

POLS News and Notes

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A Note from the Department Head ...



September should have been a happy and peaceful time here in Storrs: With the weather still unseasonably warm and all the students back on campus, faculty members were eager to get back in the classroom. Unfortunately, budget negotiations in Hartford have cast a bit of a pall on the semester so far, with the state legislature threatening massive cuts to UConn and

other state services. On Friday September 22, many of our faculty, graduate students and staff joined UConn undergraduates in a protest on the steps of the Capitol. Whatever happens, these high stakes negotiations will not dampen our spirits up on the fourth floor of Oak Hall, as we welcome two new faculty members (see right sidebar) and celebrate the accomplishments of our returning faculty, including a prestigious teaching award for one professor and many new publications for others (see list of faculty honors below). With important faculty searches now behind us, we are also excited about the opportunity that opens up for some well-known visiting speakers to visit us this fall. If you find yourself in town, please stop by Oak 438 and take part!

-- David Yalof

Recent Faculty Publications, Conferences and Honors



Professor **Jennifer Sterling-Folker** has been selected to receive the 2017 Alumni Association Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award at the Undergraduate Level. This is not a first for Dr. Sterling-Folker: She was also selected for the Alumni Association's award for teaching at the graduate level back in 2011. That makes her the only faculty member to have won both the grad and undergrad Alumni Teaching Awards since their inception back in 1979.

POLS WELCOMES TWO NEW FACULTY



Dr. Perkoski

Dr. Lupton

The Department of Political Science is proud to welcome two new professors who have joined our faculty this fall: Dr. Evan Perkoski (U.Penn. Ph.D., 2015), who will teach International Relations in Storrs; and Dr. Robert Lupton (Mich. St. PhD., 2015), who will teach American Politics at our regional campus in Stamford.

Dr. Perkoski spent last year as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Sie Cheou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy at the University of Denver. He earned his B.A. in Government at nearby Wesleyan University in 2010, before earning his M.A. (2012) and Ph.D. (2015) from the University of Pennsylvania. As a graduate student in 2014, Evan was awarded the Patricia Weisman Award from the International Studies Association, which goes to the author of the best graduate student paper on any

(Continued on page 2)

New Faculty

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Professor **Virginia Hettinger** recently received the 2017 Mentorship Excellence Award from UConn's Office of Undergraduate Research in recognition of her mentorship of undergraduate researchers.



In addition, Professor **Zehra Arat** was nominated for the 2017 Mentorship Excellence Award. Dr. Arat's nomination letter recognized her important contribution to her students' learning and development as scholars.



Professor **Jane Gordon** was nominated to receive a Family Support Award. This is a brand new award from the Graduate School that recognizes faculty "who create a welcoming department environment" and who support graduate students that have become new parents. The graduate school is hopeful that this new award program will recognize that graduate students should be supported in balancing their work and life responsibilities.



Dr. **Zehra Arat's** paper, co-authored with former UConn graduate student **Abdullah Hasan** (CLAS '15) and entitled "**Muslims Masculinities: What Is the Prescription of the Qur'an?**", has been published in the *Journal of Gender Studies*.

She also attended the 2017 APSA conference and participated in several different events: (1) She gave a speech on "Gender Equality Measures in War Research" and "Sex, Gender, Gender Equality, and War: New Research Frontiers"; (2) She presented a paper, co-authored with **Erica MacDonald**, entitled "Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women: Assessment of Progress from MDGS to SDGS"; and (3) She served as a discussant on the panel entitled "Naming and Shaming: Does it Work?"



Professor **Cyrus Ernesto Zirakzadeh** served as a mentor at the "Methods Café" at the 2017 APSA meeting. He also delivered a paper, "Bruce Springsteen's Semi-Democratic Bop," on an APSA panel entitled "Political Theory and Popular Music."

Security Dialogue

Professor **Christine Sylvester** had an article accepted in the IR Journal *Security Dialogue* entitled "Curating and Re-curating the American War in Vietnam." It will appear on-line on the journal's webpage in October. She also gave three talks in the UK in June at Bristol and Cardiff Universities, as well as at the British International Studies Association meetings held in Brighton.

aspect of security studies presented at the previous ISA Annual Conference. He also won two separate prizes for excellence in teaching as a graduate student while at UPenn.

Dr. Lupton earned his B.A. in Political Science at the University of Michigan, before earning his M.A. (2009) and Ph.D. (2015) at Michigan State. As a graduate student he co-authored two refereed journal articles in *Political Psychology* and in *The Journal of Politics*. He also has two articles forthcoming in the *British Journal of Political Science* and *Political Behavior*. The discipline already reached out to Dr. Lupton for service as a member of the Malcolm Jewell Award Committee to select the best graduate student paper presented at the 2016 Southern Political Science Association. His broad teaching ability in American Politics and Quantitative methods will address the needs of the Stamford campus political science majors.



Professor **Charles Venator Santiago**'s piece titled "[Puerto Rico votes on Statehood – Fifth Time's the Charm?](#)" was published on the website *The Conversation* on June 8, 2017.



Professor **Beth Ginsberg** will be speaking at the UConn-Stamford Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies as part of the Lunch and Learn series on November 2, 2017. The title of the talk is "From Moses to Joseph (Lieberman): The History of Jewish Political Participation in the Political Process."



Professor **Paul Herrnson** co-authored with Dr. Justin Kirkland an entry entitled "Political Parties and Campaign Finance Networks" in the *Oxford Handbook of Political Networks*, published by Oxford University Press. Additionally, he co-authored with Dr. Raymond J. La Raja a chapter entitled "The Races for Congress in 2016: A Tale of Two Elections," in *Winning the Presidency 2016*, published by Routledge. Professor Herrnson also presented two papers: "2016: A Tale of Two Elections" co-authored with Raymond J. La Raja and presented at the Annual Meeting of the British Politics Group, Institute for Governmental Studies at the University of California and "The Impact of Associational Ties on the Financing of Super PACS" co-authored with Jennifer A Heerwig and Douglas M. Spencer, which he presented at the 2017 APSA Conference in San Francisco.



Professor **Jeffrey Dudas** was honored with author-meets-reader panels for his recent book, *Raised Right* at both the Law and Society Association meeting in Mexico City and the recent APSA meeting in San Francisco. He also gave a plenary address at LSA entitled "Law in a Time of Populism: Brexit, Colombia, Trump, and Beyond." Additionally, Professor Dudas was nominated to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Law and Society Association (elections conclude next month).



Professor **Robert Lupton**'s recent article (co-authored with Judd Thornton) appears in the September 2017 edition of *Political Behavior*. Additionally, his two other articles (co-authored with Dr. Thornton, David Ciukm and William Myers) were recently accepted for publication in *Political Psychology* and *Political Research Quarterly*. Finally, Professor Lupton presented a paper (co-authored with Ryan Bakker, Christopher Hare and Keith T. Poole) entitled "Crowded Coalitions: How Demographics, Ideology, and Issue Priorities Divide and Sustain the Contemporary American Parties" at the European Political Science Association annual meeting in Milan, Italy this past summer.



Professor **Veronica Herrera** recently wrote a short blog piece on the ongoing research she has been conducting on environmental advocacy movements in South America. The piece is entitled "[Toxic Exposure and Constructing Environmental Rights in Latin American Cities.](#)" Professor Herrera has also been offered a visiting scholar appointment from the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies. The appointment is co-sponsored by the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University.



Professor **Brian Waddell** recently published his book, co-authored with Stan Luger, titled *What American Government Does*, with The Johns Hopkins University Press.



This past June, Professor **Jane Gordon**'s article, "Beyond Mere Criticism: Creolizing our Intellectual and Political Endeavors," was published in the Revue *Tumultes*, an international journal by Centre de Sociologie de Pratiques et des Représentations Politiques de l'université Paris Diderot. Her three articles, "Unmasking the *Big Bluff* of Legitimate Governance and So-called Independence: Creolizing Rousseau through the Reflections of Anna Julia Cooper," "Monstrous Political Thinking Women," and "The Nature of Political Heroes: Some Aesthetic Considerations" are forthcoming respectively in *Critical Philosophy or Race*, *Listening: Journal of Communication Ethics, Religion, and Culture*, and *Discourse: Theoretical Studies in Theory and Culture*. This past summer, she was invited to speak at the Summer School of the Center for Social Studies (CES) of the University of Coimbra in Portugal and at the "Practicing Intellectual Resistance" conference in Maribor, Slovenia. Dr. Gordon presented the introduction to the book she is currently completing, *Statelessness and Contemporary Enslavement* at the APSA meeting in San Francisco.



Professor **Stephen Dyson**'s essay "[What makes Kim Jong Un Tick](#)" was published by *The Conversation*. This commentary has been reprinted by *Business Insider*, the *International Business Times*, and *Channel News Asia*, among others. Dr. Dyson also published "[Trump's Friendly Meeting With Putin Further Blurs US-Russia Relations](#)" on *The Conversation* website. In addition, he has written a piece for the *Washington Post*, "[President Trump, Do You Remember That Time Margaret Thatcher Fired All The Economists?](#)" Finally, Professor Dyson was mentioned in Ishaan Tharoor's *Washington Post* piece titled "[The Inescapable Politics of 'Game of Thrones'](#)" and his article (co-authored with Charles Duelfer) was mentioned in an April 21, 2017 *New York Times* story on Trump's foreign policy.



Professor **Shareen Hertel** participated in a roundtable at APSA 2017 in San Francisco, on "Just Violence: Torture & Human Rights in the Eyes of the Police," focusing on the new book of this title by Dr. Rachel Wahl of the University of Virginia. She also completed a chapter entitled "Re-framing Human Rights Advocacy: The Rise of Economic Rights", which was included in a book entitled *Human Rights Futures* that was just published by Cambridge University Press. Additionally, as editor of the *Journal of Human Rights*, she has helped to elevate that journal's impact by significantly increasing the journal's ranking during this past year.



Professor **Jeremy Pressman**'s article entitled "Diplomat in Chief: How Did Trump do on His First Middle East Visit?" has been published on the website *The Conversation*.



Professor **Yonatan L. Morse**'s piece titled "[Cameroon Has Been in Crisis for Six Months. Here's What You Need to Know](#)" has been published in *The Monkey Cage* website of the *Washington Post*.



Professor **Shayla Nunnally** was interviewed as part of a recent *Washington Post* piece titled "[Cosby's Sex Assault Trial Has Ended With a Mistrial. These People Believe It's All a Conspiracy](#)", authored by Janell Ross.

R&L

Professor **Jeffrey Lefebvre** wrote a back cover blurb for **Dina Badie**'s (Ph.D. '12) book *After Saddam: American Foreign Policy and the end of Secularism in the Middle East*. He also participated in an email interview for *Shafaqna*, a non-partisan Iran-based newspaper. The subject of the June 7, 2017 interview was "The Saudi-Qatar Rift Is Fueled by the Desire to Isolate Iran." Professor Lefebvre was also featured in three other email interviews with the Iran-based Mehr news agency on topics ranging from the Qatar crisis to political changes in Saudi Arabia to Trump's ME foreign policy.

Active Emeriti



Professor Emeritus **Frederick Turner** has been working hard at UConn on behalf of the Early College Experience (ECE) program. Recently he celebrated the work of **Lisa-Brit Wahlberg**, an adjunct professor at the Master's School in Simsbury who won the ECE teaching award for 2017. In addition to teaching our Introduction to International Relations for the past several years, Ms. Wahlberg-Brit developed a new course at the Master's School with Sarah King, an ECE colleague from UConn's English Department. The course involved a community-based learning project designed to address the psychological effects of war and resettlement on Syrian refugees in Connecticut. The class was set up "to foster and develop global citizenship, social justice and diverse cultural awareness." The award was given at the annual ECE banquet conducted at the Alumni Center on April 26, 2017.



Professor Emeritus **Richard Vengroff** published an article in *The Washington Post's The_Monkey Cage* on June 27, 2017 entitled "[Will Trump's new rules make it harder to get asylum in the U.S.? That will vary dramatically from one judge to the next.](#)"



The most recent POLS News & Notes (Vol. 4, No. 4) neglected to mention that Professor Emeritus **Curt Beck** was present at **Lou Gerson's** memorial event in the spring. Dr. Beck was a member of the department when Lou Gerson first arrived at UConn; he notes that it was Dr. George McReynolds who first hired Gerson before going on to become Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Graduate Student Achievements



Dr. Stephen Dyson and graduate student **Mathew Parent** contributed an invited essay to *War on the Rocks*, a platform for commentary and analysis by national security scholars and practitioners. The essay, "[In his own words: Vladimir Putin's foreign policy analyzed.](#)" draws upon their recently published paper on Putin's operational code. The two co-authors investigated the Trump/Russia relationship through content analysis of public statements. Based on their data they concluded that [Trump holds more positive views of Russia than both his predecessor and his own foreign policy team.](#)



Stephen Dyson and **Thomas Briggs'** chapter, "Leaders and Foreign Policy: Surveying the Evidence," will appear in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Empirical International Relations*. In the piece they take up the puzzling divergence between practitioner and journalistic narratives of politics.



Timothy Bussey was selected as the 2017 recipient of the UConn Leadership Office's Outstanding Graduate/Teaching Assistant Award, which is co-sponsored by the Graduate School. He has also been organizing the UConn Rainbow Center's weekly academic lecture-series, the [Out-to-Lunch \(OTL\) Lecture Series](#). Finally, Bussey recently posted a series of pieces on UConn's Graduate Certificate in College Instruction [blog](#) – he commented on LGBTQIA+ inclusion in educational spaces.



Thomas Briggs also participated in the British International Studies Association (BISA) pre-conference workshop on "Women Thinkers of the Internal" held on June 13, 2017, in Brighton, U.K. He presented his research on "Women IR Scholars in The Early Years of The Discipline" and participated in the workshop on writing women back into IR's disciplinary history and the "canon" of international thought.



Ozgur Ozdamar and **Sercan Canbolat** recently published an article in *Political Research Quarterly* titled "[Understanding New Middle Eastern Leadership: An Operational Code Approach.](#)" Also, **Dr. Oksan Bayulgen**, **Sercan Canbolat**, and **Ekim Kucukbumin Arbatli** authored an article forthcoming in *Polity* titled "Against All Odds: Elite Strategies of Survival, Autocratic Reversal and Resilience in Turkey."



Erica Chenoweth, **Erica Macdonald**, and Dr. **Jeremy Pressman** wrote an article for the *Washington Post's Monkey Cage* on June 26, 2017, entitled "[In Trump's America, who is protesting and why? Here's our May report.](#)"



Juhem Navarro-Rivera (Ph.D. '15), along with writer Luciano González, has launched a new podcast, [The Benito Juárez Experience](#). The podcast honors Benito Juárez, the 19th Century Mexican statesman of indigenous origin who was a strong defender of the secular state and a major thinker.



Dr. Takiyah Harper-Shipman (Ph.D. '15) will give a lecture titled "Reproductive Rights and Development in the Global South" on October 3 in SU 304A; that day she will give a seminar on "The Audacity of Choice: The Limitation of Reproductive Rights in West Africa" in Dodd 162.

Undergraduate Students on the Rise



POLS Honors students **Mary Szarkowicz**, **Susan Naseri**, and **Rebecca Hill** were selected to represent UConn at the National Education for Women Leadership Program held at Saint Anselm College, NH, June 4-9.



Christian Caron (CLAS '17) graduated from the department with honors last year and is now a graduate student at UNC. He won a Dirksen Fellowship for Congressional Studies.



Marissa Piccolo (CLAS '17) has received a grant to study at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where she will enter its Master's program in Legislative Studies and Practice.

Alumni in the News



The World Affairs Council of CT Blog has spotlighted **Meghan E. LaFountain** (B.A. '07, J.D. '11). She opened her own immigration law firm in Middleton, CT in January 2017, and 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. Ms. LaFontaine is especially concerned about changes to immigration policy in this challenging time.



Dr. **Pete Trumbore** (Ph.D. '99) recently made an appearance on [CBS News](#).



Dr. **Robert Glover** (Ph.D. '10) was recently awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor at the University of Maine.



Dr. **Yazmin Garcia-Trejo** has recently published an article in *Survey Practice* titled "Device and Internet Use Among Spanish-dominant Hispanics: Implications for Web Survey Design and Testing."

Upcoming Events

Monday, October 2, 2017

Uday Chandra (University of Georgetown-Qatar): *Religious Nationalism, Populism, and Democracy in Contemporary India*. Sponsored by POLS and India Studies. 12:15 pm in Oak 438.

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Takiyah Harper-Shipman (Carnegie Mellon University). *The Audacity of Choice: The Liimitations of Reproductive Rights in West Africa*. Co-sponsored with HRI's Global Health & Human Rights and Economic & Social Rights programs. 12:30 pm.

Monday, October 9, 2017

Stephen Dyson. *Screen Politics: Fiction, Science, Text*. 12:15 pm in OAK 438.

Wednesday, October 18, 2017.

Richard Nielsen (MIT). *How the Internet Helps Women Gain Authority in Islam*. Co-sponsored with Middle East Studies. 12:15 pm in OAK 438.

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Efe Tokdemir (OSU Postdoc) *Effects of Transnational Identity & Domestic Conflict on Attitudes towards Foreign Actors: Experimental Evidence from Turkey*. Co-sponsored with the ISA. 12:15 pm in Oak 438.

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Beth Ginsberg. *From Moses to Joseph (Lieberman): The History of Jewish Political Participation in the White House*. 12-2 pm at the UConn-Stamford Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies.

Monday, November 6, 2017

Peter Krause (Boston College) *Rebel Power: Why National Movements Compete, Fight, and Win*. Co-sponsored with Middle East Studies. 12:15 pm in OAK 438.

Tuesday, November 14, 2017.

Noora Lori (Boston University) *Ta'al Bachir (Come Tomorrow): The Politics of Waiting for Citizenship*. Co-sponsored with Middle East Studies. 12:30 pm in OAK 438.

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 Matthew Singer (Matthew.m.singer@uconn.edu)