# Homo Politicus

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

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Like us on Facebook! Subscribe to our YouTube channel! Follow us on Twitter! Follow us on Instagram!
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.
Dear Colleagues, Students, and Alumni,

It is my pleasure to introduce the third edition of Homo Politicus. I’d like to start by welcoming again our new cohort of M.A. and Ph.D. students. I’m encouraged by the drive and zeal of our new students, as well as by how well our Department adapted to a larger cohort this year. We already sent out images of our new students at the start of the new academic year, but take a moment to review the new student profiles included here, beginning on page 9.

Our Program events calendar has been especially robust this semester with a wonderful series on the 2016 election. I’m especially proud of how our faculty and students crafted innovative interventions and opened the space for productive conversation not occurring anywhere else but the GC. To remind you, our series actually began this summer, with a conference on money and politics that we co-sponsored with The Ford Foundation, The Open Society Foundation, Yale’s Institution for Social and Policy Studies, and the Scholars Strategy Network. The other eight events ran the gamut of issues: from the impact of dark money and social media on the voting booth, to those often overlooked policy questions facing our president-elect. Jennifer Hochschild, Stanley Greenberg, Cristina Beltrán, and Sara Goldrick-Rab are just a few of the prominent scholars we hosted this fall. The turnout at all these events have been a testament to the strength of our American Politics field and the interdisciplinary reach of our department as a whole.

Even with such extensive programing in American Politics, our Comparative Politics and Political Theory workshops were as vibrant as ever. Both workshops brought in an impressive list of visiting scholars, Wendy Brown and David Ciepley presented at our theory workshop and Severine Autesserre and Zachariah Mampilly joined our comparative politics workshop, among many others.

We have a great deal to look forward to this spring. To mention only two highlights, we have our annual student conference in February and an event to honor Frances Fox Piven in May (more details to come), with a conference in the fall. Keep an eye out for the lineup for the spring Comparative Politics Workshop, which will now be meeting on Wednesdays between 6:30 and 8:30. The Political Theory Workshop schedule is also shaping up with Linda Zerilli and Silvia Federici already on the docket. A new addition to our programming is the Politics and Protest Workshop, which will be meeting on Tuesdays from 4-6pm during the spring semester. If you have not already done so, please review our new website for more information about these and other events.

I also want to draw everyone’s attention to our new department T-shirts, designed by our own Asher Wyckoff and featuring “Aristotle King-Kong.” With a donation of $20 by alum and faculty or $10 by students, T-shirts are available as a thank-you gift for supporting our students. See the ad on page 19 for more details.

And, as always, I want to thank our Homo Politicus editor-in-chief Elizabeth Newcomer, and the newsletter staff: Tristan Hoffmann, Puangchon Unchanam, Matthew Coogan, Kyong Mazzaro, Asher Wycoff, Isa Vásquez, and Aaron Braun.

Warm regards,

Alyson Cole
Awards Night 2016

Our annual Awards Night brings the Program together to honor the achievements of outstanding faculty, students, and alumni. In this year’s event, held on May 6, Professor Paisley Currah received the Faculty Citizenship Award for his tremendous service to the Department.

Professor Uday Mehta received the Faculty Mentor Award for his pedagogical prowess.

Jessica Mahlbacher received the Student Citizenship Award for her dedication to the Program.

And Elizabeth Newcomer received the Best M.A. Thesis award for her outstanding scholarship.
Awards Night 2016

The highlight of the evening was when Jennifer Disney, Department Chair and Professor of Political Science at Winthrop University, received our Distinguished Alum Award for her career achievements, including her groundbreaking book *Women’s Activism and Feminist Agency in Mozambique and Nicaragua* (Temple University Press, 2008). She delivered the evening’s keynote address, excerpts of which are included below.

**From Professor Disney’s Keynote:**

“When I was writing my dissertation, Lenny [Markovitz]’s advice to me was to tell an interesting story. Tonight, I’m going to try to tell a few interesting stories of the topic of comparative intersectional feminisms. When I first ... said I wanted to do a dissertation comparing the revolutions and counterrevolutions in neoliberal democratization processes in Mozambique and Nicaragua, from the perspective of women and feminism, I was not immediately met with open arms. I was warned about the regionalism and territoriality of comparative political scientists and encouraged to study, say, Mozambique and Angola, or Nicaragua and Cuba. But I was persistent ... I wanted to do a cross-regional comparison because that would truly show that despite different regional histories, cultures, languages, and other key variables, the same limitations and opportunities persisted for women in revolutionary contexts in relation to state-party organizations.

“I had the opportunity to co-edit a special issue of *New Political Science* on intersectionality for the global age in December 2015, with my co-editor, Dr. Jocelyn Boryczka.... In this special issue, we challenge our contributors to apply intersectional theories and methodologies to some of the most pressing political issues of our time. The issue includes an article on Hannah Arendt, which is actually written by another Distinguished CUNY Alum Award winner, Kathy Jones; an article on ‘Intersectional citizenship, violence, and lesbian resistance in South Africa;’ articles on sex-selective abortion in the UK, policing transgender populations, rethinking relationships between the Global North and the Global South, and a piece that tries to argue (though [Boryczka] and I think unconvincingly) for the political primacy of class as intersectionality’s binding agent.”

Watch Disney’s full keynote address [here](http://example.com).
Mojúbàolú Olúfúnké Okome is a professor of political science at Brooklyn College and will be teaching at the Graduate Center in Spring 2017.

By Matthew Coogan

Matt: Please describe the general focus of your research and some of your past projects.

Professor Okome: There are a number of inter-related aspects of my research and scholarship that all share a common thread in my focus on globalization. I conceive of globalization as a process that encompasses trade, colonialism, imperialism, and the influence and impact of ideas that gain global currency. My current and past work explores dimensions of globalization and consequent effects on Africans and the West. My work on immigration and globalization is interdisciplinary and timely in many respects. Most recently, in 2013 I concluded a project on state-civil society relations in postcolonial Nigeria that generated two edited volumes.

M: You are well known for your engagement in political activism, in addition to your academic scholarship. Please tell us a bit about your recent political work.

O: I have always been a scholar-activist, but my critical academic stance was singularly focused by the events of April 14, 2014, when 276 secondary school girls were abducted from their boarding school in Chibok, Borno State, Nigeria by Boko Haram. The Nigerian government failed to rescue the abductees and mobilized an extremely weak response to the insurgency. This led me to found #BringBackOurGirlsNYC in consultation with the founders of the movement in Nigeria.

M: What are some of the things you and #BringBackOurGirlsNYC have been doing to advance this goal?

O: My ongoing work on #BringBackOurGirlsNYC is both challenging and significant as the group has lobbied Congress, New York City government as well as state elected officials and UN agencies. The group has collectively coordinated and engaged social media campaigns, organized protests, conducted media interviews, provided background information for the media, organized roundtable discussions, and organized an international conference that brought a founder of the movement from Nigeria to ensure that the Chibok girls’ rescue is kept on the international community’s agenda. In continuation of the advocacy as well as in the interest of public education, I organized a panel discussion for a parallel session of the United Nations Committee on the Status of Women meetings in March 2016 in collaboration with women’s organizations from the United States and Latin America. My research paper on the Boko Haram abductions in Northeastern Nigeria is in process for publication by Social Science Research Council’s African Peacebuilding Network.

M: How do you see your research developing in the future?

O: I want to continue to explore the relationship between political and economic liberalization. This is a significant research project given that a worldwide wave of political liberalization and democratization has been observed which also coincided with grave economic crisis in developing countries. It is also significant given the dialectical relationship between domestic and international pressures for policy change.
Faculty News

Professor George Andreopoulos is currently completing a book on Justice and World Order (with Henry Carey) to be published by Routledge and a special issue of the International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice on Human Trafficking (with Jana Arsovska). In February, he was interviewed in The Security Brief program on CBS Radio to discuss The Real Story behind GITMO.

Professor Jacqueline Braveboy-Wagner’s new book, Diplomatic Strategies of Nations in the Global South: The Search for Leadership (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2016) is now out. She will speak on the topic of the integration of the Global South into the academy at Goethe University in Frankfurt-am-Main on October 6th and 7th. Professor Braveboy-Wagner has also been asked to co-chair a Task Force on the Global South for the International Studies Association with Professor N. Behera from the University of New Delhi.

Professor Forrest Colburn lectured on the political organization of interest groups and strategies for lobbying on May 26th to representatives of the Cámara de Industria in Cuenca, Ecuador. Additionally, on September 9th, Professor Colburn gave a talk on the U.S. elections in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico for the convention of industrialists from Jalisco, Mexico.


Professor Mitchell Cohen has had two books published: The Wager of Lucien Goldmann (Princeton University Press, 2015), and the French edition of Zion and State has been republished as Du Reve sioniste a la reality israélienne (Editions la Decouverte, 2015). Professor Cohen was also interviewed by FoNet, the oppositionist news agency in ex-Yugoslavia about American and Middle East politics.

Professor Stephanie Golob gave a keynote lecture at the Instituto Cervantes in New York on May 6th, 2016, entitled “Democracy’s Future in Spain and North America,” closing the Second International Congress on Historical Linkages between Spain and North America: Past, Present and Future, co-sponsored by CCNY Division of Interdisciplinary Studies and the Universidad de Alcalá de Henares in Spain. Fall 2016 marks the start of her second year as Associate Director of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, where she convenes the Bunche Forum series of events.

Distinguished Professor Carol Gould is currently President of the Human Rights Section of the American Political Science Association and served as the section’s Program Chair for the 2016 annual conference in Philadelphia. On June 3rd, 2016, she gave a plenary talk entitled “Relational Diversity, Structural Injustice, and Participatory Institutions” at the Conference on Diversity, Technische Universität München, Germany.

Professor Janet Gornick has led the Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality since 2009. This past September it was awarded a $2.5 million gift from James and Cathleen Stone, after whom the center has been renamed, to research multiple forms of socio-economic inequality. The gift will fund public, student-led talks, a lecture series, a one-week intensive course on inequality in June, and its mission with the LIS in Europe to collect and archive data used by researchers worldwide.
Professor Jack Jacobs is serving as the Louis and Helen Padnos Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor during the Fall 2016 semester. His book, *The Frankfurt School, Jewish Lives, and Antisemitism*, recently published in paperback by Cambridge University Press, was the subject of a forum in the German Quarterly. An interview with him about his book has been posted as a podcast on the New Books Network. Jacobs was the keynote speaker at a conference in Berlin last semester and also delivered a talk about his current research at the University of California, San Diego.

Professor Keena Lipsitz was invited to speak at a conference on the 2016 election at the University of California, Berkeley in April. She also participated in a roundtable, “The Authority of Aesthetics in Contemporary Politics,” at MoMA PS1 in March. In addition, Lipsitz was quoted in a U.S. News & World Report article about the presidential primary.

Professor John Mollenkopf has co-edited with Professor Manuel Pastor a book addressing the incorporation of immigrants at the metropolitan level, *Unsettled Americans: Metropolitan Context and Civil Leadership for Immigrant Integration* (Cornell University Press, 2016). Additionally, the Center for Urban Research has become the institutional home of *Metropolitics*, a peer-reviewed online journal of public scholarship about cities and urban politics that Professor Mollenkopf co-edits.


Professor Emeritus Peter Ranis was interviewed on Richard Wolff’s WBAI program “Economic Update” on September 16, 2016 concerning his recent book *Cooperatives Confront Capitalism: Challenging the Neoliberal Economy* (University of Chicago Press, 2016).


Professor Charles Tien was quoted in The Washington Post in an article discussing prediction models in the race for the White House. Tien also published an article with Michael S. Lewis-Beck, “The Political Economy Model: 2016 U.S Election Forecasts,” that made a very accurate forecast of the popular vote: 51% Democrat.

Professor John Wallach has published a contribution in the *Oxford Handbook of Classics in Contemporary Political Theory*, “Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue: A Study in Moral Theory,*” Additionally, he has a chapter in *Scientific Statesmanship, Governance, and the History of Political Philosophy* entitled “The Platonic Moment: Transpositions of Power, Reason, and Ethics.” In November, he was invited to give a talk on “Thucydides as a Political theorist” at a conference on the political thought of Sheldon Wolin at York University, Toronto, CA. Last fall he presented talks at the Institute for Historical Research, University of London, the University of California, Santa Cruz, and Cowell College.
Presidential Professor Thomas G. Weiss has just published updated versions of three books: *What’s Wrong with the United Nations and How to Fix It* (3rd edition, Polity, 2016), *Humanitarian Intervention* (3rd edition, Polity, 2016), and his textbook *The United Nations and Changing World Politics* (co-author, 8th edition, Westview, 2016). He also edited a special edition of the *Third World Quarterly*, “The UN and the Global South, 1945 and 2015” (2015). He gave public lectures at the World Economic Forum, the UN University, the University of Geneva, the University of Oklahoma, the UN Staff College, and the University of Minnesota. His research project on the Future UN Development System co-sponsored with the 1-for-7-billion civil society initiative effort included three public forums with candidates to become the next UN Secretary-General, one in London and two in New York; Weiss moderated one of these forums at the Graduate Center in July. Book chapters appeared in four edited collections and journal articles in *International Studies Perspectives*, *International Affairs*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Horizons*, *Great Decisions 2016*, *IPI Global Observatory*, and *Democracy Journal*. In July, he began his two-year term as Andrew Carnegie Fellow, which will result in the book tentatively titled, *Would the World Be Better without the UN?*


Professor Susan Woodward was chair on one panel, discussant on a second, and a member of another panel on the book by Veljko Vujacic, *Nationalism, Myth, and the State in Russia and Serbia*, at the Association for the Study of Nationalities’ annual convention at Columbia University in April 2016.
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.

Humayun Kabir and other members of the Bangladeshi diaspora in New York and beyond have organized in conjunction with international environmental organizations in order to express solidarity with the movement in Bangladesh and to create international opposition to a proposed coal-based power plant near the Sundarban (the largest mangrove forest in the world and the home of the endangered Bengal Tigers, among others). On September 26 they organized a rally in front of the Bangladeshi UN Mission to express their opposition to the proposed power plant (Photo: Dhaka Tribune).

Jessica Mahlbacher received a Provost’s Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship to conduct fieldwork over the summer on the pro-democracy Occupy Hong Kong with Peace and Love and Umbrella Movements for a chapter in a book project on social movement outcomes. While in Hong Kong, she conducted archival research, participant observation in two pro-democracy demonstrations and 35 interviews with professors, politicians, activists and students over the course of six weeks (Photo: Jessica Mahlbacher).

Emma Jacobs received a Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship from the SSRC and spent two weeks at the Clinton Presidential archives and George W. Bush Presidential archives. She also spent five weeks in Washington, DC conducting elite interviews on national security, climate change, and foreign policy planning (Photo: Emma Jacobs).

Tom Waters is a member of the organizing committee of Barnard Contingent Faculty, which is part of United Auto Workers Local 2110. He went to the picket with BCF-UAW 2110 at Long Island University, September 6, 2016 (Photo: Maida Rosenstein) [Insert photo: Thomas Waters]. He also joined the Bushwick tenants rally for affordable housing in Brooklyn, March 30, 2016 (Photo: The Alliance for Tenant Power).

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Puangchon Unchanam joined other members of the Thai diaspora in New York in a rally against a constitutional referendum that was held in Thailand on August 7, 2016. The Thai junta banned criticism of the military-written constitution and prohibited monitoring of the referendum. Activists against the document were arrested, detained, and prosecuted in military courts. The referendum was seen to prolong military rule in Thailand. The rally took place near the UN headquarters on July 30 (Photo: Puangchon Unchanam).

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Nick Micinski received a Provost’s Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship to conduct fieldwork over the summer in Italy and Greece. His summer fieldwork examined cooperation and non-cooperation between EU, UNHCR, and IOM on migration policy. He interviewed 75 policymakers over three months in London, Brussels, Geneva, Rome, Berlin, and Athens. Pictures from his fieldwork show how local communities and activists have responded to the recent large influx of migrants and refugees to Europe (Photo: Nick Micinski).

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Sumru Atuk received a Provost’s Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship to conduct fieldwork over the summer with anti-femicide activists in Mexico and Turkey in preparation for her dissertation proposal (Photo: Sumru Atuk).

Jessica Mahlbacher received a Doctoral Student Research Grant, and a Mellon Globalization and Social Change Fellowship to do research over the summer on the pro-democracy Occupy Hong Kong with Peace and Love and Umbrella Movements for a chapter in a book project on social movement outcomes. While in Hong Kong, she conducted archival research, participant observation in two pro-democracy demonstrations and 35 interviews with professors, politicians, activists and students over the course of six weeks (Photo: Jessica Mahlbacher).

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We asked our new students to share a little bit about their backgrounds and the experiences that shaped their academic interests, leading them to the Graduate Center.

Aaron Braun
Ph.D. Student
Field: Political Theory/Public Policy
Home: Brooklyn, NY
I'm interested in the intellectual history of the labor theory of value (as well as the intellectual history of its discontents), which I hope to link to more current debates over labor policy.

Austin W. Schmitz
Ph.D. Student
Field: Comparative Politics
Home: Baltimore, MD
I am mainly interested in political and economic alliances within authoritarian or semi-authoritarian regimes, and how this relates to the mobilization of anti-system movements. So far I have mainly focused on the Middle East and North Africa.

Benjamin Geier
M.A. Student
Field: American Politics

Brahim Rouabah
Ph.D. Student
Field: Comparative Politics & Political Theory
Home: Algeria
Currently, my research interests revolve around nation-building processes in postcolonial states. I am particularly interested in tracing a genealogy of national identities in North Africa through a focus on the institutional and discursive contexts in which they emerged and evolved.

Calum McMillan
M.A. Student
Field: International Relations

Dean Schafer
Ph.D. Student
Field: Comparative Politics/Political Theory
Home: This is a hard question. First Istanbul, with New York/North Carolina following. My basic interests revolve around the political economy of the Middle East and postcolonialism. Recently I've been focusing on the interaction of international and local economic forces in the territorial space of Turkey.

Dominick DeJoy
M.A. Student
Field: Political Theory
Home: San Diego, CA
My research interests are focused on modern and contemporary political thought, legal theory, political economy and business history.

George Wong Boon Keng
Ph.D. Student
Field: Political Theory
Home: is where the City is! I am self-confessed urbanite, so Tokyo, Singapore, NYC.
If there is a common theme in my research interests, it is the puzzles of everyday life surrounding socio-political order as it relates to the work of Foucault, Lefebvre and Bourdieu. Right now my focus is centred around how and why “democratic leviathans”/competitive authoritarians build and preserve stable hegemony while still keeping procedural aspects of democracy “alive”.

Hristo Voynov
M.A. Student
Field: International Relations
Home: Brooklyn, NY
I am very interested in many aspects of conflict, such as how social media has become a tool of propaganda and Russia’s rising influence in Europe. I am also interested in the Balkans.
Jade Macri  
M.A. Student  
Political Theory

Jeffrey P. Smith  
M.A. Student  
Political Theory

Jessica Huang  
M.A. Student  
Field: International Relations  
Home: Brooklyn, NY  
I am interested in examining U.S.-China relations with emphasis on the rise of China and the Obama administration’s Pivot to China initiative as a response; I am also interested in exploring the extent of each country’s hard and soft powers and how they may influence their roles as global powers.

Kathy Lee  
M.A. Student  
Field: International Relations

Kyong Mazzaro  
Ph.D. Student  
Field: Comparative Politics  
Home: Venezuela and NYC  
I am interested in the dynamics of political criminal violence in hybrid regimes in general, and in Latin America more specifically.

Lina Fajardo  
Ph.D. Student  
Field: International Relations  
Home: Colombia  
I am interested in diplomatic theory and practice, international relations theory, and political theory.

Madeleine Lesser  
Ph.D. Student  
Field: Public Policy  
Home: New York City  
I’m interested in studying policy creation surrounding natural resource rights - domestically and internationally - specifically regarding the inclusion of Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples.

Mason Drastal  
M.A. Student  
Field: International Relations  
Home: Skaneateles, NY  
My research interests revolve around several themes with some overlap between them: conflict resolution, inequality, globalization, political psychology, and social transformation.

Matt Coogan  
Ph.D. Student  
Field: International Relations  
Home: Harlem  
My research has focused on contemporary politics in the Levant, particularly Syria and Palestine. My Master’s thesis analyzed the various strategies for intervention pursued by foreign powers in Syrian domestic affairs from the immediate post-independence period through the current civil war. At the GC, I hope to examine related questions, such as how state behavior is affected by conditions of foreign intervention and occupation.

Mercedes Wilby  
Ph.D. Student  
Field: American Politics  
Home: Upstate New York  
I am interested in studying political communications, particularly government-led communications. I plan to extend my MSc dissertation, which examined how NASA, as a governmental agency, has framed its policy initiatives since the end of the Cold War.

Mette Christiansen  
M.A. Student  
Field: International Relations  
Home: Denmark  
Research interests are ideas of the state, democracy and liberalism, resistance, international organizations and human rights - specifically, I am interested in how politics and power inform agendas that have global implications in the realm of human rights.
Milo Ward
M.A. Student
Field: Political Theory
Home: Los Angeles
Recently, I have been looking at temporal justification in liberalism for the delimiting of economies of inclusion/exclusion.

Nikolay Nyashin
M.A. Student
Field: International Relations
Home: The Bronx
I am interested in the former Soviet Union, specifically Russia and Ukraine. I would like to learn more about the effect of the rise of religion and militant nationalism in those countries and the use of both factors for propaganda.

Randy B. Wagenheim
M.A. Student
Field: Political Theory

Raoshan J. Chowdhury
M.A. Student
Field: Political Theory

Rolicia R. Prescott
M.A. Student
Field: International Relations
Home: My initial home is the Caribbean, i.e. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Brooklyn now serves as my secondary home. My research interests are concentrated on the Global South as it relates to the Caribbean, South America and Africa to a lesser extent. Through continuous research and inquiry, I hope to underscore the impact of the former's ties to the developed countries through a history of slavery and colonialism.

Sabreza Azizi
M.A. Student
Field: International Relations

Saira Rafiee
Ph.D. Student
Field: Comparative Politics
My theoretical approach is informed by the Frankfurt School and psychoanalysis. During the last few years I have become interested in political economy and the neoliberal order. Inspired by David Harvey’s Brief History of Neoliberalism, I would like to work on the transformation of the notion of freedom in Iran after the 1979 revolution.

Sandra Radoff
M.A. Student
Field: American Politics
Home: Born in the Midwest; Adopted NYC as my home
Very interested in inequality and its impact, both real and perceived, on the myth of the American Dream.

Scott Ratner
Ph.D. Student
Field: International Relations
Home: Brooklyn
Research interests are political economy of civil war, arms and energy markets, Middle East.

Vivian Liang
M.A. Student
Field: Political Theory
Home: San Francisco, CA
My interests are in popular culture and how it affects political identity formation in young people of color. In particular, I’m looking at how hip hop and popular sports culture can be used to politicize and motivate young people into becoming more politically active regarding racial dynamics in the United States.

Xi Chen
M.A. Student
Field: Political Theory
Home: New Jersey

Yiannis K. Floropoulos
M.A. Student
Field: International Relations
Home: Bloomfield, NJ
Research interests are international relations and global affairs; international norms, legitimacy and law; the intersection of politics and economy; political ecology and the politics of sustainable development.
Student News

B Lee Aultman, Level-III, is working at the intersections of political theory and trans studies. Their essay, “Cisgender,” was published in the inaugural issue of TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly in 2014, and is already widely cited. This year, they published in the open access peer-reviewed journal, Wagadu. The article, “Epistemic Injustice and the Construction of Transgender Legal Subjects,” uses archival research and trans discrimination claims in American courts to reframe the question of legal disputes in epistemological terms.

Elena Cohen, Level-III, was elected Executive Vice President of the National Lawyers Guild.

Emily Crandall, Level-III, is this year’s graduate fellow for the Committee of the Study of Religion and fellow for the Committee for Global Ethics and Politics.

Emma Jacobs, Level-III, did research this summer in DC, and at the Clinton and George W Bush libraries.

Jessica Mahlbacher, Level-II, presented at APSA, “Nation-Refining and Nation Expanding Nationalism in the Kremlin’s Discourse.”

Christopher Massaro is currently working at Epoch Times as an International Affairs reporter covering international politics, foreign policy, conflict (civil war/internal strife), social movements and contentious politics, terrorism, human rights and humanitarian issues.

Nick Micinski, Level-III, received the Provost’s Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship to conduct fieldwork in Italy and Greece. Nick co-authored with Professor Thomas G. Weiss “International Organization for Migration and the UN System: A Missed Opportunity,” in Future United Nations Development System Briefing 42, September 2016. Nick was also a guest panelist on the BBC World Have Your Say on May 16, 2016, discussing “Refugees and Responsibility.” Nick is introduced at 27:40.

Pierre Losson, Level-III, had two articles published, one in Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, titled “Does the International Trafficking of Cultural Heritage Really Fuel Military Conflicts?” and another in Americas Quarterly, “Taking the Long View on Latin American Democracy.” He also presented a paper at the Latin American Studies Association Conference in May, titled “The inscription of Qhapaq Ñan on UNESCO’s World Heritage List: A comparative perspective from the daily press in six Latin American countries" and one at the Social Theory, Politics & the Arts in Montreal in October on the “The Indigenist Origins of the Claims for Return of Cultural Heritage to their Country of Origin.”

Nick Pehlman, Level-II, received a Boren fellowship to study Russian in Ukraine for three months, while also conducting field research on police reform.
Heidi Andrea Rhodes, Level-I, was awarded the “Harrison Summer Research & Travel Award” this past summer. She also has a book review of Jemima Repo’s The Biopolitics of Gender forthcoming in Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy / Hypatia Reviews Online.


Tom Waters, Level-III, presented a paper on “Visualizing Neighborhood Change in New York City, 1992-2011” at the Urban Affairs Association meeting in San Diego in March. He wrote a Community Service Society policy report with Victor Bach on “Making the Rent 2016: Tenant Conditions in New York City’s Changing Neighborhoods” in May. And he wrote three opinion columns: “Why Bill’s Zoning Plan is in Trouble” for the New York Daily News in February and two for City & State New York, “Why 421-a Doesn’t Deserve to be saved” in January and “Rising Rent Burdens are a Citywide Problem with a Commonsense Solution” in May.

Andrew Wilkes, Level-I, delivered an address at Drew University on October 25th on racial justice and Black Lives Matter along with a workshop on community organizing. Earlier in the month, Wilkes also moderated a panel on social capital and structural inequality at New York University.


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Alumni Spotlight

Jeff Broxmeyer is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Toledo. He completed his Ph.D. in Political Science at the GC in 2014.

By Matthew Coogan

Matt: Please describe the nature, themes and findings of your research at the GC.

Jeff: I wrote my dissertation on the birth of political capitalism the United States. Gilded Age party leaders in New York were among the earliest millionaires in the United States. Of course, republics and the wealthy go together. What distinguished these figures were that their fortunes originated from within the party system. When I started the project, I was surprised to find very little written on the subject. What initially drew me to the question was how politicians today from modest backgrounds have been able to accumulate substantial personal wealth after entering office. I wanted the dissertation to show the phenomenon had precedent.

M: What research projects are you currently working on? What types of courses are you teaching?

J: My recent work looks at how nineteenth-century politicians built governing coalitions around financial speculation. I have an article in the January issue of the Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era that shows Tammany Hall once controlled a vibrant financial sector run directly by political hacks. Also, I’m trying to push out a book manuscript that revises my dissertation and expands the story with research that takes a fresh look at the old spoils system. In terms of teaching, I am tremendously lucky to be in a department that values American political development (APD). I often teach American politics—Intro, Parties, Congress—from an APD perspective.

M: What was the job market like for you? Did you secure your position while still working on your dissertation? Did you consider non-academic jobs?

J: The academic job market is a beast. Or, at least it was for me. I was on the market for almost two years and applied to everything from tenure track to postdocs, and lecturer positions to adjunct gigs. The APSA meat market was killer, but in retrospect, good practice. There can be dead silence for months, including after interviews. I had one skype session with an exciting school and thought it went well. Later, they sent me the same rejection email forty times in three days. I suppose it was a software glitch. You have to take it in stride. What got me through dark times? Friends. Family. Luck. I tried to postpone defending until I had something in hand. When I did, it was easy to finish the dissertation writing quickly.

M: What advice do you have for current students about to enter the job market?

J: Hiring committees are black boxes. Decisions are subject to both formal and informal constraints of the institution and the particular dynamics of colleagues. One universal, however, is that committee members are busy. They try to shrink the pile of applicants. GC students will have valuable teaching experience—essential for R2s and LACs. I wouldn’t recommend hitting the job market without a few publications under your belt. An article can serve as your writing sample and it is likely to stand out more than a dissertation chapter. Keep in mind the peer review process is painfully slow at some journals, which means you need to start early. Finally: don’t go it alone! Reach out to fellow students and support each other by attending mock job talks, co-editing materials, and sharing tips. Be there for the collective drudgery and celebrate the victories.


Jill Norgren (1999) and a Swarthmore College colleague mounted an exhibit at Swarthmore this past winter. It celebrated the lives and accomplishments of American women who ran for elective office between 1850 to 1920. Norgren’s new book, with the working title “The Only Skirt in the Room: Tales of Twentieth Century Trailblazing American Women Lawyers,” was just sent out for review to publishers. In October, she spoke about Belva Lockwood at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.


Michael Sharpe (2008) earned tenure and a promotion to Associate Professor of Political Science at York College, CUNY in Fall 2015. He is a scholar at the Mansfield Foundation U.S.-Japan Network for the Future. This past year, he was invited to give several talks: “International Migration: The Multiple Dimensions of Migration in a Globalized World,” at the University of Curacao, July 21, 2016; “Calling the Nation Home and Contesting National Membership: The Political Incorporation of Latin American Nikkeijin in Japan 1990-2008,” May 20, 2016; “The Political Economy of Migration,” Third Global Japan Forum, Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies, at the University of California, Los Angeles, CA; and “Inheriting the Liberal State: Postcolonial Citizen and Ethnic Migration from Latin America to the Netherlands and Japan,” March 31, 2016, at Villanova University, PA.

Nick Robbins (2014) accepted a one-year position as Visiting Assistant Professor of American Politics in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY.
Colloquium

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.

The Department Colloquium this semester focused on the U.S. presidential election, in a series titled “Election 2016: Unprecedented Politics, New Challenges for Political Science.” Events included:

♦ Sept 20: The State of the Presidential Race and its Meaning featuring faculty and students from The Graduate Center, CUNY
♦ Sept 27: Dark Money and Political Advertising featuring Travis Ridout (Washington State University and the Wesleyan Media Project)
♦ Sept 28: Paying the Price: College Costs & Betrayal of American Dream featuring Sara Goldrick-Rab (Temple University), Mark Zuckerman (The Century Foundation), and Nicholas Freudenberg (CUNY School of Public Health), moderated by Anna Law (Brooklyn College, CUNY)
♦ Sept 29: What We Don’t Talk About When We Talk About the Election featuring Cristina Beltrán (NYU), Joshua Freeman (The Graduate Center CUNY), Michael Javen Fortner (The Murphy Institute, CUNY), and Robert Gangi (Police Reform Organizing Project)
♦ Oct 13: Is There a Digital Divide Between Democrats and Republicans? Why Republicans Can't Work the Remote featuring Daniel Kreiss (University of North Carolina), Jessica Baldwin-Philippi (Fordham University), Michael Benjamin (New York Post) and Heath Brown (John Jay College and The Graduate Center CUNY)
♦ Oct 20: The Coming Crack-Up of American Politics featuring Stanley Greenberg (author and former presidential advisor) and Jennifer Hochschild (Harvard University and president of APSA)
♦ Nov 8: What Do We Do Tomorrow? Election Watch Party and Department Discussion featuring Francis Fox Piven (The Graduate Center CUNY) and Philip Green (Smith College and The Nation)
♦ Nov 11: Beyond the Punditry: Fresh Perspectives on the 2016 Presidential Election featuring Celeste Katz (Mic, online news platform), Sam Wang (Princeton Election Consortium), Monika L. McDermott (Fordham University), and Robert Erikson (Columbia University)

Additional colloquium events included:
♦ Nov 17: Kimberley Johnson on “Segregated Suburbs”
♦ Dec 8: Jillian Schwedler on “The Times of Protest: Multiple Temporalities in Jordan and During the Arab Uprisings”

If you are interested in presenting your work or being a discussant at a future Colloquium event, please contact Elizabeth Newcomer: enewcomer@gradcenter.cuny.edu.

Professional Development Workshops

Professional Development Workshops are designed to help students, especially our incoming class, acclimate to CUNY life on campus. Events this semester included:

♦ Sept 7: Practice job talks by Political Science Ph.D. Candidates: Adam McMahon “How to Cut the National Security State: Lessons from Ike and Carter,” and Joanna Tice-Jen “Thine is the Kingdom: The Political Thought of the 21st Century Evangelicalism”
♦ Sept 8: Jennifer Furlong, Director of Career Planning & Development on “Graduate Student Survival Skills”
♦ Nov 17: Roundtable on Academic Journal Publishing
♦ December 8: “How to Publish in Academic Journals” with Paisley Currah (Founding Editor, TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly), Carol Gould (Editor, Journal of Social Philosophy), Lenny Markovitz (Co-Editor-in-Chief of Comparative Politics), and Lennie Feldman (Associate Editor, Polity)
♦ December 9: “Teaching philosophy and analytical reasoning with argument visualization” Simon Cullen (Princeton)
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 included:

♦ September 15: David Harvey, the Graduate Center, CUNY, “Realization Crises and the Transformation of Daily Life” with discussant Asher Wycoff
♦ October 21: Wendy Brown, University of California-Berkeley, “Financialization, Neoliberalism and the Vocation of the University: Thinking Our Predicament with Max Weber” with discussant Sumru Atuk
♦ November 3: David Ciepley, University of Denver, “Member Corporations, Property Corporations, and Constitutional Rights” with discussant Kamran Moshref
♦ December 1: Lori Marso, Union College, “Chantal Akerman’s Domestic Politics” with discussant Jade Macri

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:

♦ September 14: Javier Osorio, John Jay College, “Multi-Actor Conflict and Violence in Colombia” with Philip Johnson as discussant
♦ September 21: Zachariah Mampilly, Vassar University, “Civilian Resistance to Rebel Rule: Oppositional Agency and the Tamil Tigers” with Nick Micinski as discussant
♦ September 28: Severine Autesserre, Barnard College and Columbia University, “International Peacebuilding and Local Success: Assumptions, Myths, and Reality” with Sarah Shah as discussant
♦ October 5: Michael Sharpe, York College, “Selecting by Ethnicity and Unemployment in the Liberal Democratic State: Remigration Policies in The Netherlands and Japan” with Anaïs Wong as discussant
♦ October 19: Anh Tran, the Graduate Center, CUNY, “Terror as State-BUILDER” with Zachariah Mampilly as discussant
♦ October 26: Jessica Mahlbacher, the Graduate Center, CUNY, “Pushing the Boundaries: Nation-Expanding and Nation-Refining Mobilization in the Kremlin’s Discourse” with Janet Johnson as discussant
♦ November 2: Emma Jacobs, the Graduate Center, CUNY, “Storm Troopers: Securitization, Climate Change, and US Foreign Policy” with Jennifer Mueller as discussant
♦ November 9: Dipali Mukhopadhyay, Columbia University, “Building a ‘Good’ Rebellion in Syria” with Sally Sharif as discussant
♦ November 16: Alper Yildiz, the Graduate Center, CUNY, “Historical Interpretation of Democracy in Turkey and Ecuador” with Ken Erickson as discussant
# Spring 2017 Course Schedule

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<td>♦ Vilhauer, “Kant on the Freedom and Morality” (PT)</td>
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<td>♦ Beinart, “Writing Politics” (WP)</td>
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<td>♦ Robin, “Political Theory of Capitalism” (PT)</td>
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<td>♦ O’Brien, “Blogging and the Public Intellectual” (WP/AP)</td>
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<td>♦ Liberman, “Dissertation Proposal Workshop”</td>
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<td>♦ Bowman, “Comparative Political Economy” (CP)</td>
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<td>♦ Mollenkopf/McCall, “Working Class Politics” (PP)</td>
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## Upcoming Submission and Awards Deadlines

- January 18: The Graduate Center Dissertation Fellowship Competition deadline. The fellowship is open to Level III Graduate Center doctoral students in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Sciences.
- January (date TBA): American Political Science Association (APSA) abstracts due for the 2017 Annual Meeting, “The Quest for Legitimacy: Actors, Audiences and Aspirations” in San Francisco
- January 31: Doctoral Student Research Grant (DSRG) application for June 2017 - May 2018
- February/March (date TBA): Student Affairs Conference Presentation Support for Ph.D. Students for the Spring 2017 semester (January 1, 2017 through May 31, 2017) accepted on a rolling basis
- February 24: Regional Studies Association (RSA) abstracts due for the 2017 Annual Conference, “The Great Regional Awakening: New Directions,” in Dublin, Ireland
- March 20: Political Studies Association (PSA) abstracts due for the 2017 Annual International Conference, “Politics in Interesting Times,” in Glasgow, Scotland
- June 26: Interdisciplinary Social Science abstracts due for the 2017 Conference, “Twelfth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences” in Hiroshima, Japan
In this newsletter we recognize the accomplishments of students, alumni, and faculty. To correct any misperception that all of our work is immediately met with unmitigated praise, we’ve added a new section “Reviewer #2” where we (anonymously) publish a scathing rejection received by someone in the department. This section is an effort to remind us all that no matter who you are or what you write, someone will inevitably hate your work.

“This is an inadequate and quite superficial overview of a growing body of literature on an increasingly important topic. The manuscript mainly reiterates the central theoretical and methodological limitations of the existing literature which have already been identified in previous literature reviews.”

Support the political science department and get a T-Shirt! Tagless. 100% cotton. Stylish.

With your donation of $20 by faculty and alum or $10 by students, the political science department will send you a department T-Shirt as a thank you for supporting our students!

For online donations, forward your confirmation email to Earl Fleary (efleary@gc.cuny.edu) to arrange to receive your T-shirt. Donations are also accepted in the political science department by cash or check.

www.gc.cuny.edu/politicalsciencedonation

Students, faculty, and friends of the department wearing their “Aristotle King-Kong” t-shirts at the department election watch party at 7:30...
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 editor-in-chief Elizabeth Newcomer at homopoliticus.editors.gccuny@gmail.com.