

POLS News and Notes

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University of Connecticut, 365 Fairfield Way, U-1024, Storrs, CT. 06269-1024,
(860) 486-2440

<http://www.polisci.uconn.edu>

A Note from the Department Head ...



As 2017 marks an off year in national elections, most of us thought we would enjoy a relatively quiet November this year. Instead, we are getting a taste of local politics from our very own alums. Here in town, Caitlin Briody (POLS '17), a recent UConn graduate, shocked many when she won a seat on Mansfield's town council (see sidebar to the right). Meanwhile,

approximately 800 miles to the West, our own Ph.D. graduate and current Michigan State professor, Christopher E. Smith (Ph.D. 1988), is seeking office of another kind: Smith is running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he hopes to represent the 8th Congressional District of Michigan. Both are Democrats, but alumni of our department (and of UConn more generally) should take pride in their fellow Huskies' willingness to serve, regardless of their partisan affiliation. To quote Theodore Roosevelt, "the credit belongs to the man [or woman] who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly ... because there is no effort without error and shortcoming ... but who does actually strive to do the deeds." On that note, let me wish everyone and their families a happy and healthy holiday season. And please look for more newsletters in 2018!

-- David Yalof

Recent Faculty Publications, Conferences and Honors



Professor **Shareen Hertel**'s most recent book project, with the working title of *Tethered Fates: Promoting Cooperation between Communities and Corporations*, has been approved and is now under contract with the Oxford University Press.

RECENT POLS GRAD WINS MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL SEAT



Caitlin Briody (POLS '17)

Democrats will continue to lead the Mansfield Town Council in 2017 thanks to a successful election night on November 7. Joining them on the council will be a familiar face: Caitlin Briody (POLS '17) won an unexpected seat on the Council as an unaffiliated petitioning candidate. Briody became the first petitioning candidate to win a council seat since the town began its current council-manager government form in 1973.

Briody graduated from UConn this past May with honors and a double major in sociology and political science. She now works in marketing at United Way of Southeastern Connecticut and directs theatre at E.O. Smith High School. As a town councilor, she hopes to bring new businesses to town to ensure continued economic

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Town Councilor

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growth, to protect Mansfield's environment and rural foundation and to guarantee seniors have access to a good standard of living.

"Especially after last year's election, there seems to be a heightened interest in seeing young folks and women running," Briody said. "Voters want new perspectives, which is great."

Briody also capitalized on her strong ties to the community: "I think that was the biggest piece of all --my local roots. My family has been in Mansfield for almost twenty years, and we're involved. My parents coached little league and rec basketball and were in the PTO. My brothers and I worked at the town camp and the community center...So now it's my time to deliver!"



94.1 Professor **Prakash Kashwan** was interviewed about indigenous rights and the politics of nature conservation on KPFA 94.1's weekly talk show entitled "Your own Health and Fitness." The show was broadcast on October 31 and is archived at <https://kpfa.org/episode/your-own-health-and-fitness-october-31-2017/>. Dr. Kashwan also wrote his own piece entitled "Bigotry against indigenous people means we're missing a trick on climate change" for *The Guardian*. The article can be found at <https://www.theguardian.com/working-in-development/2017/nov/15/bigotry-against-indigenous-people-means-were-missing-a-trick-on-climate-change>.

wop Professor **Stephen Dyson**, writing on the *Washington Post* blog *Monkey Cage*, recently analyzed the politics of the new *Star Trek* television series. He found it to be the fictional analog to our contemporary international moment. The article can be found at https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/11/04/star-trek-has-gotten-darker-and-less-optimistic-just-like-our-politics/?utm_term=.ff1492815c38. Professor Dyson was also interviewed for an article about *Game of Thrones* and the development of modern conceptions of rights. The article can be found at <http://mashable.com/2017/08/24/game-of-thrones-patriarchy-feminism/#tgEdW7whlaqY>

 Professor **Robert Lupton's** article entitled "Are All 'Birthers' Conspiracy Theorists? On the Relationship Between Conspiratorial Thinking and Political Orientations," which he co-authored with Adam Enders and Steven Smallpage, was accepted for publication at the *British Journal of Political Science*. Dr. Lupton also recently published an entry on the *Washington Post's* *Monkey Cage* blog titled "Republicans are the party of ideological inconsistency." The entry was co-authored with William Myers and Judd Thornton.

 **Dr. Prakash Kashwan** has also been busy giving talks around the world on his recently published book, *Democracy in the Woods*. He discussed the book at the Institute for Geography and Sustainability, University of Lausanne, Switzerland (June 13, 2017); at the CODESRIA Summer Institute (June 22, 2017) in Maputo, Mozambique; and in the department of Sociology of Development and Change at Wageningen University in the Netherlands (July 6, 2017). Reviews of the book have also appeared in the *LSE Review of Books*, *the Journal of Peasant Studies*, and *Global Environmental Politics*.



Professor **Christine Sylvester** spoke about "Fleshing out the Stick Figures of Poverty," on a panel chaired by UConn PhD student **Cris Gogu** at "Onslaughts on the Poor: Corruption, Emissions, and Violence," a conference at Yale University held October 27-29.



Professor **Matthew Singer** had two book chapters accepted for publication this semester: (1) Ioannis Andreadis, Kirk Hawkins, Ivan Llamazares, Cristobal Rovira Kaltwasser and Matthew Singer "The Conditional Effects of Populist Attitudes on Voter Choices in 4 Democracies" in *The Ideational Approach to Populism: Concept, Theory and Method* (Routledge), edited by Kirk Hawkins, Ryan Carlin, Levi Littvay, and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser and (2) Kitschelt, Herbert and Matthew M. Singer, "Linkage Strategies of Former Authoritarian Ruling Parties under Conditions of Democratic Party Competition" in *Life after Dictatorship: Authoritarian Successor Parties Worldwide* (Cambridge University Press), edited by James Loxton and Scott Mainwaring.



Professor **Prakash Kashwan** delivered several invited talks, including "Governing Climate Geoengineering in an Unequal World" at the first Annual Searle Center Research Roundtable on Global Climate Change Governance at the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, a keynote on "Power Asymmetries, Unruly States, and the Bundles of Property Rights," at the international conference on Property and Environment in Developing Countries, organized by the ANR Govenpro at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, at an invitation-only Solar Radiation Management Governance Initiative Global Forum, and at a panel to present Recommendations of the Academic Working Group on International Governance of Climate Engineering at the Climate Engineering Conference in Berlin. Dr. Kashwan also organized twin-panels on "Property-Rights in the Theory and Practice of Commons" for the XVI Biennial Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) at Utrecht University and delivered a talk on "Building an Inclusive Political Economy" at the International Conference on Building a More Inclusive Democracy (India at 70 Conference), organized by the Ahimsa Center at California Polytechnic Pomona.



Professor **Jeremy Pressman**'s chapter, "Understanding the US-Israeli Alliance," will appear in *US Foreign Policy in the Middle East: From American Missionaries to the Islamic State*, edited by Geoffrey Gresh (Routledge). He also co-authored, with Professor Erica Chenoweth, a post in the *Washington Post*'s *Monkey Cage* section entitled, "Sometimes a handful of protesters can spark an enormous discussion. That certainly happened in September." It can be found at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/11/01/sometimes-a-handful-of-protesters-can-spark-an-enormous-discussion-that-certainly-happened-in-september/>?. Prof. Pressman also gave an invited lecture at Skidmore College as part of the Jacob Perlow Lecture Series. The talk was on "The Long Struggle for Israel-Palestine."



Dr. Charles R. Venator-Santiago received positive feedback from the Hartford Foundation of Public Giving on the first round of review for his research proposal. He seeks to study the impact of post-disaster displacement in Puerto Rico.



Professor **Shareen Hertel** was lead organizer for an international conference jointly hosted in October in Storrs by the UConn School of Business, the Dodd Center, and the Human Rights Institute on “Protecting Human Rights at the End of the Line: Stakeholder Engagement in Light Manufacturing.” Full details on the program and accompanying press coverage can be accessed at: <https://businessandhumanrights.uconn.edu/events/stakeholder-engagement/>. Dr. Hertel also spoke at Columbia University’s Arnold Saltzman Institute of War & Peace Studies on November 9, 2017, for a panel on “Human Rights Futures” featuring contributors to a book of that title (Cambridge 2017). For details, see: <https://sustainable.columbia.edu/events/book-panel-human-rights-futures-cambridge-university-press-2017>.



Professor Jane Gordon, President Emeritus of the Caribbean Philosophical Association, continues to serve as director of the CPA’s highly regarded week-long Summer School. In the Canadian newspaper, *The Globe and Mail*, reporter Anya Zoleziowski writes about a Ph.D. student at Dalhousie University, Tiffany Gordon, whose determination to study philosophy became more pronounced as a result of her attendance at CPA’s summer program. The article can be found at <https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/education/canadian-university-report/lack-of-faculty-diversity-can-affect-studies-and-career-aspirations/article36637410/>. Professor Gordon has also agreed to chair the APSA Foundations of Political Theory section’s First Book Award Committee for the 2018 APSA. The award, which is given for the first book by a scholar, recognizes emerging colleagues in the field.



Professor Charles R. Venator-Santiago was interviewed by Bloomberg news about the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. The article – which also appeared in *UConn Today* – can be found at <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-10/puerto-rico-s-74-billion-burden-left-it-helpless-when-maria-hit>



Professor **Jennifer-Sterling-Folker** accepted the 2017 Alumni Association Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award (Undergraduate Level) at a ceremony on October 20, 2017. She was joined at the ceremony by President Herbst, Alan Bennett, and several of her undergraduate honors students.



At the invitation of Provost Teitelbaum, Professor **Evan Perkoski** participated in a panel discussion for Family Weekend on October 7, 2017.

Graduate Student Achievements



Sercan Canbolat recently attended the Tenth Annual Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA), held in October. He presented his current research entitled "Birds of A Feather? Leadership Patterns and Lethality of Main Terrorist Organizations in the Middle East and North Africa." Sercan was also a recipient of an ASMEA research grant. The manuscript based on this research is currently under review by the *Journal of the Middle East and Africa*.



Timothy Bussey participated in an event sponsored by the Pride Center at Eastern Connecticut State University. The event held this past November was entitled "The History of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell': A Guided discussion of Gay and Lesbian Exclusion in the Armed Forces." The Pride Center will also be hosting Tim in March 2018 to discuss the potential impact of the Trump Administration's proposed transgender ban in the armed forces.



Brooks Kirchgassner and **Dr. Ernie Zirakzadeh** have been working on a paper about the Kerner Report, an 11-member commission established by President Lyndon Johnson to investigate the causes of the 1967 race riots. Their paper, entitled "Rumor Has It: Controlling the Narrative of the 1967 U.S. Riots," was accepted for presentation at the 2018 WPSA Annual Meeting in San Francisco.



Derefe Chevannes was awarded \$2,000 from UConn's El Instituto to support dissertation research he is conducting in Hartford and Jamaica for his project entitled "Modernity's Undertone: On Reconceptualizing Political Speech."

Undergraduate Students on the Rise



Three of our current POLS majors -- **Lucas Bladen**, **Mary Szarkowicz** and **Susan Naseri** – were accepted into UConn's Leadership Legacy Program. The program was established in 2007 to invite the University's most exceptional student leaders to participate in a year-long leadership experience.



Sophomore POLS majors **Susan Naseri** and **Van Augur** were also featured in an article on the CLAS website about their work doing research as Holster Scholars. The article can be found at <http://clas.uconn.edu/2017/10/04/sophomore-holster-scholars-present-on-topics-from-cancer-to-plastic-to-aging/>

Alumni in the News



Dr. **Christopher E. Smith** (PhD 1988) has filed to run as a Democratic challenger for the U.S. House of Representatives. He seeks to represent Michigan's 8th Congressional district, where he has lived for the past 23 years. For more information, go to his campaign website: www.ChrisSmithforMich.com and the crowdfund site that he started at <https://www.crowdpac.com/campaigns/354839/chris-smith>



Dr. **Kristy Belton** (International Studies Association and POLS Ph.D., 2014) just published a book with University of Pennsylvania Press. Its title is *Statelessness in the Caribbean: The Paradox of Belonging in a Postnational World*.



Many on our faculty remember former Journalism major and POLS Minor **Jesse Rifkin**, who is now a Congressional reporter at GovTrack Insider. Just recently, he was named one of America's top three general interest columnists of 2016 by the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. His features and opinion columns have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Politico*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *USA Today*, *Huffington Post*, *Daily Beast*, and *The Hartford Courant*.



POLS alumnus **John Dearborn**, currently a PhD. candidate at Yale, presented work from a new chapter in his dissertation at Yale's American Politics & Public Policy Workshop held in October. The talk was entitled "The Foundations of the Modern Presidency: Presidential Representation, the Unitary Executive Theory, and the Reorganization Act of 1939." A link to the paper can be found at https://csap.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/apppw_jd_10-4-17.pdf. He is also revising his chapter on the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 that he presented at the Midwest Political Science Association.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Chris Haynes (Assistant professor of Political Science, University of New Haven): 12:15 pm in Oak 438.
Dr. Haynes is a former Visiting Fellow at the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, UC-San Diego and earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Riverside. His NSF-funded dissertation examined the effects of empathy on immigration policy preferences.

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Shatema Threadcraft (Associate Professor of Government, Dartmouth College): 12:15 in **OAK 408**.
Dr. Threadcraft's research has been supported by the Ford Foundation, the American Association of University Women, the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, and the Rutgers Center for Race and Ethnicity.

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Tatishe Nteta (Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Massachusetts): 12:30 in OAK 438.

Dr. Nteta's research interests lie at the intersection of the politics of race and ethnicity, public opinion, and political behavior. His work examines the impact of changing demographics and shifts in the sociopolitical incorporation of racial minorities on the contours of American race relations, policy preferences, and participation.

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Emre Hatipoglu (Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Sabanci University): 12:15 in OAK 438.

Dr. Hatipoğlu's research employs quantitative and formal methods to examine the intersection of domestic politics and foreign policy. He is also a co-principal investigator in the I-POST project, which examines opinion formation trends among Turkish twitter users.

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)