UCONN
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

# POLS News and Notes

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## A note From the Department Head …

Frigid weather finally descended on Storrs in mid-February, driving everyone indoors for the time being. Fortunately, we have been blessed by visits from a series of top-notch scholars at elite institutions nearby to keep us more than occupied. As part of the PSGSA's Visiting Lecture Series. Dr. Jane Mansbridge from Harvard University (2/12) spoke on the role of "legitimate coercion" on February 12. Others in the series include Dr. Donald Green of Columbia University (3/30), Dr. Brendan Nyhan of Dartmouth College (4/20) and Dr. James Scott of Yale University (4/27) (See pp. 8-10 for details on these and other speakers). We also received good news from both of our tenure-track faculty searches this past year. Beginning this fall we will be joined by Dr. Alexander Anievas, a scholar on global political economy issues from the University of Cambridge, and Dr. Yonatan Morse of Georgetown University, who will teach comparative politics at the Stamford campus. Please feel free to join us for any of our upcoming speaker events, as well as or for our department's annual awards ceremony, scheduled to take place at 6:30 pm on Thursday April 28 in Laurel Hall 101. Alumni, emeriti, and friends of the department are all invited to help us celebrate our students' accomplishments together with their families and our faculty.

—David Yalof

## Recent Faculty Publications, Conferences and Honors

**Professor Shareen Hertel** has won the 2015 Edward C. Marth Mentorship Award, given each year to a faculty member in recognition of outstanding mentoring of graduate students. Letters of support mentioned her "extraordinary ability to connect graduate students to opportunities for research, training, and funding," her mentoring through the Economic and Social Rights Research group of the Human Rights Institute and the Bangalore Mediation Center Internship Program, and her mentorship of students through co-authorship and publishing.

## Former POLS Major Helps Secure Release of Americans in Iran

*(The following is based on information found in The New York Times and other reports)*

Brett H. McGurk (UCONN POLS '96) was President Obama's lead negotiator in a secret prisoner swap with Iran last month. By his own account, McGurk choked up as he boarded a Swiss government jet in Geneva on the night of January 16 and greeted three Americans who had just arrived from years of detention in Tehran. More than anyone else, he was responsible for their freedom. "It was an incredibly emotional moment," he said.

For the 42-year-old lawyer who began his diplomatic career in 2004 as legal advisor to both the Coalition

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The Office of the Vice President for Research has awarded the Spring 2016 Scholarship Facilitation Fund (SFF) Award to professors **Jeremy Pressman** (for *U.S. Senate Hearings, Gender, and Universities*) and **Lyle Scruggs** (for the Political Economy Workshop). The SFF is designed to assist faculty in the initiation, completion, or advancement of research projects, scholarly activities, creative works, or interdisciplinary initiatives that are critical to advancing the faculty member's scholarship and/or creative projects.

**Professor Evelyn Simien's** latest book, *Historic Firsts: How Symbolic Empowerment Changes U.S. Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2015), was a finalist for the National Conference of Black Political Scientists' 2016 W.E.B. Du Bois Distinguished Book Award. The book traces the influence of the presidential campaigns of U.S. Rep. Shirley Chisholm and the Rev. Jesse Jackson on the 2008 Democratic primary battle between U.S. Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. The entrance of "historic firsts" onto the political scene, Prof. Simien argues, catalyzes long-term upswings in political interest, participation, and efficacy. UConn Today profiled her work here: <http://today.uconn.edu/2016/01/a-candidate-like-me-historic-firsts-in-us-politics/>.

The Woodrow Wilson Foundation (WW) has **awarded Professor Veronica Herrera** a 2016 Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty. The Fellowship is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by the WW. It allows exceptional junior faculty to pursue scholarly research and writing during the Fellowship year in order to facilitate the acquisition of tenure. It includes a $30,000 maximum stipend (given to the institution); a $1,500 research, travel, or publication grant (given to the Fellow); a mentoring program; and participation in the 2016 Career Enhancement Retreat.

**Professor David Richards'** article, "The Myth of Information Effects in Human Rights Data," has been accepted for publication in *Human Rights Quarterly*. He also received a grant from Social Progress Imperative (http://www.socialprogressimperative.org) to create data for their upcoming Social Progress Index and People's Report Card. Professor Richards will be giving a talk in April at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, on his work in the area of gender and violence. He is also the coauthor of a paper on international law and gender violence law to be presented at the upcoming International Studies Association annual meeting in March.

## RELEASED AMERICANS

*(Continued from page 1)*

Provisional Authority (CPA) and the United States Ambassador in Baghdad, it was a remarkable professional triumph — another chapter in a career that has prospered through Republican and Democratic administrations, and kept him at the heart of America's most tangled relationships in the Middle East.

Even as Mr. McGurk was meeting furtively with Iranian officials over 14 months to negotiate the release of the Americans, he was leading a very public campaign as Mr. Obama's special envoy to the global coalition fighting the Islamic State. He continues to be deeply involved in the complex politics of Iraq. The CPA which McGurk once advised was the American civilian administration that ran Iraq in the months after the 2003 invasion. "He's a doer, who is nonideological, pragmatic, which very much meshes with the president's approach," notes Benjamin Rhodes, President Obama's Deputy National Security Advisor.

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Professors **Shayla Nunnally**, **Paul Herrnson**, and **David Yalof** all participated in the panel discussion, "Making Sense of the Topsy-Turvy 2016 Presidential Race" at the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford on December 2, 2015. Political Scientist and University President **Susan Herbst** praised each expert panelist for bringing "a unique perspective to the discussion which made the program both informative and entertaining."

Professor **Zahra F. K. Arat** presented a paper, entitled "Gender Approaches of Political Parties in Turkey," at the conference on "Political Parties in the Middle East: Past, Present and Future Perspectives," held at the University of Manchester, on January 28-29, 2016. This semester, Professor Arat holds a fellowship with the Human Rights Institute on works on her research project that examines human rights discourses and practices in Turkey since the 1920s.

Professor **Evelyn Simien** was elected to a three-year term with the University Senate. Her term will begin in the summer of 2016.

Professor **Shareen Hertel** delivered a paper, "The Economic Roots of Conflict and the Role of Stakeholder Dialogue: Consultation in the Business & Human Rights Arena," for the University Seminar Series (Human Rights) of Columbia University, on February 1st in New York. She will be presenting a separate paper, "Forging Alternative Routes to Norms Change: Economic Rights Protagonists," at the University of California at Santa Barbara later in February for a workshop organized by Professor Alison Brysk. Hertel also has a chapter, "Re-Framing Human Rights Advocacy: The Rise of Economic Rights," forthcoming in *Human Rights Future*, edited by Jack Snyder, Leslie Vinjamuri, and Stephen Hopgood for Cambridge University Press.

Professor **Paul Herrnson's** book, *Congressional Elections: Campaigning at Home and in Washington*, has been published in its 7th edition by the CQ Press. In addition, he presented at and participated in a number of conferences:

- "Disclosure and the Transparency of Single Candidate Super PACs," presentation, Sunlight Foundation, Washington, D.C., January 15, 2016.
- "Authors Meet Critics: La Raja and Schaffner's Campaign Finance and Political Polarization," presentation, Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, January 7-10, 2016.
- "The Enduring Effects of State Party Tradition on the Voting Experience," with Jay Goodliffe, Richard G. Niemi, and Kelly D. Patterson, Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, January 7-10, 2016.

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## RELEASED AMERICANS

*(Continued from page 2)*

"Over the years, the president has come to trust Brett's judgment on things," Rhodes said.

Mr. McGurk was later transferred home to serve as the director for Iraq on the National Security Council. In 2006, he came to President Bush's attention after being one of the first to advocate a surge of American troops into Baghdad to stabilize what he called a "disintegration" in security. Mr. Bush made Mr. McGurk the lead negotiator of the Status of Forces agreement, which set a timetable for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq by the end of 2011.

"He had that combination of knowledge and passion, and then a prodigious work ethic," said Peter D. Feaver, a professor of political science at Duke.

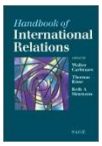
**CNN and NPR Weekend Edition also discussed McGurk's role in the tense prisoner release negotiations. His State Department Profile is available here.**

- "The Old and New Politics of Campaign Finance," presentation, League of Women Voters of Connecticut and American Constitutional Society Fall Conference, University of Connecticut Law School, November 7, 2015.
- Advisor, "Municipal Responses to Immigration Survey," funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Professor **Prakash Kashwan's** paper, "Power Asymmetries and Institutions: Landscape Conservation in Central India Regional Environmental Change," was accepted for publication in *Regional Environmental Change*. His paper, "Inequality, Democracy, and the Protection of Nature: A Cross-National Analysis" received an invitation to revise and resubmit from *Ecological Economics*. His chapter, "Nested Governance for Effective REDD+: Institutional and Political Arguments," will appear in *Frameworks and Methods of Institutional Analysis* (forthcoming 2016). Professor Kashwan was invited to be an evaluator for the 2015-2017 Elinor Ostrom Award on Collective Governance of the Commons, as well as a discussant for a panel entitled "Asia's Emerging New Right: Neoliberalism and Nationalism" for the International Political Science Association's 24th World Congress of Political Science, to be held in Istanbul from July 23-28, 2016.

The National Conference of Black Political Scientists, of which Professor **Shayla Nunnally** is the president-elect, will host its 47th Annual Meeting in Jackson, MS on March 16-20, 2016. The theme of this year's conference will be "Black Power, Black Lives: The State of Black Politics 50 Years after the March against Fear," referring to civil rights activist James Meredith's 220-mile trek from Memphis, TN to Jackson, MS. The march raised concerns about the enforcement of the Voting Rights Act and the growing political influence of African Americans in the U.S. South, and introduced the country to the Black Power Movement.

Professor **Stephen Dyson** wrote about two counter-historical and alternate reality TV shows, *The Leftovers* and *The Man in the High Castle*. Both shows explore how ordinary people (micro-narratives) cope or don't when the whole nature of society (the macro-narrative) shifts. His review is available on The Monkey Cage here: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2015/12/06/so-the-world-is-a-fake-now-what-two-television-shows-look-for-answers/>. He also wrote a couple of pieces on Star Wars. Over at Politico, he asked why there is so much contestation over the politics of the saga when it contains so little actual politics: <http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/12/star-wars-movie-politics-213453>. He also reviewed the movie itself over at The Conversation: <http://theconversation.com/the-force-awakens-a-sugar-high-but-not-a-great-movie-49543>.



Professor **Prakash Kashwan**, with Ph.D. candidate **Timothy Bussey**, have submitted a coauthored book chapter entitled "Taming a Machiavellian State? International Environmental Governance and Domestic Policymaking in India and Mexico" to the *Handbook of International Relations* (edited by Dr. Alka Sapat and under contract with Routledge). They expect the peer review process to be finished by the middle of Spring Break, with an estimated publication date of Fall 2016.

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) has named Professor **Jeffrey Lefebvre** as a reviewer for the 2016 Political Science Peer Review Committee for the Fulbright Specialist Program. He joins other experts in his discipline who will evaluate student applications.

Professor **Oksan Bayulgan** chaperoned a student trip to the United Nations' Conference of Parties (COP21) climate change summit. Students blogged about their experience in Paris here: <http://today.uconn.edu/2015/12/blogging-from-paris-uconncop21/>.

Professor **Jeremy Pressman** published a post at Political Violence @ a Glance entitled "Puzzling Aspects of the US Debate on Syrian Refugees." It is available at: <http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2015/11/25/puzzling-aspects-of-the-us-debate-on-syrian-refugees/>.

The *Times Literary Supplement* reviewed Professor **Stephen Dyson's** book, *Otherworldly Politics* (John Hopkins University Press, 2015). In addition, the podcast "New Books in Political Science" interviewed Professor Dyson about his work. The audio is available here: <http://newbooksinpoliticalscience.com/2015/12/29/stephen-dyson-otherworldly-politics-johns-hopkins-up-2015/>.

Professor **Kimberly Bergendahl** has been advising and coaching UConn's Moot Court Competition Team. She is happy to report that the long hours of preparation have paid off for six UConn students, three of whose respective teams have qualified to compete in the national tournament at California State University at Long Beach on January 15-16, 2016—a new record for UConn! Although UConn did not leave with their championship trophy, the members of this impressive student-run organization are already looking forward to the regional tournament later this year.

Professor **Ben Newman** accepted an Associate Professorship (with tenure) at the University of California-Riverside. Since his arrival at UConn-Stamford in the Fall of 2012, Dr. Newman has been one of the most productive faculty members at UConn, publishing more than 20 articles in such peer-reviewed journals as *AJPS*, *The Journal of Politics* and *Political Research Quarterly*, among other prestigious outlets. While at UConn, he founded the Political Identities Research Group (PIRG), a New York City Metro Area research group that hosts ongoing meetings for scholars researching race, class, gender, religion, and sexuality in American politics and comparative contexts. For those wishing to contact Dr. Newman, his new e-mail is bnewman@ucr.edu.

## Emeriti News

Professor Emerita **Carol Lewis** was one of the inaugural recipients of the Ethics Lifetime Achievement Award, a new initiative of APSA's Section on Ethics and Integrity of Governance (SEIGOV) to recognize significant and ongoing contributions to ethics scholarship and practice in public administration.

## Graduate Student Achievements

Ph.D. candidate **Salil Benegal** has accepted a tenure-track professorship in Environmental Policy at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. The Department extends its congratulations for such an impressive job placement!

Ph.D. candidate **Timothy Bussey** was named the inaugural winner of the UConn Center for Career Development's Graduate Intern of the Year Award, because of his work with the Education Department of the Columbus Museum this past summer.

Ph.D. candidates **Timothy Bussey** and **Kelly Delaney** have just completed and will soon launch a survey in coordination with faculty members in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. This survey will poll transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary students here at UConn; they will then make recommendations about the ways in which our university community can proactively support and retain students in that demographic.

Ph.D. candidate **Tim Dzurilla**, President of the UConn Co-Op board, has done multiple media interviews this past month. UConn is weighing whether or not to have the Co-Op continue as our bookstore, or to have an alternative vendor on campus. Tim has been asked for analysis by multiple news outlets. He has appeared on The Colin McEnroe Show (http://wnpr.org/post/scramble-politics-presidential-uconn-conard-high-school#stream/0) and Fox 61 news (http://fox61.com/2016/01/31/uconn-co-op-fighting-to-keep-campus-presence/).

## Undergraduate Students on the Rise

Congratulations to our many POLS Undergraduate Majors and Honors Students who have recently received research awards, nominations to university or national awards, and/or have been selected to participate in highly competitive programs!

**Lucas Bladen** was one of the 19 undergraduates awarded a UConn IDEA grant (Fall 2015 cohort) and the 1st POLS major to receive this award. His project is entitled, "No Place Like Home: A Study of North African Refugee and Immigrant Integration in French Politics and Culture." Lucas will be awarded $4,000 to conduct a qualitative research study in France during the summer of 2016 that will explore French citizens' perceptions of the political and cultural integration of North African refugees and economic immigrants. Lucas's faculty mentor for this project is Professor Jennifer Sterling-Folker. The next round of IDEA grant applications is due on March 14th. More information is available here: <http://ugradresearch.uconn.edu/idea/>.

**Marissa Piccolo** was selected to be a 2016 University Scholar. Her committee includes Virginia Hettinger (chair), Paul Herrnson, and Kenneth Couch (Economics).

**Peter Bassine** is UConn's 2016 Carnegie Junior Fellowship Nominee, and is also the recipient of the Philip and Barbara Kaplan Scholarship (2015), awarded to seniors with a commitment to international public service.

**Adam Kuegler**, **Marissa Piccolo**, and **Erin Puglia** are UConn's 2016 Truman Scholarship Nominees.

**Caitlin Briody, Mamam Cooper, Ian Fignon, and Marissa Piccolo** were selected to be 2016 Leadership Legacy students.

The Office of Undergraduate Research just announced the list of SHARE awards for the Spring 2016 semester and POLS did very well. Of 21 SHARE awards, 5 went to Political Science projects. Congratulations to all POLS Faculty mentors and their students! Here are the POLS project details:

- "Between Citizenship and Nationality: An Overview of Federal Citizenship Legislation for the U.S. Pacific Island Territories, 1898 to Present." Student apprentice: **Maye Henning** (Political Science and Human Rights); faculty mentor: Charles Venator-Santiago.
- "Human Rights Discourse and Practices in Turkey." Student apprentice: **Rubayet Lasker** (Political Science and Human Rights); faculty mentor: Zehra Arat.
- "Realism, Refugees, and Global Governance." Student apprentice: **Lucas Bladen** (Political Science); faculty mentor: Jennifer Sterling-Folker.
- "Multi-Level Environmental Governance in Indonesia, Tanzania, and Mexico." Student apprentice: **Edward McInerney** (Political Science); faculty mentor: Prakash Kashwan.
- "'Reel' Police, Prosecutors, and Portrayals of the Use of Force: Assessing the Lessons of Law & Order SVU within the Current Legal and Political Climate." Student apprentice: **Amy Saji** (Political Science); faculty mentor: Kimberly Bergendahl.

Three POLS students majors have been named as semi-finalists for a Fulbright Scholarship: **Iva Petkova** (POLS '16 & Human Rights), seeking an English Teaching Assistant grant to Korea; **Francine Quintino** (POLS '16), seeking an English Teaching Assistant grant to Colombia; **Mary (Molly) Rockett** (POLS '15), seeking a study grant to Royal Holloway College, UK. Many thanks for the time and efforts of UConn's Fulbright Committee, including POLS Professor Jeffrey Lefebvre, for helping the University's undergraduates and graduates get so far!

**Kevin Saythany** (POLS '15) won his first election to the Board of Education in Norwich, CT! He was sworn in in December. He writes, "I am very honored to be able to serve my community through public service, which has always been a passion of mine since junior year of high school."

## Upcoming Events

**Friday, February 19 – What Difference do Differences Make? A Panel Discussion**

- Participants: Marysol Asencio (HFDS), Cathy Schlund-Vials (ENGL), Fred Lee (POLS), and Prakash Kashwan (POLS)
- 12:00pm-1:30pm, Oak 438
- Hosted by the Department of Political Science
- For more information, contact Jane Gordon (jane.gordon@uconn.edu).

**Friday, February 26 – Prakash Kashwan, UCONN Political Science**

- Title: *Inequality, Democracy, and the Protection of Nature: A Cross-National Analysis*
- 12:00pm-1:30pm, Oak 438
- Hosted by the Political Economy Workshop
- For a copy of the associated paper, contact Lyle Scruggs (lyle.scruggs@uconn.edu).

**Friday, March 4 – Oksan Bayulgen and Sercan Canbolat, UCONN Political Science**

- Title: What Makes Neo-Authoritarian Regimes Endure? Russian and Turkish Political Regimes In Comparative Perspective
- 12:15-1:30pm, Oak 438
- Hosted by the Department of Political Science
- URL: http://events.uconn.edu/event/44700/2016-03-04

**Monday, March 7 – Carol Gray, UCONN Political Science**

- Title: *Cairo's Tahrir Square, 2011: An Eyewitness to Revolution*
- 12:15pm-1:30pm, Oak 438
- Hosted by the Department of Political Science and the Middle East Studies Program
- URL: http://mideast.uconn.edu/category/events/

**Monday, March 21 – Alex Wolff, Sports Illustrated**

- Title: The Audacity of Hoop: Basketball and the Age of Obama
- 12:20pm-1:35pm, Konover Auditorium (Dodd Center) and 6:00pm-7:30pm, UCONN Co-op Bookstore at Storrs Center
- Hosted by Departments of Journalism and Political Science
- URL: http://generalbooks.bookstore.uconn.edu/event/alexander-wolff-audacity-hoop-presentationsigning-0; http://calendar.uconn.edu/event/45246/2016-03-21

**Wednesday, March 30 – Donald Green, Columbia University**

- Title: Risky Business: Does Corporate Political Giving Affect Consumer Behavior?
- 12:15pm-1:30pm, Oak 438
- Hosted by the Political Science Graduate Student Association (with support from the Graduate Student Senate) and the Department of Political Science
- URL: http://calendar.uconn.edu/event/45053/2016-03-30

**Monday, April 4 – Sonali Chakravarti, Wesleyan University**

- Title: *Guilty, Not Guilty, Nullify: Imagining a 3-Option Verdict*
- 12:15pm-1:30pm, Oak 438
- Hosted by the Humanities Institute's Political Theory Workshop and the Department of Political Science
- URL: http://calendar.uconn.edu/event/45058/2016-04-04

**Thursday, April 7 – Ashutosh Varshney, Brown University**

- Title: *Battles Half Won: India's Improbable Democracy* (The Annual Radha Devi Joshi Lecture)
- 3:30pm-5:00pm, Konover Auditorium (Dodd Center)
- Hosted by the India Studies Program
- URL: http://asianamerican.uconn.edu/india-studies/radha-devi-joshi-lecture/

**Monday, April 11 – Jane Gordon and Steven Manicastri, UCONN Political Science**

- Title: The Once Powerful Mediterranean: Changing Estimations of Italy's Centrality to Canonical Political Thought
- 12:15pm-1:30pm, Oak 438
- Hosted by the Department of Political Science
- URL: http://events.uconn.edu/event/44671/2016-04-11

**Wednesday, April 13 – Research Excellence in Political Science (REPS) Poster Session and Reception**

- 12:15pm-2:15pm, Oak 408
- Hosted by the Department of Political Science Honors Program and the Alan R. Bennett Honors Professor

**Thursday, April 14 – Nadje Al-Ali, University of London School of Oriental and African Studies**

- Title: *Gendering The Turkish-Kurdish Conflict: Intersections of Peace and Women's Rights Activism*
- 4:00pm-5:30pm, Oak 438
- Hosted by the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program and the Department of Political Science
- URL: http://calendar.uconn.edu/event/45035/2016-04-14
- For more information, contact Christine Sylvester (christine.sylvester@uconn.edu).

**Wednesday, April 20 – Brendan Nyhan, Dartmouth College**

- Title: Do People Actually Learn from Fact-Checking? Evidence from a Longitudinal Study During the 2014 Campaign
- 12:15pm-1:30pm, Oak 438
- Hosted by the Political Science Graduate Student Association (with support from the Graduate Student Senate) and the Department of Political Science
- URL: http://calendar.uconn.edu/event/45055/2016-04-20

**Wednesday, April 27 – James C. Scott, Yale University**

- Title: The Earliest Agrarian States in Mesopotamia and the Domestication of Homo Sapiens
- 12:15pm-1:30pm, Oak 438
- Hosted by the Political Science Graduate Student Association (with support from the Graduate Student Senate) and the Department of Political Science
- URL: http://calendar.uconn.edu/event/45054/2016-04-27

**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 Vin Moscardelli (vin.moscardelli@uconn.edu).**