

POLS News and Notes

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A Note from the Department Head ...



This newsletter has been a joy to work on for the past five years, if only because it has given the department a chance to show off the accomplishments of our brightest stars from the faculty and the ranks of undergraduate and graduate students alike. Alumni and emeriti faculty have also been featured prominently in these pages. Yet to be sure, this is not the only source of

information and events that may be of interest to those associated with the department. Our Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Oksan Bayulgen, has worked to keep our department's Facebook page updated. (See <https://www.facebook.com/UConn-Political-Science-Department-1549535538632832/>) The department has its own blog (<https://polisci.uconn.edu/blog/>), maintained in the past by Dr. Jeremy Pressman, and more recently by Dr. Prakash Kashwan. We also sponsor our own Political Review, now in its fifth edition. The journal is written, edited, and reviewed by our undergraduates (<https://polisci.uconn.edu/undergraduate/clubs/undergraduate-political-review-journal/>). Please take the time to consult all these sources, and feel free to offer whatever feedback you might have on ways to improve our communications going forward. I look forward to hearing from you all in 2018.

-- David A. Yalof

Recent Faculty Publications, Conferences and Honors



Professor **Yonatan Morse** has signed a contract with Cambridge University Press to publish his first book, *How Autocrats Compete: Parties, Patrons, and Unfair Elections in Africa*. This past January he published "Electoral Authoritarianism and Weak States in Africa" in the *International Political Science Review*, and an online article entitled "Presidential Power and Democratization by Elections in Africa" in the journal *Democratization*.

DAVIS REMEMBERED FOR HIS DEDICATION TO STUDENTS



Dr. I. Ridgway Davis (1923-2018)

Ridgway ("Ridg") Davis, Professor Emeritus at UConn, passed away at Windham Hospital on February 10, 2018, after a short illness. He was 94.

Dr. Davis's colleagues in the Political Science Department remember him above all for his dedication to advising students both as a full-time faculty member, and then as the department's pre-law advisor near the end of his career. "Ridg had an extraordinary commitment to advising students," said Dr. Larry Bowman, who served as department head from 1985-1994. "He was always the one with his door open, ready to take on extra advisees." According to Professor Emeritus Curt Beck, "Ridge was more concerned with the

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Professor **Evelyn Simien's** 2015 book, *Historic Firsts: How Symbolic Empowerment Changes U.S. Politics* (Oxford University Press) was recently reviewed in the March 2018 edition of the APSA journal, *Perspectives in Politics*. In her review of the book, Fordham University Professor Christina Greer writes that the work "is a timely and necessary contribution that should be mandatory reading for any scholar interested in the presidency, electoral politics and African American presidential history and politics more broadly."



Professor **Evan Perkoski**, writing on the *Washington Post* blog *Monkey Cage*, analyzed an exchange between CIA Director Mike Pompeo and Senator Angus King (I.-Me) concerning the lack of a coherent strategy for deterring cyberattacks from Russia and elsewhere. The article can be found at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/02/21/did-the-u-s-hack-back-at-russia-heres-why-this-matters-in-cyberwarfare/>. Dr. Perkoski also recently published two journal articles: (1) with Mike Horowitz and Phil Potter, he published "Tactical Diversity in Militant Violence" in *International Organization* (<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-organization/latest-issue>); and (2) with Michael Poznansky, he published "Rethinking Secrecy in Cyberspace: The Politics of Voluntary Attribution," in *the Journal of Global Security Studies*. (https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2836087). Last December, he gave a presentation on causes and consequences of militant group alliances to the National Ground Intelligence Center of the Army's Intelligence and Security Command.



Professor **Matthew Singer's** article entitled "Personal Economic Struggles and Heterogeneous Government Approval after the Great Recession" was recently accepted for publication in *Public Opinion Quarterly*.



Professor **Beth Ginsberg** delivered this year's Maria and Isher Jacobsen Lecture at UConn's Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies in Stamford, Connecticut. The talk, which surveyed the history of Jewish political participation, was re-broadcast by the Jewish Broadcasting System.



Professor **Shayla Nunnally's** article entitled "(Re)Defining the black body in the era of Black Lives Matter: the politics of blackness, old and new," was published in the January 4, 2018 edition of *Taylor & Francis On-Line*. The work was supported by the Public Discourse Project of the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute.

Davis Remembered

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accomplishments of his students than his own scholarly reputation." Professor Cyrus Zirakzadeh recalled how "countless pre-law students trusted and loved him."

I. Ridgway Davis was born in Wildwood, New Jersey on May 18, 1923. Soon after entering Yale, he joined the U.S. Army and served in WWII. He eventually returned to Yale, where he graduated in 1949. He continued to the University of Pennsylvania where he earned his Master's degree; he then received his PhD from Ohio State University on the G.I. Bill. Dr. Davis moved to Storrs to begin teaching at UConn, where he remained for more than four decades. A specialist in state and local government, and in Constitutional law, his greatest joy was interacting with students. Dr. Davis is survived by his sons, Douglas (Rachel) and Lynden and by his seven grandchildren. Donations may be made to the I. Ridgway Davis Pre-Law Fellowship Fund of The UConn Foundation, Inc., 2390 Alumni Drive Unit 3206, Storrs, Connecticut 06269.



Professor **Jeremy Pressman** published his piece, “Trump’s rhetoric on Jerusalem Tells Us a Lot About What Kind of Israeli-Palestinian Proposal He’ll deliver” in the *Washington Post’s* blog, *The Monkey Cage*. It appeared on December 8, 2017. (See

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/12/08/trumps-rhetoric-on-jerusalem-tells-us-a-lot-about-what-kind-of-israeli-palestinian-proposal-hell-deliver/?utm_term=.167a7e847627). Dr.

Pressman also co-authored an op-ed in the *Guardian* entitled “The Women’s March could change politics like the Tea Party did.” The piece was published on January 31, 2018. (See <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jan/31/womens-march-politics-tea-party>).

Finally, Jeremy Pressman’s work on the 2017 Women’s March was cited favorably in *Alternative Facts: An Adult Political Coloring Book*, by Debbie Chesebro and Karen Bu.



Professor **Prakash Kashwan** has been busy writing op-eds. He authored an invited op-ed column for Merion West on January 9, 2018, entitled “Public Policy Expert: Political Engagement Is Key to “Climate Justice””. (see <http://merionwest.com/2018/01/09/public-policy-expert-political-engagement-is-key-to-social-justice/>).

He also provided a commentary on Gujarat State elections in the *Hindustan Times* of New Delhi entitled “Offer more avenues to the unemployed millions.” (It appeared in print on December 20, 2017.) A similar op-ed appeared online entitled “Gujarat election results offer hope for a rejuvenated political economy”. (See <https://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/gujarat-election-results-offer-hope-for-a-rejuvenated-political-economy/story-532dtCOjI84D85aOWf4QyJ.html>)



Professor **Yonatan Morse** recently did a podcast with the program *Global Dispatches* about Cameroon (The program can be found at <http://www.globaldispatchespodcast.com>). The episode featuring Dr. Morse aired in late January.



One of Professor **Charles Venator-Santiago’s** commentaries entitled “Are Puerto Ricans Really American Citizens?”, was included on *The Conversation’s* list of “best stories of 2017.” The Conversation website published over 1,700 articles last year. **Dr. Venator-Santiago** was also invited by *The Huffington Post* to write a piece on the political status of Puerto Rico and the federal response to Hurricane Maria.



Professor **Stephen Dyson** published his piece, “The New ‘Star Trek’ has gotten Darker and More Pessimistic – Just Like Our Politics,” in the November 4, 2017 edition of the *Washington Post’s* blog, *The Monkey Cage*.



Professor **Robert Lupton** presented his co-authored paper entitled “Revisiting the Sophistication-Interaction Theory of Mass Political Reasoning” at the Southern Political Science Association annual meeting in New Orleans. At the same meeting, he presented an additional paper entitled “Core Values and the Persistence of Southern Exceptionalism.” Dr. Lupton was also 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 **Shareen Hertel** has been busy giving talks around the country. In December 2017, she spoke on “Pathways of Attention and influence: Insights from Tethered Fates: Companies, Communities and Rights at Stake” at a workshop on “Emerging Frontiers of Human Rights Scholarship: Dynamics of Change,” at the University of California – Santa Barbara. In February 2018, she gave a talk on “Bridging the Human Rights and Engineering Fields” at the Georgia Institute of Technology during a conference on “Science and Engineering for Social Good,” hosted by the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement in Atlanta, GA. The presentation highlighted a new collaboration between UConn’s Human Rights Institute and its School of Engineering to launch a track of courses that open the Human Rights Minor to students in engineering and in other STEM fields. Other Political Science colleagues offering courses in this track include Prof. **Oksan Bayulgen**, Prof. **Lyle Scruggs**, and Prof. **Veronica Herrera**. For details, see: <https://humanrights.uconn.edu/2018/01/03/teaching-innovations-human-rights-engineering/> as well as <http://ncsce.net/science-and-engineering-for-social-good-2018/>.



Dr. **Christine Sylvester** was invited to be a grant assessor for the Australian Research Council. She was also part of a grant proposal to the Royal Society, New Zealand, for research on “North Korean cultural diplomacy in Southern Africa,” overseen by a colleague at the School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University, Auckland. Finally, Dr. Sylvester just published with Oxford University Press a book chapter, “Afterwards,” in *Gendered States Revisited* (edited by Swati Parashar, Ann Tickner, and Jacqui True). The volume reprises the first collection of essays on feminist IR, published in 1994. In that earlier volume, Dr. Sylvester also published a chapter entitled “Feminists and Realists Look at Autonomy and Obligation in International Relations.”



Professor **Paul Herrnson** published a co-authored article entitled “The Impact of District Magnitude on the Legislative Behavior of State Representatives” (with Jeffrey A. Taylor and James M. Curry) in *Political Research Quarterly*. He also presented a paper entitled “A Tale of Two Elections,” at the Annual Meeting of the American Politics Group, Oxford University, January 4-6, 2018. On January 31, 2018, Dr. Herrnson participated in a forum in Glastonbury, CT on “How Americans Vote and Why it Matters,” sponsored by the Martin Luther King Community Initiative. Finally, he joined the Advisory Board of the Center for Survey Research, East Carolina University.



Professor **Michael Morrell** has been appointed Vice President for Conferences of the International Society of Political Psychology (<http://www.ispp.org/>). Dr. Morrell was also invited by the Kettering Foundation (<https://www.kettering.org/>) to be a featured speaker at their February 2018 Dayton Days program. He spoke on the relationship between empathy and democracy, his current research on the role of emotions in the Citizens' Initiative Review, and the large collaborative grant project, "Designing Online News Comments to Promote Intellectual Humility in Public Discourse."

Graduate Student Achievements



Takiyah Harper-Shipman (PhD. '17), who defended her dissertation last year, has accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Davidson College. For the past year, Takiyah has been serving as a post-doctoral fellow at the Institute for Politics and Strategy at Carnegie Mellon University, where she carried out research stemming from her dissertation ("What's Left to Own? Moving Beyond Ownership of Development in Aid-Dependent Africa") and related projects.



Hailey Greenhalgh will be presenting a paper entitled "Queers Against War: An Analysis of the Empty Closet" at the International Studies Association National meeting in San Francisco this coming April.



Derefe Chevannes recently published two articles: (1) "Trabajando y estudiando para ser el hombre total: Socializing the Political in Living Ideology in Cuba," in *The C.L.R. James Journal: A Review of Caribbean Ideas* Vol. 23, no. 1 (Fall 2017): 343–349; and (2) "Creolizing Political Speech" in *The Review of Education, Pedagogy, and Cultural Studies*, Vol. 40, No. 1 (2018): 5-15.



Meghan B. Peterson successfully defended her dissertation, "Law's Haze, Police Ways, Tech's Maze: relationships Between American Law, Crime and Technology" on December 4, 2017.



Stephen Del Visco recently published a solo-authored article entitled "Yellow Peril, Red Scare: Race and Communism in *National Review*," in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.



Erica MacDonald recently received a \$2,000 graduate student research grant from UConn's Human Rights Institute to support her dissertation fieldwork in the Netherlands. Her project, "Formally Informal? Sex Work, Sex Workers' Rights and the State," explores how informal labor becomes formal, using sex work as a case study. In addition, Erica and **Prof. Zehra Arat** presented their co-authored paper "From Anti-Discrimination to Empowerment of Women: A Critical Assessment of the CEDAW, MDGs and SDGs," at Columbia University's Women and Society Faculty Seminar this past January. (The paper has also been accepted at the International Studies Association's annual conference in San Francisco this coming April, and at the International Political Science Association's World Congress of Political Science in Brisbane, Australia in July).



The latest issue of *Black Issues in Philosophy*, a blog of the American Philosophical Association, features a conversation between graduate student **Greg Doukas** and UConn Philosophy Professor Lewis Gordon. The topic of conversation is "Black Issues in Philosophy: A Conversation on The Black Panther." The conversation can be found at <https://blog.apaonline.org/2018/02/20/black-issues-in-philosophy-a-conversation-on-the-black-panther/>



UConn's Center for Career Development (CCD) recently recognized graduate student **Timothy Bussey** as the First Runner-Up for the Graduate Intern of the Year Award. Bussey was recognized for his work as a graduate intern for the UConn Rainbow Center during the fall 2016 semester. During the spring 2018 term, Timothy Bussey will continue to manage the UConn Rainbow Center's Out to Lunch (OTL) Lecture Series. More information about this intersectional lecture series focused on the LGBTQ+ community is available at <https://rainbowcenter.uconn.edu/out-to-lunch-lecture-series/>



Taesim Kim will be presenting a paper, "The Politics of Insecurity: Public Attitudes Toward Social and Environmental Policies," at the upcoming Midwestern Political Science Association Conference in April.



Youssef Bellamy will be presenting a paper entitled "Discourse, Power and the African State" at the upcoming ISA meeting in April. The paper seeks to problematize hegemonic narratives, which invariably label non-Western trajectories of statehood (particularly in a postcolonial African context) as failed or incapacitated cases that depend on exogenous security for their survival.

Undergraduate Students on the Rise



Sydney Carr (POLS '18), a senior in the honors program who currently heads UConn's National Council of Negro Women, was recently selected as an APSA Minority Fellow for 2018-19. The fellowship provides her with of \$4,000, to be dispersed in support of her doctoral study in political science. Ms. Carr has already been accepted into doctoral programs at Emory University, Purdue University, Duke University, the University of Michigan, and UCLA.



Double-major **LeAnn McLaren** (POLS & HIST '19) has been accepted into the prestigious Ralph Bunche Summer Institute at Duke University this summer. Founded in 1986 to enhance diversity within the discipline of political science, the Bunche Summer Institute (named in honor of the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize winner and former APSA President) aims to encourage students from diverse backgrounds to pursue academic careers in political science.



Allison Koehler (POLS '18), a senior Political Science major, has been named Secretary General for the upcoming National High School Model United Nations. The 44th Annual Model U.N. Conference will be held during the first week of March in New York City. The conference is run exclusively by a staff of 102 university students and offers 5,000 high school students from around the world a unique opportunity to learn international relations through active participation.

Alumni in the News



John Dearborn (POLS '13), now a PhD student studying political science at Yale University, learned that his paper, "The Foundations of the Modern Presidency: Presidential Representation, the Unitary Executive Theory, and the Reorganization Act of 1939," has been accepted for publication in the March 2019 issue of *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. Another of Mr. Dearborn's papers, "The 'Proper Organ' for Presidential Representation: A Fresh Look at the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921" has been accepted for the Winter 2019 issue of the *Journal of Policy History*.



UConn graduate **Courtney Hickson** (POLS & JOUR '04) died on February 7, 2018, in a car collision. While at UConn, Hickson was editor-in-chief of the Daily Campus; her leadership and devotion to the newspaper helped it to become a hub for students. After graduation, she went on to attend the New Hampshire School of Law, and was working as an attorney for the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable at the time of her passing.

aetna

Adam Kuegler (POLS '17), currently a first-year student at UConn Law School, has won UConn's 2017 Aetna Writing in the Disciplines Award (Social Sciences Division). He will be recognized at the UConn Celebrating of Student Writing event on April 5, 2018. Mr. Kuegler was also featured in the "1L Student Q&A" feature of the University of Connecticut Law School website. (<https://www.law.uconn.edu/about/1l-student-qa-adam-kuegler-20>).



One of our local alumni, **Daniel R. Blanchard** (POLS '93) was recently elected to his first political seat as the Mansfield, Connecticut, Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate.



Former Stamford campus graduate **Andrew J. Colabella** (POLS '13) was elected the District 4 Councilman for Westport, Connecticut. He is the youngest individual ever elected to the position.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Keith Whittington (William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Politics, Princeton University): 2:00 pm in **Konover Auditorium**. *Why Free Speech Matters on Campus*. (Lecture sponsored by the Department of Political Science, the Human Rights Institute and UConn Humanities Institute)

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Tatishe Nteta (Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Massachusetts): 12:30 in **Oak 438**. *The Pictures in Our Heads: Race and Public Opinion on Paying College Athletes*.

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Emre Hatipoglu (Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Sabanci University): 12:15 in **Oak 438**. *Economic Sanctions and the Carbonization of Target Economies*.

Monday, April 9, 2018

Peter Thomas (Senior Lecturer, Brunel University, London, England). 12:15 in **Oak 438**.

Dr. Thomas has published widely on Marxist political theory and philosophy (particularly Gramsci), the history of political thought and the history of philosophy. He has also translated the work of Roberto Finelli, Antonio Negri, Mario Tronti and Slavoj Zizek, among others.

Monday, April 16, 2018

Katherine Rye Jewell (Assistant Professor of History, Fitchburg State University): 12:15 in **Oak 438**.

Regional Identity and Political Economy: Tracing the Geography of Southern Economic Conservatism..

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)