

## POLS News and Notes

### Winter 2017 (vol. 4, no. 3)

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### A note From the Department Head ...



So much for putting the polarized election of 2016 behind us ... the last few weeks have featured a whirlwind of activity in response to President Trump's inauguration and his controversial policy agenda. Several members of our faculty (Jane Gordon, Virginia Hettinger and Jeffrey Dudas, among others) actually made it down to Washington to march on

the day after the inauguration. Back here in Connecticut, Jeremy Pressman helped to organize a rally in West Hartford on February 1, in addition to all of his work aggregating data from marches across the country. (See sidebar and various items below). Regardless of one's political views, it is hard not to be inspired by all this activism within our ranks. I hope all of our alumni and other friends of the department will find ways to have their voices heard as well ... and PLEASE keep those pictures and reports of your activities coming! In the meantime, our best wishes go to everyone for what we hope will be a quick and manageable winter.

—David Yalof

### Recent Faculty Publications, Conferences and Honors



Professor **Veronica Herrera's** first book, *Water and Politics: Clientalism and Reform in Urban Mexico*, has now been published by the University of Michigan press. A comprehensive product description is available at: [https://www.press.umich.edu/9210462/water\\_and\\_politics](https://www.press.umich.edu/9210462/water_and_politics). As part of the rollout, the book will be featured on the *New Books in Political Science* podcast, part of the *New Books Network*. Information about the podcast is available at: <http://newbooksnetwork.com/category/politics-society/political-science/>.

### Pressman's Efforts to Count Marchers Gain National Attention



As hundreds of thousands of Americans marched against Donald Trump and for women's rights in Washington D.C. and elsewhere on the day after the inauguration, many began to wonder what the final count of protestors might be. UConn Professor Jeremy Pressman and University of Denver Professor Erica Chenoweth went a step further, translating various reports of crowd sizes into more valid estimates in real time.

Their efforts began the morning of January 21st, just as marchers were lining up across the country. After Pressman posted a query on Twitter asking "Is there an exact spreadsheet totaling all the marchers in the city today?", he began to collect the figures himself. Thus while the Associated Press reported late Saturday that "more than 1

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Professor **Michael Morrell**, in collaboration with Graham Smith of the University of Westminster (London, UK) and Paolo Spada of the University of Coimbra (Portugal), received a \$225,000 grant for their study “Designing Online News Comments to Promote Intellectual Humility in Public Discourse.” The grant is made possible by the John Templeton Foundation. The team won the grant as part of an international funding competition administered by the Humility & Conviction in Public Life project of the University of Connecticut’s Humanities Institute.



Professor **Alexander Anievas’** coauthored book, *How the West Came to Rule: The Geopolitical Origins of Capitalism*, was awarded the International Political Economy Working Group Book Prize of 2016 from the British International Studies Association. A special book symposium on *How the West Came to Rule* appeared in the December 2016 issue of *Spectrum: Journal of Global Studies*; the journal also published a reply from Prof. Anievas and Kerem Nisancioglu entitled, “Why Europe? Anti-Eurocentric Theory, History, and the Rise of Capitalism.” His co-edited volume (with Kamran Matin), *Historical Sociology and World History: Uneven and Combined Development over the Longue Durée*, was published by Rowman & Littlefield. Finally, Prof. Anievas’ coauthored article (with Kerem Nisancioglu), “How Did the West Usurp the Rest? Origins of Great Divergence over the Longue Durée,” ran in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 59, no. 1 (January 2017).



Professor **Virginia Hettinger** was quoted in the *Washington Post’s* recent coverage of President Trump’s prospective federal court nominees. In federal district courts, “the vast majority [of cases] deal with largely settled issues of law, so there isn’t really a lot of room for [a judge’s] ideology to come into play.” However, in the circuit courts and Supreme Court, “there’s more room for ideology or policy-based decision-making,” allowing for a politicized Judiciary. The article is available at: <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/politics/judge-appointments/>>.



Professor **Paul Herrnson** was interviewed about the Women’s March on the CBS Sunday Morning News (by Jane Pauley, no less!). The clip is available at: <<http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/historic-womens-march-on-washington/>>. Fox 5 Evening News (New York) also interviewed him on the same topic, available at: <<http://www.fox5ny.com/news/231216314-story>>.



Professor **Christine Sylvester** has contracted with the Oxford University Press to publish *Curating America’s Wars in Vietnam and Iraq: Whose Wars Are Displayed?*, a book she is writing at UConn’s Humanities Institute. She also published, with British visual artist Jill Gibbon, “Thinking Like an Artist-Researcher About War,” forthcoming in *Millennium: A Journal of International Studies*.

## Counting the Marchers

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million people” rallied in marches across the nation. Pressman and Chenoweth put the final number much higher – their best guess was that approximately 4.15 million people participated in the U.S., with another 300,000 participating in other countries.

“The overall number was bigger than I expected,” Pressman told Yahoo news. “We’ve listed several hundred protests and marches across the country.... And we’re being more conservative with the numbers than with the locations.” Reports from cities with no public record documentation to support them were left with blank cells on the spreadsheet; still, most of the numbers were far greater than had been first reported.

Pressman and Chenoweth have received national media attention for their work. Pressman in particular was interviewed by *Business Insider*, *Efe News*, *Fortune*, *Univision*, *Vox*, and *Atlantic*. The two professors also documented their work on *The Washington Post’s* *Monkey Cage Blog*. (see

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Professor **Jeremy Pressman** co-organized (along with Mark Overmeyer-Velazquez) a rally in West Hartford against the administration's immigration order on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Roughly 1,100 people attended, making it one of the largest demonstrations in the town's history. We-Ha.com, a local news website, reported on the day's events here: <<http://we-ha.com/west-hartford-rallies-immigrant-refugee-rights/>>.



Professor **Zaid Eyadat** spoke at the International Institute for Nonviolent Action's Barcelona Conference, "Towards A New Paradigm: Preventing Violent Extremism," in January. The conference's theme was how to prevent violent extremism by understanding the driving forces behind it. The Institute promotes peace and security through sustainable development, promoting the rule of law, and taking humanitarian action. He spoke on several other occasions: at the Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate's panel on "Changing World Order: Traditional, Rising, and Declining Power"; as moderator of a panel on cyber-security in November 2016; at a seminar on Yemen and Gulf security organized by the Working Group on Gulf Security and the Atlantic Council, in October 2016; and at the Symposium on "Strengthening Refugee Access, Equity, and Inclusion: Developing a New Framework," organized by Columbia University in October 2016. Prof. Eyadat was also the keynote speaker at the International Security Forum, organized by the Geneva Center for Security Policy, in June 2016. Finally, Prof. Eyadat recently joined the prestigious European Neighborhood Council (ENC) as an academic council member. The ENC conducts research and organizes events to promote stronger cooperation among EU nations on topics including foreign affairs, democracy, security, and economics.



Professor **Zehra Arat** published three book chapters at the end of 2016. They are: "İnsan Hakları ve Türkiye" (Human Rights and Turkey), in *Türkiye'de Siyasal Yaşam: Dün, Bugün, Yarın (Political Life in Turkey: The Past, Present, and Future)*, edited by Mehmet Kabaskal (Istanbul: İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi): 373-398; "Economic Rights in the Middle East," in *Routledge Handbook on Human Rights and the Middle East and North Africa*, edited by Anthony Tirado Chase (New York, Routledge): 40-52; "Kadınların Toplumsal Konumu ve Hakları" (Women's Social Status and Rights), in *Dünden Bugüne Türkiye: Tarih, Politika, Toplum ve Kültür (Turkey Then and Now: History, Politics, Society, and Culture)*, edited by Metin Heper and Sabri Sayarı (Istanbul: İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi Yayınları): 331-348.



Professor **Thomas Hayes'** and **Lyle Scruggs'** article, "The Influence of Inequality on Welfare Generosity: Evidence from the US States," is forthcoming at *Politics & Society*. The authors find compelling evidence that income concentration at the very top undermines social welfare protections.

## Counting the Marchers

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<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/02/07/this-is-what-we-learned-by-counting-the-womens-marches/>.

For those interested in examining the actual estimate, the document can be found online at:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xa0iLqYKz8x9Yc\\_rfhtmSOJQ2EGgeUVjvV4A8LslaxY/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xa0iLqYKz8x9Yc_rfhtmSOJQ2EGgeUVjvV4A8LslaxY/edit#gid=0)



Professor **Shayla Nunnally** received a grant from the University of Connecticut Public Discourse Project for her project, *The Black Class Reunion: Race, Education, and Political Socialization in Black Public High Schools in the State of Virginia*.



NBC/Telemundo invited Professor **Rob Venator** to comment on the inauguration and protests in Washington, D.C. He was there from January 19-21.



Professor **Jeffrey Dudas** wrote about Donald Trump and the paternalistic logic of American conservatism at the Stanford University Press (SUP) Blog. The post (available at: <http://stanfordpress.typepad.com/blog/2017/01/trump-and-the-paternal-heart.html>) touches on themes on which Prof. Dudas expatiates at length in his new book, *Raised Right: Fatherhood in Modern Conservatism*.



Professor **Christine Sylvester** will be giving two workshop keynote addresses. She will give a talk, "Recovering the History of Women in International Thought," at the British International Studies (BISA) workshop in Brighton, UK, in June 2017. She will also give another BISA keynote, "Exhibiting Gender, Curating Conflict: Body Politics and Affective Objects in Art and Museums," at their workshop in at Bristol University. Finally, she will present her paper, "Re-curating America's War in Vietnam," at the European Workshops in the International Studies (EWIS) series, *Exhibitions and the Representation of the International*, at Cardiff University, also in June.



Professor **Beth Ginsberg** has been accepted to the First Annual UConn Spring Break Teaching Institute. The Teaching Institute will teach methods of student-centered teaching and the creation of natural critical learning environments.



Professor **Jeffrey Lefebvre** was recognized for his exemplary service on the campus Fulbright Committee. LuAnn Saunders-Kanabay, Assistant Director at UConn's Office of National Scholarships and Fellowship, praised his "acute observations, thoughtful feedback and guidance on each applicant's materials."



Professor **Paul Herrnson** presented a paper, "A Preliminary Examination of Super PAC Fundraising," at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans, held from January 12-14, 2017.



Professor **Ron Schurin**, a former presidential elector, was interviewed in *UConn Today* about the ritual of the Electoral College, and its prospects (or lack thereof) for reform. The interview is available at: <http://today.uconn.edu/2016/12/the-electoral-college-vote-ritual-of-american-democracy/>



Professor **Jeremy Pressman** received a grant for his project, *Foreign Voices, Openness to Experience, and U.S. Public Opinion about International Affairs*, from the University of Connecticut Public Discourse Project. The co-principal investigator on the project is a Ph.D. from UConn POLS, Dr. Matthew Leep.



Professor **Zaid Eyadat's** book chapter, "The Arab Gulf and Latin American Non-State Actors," appeared in *The Gulf and Latin America: Exploring New Avenues of Exchange* (Cambridge: Gulf Research Centre at Cambridge University). He is editing a new book forthcoming with Palgrave in Spring 2017. It is titled *Islam, State, and Modernity*. The volume is based on an international conference held at Louiss University in Rome in 2015, about al Jabri (the late Moroccan philosopher) on the search for a theory of ethics in Islam. He is also coauthoring, with Professor Richard Dekmejian at the University of Southern California, *Islam and Revolution: From al Qaeda to Isis*. The book promises to be a novel addition to the literature on Political Islam, radicalization, and extremism. The authors employ an innovative approach that combines game-theoretical analysis with psycho-political analysis.

## Active Emeriti



Professor Emerita **Betty Hanson** went to UConn's Model United Nations annual high school conference, held on November 4-6. Since it was established by UConn POLS major **Chris Hattayer** in 1999, it has become one of the largest Model UNs in the state. The conference, staffed by over 100 UConn students, was the most well-attended to date. Over 300 high school students, including delegations from as far as Maine and Washington, D.C., participated.

## Graduate Student Achievements



Ph.D. candidates **Timothy Bussey, Kelly Delaney, Frank Griggs, and Matthew Parent** received Teaching Excellence letters from the Office of the Provost for scoring 4.5 (out of 5) or higher on their Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) scores.



UConn Graduate Assistants are demonstrating an impressive level of participation at the International Studies Association conference this February in Baltimore. **Thomas Briggs** and **Alyssa Webb** are presenting at the Junior Scholar Symposium at ISA this February on separate panels. **Matthew Parent, Alex Kreidenweis, Frank Griggs, Carol Gray, Shawna Lesseur, Melanie Meinzer, and Secan Canbolat** are presenting on standard panels as well. Volunteers to help at the reception desks include Tom, Alyssa, Frank, **Yousseuff Bellamy**, Sercan, and **Erica MacDonald**.

## Undergraduate Students on the Rise



POLS major **Amy Saji** presented her coauthored (with Professor **Kimberly Bergendahl**) paper, “Reel vs. Real: Assessing the Lessons of *Law and Order: SVU* Within the Current Legal and Political Climate,” at the Annual Meeting of the Northeast Political Association in November 2016.



POLS major **Jillianne Lyon** was named Undergraduate Intern of the Year by UConn’s Center for Career Development. In her application, Jillianne spoke highly about her experience with Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services and the work in which was involved.



Congratulations to POLS Honors major **Caitlin Brody**, who is one of UConn’s 2017 Gaither Junior Fellows Nominees, funded by the Carnegie Endowment for International Piece. Caitlin majors in POLS and Sociology, and minors in Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies.



Congratulations to **Matthew Byanyima** (POLS and Economics double major), who was named a 2017 Leadership Legacy student. **Professor Oksan Bayulgen** serves as his faculty mentor.



Two POLS majors received UConn IDEA grants. **Camille Chill** (POLS and Journalism) received one for her proposal, “Designing a Supplemental Curriculum for the ‘Youth and Government’ Program.” Camille will develop a written curriculum supplement and video material for a mock government program offered to high school students by the YMCA. POLS Honors student **Mary Szarkowicz** received a grant for her proposal, “Female Genital Mutilation in the U.S.: A Legal Framework.” Information about IDEA grants for student-designed research is available at: <http://ugradresearch.uconn.edu/idea/>.



Congratulations to two POLS Honors students, **Lucas Silva Lopes** and **Jared Quigley**, who were selected to be 2017 University Scholars. Lucas is a POLS and Economics major. His project is entitled, “Presidential Interruptions and Interim Presidents: How Do Latin American Countries Re-Equilibrate Both Politically and Macroeconomically After a Presidential Interruption?” **Professors Matthew Singer (chair), Veronica Herrera**, and Derek Johnson (ECON) serve as his committee. Jared’s project is entitled, “An Unlikely Populist: Donald Trump, the Language of Populism and the Politics of Resentment.” **Professors Virginia Hettinger (chair), Kimberly Bergendahl**, and Peter Baldwin (in History) serve as his committee.



The following students received UConn SHARE awards for Spring 2017:

- **George Dennis** for his project, “Support for Reducing Inequality: Citizen Attitudes vs. Public Action,” mentored by **Professor Thomas Hayes**;
- **Abigail LaFontan** for her project, “The Town Conservation Commissions and Regional Conservation Associations in New England,” mentored by **Professor Prakash Kashwan**;
- **Susan Naseri** for her project, “Violence Against Women and Girls: Evidence of the Normative Gap Between Rhetoric and Law,” mentored by **Professor David Richards**;

- **Emily Steck** for her project, “Crafting Environmental Citizenship: Pollution, Resistance, and Representation in Latin American Cities,” mentored by **Professor Veronica Herrera**;
- **Emma Barnes**, for her project, “Intercultural Communication: Literatures, Cultures, Languages,” mentored by Professor Manuela Wagner.

Information about the SHARE program is available at: <<http://ugradresearch.uconn.edu/share/>>.

## Alumni in the News



In *The Hartford Courant*, POLS alumnus **Abdullah Hasan** recounted working as assistant press secretary in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in President Obama’s White House. Former OMB Director Shan Donovan praised Hasan’s skillful crafting of a “communications strategy around the fiscal imperative to act on climate [and] the Administration’s efforts to build a more effective, citizen-centered government through technology.” The profile is available at: <<http://www.courant.com/politics/hc-bethel-high-school-to-the-white-house-20170202-story.html>>.



UConn POLS alumnus **Zach Smith** accepted a job offer as Police Planner for the National Park Service. He will apply the skills he learned at UConn to help research and devise national force policies and procedures.

## Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Feb 22, 2017

**Deva Woodley** (New School)

*The Joy of Us: the Critical Identity Work of the Movement for Black Lives*

<<http://www.newschool.edu/nssr/faculty/?id=4d6a-5535-4f44-5934>>

12:15 in Oak 438

Monday February 27, 2017

**Tom Hamburger** (Washington Post)

Co-sponsored with the Department of Journalism.

Konover Auditorium, 12:15-1:30 PM

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

**Alexandra Moffett Bateau**, John Jay College and Africana Studies (UConn *Political Theory Workshop*)

Homer Babbidge Library, 4th Floor, Room 4/209 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM

Thursday, March 9, 2017

**Dov Waxman** (Northeastern)

*Trouble in the Tribe: The American Jewish Conflict over Israel* (<http://www.dovwaxman.com>)

Cosponsored with Middle East Studies.

7:00 PM in the Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center

Wednesday, March 22, 2017.

**Jeff Dudas** (UConn)

*Raised Right: Fatherhood in Modern American Conservatism*

<http://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=26420>

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

**Virginia Oliveros** (Tulane)

*A Working Machine: Patronage Jobs and Political Services in Argentina*

<https://virginiaoliveros.com/>

12:15 PM in Oak 438

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

**Research Excellence in POLS (REPS) Poster Session & Reception**

12:15 to 2:00 PM in Oak 408 (with refreshments)

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

**Veronica Herrera** (UConn)

*Territorial Grievances and Principled Ideas: Advocacy Networks and the State in Argentina and Colombia*

4:00 PM in the UConn Bookstore, downtown Storrs

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

**Chris Haynes** (University of New Haven)

*Framing Immigrants: News Media, Public Opinion and Policy*

<http://www.newhaven.edu/Faculty-Staff-Profiles/Chris-Haynes/>

12:15 PM in Oak 438



Thursday, April 20, 2017

**Christian Appy** (UMass History)

*Political History of Nuclear Weapon Development in the United States*

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

**Nancy Luxon** (University of Minnesota)

*Political Theory Workshop*

Homer Babbidge Library, 4th Floor, Room 4/209 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM

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](mailto:thomas.hayes@uconn.edu)).