

POLS News and Notes

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A Note from the Department Head ...



This past April 15 I attended a memorial service celebrating the life of Louis Gerson, former Department Head, who passed away on October 16, 2016 (shortly before his 95th birthday). The service featured stories from Dr. Gerson’s amazing life, as told by his closest family members and friends. The crowd of 85 in attendance also

celebrated his career as a teacher and scholar here in Storrs. Professors Emeriti Frederick Turner and Henry Krisch recalled their experiences as young professors under Dr. Gerson’s tutelage. Also on hand were Professors Emeriti Betty Hanson, Larry Bowman and Mort Tenzer, among others. I was especially happy to chat with Florence Selleck, who as administrative coordinator helped Lou Gerson and other department heads that followed him run the unit for 38 years before she retired in 1997. Though I first arrived in Storrs after both Florence and Lou departed the scene, events like this remind me of the legacy they left, one that we continue to benefit from today. On that grateful note, let me wish all of you and your families a happy and healthy summer break.

-- David Yalof

Faculty Publications, Conferences and Honors



Professor **Shayla Nunnally**’s book titled *Trust in Black America* (2012) was cited in an amicus curiae brief of The National League of Cities submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in the recent case of *Fisher v. University of Texas* (2013, 2016). Professor Nunnally was also quoted in the *Hartford Courant* regarding recent student misconduct issues related to the evocation of President Trump’s name as a taunt against minority students (See <http://www.courant.com/politics/hc-trump-high-school-racial-taunt-20170303-story.html>).

Honors Students’ Research Draws Notable Observers



Adam Kuegler (left) discusses his research with President Herbst

Every spring the POLS Honors Program – currently under the direction of Alan Bennett Honors Professor Jennifer Sterling-Folker – hosts a poster session and reception to celebrate the research projects and theses undertaken by its honors students during the past academic year. Nicknamed “REPS” (Research Excellence in Political Science), the event is typically held concurrently with Frontiers of Undergraduate Research, a university-wide display of student scholarship.

This year’s April poster session attracted its largest crowd ever to the fourth floor of Oak Hall. Visitors included political scientists from the President’s office (President Herbst herself was there), the Dean’s office (Associate Dean Cyrus Zirakzadeh) and the Center for

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Professor **Shareen Hertel**, Corinne Tagliarina and Catherine Buerger published their article “Cheap Talk on Food: Party politics in India and the challenge of implementing the right to food” in *Human Rights Quarterly* (39.2, May 2017).

In addition, Professor Hertel was active at the 2017 International Studies Association conference in Baltimore, presenting on a roundtable organized by David Forsythe on the Future of Human Rights. (Hertel’s contribution to the roundtable was entitled “Defending Human Rights in Angry Times: Why economic rights are moving- or should- from the margins to the mainstream of the movement”). She also presented her own paper on a separate panel entitled “Circumscribing Economic Rights.”



Professor **Zehra Arat**’s article “The Limits of Tolerance and LGBT Rights in Turkey”, co-authored with Caryl Nuñez, was published in the *Human Rights Review* (18.1, March 2017). Professor Arat also published “Political Parties and Women’s Rights in Turkey” in the *British Journal of Middle East Studies* (44.2, March 2017) – in that article she acknowledged the work of Bennett RAs

Rubayet Lasker and **Emma Morelli**. In addition, Professor Arat presented a paper titled “Normative Challenges to Human Rights: Selective Treatment of Different Rights and Rival Global Norms”, convened and spoke at the roundtable titled “Gender Inequality, Intersectionality, and Capitalism: What is to be Done?” and served as a commentator on the Junior Scholar Symposium titled “Human Security, Refugees and Migration: Racism, Discrimination, and Human Trafficking” at the annual convention of the ISA in Baltimore. Additionally, Professor Arat was invited to give a talk at the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs and the Middle Eastern Studies Program at Syracuse University titled “Thwarted Progress and Declining Trends: Women’s Rights in Turkey.” Back here in Storrs, Professor Arat participated in the panel titled “Words, Violence, and Terror: Human Rights in Turkey”, sponsored by the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute and the Human Rights Institute on March 30th. She also serves as the faculty advisor for the newly established student club, Youth for Socialist Action.



Professor **Jennifer Sterling-Folker**’s chapter “Be Careful What You Wish For: Positivism and the Desire for Relevance in the American Study of IR,” was published in the edited volume, *What’s the Point of International Relations?* (eds. Rorden Wikinson, Jan Selby, and Synne Dyvik) published by Routledge Press in 2017.



Professor **Jeremy Pressman**’s article entitled “Throwing Stones in Social Science: Nonviolence, Unarmed Violence, and the First Intifada”, will appear in a forthcoming issue of *Cooperation and Conflict*.

Honors Students

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Undergraduate Education
(Jennifer Lease Butts and Vin Moscardelli).

There were 28 projects in all featured at the 2017 REPS.

The list of research projects included:

“**Patchwork Solidarity: Organized Labor within Latin America’s Garment Industry**”

(Christopher Raymond);

“**‘Reel’ Police, Prosecutors, and Portrayals of the Use of Force: Assessing Law & Order: SVU**” (Amy Saji);

“**Problematic Frames: The Perception of Muslim vs Non-Muslim American Terrorists in US Media**” (Madiha Shafqat);

“**Pollution, Resistance, and Representation in Latin American Cities**” (Emily Steck);

“**The Politics of Remembering: Race & Gender in Women of Color Nursing Representations**”

(Dacia Walcott); “**Extremist Headhunting: How the Islamic State Radicalizes/Recruits Members Through Twitter**”

(Mairead Loschi); “**Representing America: Citizens Impacted by Descriptive Representation in Congress**” (Evelyn Luchs);

(Evelyn Luchs);

(Evelyn Luchs);

(Evelyn Luchs);

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Professor **Christine Sylvester's** chapter "Afterwards" was published in *Revisiting Gendered States: Feminist Imaginings of the State in International Relations* (eds. Swati Parashar, Ann Tickner, and Jacqui True) by Oxford University Press. Professor Sylvester's article "Thinking Like An Artist-Researcher About War", co-authored with Jill Gibbon, was published in *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* (45.2, 2017). Additionally, Professor Sylvester gave a talk titled "Curating and Re-Curating America's Wars in Vietnam and Iraq", at the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute Fellowship Year Seminar on January 25, 2017.



Professor **Brian Waddell** has published his book, *What American Government Does*. Co-authored with Stan Luger, the book was published by Johns Hopkins University Press.



According to the Oxford University Press report on ISA Journals, Professor **Stephen Dyson's** article from 2006 titled "Personality and Foreign Policy: Tony Blair's Iraq Decisions" (originally published in *Foreign Policy Analysis*) was the 10th most downloaded article in 2016, nearly a decade after its original publication.



Professor **Charles R. Venator Santiago** is giving several presentations organized around the centennial of Puerto Ricans being granted U.S citizenship under the Jones Act in 1917. Also, he published a popular [Time op-ed](#) titled "Are Puerto Ricans Really Americans?" which was first posted on March 5, 2017.



Professor **Thomas Hayes** recently gave a talk titled "[On Presidential Powers](#)" at Eastern Connecticut State University.



Professor **Prakash Kashwan** published a blog titled "[Do conserved tropical forests and wildlife protect the rights of people who rely on them?](#)" about his recent book titled *Democracy in the Woods: Environmental Conservation and Social Justice in India, Tanzania, and Mexico*. Professor Kashwan's blog was republished by the Associated Press and by the SFGATE (sister-site of the San Francisco Chronicle) science portal Phys.org, in addition to several more regional and local area portals. Professor Kashwan has also been commissioned by the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) to direct the Economic Justice Summer Institute to be held in Maputo, Mozambique between June 15-25. The theme of this year's summer institute is "Economic Justice in Africa: Climate Change, Inequalities, and Development."

Honors Students

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"Young Women's Expectations and Preferences During the 2016 Democratic Primaries" (Emma Morelli); "Violence Against Women & Girls: Evidence for the Normative Gap Between Rhetoric & Law" (Susan Naseri); "Running Comes Before Winning: Explaining the Gender Gap in State Legislatures" (Marissa Piccolo); "Spiritual Social Justice: A Comparative Study of Religious Political Activism Same-Sex Marriage" (Erin Puglia) "The Impact of Organizational Affiliation on Contributions to Super PACs" (Kyle Adams) "Gender in Politics: Super PAC Donors and Contribution Behavior" (Van Augur) "Stigmatized: A Study of Refugee and Economic Migrant Integration in French Politics & Culture" (Lucas Bladen); "The Personal is Political: Gender and Political Ambition in College Students" (Caitlin Briody); "Seize the Memes of Production! Marxist Theory & Discourse"

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Professor **Jeffrey Lefebvre** gave a talk in March at a Department of Defense Seminar on Iran in Africa. The audience was U.S. government analysts and defense professionals in Washington D.C. Professor Lefebvre also spoke with the analysts about his *Middle East Policy* article entitled “Iran in the Horn of Africa: Outflanking U.S. Allies.”



This past February, Professor **Jeremy Pressman** co-authored a post in the *Washington Post's* Monkey Cage on the state of protest in the U.S. titled “[In Trump’s America, who’s protesting and why? Here’s our February report.](#)”



Professor **Jeffrey Dudas** published an essay at the Stanford University Press blog titled “[Great Father Rising.](#)” He published his recent book, *Raised Right: Fatherhood in Modern American Conservatism* (2017), with Stanford University Press as well.



Professors **Lyle Scruggs** and **Thomas Hayes** extensively summarized their findings in a recent paper at the London School of Economics’ U.S. Center blog. The paper is titled “[How increasing wealth concentration and inequality leads to less generous state welfare policies.](#)”



Professor **Jeffrey Ladewig** has been selected as the third annual recipient of the University Teaching Innovation Award from UCONN’s Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Additionally, Professor **Virginia Hettinger** has been selected as one of this year’s recipients of UCONN’s faculty Mentorship Excellence Award in recognition of her outstanding mentorship of undergraduate researchers.



Professor **Jeffrey Ladewig** presented a paper titled “Murder and presidential Elections: A cultivation-based issue ownership theory of local television news and its geographic structure” at the Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas in April.



Professor **Veronica Herrera** was selected for a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, administered by the Fellowships Office of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. Professor Herrera will be one of a group of approximately 20-24 fellows whose work ranges across a large number of fields including STEM, social sciences, and humanities. She will be working with Harvard’s Department of Regional Planning and Urbanism, and its Latin American Studies Center will be hosting her research year.

Honors Students

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Through Internet Memes (Sebastian Chamorro); **“The Criminal Court System & Campus Sexual Assault”** (Eliza Conrad); **“I Wish I Wasn’t in Dixie: Early Voting Restrictions & Black Turnout in North Carolina”** (Carl Costa); **“Corporate & Citizen Trust of US Government Surveillance in National Security”** (Shea Flanagan); **“The Polarization of Voting Laws”** (William Fricke); **“Analyzing Partisanship of Bush vs. Obama Supreme Court Appointees”** (Blake Giosa); **“A Means to an End: How Lobbyists Form Relationships with CT State Legislature Staff”** (Lindsey Heiman); **“Invisible Americans: A Legal History of Non-Citizen Nationality and U.S. Empire”** (Maye Henning); **“Filling the Basket of Deplorables? Donald Trump’s Victory in 2016 Republican Primary”** (Peter Hopko) **“Democratization Debunked: A Realist Analysis of US Democratization in Bosnia and Iraq”** (Ryan Kauer); **“Examining the Impact of Women in Local Governance, Social Programs and Female Empowerment in the Asia-Pacific”** (Rebecca

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Professor **Kimberly Bergendahl** and Academic Advisor **Suzanne Waterman**, in collaboration with the Center for Career Development, hosted an Internship Panel on March 21st featuring Isabel Blank (CT-ACLU), Amanda Campanaro (Office of the CT Attorney General), Rebecca Day (NCIS), Cheyenne Haslet (Hartford Courant), and Jilliane Lyon (IRIS). Dr. Bergendahl's "Women and the Law" class also participated in panel and poster presentations on March 24th in observation of Women's History Month.



Professor **Christine Sylvester** has authored a chapter on "Post-Colonialism," in *Globalization of World Politics* (John Bayliss, Steve Smith, Patricia Owens, eds), published by Oxford University Press.



Professor **Oksan Bayulgen** presented a paper titled "Endurance of competitive authoritarian regimes: Elite strategies and neo-authoritarian stabilization in Turkey" (co-authored with **Sercan Canbolat** and **Ekim Arbatli**) at the Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting. She also served as a discussant on the panel 'Politics within Authoritarian Regimes' at that conference. Additionally, Dr. Bayulgen was a speaker on a panel at UCONN titled "Words, Violence, and Terror: Human Rights in Turkey" sponsored by the UCHI and the Human Rights Institute on March 30th. She also gave a talk on "Banking the Unbankable, empowering the powerless: implications of microfinance for development" at the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSAELI) program workshop organized by the Global Training and Development Institute on April 4th.

Active Emeriti



Professor Emeritus **Frederick Turner** was commemorated as a past president at this year's WAPOR 70th anniversary in Lisbon, Portugal. Professor Turner has also organized and chaired a panel at WAPOR in Barcelona, Spain on November 24, 2016 titled "Political Trust in Perspective: National and International Comparisons." In addition, Professor Emeritus **Carlos Elordi** presented a paper on "The Impact of Emotional and Personal Values on Support for Donald Trump: A Segmentation Approach" at WAPOR in Barcelona, Spain on November 24, 2016.

Graduate Student Achievements



Ph.D. candidate **Meghan Peterson** has published a book review of Drucilla Cornell and Nick Friedman's *The Mandate of Dignity: Ronald Dworkin, Revolutionary Constitutionalism, and the Claims of Justice* in the November 2016 *Human Rights Quarterly*. She has been offered an adjunct faculty position at Central Connecticut University's Institute of Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP), where she will focus on criminal justice issues.

Honors Students

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Kaufman); "**Don't Steal My Seat! Incumbent Vulnerability in U.S. House Elections**" (Adam Kuegler); and "**Shifting Tectonics: State and Civilian Responses to Secularism in Bangladesh**" (Rubayet Lasker).



Sarah Cote Hampson's (Ph.D. 2014) book, *The Balance Gap: Working Mothers and the Limits of the Law*, was recently published by Stanford University Press. Anne-Marie Slaughter of Princeton University commented that it is "a valuable read for scholars and activists alike, this book integrates empirical evidence and legal theory in an admirably readable manner."



Jason Charrette (Ph.D. 2016) has accepted a tenure-track position as assistant professor of political science at Casper College in Wyoming.



Melanie Meinzer (Ph.D. 2017) has accepted a Visiting Assistant Professor position at Saint Olaf College in Minnesota, where she will teach courses in International Relations, Middle Eastern Politics, and Environmental Politics.



Takiyah Harper-Shipman (Ph.D. 2017), who recently defended her dissertation, has been selected as the 2017 Doctoral Commencement Ceremony Student Speaker.



Yazmin Garcia (Ph.D. 2015) has a permanent job with the U.S. Census Bureau at the Center for Survey Measurement and will continue to research language and cross-cultural research.



Thomas Briggs and **Erica MacDonald** have been featured in a [video](#) produced by university sophomores promoting the Humanities House.



Derick Becker (Ph.D. 2008) has accepted a tenure-track position teaching in the international relations department at the International University in Sarajevo.



Vanessa Lovelace (Ph.D. 2017) was awarded the Allen-Bernson Postdoctoral Fellowship at Brandeis University in Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies. This is a two-year Postdoctoral fellowship.



Stephen Dyson and **Mathew Parent's** article, "The Operational Code Approach to Profiling Leaders: Understanding Vladimir Putin," has been accepted by the journal *Intelligence and National Security*.

Undergraduate Students on the Rise



Sydney Carr, a junior in the honors program majoring in political science and minoring in Africana studies, has been named a 2017 APSA Ralph Bunche Summer Institute (RBSI) Scholar. Sydney is a Dean's list scholar with a wide range of research and internship experience.



Paul DaSilva and **Emilyn Tuomala** represented UConn at the Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference in Annapolis, which took place on April 11-13, 2017.



Marissa Piccolo has been accepted at the University of Chicago Law School and at the University of Virginia Law School. Before attending law school, she will spend a year as a UK Fulbright Scholar at Queen's University Belfast, earning a Master's in Legislative Studies and Practice.



Reem Elazazy was one of the first three students profiled for the [CLAS Class of 2017](#) series on the CLAS Website. In addition, several POLS Majors have been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most widely recognized honors society celebrating achievement in the liberal arts and sciences. The elected students are as follows:

Kayla Michele Ahmed
Katharine Barkhurst (*Hartford*)
Diana Lee Bib
Amanda Lynn Campanaro
Carl Burnham Costa
Rebecca Adrienne Day
Erin Ann Dunn
Ian Charles Marcel Fignon
Shea Elizabeth Flanagan
Blake Richard Giosa
Kelsey Nichole Hammerman
Cheyenne Livingston Haslett

William Henry Johnston
Ryan James Kauer
Rebecca Siner Kaufman
Ainsley Shea McMahon
Emma Margaret Morelli
Stephen Leo Porcello
Madiha Shafqat
Charles Rowan Smart
Mary Elizabeth Szarkowicz
Nicole Lyn Tomassetti
Chanwon Yoon



Anna Middendorf (double major in POLS/Human Rights) was accepted for a Master's in Human Rights at the London School of Economics and will enroll beginning in Fall 2017.



Christopher Raymond (POLS/Human Rights '17) was accepted into a doctoral program on Labor Studies at Cornell University.



Susan Naseri and **Abigail LaFontan** have been selected as the initial recipients of the 2017-18 Alan B. Bennett Honors Scholarship in Political Science. In addition, POLS Honors student **Caitlin Briody** has been nominated to be a 2017 Gaither Junior Fellow and a 2017 Carnegie Junior Fellow. **Rebecca Kaufman** has been nominated to be a 2017 Truman Scholar.



Molly Blessing (a POLS minor) will pursue an MIA degree at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA).

Alumni in the News



John Dearborn (POLS '13) is completing his fourth year in the Political Science Doctoral Program at Yale University, and will be presenting a paper from his dissertation at the MPSA titled "The 'Proper Organs' for Presidential Representation: A Fresh Look at the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921."



Meghann E. Lafountain (POLS' 07, JD. '11) opened her own immigration law firm in Middletown, CT in January 2017. She handles asylum cases, removal defense/deportation matters, family-based cases, naturalization and citizenship issues, as well as international adoptions and other matters involving extension or change of status.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Jeff Dudas: *Raised Right: Fatherhood in Modern American Conservatism*. 11:30-12:30 in Oak 438. Lunch will be served. See (<http://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=26420>)

Thursday, April 27, 2017

POLS Awards Ceremony and Pi Sigma Alpha Induction. 6:30 pm in Oak 101 (reception to follow in Oak 408).

If you'd like to include an event on this list – either a talk you're giving next semester elsewhere on campus or a talk you'd like the department to cosponsor/cross-promote – please contact Professor Thomas Hayes (thomas.hayes@uconn.edu)