

## POLS News and Notes

Early Fall 2013 (Vol. 1, No. 1)

University of Connecticut, 365 Fairfield Way, U-1024  
Storrs, CT. 06269-1024, (860) 486-2440  
<http://www.polsci.uconn.edu>

### A note from the department head ....

This has been an exciting summer. We welcome six new faculty to our department, and several of the remaining faculty are gaining national recognition for their scholarship. Our beautiful new space on the fourth floor of OAK Hall here in the center of campus is finally feeling like home after a year of stumbling around amid unopened boxes and occasional visits from construction workers. I hope this new edition of "POLS News & Notes" serves to bring colleagues, emeritus professors and alumni up to speed about all that is going on in our department. And to that end, please don't hesitate to drop me a line and let me know what's happening, so I can include those items in future editions.

David Yalof  
Professor and Department Head  
[david.yalof@uconn.edu](mailto:david.yalof@uconn.edu)

### Recent Faculty Publications, Conferences and Honors



**Mark Boyer** was awarded the title of *Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor*, the highest honor bestowed on professors at UCONN. Mark becomes the very first social scientist to be designated a BoT Distinguished Professor.



**Thomas J. Hayes** recently published an article: "Responsiveness in an Era of Inequality: The Case of the U.S. Senate." *Political Research Quarterly*. (September 2013 66: 585-599)

## POLS Welcomes Six New Faculty!

**Zehra Arat** does research in the subfields of comparative politics, political theory, and international relations. Her publications focus on human rights, with an emphasis on women's rights, as well as processes of democratization, globalization, and development. She also conducts empirical research by employing both qualitative and quantitative methods. Currently she is working on several projects, including: theorizing women's rights and empowerment and assessing the progress; the gap between the theory and practice as reflected in the relationship between human rights scholars and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); the impact of domestic actors (e.g., political parties) and politics on human rights policies; and human rights discourse and practices in Turkey since the 1920s.

**Meina Cai** joins UConn as an assistant professor of political science with a joint appointment in the Asian American Studies Institute. Her primary research interests lie in the political economy of transition and emerging economies. Her current research focuses on land property rights and their impact on rural governance and development in China. Professor Cai received her Ph.D. in political science and MS in agricultural and applied economics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Prior to joining UConn, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard.



**Veronica Herrera** has received the Norton Long Young Scholars award, given to the most promising scholars in urban studies who are completing or have completed their Ph.D. within the last three years, and who submitted a paper proposal for the 2013 APSA.



**Fred Lee** recently published an article: "Reconsidering the Jefferson–Hemings Relationship: Nationalist Historiography without Nationalist Heroes, Racial Sexuality without Racial Significance." *Political Research Quarterly*. (September 2013 66: 500-515)



**Ben Newman** was interviewed by *the Washington Times* as a result of his recent publication "The 'Daily Grind': Work, Commuting and Their Impact on Political Participation," which suggests that long commute times have a particularly negative impact on political participation. (See, Newman, Benjamin J., Joshua Johnson, and Patrick L. Lown. "The "Daily Grind": Work, Commuting, and Their Impact on Political Participation." *American Politics Research* (2013)).



Congratulations to **Evelyn M. Simien**, who has been elected to the APSA executive council.



Neal Weare, the lead counsel for *Tuaua v. US*, has contacted **Robert Venator** for help in preparing amicus briefs for a potential Supreme Court appeal. More information on the case can be found at: [www.equalrightsnow.org](http://www.equalrightsnow.org)

## Students on the Rise



**Yazmín A. García Trejo** participated in the Mini-Conference for Women of Color in Political Science in Chicago on August 28, 2013. During the opening remarks of the conference she learned that the Department of Political Science at UConn had helped sponsor the event



**Gregory P. Williams** published an interview with Immanuel Wallerstien in the most recent edition of *World Systems Research*. (Summer: 19,2).



**Molly Rocket, Class of 2015** participated this summer in an internship spearheaded by UConn alumni in Washington, D.C. Rockett was an intern with Washington Analysis, (cont'd)

(cont'd from page 1)

**Jane Gordon's** first book, *Why They Couldn't Wait*, was listed by the *Gotham Gazette* as one of the four best recent books on civil rights. She is co-editor of *The Companion to African American Studies*, the NetLibrary Book of the Month in February 2007, and *Not Only the Master's Tools*. She is also the co-author of *Of Divine Warning: Reading Disaster in the Modern Age*. Her book, *Creolizing Political Theory*, will be published in fall 2013 by Fordham U. Press. Her recent essay, "Theorizing Contemporary Practices of Enslavement," won the APSA 2012 Foundations in Political Theory Best Paper Prize. She is the president-elect of the Caribbean Philosophical Association.

**Thomas Hayes** specializes in the fields of American politics and political behavior, with an emphasis on economic inequality. His work has been published (or is forthcoming) in *Political Research Quarterly*, *Social Science Quarterly*, and *Congress and the Presidency*. His current research projects examine the degree to which institutional decisions influence attitudes toward disadvantaged groups, the factors that lead states to adopt an income tax, the electoral components that lead to unequal representation, and the reasons that states adopt voter identification laws. He received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Riverside in 2012.

a private sector company that produces research on the effects of federal policies and regulations on corporate investments. The company's executive vice president, a 1966 graduate of UConn. Rockett says she was excited to expand her political portfolio. Having worked in the offices of U.S. Rep. Joseph Courtney and U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, she had experience in the government campaigning side of politics, but was looking for something more.



**Vanessa Lovelace's** dissertation project, "Genealogies of Liberty: An Embodied Black Freedom Trail" has won the University wide "3 Minute Thesis Competition." This is a research communication competition developed by The University of Queensland, which challenges graduate students to present a compelling oration on their thesis and its significance in just three minutes in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience. The award provides winners with research money to further the progress of their projects.

## Calendar of Events at POLS

**October 7, 12:15pm, Oak 438**

Ernie Zirakzadeh, Professor. "For What Do We Cheer? Nietzsche, Moral Stands, and Social-Movement Research" Paper:  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/07393148.2013.813701>.

**October 14, 3:30pm, Oak 438**

Roundtable on "Meeting the Challenges Facing Women in Academia" (Graduate Student Association). Participants include Prof. Zehra Arat, Assoc. Prof. Shayla Nunnally, and PhD candidates Jamie Huff and Sarah Cote Hampson.

**October 28, 12:15pm, Oak 438**

Doug Spencer, Associate Professor of Law and Public Policy (UConn). "The Geography of Discrimination." Paper:  
[www.dougspencer.org/research/geography\\_of\\_discrimination.html](http://www.dougspencer.org/research/geography_of_discrimination.html)

**November 11, 12:15pm, Oak 438**

Lyle Scruggs, Professor. "Comparative Welfare State Generosity: National and International Trends." (POLS Fall Faculty Research Colloquium Series)

**December 2, 12:15pm, Oak 438**

Jeremy Pressman, Associate Professor. "Why Military Force Trumps Arab-Israeli Diplomatic Openings." (Pols Fall Faculty Colloquium Series)

**Paul Herrnson's** interests include Congress, political parties and elections, money and politics, and voting technology and ballot design. He has advised the U.S. Congress, the Maryland General Assembly, the Federal Election Commission, and numerous governmental and nongovernmental organizations on matters pertaining to campaign finance, political parties, and election reform. He has published numerous books, including *Voting Technology: The Not-So-Simple Act of Casting a Ballot*, *Congressional Elections: Campaigning at Home and in Washington*, *The Financiers of Congressional Elections*, and *War Stories from Capitol Hill*. He has written more than 100 journal articles and book chapters and is the editor of the *Real Politics in America* book series with Pearson Longman.

**Fred Lee** is a political theorist who works across the fields of continental political theory, critical race theory, and American political development. His research aims to historically and conceptually understand how the peoples of the United States have been constructed through a multiplicity of racial divisions. In political theory, he focuses on the nexus of popular action, state-level decision, and public identification. His interests in cultural studies extend into questions of historical memory, media representation, and everyday politics.