoring in political theory, received a Graduate Center Dissertation Award for the 2016-2017 academic year for a dissertation project entitled “The Bourgeois Crown: Monarchy and Capitalism in Thailand.”


Andrew Wilkes, a level I doctoral candidate majoring in public policy and comparative politics, received a proclamation from the New York City Council recognizing his work as a faith leader in the fields of activism and social justice. Andrew was invited to share brief remarks in the chamber in recognition of his work.
Student Presentations at Professional Conferences

Current students, alumni, and faculty presented at the International Studies Association conference “Exploring Peace” in Atlanta, GA, March 16-19:


Ten students presented at the Western Political Science Association conference “The Politics of Peril and Opportunity” in San Diego, CA, March 24-26:

- Sumru Atuk: “Perils of Civil Society: When Discourses of Human Rights are Replaced by Those of Biopolitics”
- B Aultman: “Restaging the Political: Embodied Knowledge and Transgender Activism”
- Rachel Brown: The Politics of Mutual Aid and Community Survival: Migrant Domestic Workers in Israel”
- Emily Crandall: “Agents of/in Crisis: the Rational Subjects of Climate Change Discourse”
- Philip Johnson: “Fear and Loathing in Guantánamo: Producing the Ideal Camp Guard”
- Elizabeth Newcomer: “‘Hope for Every Addicted American’ The Personal War on Drugs”
- Joanna Tice: “Evangelicalism Under the Lens of the Post-Secular: Framing Popular Religion as Political Thought”; and “Class in the Classroom: Developing Student-Centered Discussions of Inequality, Poverty, and the ‘American Dream’”

Current student Elizabeth Nelson presented the paper “Understanding Why State Secessions Happen” at the Midwest Political Science Association’s annual conference in Chicago, IL, April 7-10.

Congratulations to the following students who successfully defended their dissertations or Master’s theses!

- Anthony G. Aggimenti, Neighborhood and Community Change in Brooklyn’s Sunset Park (M.A.)
- Ted Clemens IV, Headhunting: Evaluating the Disruptive Capacity of Leadership Decapitation on Terrorist Organizations (M.A.)
- Ervin Kallfa, Unfaithful Allies: Local Resistance and the Failure of Statebuilding (Ph.D)
- Daniel McCool, Politics Between and Within Us: Authenticity and Theatricality in Modern Political Thought (Ph.D)
- Barry Murdaco, The Hermeneutics of International Trade Conflicts: U.S. Punitive Trade Policy Towards China and Japan (Ph.D)
- Heidi Rafferty-Reijm, The Dream Defaulted: Foreclosure, Crisis, and Hope in Baltimore, Maryland, and Detroit, Michigan (Ph.D)
- Sean Shannon, Richard A. Posner: A Study in Judicial Entrepreneurship (Ph.D)
- David Siegel, Social Ties and State Formation in Post-Soviet Central Asia (Ph.D)
Fanny Lauby is Assistant Professor of Political Science at William Paterson University. Lauby completed her Ph.D. in Political Science at the GC in 2014.

By André Guzzi

André: You got a tenure track position at William Paterson University while still working on your dissertation. What was the job market like for you?

Fanny: I started applying to many different universities in the fall 2013. In that semester I also attended the APSA job placement program. It gets a bad reputation, but I think it provides good practice to present your research and teaching activities to different types of schools. I was later invited for a campus interview and got a job offer from one of the schools I met at APSA, but I did not feel comfortable at that university. I was then invited for a campus interview at WPU in March 2014 and got an offer from them a week later. I had a very good experience there and I accepted the offer. The most awkward part of the process was having to negotiate your offer – I had no idea how to do that! Afterwards I defended my dissertation in June, and started working the following fall.

A: What is your dissertation about and how did you get to the topic?

F: My dissertation is about immigrant political incorporation and I compare immigrant youth movements in New York and New Jersey looking at higher education policies.

A: What were your main findings?

F: Unexpectedly, the results led me to realize the importance of place in shaping policies. For example, public transportation was a great factor in determining the organization of the youth movements. In New York, the greater accessibility of public transportation allowed a broader involvement of the youth in the movements and demonstrations. In New Jersey, the less accessibility to public transportation made it harder for the youth’s involvement.

A: Where does your research stand right now?

F: I am expanding the research from my dissertation. Since I graduated I have interviewed 72 more people, including elected officials, community organizers, and non-Latino youth. Now I am in the process of transcribing and analyzing the data. I plan to write an article to present my initial findings, and later I plan to transform this expanded research into a book.

A: Do you have any advice for the Ph.D. candidates at the GC?

G: I would say start going to conferences as early as you can to build up confidence in your work. Also, focus on finishing your dissertation. The GC requirement to teach can consume a great amount of your time. Lastly, give yourselves a lot of time for the job market. Start applying for jobs when you’re in the initial stage of writing your dissertation.

João Feres Júnior is Associate Professor at IESP-UERJ. Júnior received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the GC in 2003.

By André Guzzi

André: After you finished your Ph.D, how did you proceed with your career?

João: I moved back to Brazil, where I am originally from, and got a post-doc position at one of the most prestigious Political Science programs in the country, IUPERJ (now IESP-UERJ). After the post-doc, I was hired as a professor. I am a political theory major but my research interests have spread to other areas such as race and affirmative action, and media and politics.

A: With regards to affirmative action, what are the main differences between Brazil and the United States?

J: Well, race is understood and lived as a reality differently in either country. In the United States, race has been culturalized, so perceptions of racial difference are tied with perceptions of cultural difference. In Brazil that is not always the case. Despite this difference, these are both post-colonial countries, with similar historical paths, in which race-based affirmative action has the goal of promoting the status and opportunities of non-whites, blacks mostly, who have been targeted by continued discrimination and prejudice.

A: What was the topic of your dissertation?

J: My dissertation is a crossover between political theory and comparative politics. It is entitled The concept of Latin America in the United States: misrecognition and social scientification discourse, and explores the ways in which Americans, particularly in the social sciences, have perceived Latin America through narratives and theories such as modernization, political development, dependency, etc. I found that Latin Americans are consistently perceived as others, be it in cultural, racial or temporal terms. My dissertation was published as a book in four different languages (Portuguese, English, Spanish, and French).

A: What are the best memories from the GC?

J: I very much enjoyed the cooperative environment. In other American universities you may experience a lot of competition among students, something that can be harmful and counter-productive. This was never the case at the GC. I made a lot of friends in the program, some of whom I am still in touch.


Margaret Groarke (2000), will have her forthcoming article “The Impact of Voter Fraud claims on voter registration Reform Legislation” published in *Political Science Quarterly*.

Fanny Lauby (2014) Assistant Professor of Political Science at William Paterson University recently published “Leaving the ‘Perfect Dreamer’ Behind? Narratives and Mobilization in Immigration Reform,” in *Social Movement Studies*, and “Because She Knew That I Did Not Have a Social’: Ad Hoc Guidance Strategies for Latino Undocumented Students,” in the *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education*.

J. Patrice McSherry (1994), will have her forthcoming article entitled “La Operación Cóndor: sistema transnacionalizado de terror estatal” published in *Signos*, the journal of the Museum of Memory and Human Rights, Santiago, Chile. She was also interviewed about Operation Condor, for a mini-documentary by El Ciudadano TV (Chile), in November 2015. McSherry wrote the Preface for a new book edited by Pablo Leighton and Fernando López, *Forty Years Are Nothing: History and Memory of the 1973 Coups d’etat in Uruguay and Chile* (London: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015). Also in 2015 her chapter “Estados Unidos, Contrainsergencia y la Operación Cóndor,” was published in Centro Internacional para la Promoción de Derechos Humanos (CIPDH), 40 años de la Operación Cóndor. Elaboración, edición e impresión de un informe conmemorativo.


Recent Graduate Placements

- **Jennifer Corby** has accepted a tenure-track position in the Department of History, Philosophy, and Political Science at Kingsborough Community College.
- **John McMahon** has accepted a position as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science at Beloit College.
- **Jennifer Mueller** has accepted a position at Marymount Manhattan College as Assistant Professor of International Studies.
- **Elizabeth Nelson** has accepted a position as Assistant Professor (tenure-track) in the Government Department at Manhattan College.
Student Conference

This year’s student conference was a great success! Thanks are due to the student organizers on the Colloquium Committee—Anaïs Wong, Aaron Shapiro, Tom Waters, Emma Jacobs, and Jessica Mahlbacher—to the student presenters for sharing their work, and our faculty discussants—Professors Ken Erickson, Lennie Feldman, Frances Fox Piven, Nichole Shippen, and Zachary Shirkey. Thanks also to the Political Science Student Government Association (AKA Team Pegasus) for allocating funds for lunch and the reception after the conference.

The Department Colloquium speaker series is designed to promote intellectual community within the Political Science department, stimulate cross-subfield discussion among faculty and students, and facilitate student engagement with the wide network of scholars in the tri-state area. If you are interested in presenting your work or being a discussant at a future Colloquium event, please contact Jessica Mahlbacher at jmahlbacher@gradcenter.cuny.edu.

This semester’s talks included:

♦ January 29th: James Mittelman, Professor Emeritus at American University in Washington DC presented “Universities and International Relations: Repurposing Higher Education.”

♦ February 5th: John Krinsky, City College and the Graduate Center presented “What Parks Maintenance Tells Us About Urban Governance”

♦ March 10th: Severine Autesserre, Barnard College presented “Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention”

♦ April 14th: Michael Jacobson, The Institute for State and Local Governance, Graduate Center, CUNY presented “How do we actually end mass incarceration in the United States?”

♦ April 21st: Cyril Obi, Social Science Research Council presented “The struggle for democratic change in a time of crisis: The Nigerian case since the 2015 elections”

Political Theory Workshop

The Political Theory Workshop provides a forum for theorists to develop conference papers, book chapters, and peer-reviewed articles in a relaxed, collegial setting. The workshop draws presenters from across the US as well as faculty from CUNY and other NYC institutions. Papers are distributed in advance of the workshop. If you are interested in presenting at the workshop or being a discussant, please email gcpoliticaltheoryworkshop@gmail.com.

Events this semester include:


♦ March 3: Jane Bennett, Johns Hopkins University, presented “Whitman’s Sympathies” with discussant Emily Crandall.

♦ March 31: Bonnie Honig, Brown University, presented “What Kind of a Thing is Land?: Hannah Arendt's Object Relations (or, The Human Condition: A Jewish Reading)” with discussant Amy Schiller.

♦ May 5: Cristina Beltran, New York University, presented “Latino Conservatives and the Art of Diversity” with discussant: Max Burkey.
Comparative Politics Workshop

The Comparative Politics Workshop is a venue for comparativists—faculty, students, and alumni—to workshop conference papers, peer-reviewed articles, or book chapters. Our goal is to provide a relaxed, informal, and collegial environment to share and develop our work. This workshop is a student-run initiative that relies on the support and energy of the GC comparative politics faculty, students, and alumni. Generous support is provided by the Ralph Bunche Institute and the Journal of Comparative Politics. If you are interested in presenting your work, please email: gccomparative@gmail.com.

Events held this semester included:

♦ February 9: Duncan McCargo of the University of Leeds presented “Are Military Coups Going Out of Style?”
♦ February 16: Oiendrila Dube of New York University presented “Queens”
♦ February 23: Robert Kaufman of Rutgers University presented “Dictators and Democrats: Masses, Elites, and Regime Change”
♦ March 1: Vujo Ilic of Yale University presented “Tribal Groups and Civil War Violence: Evidence from 1941-1942 Montenegro”
♦ March 8: Virginia Page Fortna of Columbia University presented “The Causes and Consequences of Terrorism in Civil Wars”
♦ March 29: Jennifer Mueller of Marymount Manhattan College and a Graduate Center alumna, presented “Armed Groups, Child Soldiers and Legitimacy: Can International Pressure Improve the Human Rights Records of Non-State Actors?”
♦ April 5: Mike Miller, a Ph.D. candidate at the Graduate Center, presented “The Dilemma of State Power: New Media, Old Challenges in China”
♦ April 12: Kanchan Chandra of NYU presented “Democratic Dynasties: Ethnicity, Family and Party in Indian Politics”
♦ April 19: Erika Iverson, a Ph.D. candidate at the Graduate Center, presented “Migrants, Refugees, and the Influence of History: How Context Shapes Policy in the US and Kenya”
♦ May 3: Drake Logan a Ph.D. candidate at the Graduate Center, presented “Toxic Violence in Iraq’s Present”

The department is affiliated with a number of research centers, including the Ralph Bunche Institute, the Center for Urban Research, and the Luxembourg Income Study Center. See their web pages for ongoing events and details.

Political Science Graduate Students’ Association, AKA Team Pegasus

This semester Team Pegasus allocated funds on behalf of the department to support the student conference, speaker travel for the department colloquium, design for the newsletter, and finals week snacks. We are also hosting a end-of-year party on THURSDAY MAY 19th at 6PM. Food, booze, and ice cream will be provided.

Strike Authorization Vote

Team Pegasus voted in support of the Professional Staff Congress’ (PSC) strike authorization vote, which is part of the PSC’s campaign to secure a contract for CUNY faculty and staff. Team Pegasus urges students and faculty to learn more about the current state of our union’s contract negotiations and to consider committing to vote “yes” on the strike authorization vote. More information can be found here.

The newsletter editors thank Team Pegasus for their support for this newsletter’s design.
**Fall 2016 Course Schedule**

**Monday 11:45-1:45pm:**
- O’Brien, “Intro to American Politics” (AP)

**Monday 2-4pm:**
- Beinart, “Writing Politics” (WP)
- Mehta, “Modern Classics in Political Philosophy” (PT)

**Monday 4:15-6:15pm:**
- O’Brien, “American Political Thought” (AP/PT)

**Monday 6:30-8:30pm:**
- DiGaetano, “Urban Politics” (PP/AP)

**Tuesday 11:45-1:45pm:**
- Golob, “Research Seminar on Globalization: Between the Sovereign and the Trans-Sovereign” (IR/CP)

**Tuesday 2-4pm:**
- Schwedler, “Middle East and North Africa” (CP)
- Lipsitz, “Campaigns and Elections” (AP/WP)
- Currah, “Biopolitics” (PT)

**Tuesday 4:15-6:15pm:**
- Weber, “Applied Quantitative Research: Correlation, Comparison, Causality” (CP/M)

**Tuesday 6:30-8:30pm:**
- Brown, “M.A. Core Course” (G)
- Halper, “Civil Liberties” (AP)

**Wednesday 2-4pm:**
- Shirkey, “Basic Concepts and Theories of International Relations” (IR)

**Wednesday 4:15-6:15pm:**
- Gornick, “Social Welfare Policy” (PP/AP)

**Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm:**
- Andreopoulos, “International Justice: Political and Legal Dimensions” (IR)

**Thursday 11:45-1:45pm:**
- Marasco, “Contemporary Political Theory” (PT)

**Thursday 2-4pm:**
- Krinsky, “Public Policy Analysis” (PP/AP/M)

**Thursday 6:30-8:30pm:**
- George, “Basic Theories and Concepts in Comparative Politics” (CP)

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**Upcoming Deadlines and Department Events**

- **June 15:** Northeastern Political Science Association submissions for papers, panels and roundtables due for meeting Nov 11-13, 2016 in Boston, MA.
- **June 16-17:** “Purchasing Power? The Next Generation of Research on Money and Politics” will be held at the Ford Foundation, New York City. Sponsored by the Ford Foundation and organized by the Scholars Strategy Network, Institution for Social and Policy Studies (ISPS) at Yale University, the Department of Political Science at the CUNY Graduate Center, and several strategic partners, the aim of the two-day workshop is to bring a group of academics working at the leading edge of research on money and politics into conversation with each other and with experts, advocates, and policymakers working on the front lines of American politics.
In this edition we introduce a new satire feature, the #poliscimeme. The picture below was shared with students and they were asked to add a political science-related meme to it. The winning submission came from Nick Reynolds:

He will forever hold the title for winning the first Homo Politicus #poliscimeme contest. Congratulations, Nick! (Also, congratulations on getting married and the write-up in the New York Times!)
We are also including for the first time a cartoon by our own Asher Wycoff:

Published an article? Received a grant or fellowship? Have an idea for an alum who should be featured in our next newsletter? Doing fieldwork and have pictures or stories to share? Contact the editors, Adam Bell and Elizabeth Newcomer, at homopoliticus.editor.gccuny@gmail.com.

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