A Note From the Chair

The November 2016 elections captivated our political science department as it did the rest of the country. While the surprise win by Donald Trump will have as yet uncertain impacts, it will certainly impact what we research and what we teach.

For those in American politics, the election results will require new adjustments to forecasting models. There will be renewed study of what influences voting behavior and campaign strategies. Race, class, and identity politics played central roles in the election and will require more in-depth analysis than the initial reports have been able to provide. Those who study Congress and the Supreme Court will have new issues and individuals to analyze. For those who study public policy and government regulations, the new administration will provide new cases to consider.

For those in international relations, the new Trump administration will influence a wide range of foreign policy issues. As a candidate, Trump suggested he will re-examine relations with allies and adversaries. He promised major changes to American immigration and security policy. He questioned continued commitment to important international institutions, including agreements on trade and the environment. As president, how will he follow through on these suggestions? What role will the United States play as a global leader?

The election results also have implications for those in comparative politics. Trump’s election was not a unique event in the United States, as populist parties and politicians are on the rise throughout the world. Groups and individuals that were previously on the fringes are now front and center. The conventional wisdom on political dynamics in many countries is now being called into question, just as it is in the United States.

There is no better place than Washington, D.C. to study these issues. That is what drew many of us to study political science, and what attracted us – faculty and students alike – to come to GW. In the years to come, we hope to provide answers to these questions in our research and our classes.

-Bruce Dickson,
Chair of the Department of Political Science
Faculty In the News

Political Science Faculty Members on the 2016 Elections

Fall 2016 was a busy a semester on the George Washington University campus, with particular respect to our faculty members in the Department of Political Science. Many of our professors were quoted in popular news sources leading up and in response to the November 8 elections. Below is a sampling of our faculty in the news.

On Third Parties

“Third parties tend to lose, their poll numbers tend to decrease over time, and they perform worse on Election Day.”

-JOHN SIDES, in “Jill Stein voters did not deliver Donald Trump the presidency” (by Tara Golshan), Vox, November 11, 2016

On Why the GOP Fell to Trump

“The great message of Trump is that there really are not that many movement conservatives. Since conservative politicians and policies have stopped delivering peace and prosperity, I think it’s more or less inevitable that voters have become dissatisfied.”

-SAMUEL GOLDMAN, in “A conservative intellectual explains why the GOP has fallen to Donald Trump” (by Zack Beauchamp), Vox, September 22, 2016

On WikiLeaks and Russia

“The leaked emails can give Russia’s leaders concrete ‘evidence’ to point to when telling their own population that democratization is not going to solve their problems. Don’t bother pushing for democracy at home. It’s bad over there, too.”

-HENRY HALE, in “Trump a ‘puppet’ of Putin? WikiLeaks target isn’t who you may think, Russia experts say” (by Matt Kwong), CBC News, October 21, 2016

On How Voters Choose a Candidate

“We have overwhelming evidence that voters don’t know that much about the details of foreign policy. People tend to choose the candidate they like first and then take on that candidate’s views as their own. This is the way people make sense of a complicated world. All candidates wrap their policy agendas in simpler values, such as strength or inclusiveness, or stories of heroes and villains as a way of crafting a narrative that voters who don’t follow the details can grab on to.”


On Control of Congress

“We don’t have a lot of episodes of split party control of Congress, but the recent episodes we do have aren’t great recipes for getting a lot done. If you think you’re going to regain control of the government in 2018, it kind of diminishes incentives to come to the table.”

-SARAH BINDER, in “Presidency isn’t enough; Democrats also want Congress” (by Jonathan Tamari), The Philadelphia Inquirer, October 29, 2016
Department Achievements

PhD Graduate Achievements

Congratulations to our doctoral program graduates who have recently accepted new positions. Way to go!

+ Dina Bishara, PhD ’13, has accepted a tenure-track position as an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alabama.

+ Rachel Whitlark, PhD ’13, is a tenure-track Assistant Professor of International Professor of European and Eurasian Affairs at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at the Johns Hopkins University.

+ Lisel Hintz, PhD ’15, has recently accepted a tenure-track job as Assistant Professor of English and International Studies of the Beijing Foreign Studies University.

+ Chunhua Chen, PhD ’16, has relocated to Beijing and started working as an assistant professor at the School of English and International Studies University.

+ Seok Joon Kim, PhD ’16, has begun his postdoc at the International Security Center at the University of Notre Dame.

+ Julia MacDonald, PhD ’16, will begin as a tenure-track faculty member at the Korbell School of International Studies at the University of Denver in fall 2017.

+ Daniel Nerenberg, PhD ’16, is communications manager at Just Vision, an organization with a focus on peace for Palestinians and Israelis.

+ Varun Piplani, PhD ’16, is a Presidential Management Fellow and foreign affairs officer at the U.S. Department of State.

+ Dillon Tatum, PhD ’16, has accepted a tenure-track faculty position at Francis Marion University in South Carolina.

+ Jackson Woods, PhD ’16, has accepted a postdoc position at the Center for the Study of Contemporary China at the University of Pennsylvania.

+ Jacquelyn Schneider, PhD expected ’17, has accepted a tenure-track position at the U.S. Naval War College.

+ Allison Quatrini, PhD expected ’17, will begin as Assistant Professor of Political Science with a focus on East Asia at Eckerd College in fall 2017.

GW Political Science Program Ranked Top 10 in the Country

Information for this article based on original piece written by Megan Cahill, College Factual, November 4, 2016

USA Today College has highlighted the George Washington University as home to one of the best political science programs in the country based on a report from College Factual. College Factual used an 11-part ranking methodology, including average starting salary of graduates, freshmen retention rate, graduation rate, and student loan default rate, to come up with this list, which ranks GW Political Science at #7.

GW Department of Political Science at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking (from USA Today College via College Factual)</th>
<th>#7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Starting Salary for Undergraduate Program Graduates</td>
<td>$43,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Full-Time Faculty Members and Associated Faculty</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Current Political Science Majors (Undergraduates)</td>
<td>571</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spotlight on Faculty

New Comparative Politics Professor David Szakonyi

Assistant Professor David Szakonyi joined the GW Department of Political Science this fall. Professor Szakonyi earned his PhD in comparative politics from the Department of Political Science at Columbia University. He also holds a BA in political and social thought from the University of Virginia. Professor Szakonyi’s research interests include non-market strategy, political economy, corruption, and business-government relations. In the fall, he taught PSC 2366, Government and Politics of Russia, as well as PSC 3192W, Money and Influence around the World.

Professor Szakonyi is excited to have joined the vibrant community of scholars and policymakers in Washington, D.C. After a semester on campus, we are excited to catch up with him about his next endeavors.

Q: What are your academic plans as we head into the new spring semester?

A: I’ll be teaching Money and Influence in Politics Around the World again and then gearing up for more field work in Russia to collect data on the political and economic effects of sanctions.

Q: What projects are you currently working on?

A: I’m currently working on a number of different projects. My book project examines why business people run for elected office and then how they perform once there (i.e., their ability to facilitate investment, promote economic growth, and ensure high quality social services). In addition, I’m investigating the role of nepotism in authoritarian regimes, including how family ties affect individual career paths and interfirm trading. Finally, I have an ongoing project on bosses pressuring their employees to act politically during electoral campaigns around the world.

Q: What is something interesting you’ve learned about GW since arriving in the fall?

A: I guess I’ve been pleasantly surprised by the wealth of incredible internships students get involved in at such young ages. I’ve been able to draw on their insights on numerous occasions to illustrate how policymaking works in the American context.

Q: Can you give us a fun fact that you’d like students to know about yourself?

A: Yeesh. Tough one. I guess that I have a low-level addiction to capsaicin, and grow my own hot peppers to make and bottle hot sauce.

Spotlight on Faculty

Faculty Awards & Achievements

支配


†Eric Kramon: Grant from the International Growth Center (IGC) for his project “Do Candidate Debates Strengthen Democracy? A Field Experiment on the Effects of Debates on Voter Behavior and Electoral Accountability.”

†Yonatan Lupu: National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for his project “Violence, Non-Violence, and the Effects of Human Rights Law.”

†Michael Miller: James Caporaso Award for “Elections, Information, and Policy Responsiveness in Autocratic Regimes.”

†Caitlin Talmadge: Best Book Award (co-winner), International Studies section of the International Studies Association (ISA) for her book The Dictator’s Army: Battlefield Effectiveness in Authoritarian Regimes (Cornell University Press, 2015).
Faculty Publications


ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Diane DuPin, BA ’65, MA ’68, is celebrating 31 years as New Orleans district chairman & gulf coast regional chairman of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions of the Met Opera. The auditions are designed to find exceptional young talent for the Met Opera.

Jeffrey Naftal, BA ’81, has been hired as the director of human resources for the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System, returning to the D.C. area in time for his 35th reunion.

Robert Welsh, BA ’93, returned to the United States, late last year with his family, after six years living in Germany, where Bob was global head of Learning & Development for Deutsche Post DHL. During this time his wife Sapna Krishnasetty Welsh, BBA ’92, coauthored Worldly Women.

Shulong Chu, PhD ’93, worked first at the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations since graduating from GW and in 2001 became a professor of political science and international relations. He is currently director of the Institute of Strategic Studies at Tsinghua University.

Kristen Perkins, BA ’98, was made partner at Rogers Towers, P.A. She practices in the Labor Employment and Litigation departments at the firm’s Fort Myers and Fort Lauderdale offices.

Elizabeth Matto, PhD ’00, is an assistant research professor at the Eagleton Institute of Politics, and co-editor of Teaching Civic Engagement Across Disciplines. She was awarded the Craig L. Bryans Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Mentorship.

Josh Douglas, BA ’02, is a law professor at the University of Kentucky, focusing on election law and voting rights. He just published a new co-edited book, Election Law Stories.

Sora Kim, BA ’05, and Collin Meyers (ESIA’04) were recently engaged!

Jennifer Guzman, BA ’06, was recently promoted to community development officer for Texas Capital Bank. She was also elected board chair for Solutions for Better Living, an organization serving youth living in distressed neighborhoods in Houston, Texas.

James Zarsadiaz, BA ’08, recently wrote a San Francisco Chronicle op-ed entitled, "Why candidates should court Asian American voters." He also went on MSNBC to discuss the importance of the Asian American electorate particularly in swing states.

Patrick Realiza, BA ’11, is currently the social media specialist for the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, an agency under the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development.

Megan Cunningham, BA ’12, is currently in her second year at Boston University School of Law. She interns at the Suffolk District Attorney’s Office in Major Felony, and will be interning in Norfolk County next semester. Next summer, she will be arguing cases in Dorchester District Court.


Jordan Haring, BA ’16, is currently pursuing a Masters of Public Policy (MPP) at GW’s Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration.

Check out the department’s alumni webpage for more News & Notes: departments.columbian.gwu.edu/politicalscience/alumni

Have news to share? Send us a sentence or two telling us about your recent academic or professional accomplishments to polsci@gwu.edu and include “Class Note” and your degree/year in the subject of the email.
Thanks to Our Donors

The Department of Political Science would like to gratefully acknowledge the following generous donors who made a gift to the department between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

Your gifts are used to help us support undergraduate engagement, graduate student training and research, and faculty scholarship. We couldn’t have done any of this without you.

Thank you for your support!

Blue Grass Community Foundation
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Lockheed Martin Corporation
LPP Law
The Baker Family Limited Partnership, LLP
Anna L. Albert, BA ’79
Max Allard, BA ’12
Arden Baker, BA ’57
Ellen S. Baker, MA ’66, Ed D ’81
Alexander A. Barbieri-Boggiano, BA ’16
Maurice A. East+
Theresa M. Farriello, BA ’85
Elissa G. Feldman, BA ’09
Susan C. Flashman, BA ’77
Mark S. Frankel, PhD ’76
Nancy E. Frenkil+
Steven D. Frenkil, BA ’74
Si hem S. Gaha+
Matthew Michael Gula, BA ’03
Jordan A. Haring, Sr., BA ’16
Richard T. Haskins, MA ’83
Feiyu He, BA ’16
Gunnar Leif Louis Heinrich, BA ’05
Robert C. Hertzberg+
John Holder, MA ’90, MPH ’93
Senator David F. Holt, BA ’01
Mrs. Rachel E. Holt, BA ’01
Mr. Sung soo Hwang+
Mr. Joseph H. Johnston, BA ’66
Dr. Alvin Kaltman, MPhil ’70, PhD ’70
Don a I. Kleiner+
Mitchell J. Kleiner+
Bo yan Kovacic, MA ’10
Sun Hwak Kwon, BA ’11
Daniel M. LeCl air, BA ’05
Margaret Leong+
Marc A. Levinson+
Rochelle Levinson+
Isabella L. Ly rio, BA ’16
Caeli R. Mahon, BA ’15
Forrest A. Mal tzman+
John Anthony Mancus, BA ’76
Bruce D. Marzillo+
Daphne Wynne McAdams, BA ’90
Cynthia McInt ick t++
Tyler E. McDonald, BA ’13
Wendy Me lling er+
Myo Min++
P wind Min++
Eman uel Mrktchian, BA ’07
Steven Alexander Montero, BA ’13
Howard Gage Moody, MS ’75
Sandra F. Moody, MA ’71
Ryan W. Moorman, BA ’16
Samuel P. Morse, BA ’16
Wynne Walker Moskop, MA ’75, PhD ’85
Eric M. Nakano, BA ’04
Michael R. Nerenberg, BA ’02
Toshiva Ozaki, PhD ’04
Lynn Perry Parker, BA ’85
Robert A. Poogach, BA ’73, JD ’86
Michael Ray Postar, BA ’76
Elizabeth B. Reddaway, BA ’63
Peter B. Reddaway+
Donald E. Ringel++
Karen E. Ringe++
Peter E. Rogers++
Melanie D. Rose, BA ’16
Mary Anne Salcetti++
Paul Schapiro, BA ’80
Samuel Schwartz, BA ’76
Carol K. Sigelman+
David Charles Silver, BA ’12
Alan Sokol, BA ’85
Peter D. Spadling, BA ’15
Phillip Boyer Stal ley, MA ’99, PhD ’06
Brant T. Talsn i ck, BA ’11
Rosalind Todd Ted ards, MA ’69
Brian P. Teubner, BA ’12
Bryan Tramont, BA ’89
Robert F. Van Voorhees, BA ’69
Paul J. Wahlbeck+
Gabrielle E. Weis berg, BA ’16
Gregory H. Williams, MPhil ’77, PhD ’82
Kristin Sue Williams, Ed D ’96
Kenneth Michael Winneg, BA ’82
Shangrong Wu, BA ’16
David Lane Zaltsman, BA ’79
Mohammad A. Zaman, BA ’15
Samuel Eli Zief, BA ’08
Jon M. Zimmerman, BA ’00

*Friend
**Parent
+Faculty/Staff
~Student

DONATE TO GW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE TODAY

Gifts to the Department of Political Science allow us to further our research and educational goals. Each gift, no matter how large or small, makes a positive impact on our educational mission and furthers our standing as one of the nation’s preeminent programs. You can make your gift to the department in a number of ways:

- Securely online at www.gwu.edu/give2gw just choose “other” under designation and type in “Political Science Department”
- Mail your check, made out to The George Washington University and with “Department of Political Science” in the memo line, to the University at 2033 K Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20052
- By calling the GW Annual Fund at 1-800-789-2611

Department of Political Science
George Washington University
2115 G Street, N.W.
Monroe Hall 440
Washington, D.C. 20052
Phone: 202.994.6290
E-mail: polsci@gwu.edu
Web: politicalscience.columbian.gwu.edu