

POLS News and Notes Spring 2016 (vol. 3, no. 4)

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A note From the Department Head ...



Finally we get some warm weather in Storrs -- and just in time for the end of the semester and a summer filled with vacationing and the presidential election that never ends. The sheer craziness of these political times has put the spotlight on our department and I am happy to report that we have been up to the challenge. The UCONN Foundation, for example, has been holding political panels

for alumni groups up and down the East Coast, and many of our faculty have volunteered their time to serve up analysis on Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, and brokered conventions. (I should mention that the list of department faculty who have participated in such panels includes at least one professor who doubles as the University's president during her free time). Hopefully we will see our own department's alumni at similar events scheduled during the fall. Meanwhile, for those who are available in late April and May, we still have numerous speakers coming to Oak Hall. And please don't forget our annual department awards ceremony on the evening of April 28th. My best wishes that you may all have a happy and fruitful summer.

—David Yalof

Recent Faculty Publications, Conferences and Honors



In the International Studies Association (ISA) Governing Council Officer Elections, **Jennifer Sterling-Folker** was elected by the ISA membership to serve as a Vice-President for the 2017-2018 term. Dr. Sterling-Folker was also invited to participate in the "What's the Point of International Relations?" conference held at the University of Sussex, UK, 10-11 December 2015. Her paper, entitled, "Be Careful What You Wish For: In Defense of Incoherence and Irrelevance in the American Study of IR," will be included in an edited volume on the subject.

HISTORIAN BESCHLOSS MEETS POLS STUDENTS, DISCUSSES 2016 RACE



Michael Beschloss is an award-winning historian, best-selling author, and an Emmy-winning contributor to NBC News and the PBS NewsHour. But perhaps it is his social media prowess that makes him so relatable to young people -- with more than 110,000 followers, he has the largest Twitter following of any historian on earth. Prior to giving his talk for the Edmund Fusco Contemporary Issues Forum on April 13, he met with POLS students **Lucas Silva Lopez**, **Samantha Houghton**, **Marissa Piccolo** and **Tim Faucett**. What was discussed? Why, the crazy 2016 election, of course.

"Donald Trump appeared on *The Apprentice* for 14 seasons," Beschloss told the students. "During those

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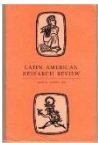
Additionally, at the 2016 ISA Annual Convention (held from March 16-19 in Atlanta, Georgia), **Prof. Sterling-Folker** served as chair of the panel, “International Regimes: Constrainer or Enabler?”, co-discussant of the panel, “Politics of Global Economy,” and participated as a discussant and mentor in the Junior scholar Symposium’s “Probing IR Theory” panel.



Dr. **Shareen Hertel** was named the keynote speaker at this year’s President’s Series on Teaching Excellence, an event to honor and celebrate excellence in teaching and learning at UConn. She will give her talk, entitled “Made to Care: Creating Community in the Classroom,” on April 25th.



In March, Professor **Shayla Nunnally** was invited by the American Political Science Association (APSA) to participate in a discussion about the status of APSA’s Wilson awards. Earlier this semester, she was invited by *Perspectives on Politics* to write about the recent Woodrow Wilson controversy, which concerns his equivocal actions on race, and contemporary protests to remove his name from Princeton University buildings as well as from several of the university’s honors.



Dr. **Matthew Singer** published two articles, both coming out in June. The first—“Elite Polarization and the Electoral Impact of Left-Right Placements: Evidence from Latin America, 1995-2009”—will be published in the June issue of the *Latin American Research Review*. The second—“Informal Sector Work and Evaluations of the Incumbent: The Electoral Effect of Vulnerability on Economic Voting”—will be published in the June edition of *Latin American Politics and Society*.



The Office of the Provost recognized Profs. **Jeremy Pressman, Kristin Kelly, Richard Cole, Zaid Eyadat, Kimberly Bergendahl, Michael Morrell, Veronica Herrera, Christine Sylvester, Shareen Hertel, David Richards, Stephen Dyson, Vincent Mosccardelli, Susan Herbst, Ronald Schurin, Jennifer Sterling-Folker, Jane Gordon, and Thomas Hayes** for their excellence in teaching. These professors each showed distinction in their student evaluations.



Professor **Prakash Kashwan** signed a contract with Oxford University Press, New York for his manuscript “Democracy in the Woods: Environmental Conservation and Social Justice in India, Tanzania, and Mexico,” which the OUP plans to bring out in the first quarter of 2017. Prof. Kashwan has been invited to be part of the Academic Working Group on International Governance of Climate Engineering, as part of the Forum for Climate Engineering Assessment at the School of International Service at American University in Washington, DC. More information is available here. <http://dcgeoconsortium.org/2016/03/01/announcing-a-new-academic-working-group-on-international-governance-of-solar-climate-engineering/>.

BESCHLOSS VISIT

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years, an average of between 5 and 20 million people per week watched him. That’s a pretty impressive following with which to start a campaign.” Beschloss also cautioned against making predictions in 2016: “Trump has broken every rule in American politics and survived. Who knows what rules remain to be broken?”

The *New York Times Book Review* has called Beschloss “easily the most widely recognized Presidential historian in the United States.” Albert Hunt of Bloomberg News has called him “a national treasure.”

He is currently working on a major history of American Presidents and wars from 1812 to the present, which will be published by Crown Publishers in 2017. For *The New York Times*, Beschloss writes a monthly business history column on Sundays and a weekly sports history column on Saturdays—the first time *The New York Times* has ever published a regular columnist on either of those subjects.



Professor **Shareen Hertel**, Ph.D. candidate Corinne Tagliarina, and Catherine Buerger (Graduate student in the Anthropology Department) have an article forthcoming in *Human Rights Quarterly*, entitled "Cheap Talk on Food: Party Politics in India and the challenge of implementing the right to food," which draws on their collaborative work evaluating change in party platforms in India along with a news events dataset on food-related protests and policy change in India, two decades worth of reporting from four major Indian dailies. Shareen Hertel also has an article forthcoming in *Social Movement Studies* entitled "A New Route to Norms Evolution: Insights from India" that draws on this data along with original field interviews conducted since 2011. Hertel will deliver a paper on her new research on stakeholder consultation on business and human rights, at NYU on April 22 ("Putting Multistakeholder Consultation in Perspective: The Genealogy of Participation," see: <http://blogs.law.nyu.edu/docket/1/putting-multistakeholder-consultation-in-perspective-the-genealogy-of-popular-participation-in-economic-rights-policy-making/21971/>). Lastly, Prof. Hertel was named to the selection committee for the next Philip E. Austin Chair in Social Sciences, which supports the work of nationally renowned scholars.



Professor **Stephen Dyson** won the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Excellence in Teaching Award for the social science division. He was formally recognized both at the CLAS College-wide Faculty and Staff appreciation celebration on April 5th. This marks the third time in a row a member of our department won this biennial award: Professor Samuel Best won the award in 2014, while Professor Shareen Hertel was the winner in 2012.



Stanford University Press will publish Professor **Jeffrey Dudas'** book, tentatively entitled *Raised Right: Heroism and Villainy in Modern American Conservatism*, in 2017.



Professor **Shayla Nunnally** appeared on the Canadian Radio Show, *The Current*, with Anna Maria Tremonti. The show is on Sirius Radio and has one million listeners. The interview is available at: <http://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-february-23-2016-1.3459641/the-trump-card-can-the-donald-really-become-president-1.3459663>.



The UConn Humanities Institute has formally awarded **Professors Christine Sylvester** and **Veronica Herrera** fellowships for the 2016-17 academic year.



Professor **Evelyn M. Simien** and undergraduate POLS major, **Sydney Carr**, presented a paper entitled "How the Public Views Black Presidential Candidates" at the 2016 annual meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists in Jackson, Mississippi.



Professor **Christine Sylvester** received her Humanities Institute Fellowship for her monograph on "Objects of War: Whose Wars Are On View?" With Cathy Schlund-Vials, she organized a workshop on Bodies Living With Violence (April 15-16), which includes two International Relations colleagues from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. Prof. Sylvester also served as the curator of a balcony exhibition at the Benton Museum.



Professor **Jane Gordon** organized all 21 sessions for the Foundations of Political Theory section for this year's Midwest Political Science Association conference. She also presented a talk at the Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting on "Exports and Offerings of the Northern South," focused on pockets of the Global South within the Global North, and was a commentator in an author meets critic session at the Western Political Science Association on Neil Roberts's *Freedom as Marronnage*. Professor Gordon co-organized a one-day symposium on the intellectual contributions of Paget Henry at The Commons in Brooklyn, New York City. There, the recently published *Journeys in Caribbean Thought: The Paget Henry Reader* (co-edited with Lewis Gordon, Aaron Kamugisha, and Neil Roberts) was available. Finally, Prof. Gordon recently signed on with the University of Kentucky Press to provide (along with Professor Ernie Zirakzadeh) *A Political Companion to Richard Wright*.



Dr. Stephen Dyson's book, *Otherworldly Politics*, was recently reviewed by Chris Parkes of the London School of Economics. Writing for H-Net, Parkes wrote, "*Otherworldly Politics* is undeniably one of the most lively and ebullient books on IR theory on the market today... By changing the framework in which state behavior and human action are analyzed, Dyson participates in the most fundamental of his discipline's enterprises: to try to make sense of international relations."



Professor **Christine Sylvester** was interviewed by Elizabeth Dauphinee, editor of the *Journal of Narrative Politics* (Spring 2016), for a forum on Feminism and Postcolonialism. For more information about the Journal, go to: <<http://journalofnarrativepolitics.com>>. She also recently published two book chapters: "Will IR Be Quite So Abstract in the Future?" in *International Relations Theory Today and In the Future*, Ken Booth and Toni Erskine, eds. (Penn State University Press). She also published "Creativity," in *Critical Imaginations in International Relations*. (Aoileann Ni Mhurchu and Reiko Shindo, eds.).



At the International Studies Association (ISA) annual meeting in Atlanta, Professor **Stephen Dyson** presented his paper "Images of International Politics in Chinese Science Fiction: Liu Cixin's Three Body Series." For the *Monkey Cage*, Prof. Dyson also wrote about "Occupied," a Norwegian political thriller about a Russian invasion of the country. His piece is at: <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/02/18/heres-why-you-have-to-watch-occupied-a-near-future-political-nightmare/>>.



Professor **Paul Herrnson** presented a paper, "The Impact of District Magnitude on the Legislative Behavior of State Representatives," (with Jeffrey A. Taylor, and James M. Curry) at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Il., April 9, 2016.



On April 11th, Professor **Beth Ginsberg** moderated a roundtable discussion entitled "The Voting Rights Act of 1965: How Far Have We Come, How Far Are We Going?" Congressman Jim Himes (D – CT 4) participated in the discussion.

Graduate Student Achievements



Ph.D. candidate **Salil Benegal** recently defended his dissertation, “A Changing Climate in the Public Mind: How Do Economic Risk and Political Partisanship Affect How We Think About Climate Change?” on April 4th. Dr. Benegal and Professor **Tom Hayes**, along with Professors Mikhael Shore (Economics) and Peter Molfese (Psychology), also secured a seed grant from the UConn Brain Imaging Research Center (BIRC) for a study on the neurological correlates of attitudes towards environmental and social policy. This grant covers twenty hours of functional MRI scanning time.



The Office of the Provost recognized grads **Kelly Delaney, Carol Gray, Steven Manicastro, Matthew Parent, Fahd Rafiq, Clifford Vickrey, and Alyssa Webb** for their outstanding teaching evaluations.



Ph.D. candidate **Corinne Tagliarina** accepted a position as a Research Associate in the Utica College Political Science department and will be the Director of their Human Rights Advocacy minor. She presented a paper, with POLS Ph.D.s **Benjamin Carbonetti** and **Brenna Bridwell**, at the International Studies Association’s (ISA) annual meeting entitled “Going to the 'Dark Side': Star Wars Symbolism and the Acceptance of Torture in the US Security Community.” She also was accepted to and attended the Pay It Forward mentoring program preceding the ISA.



POLS Ph.D. **Daniel Tagliarina** accepted a tenure track job at Utica College in their Political Science department.



At the International Studies Association’s (ISA) annual conference in Georgia, Ph.D. candidate **Sercan Canbolat** and Professor **Stephen Dyson** presented their paper “The Three Kims of North Korea: Early Findings from a Leadership Assessment Project.”



Ph.D. candidate and French citizen **Youssef Bellamy** writes, “In light of the tragic events that occurred in Paris weeks ago, I devoted time to composing a letter to the UNESCO Student Ambassadors for Human Rights last semester. The letter served as an opportunity to remind our students that the challenges we face as Human Rights advocates require considerable effort. I am pleased to know that my letter to the Student Ambassadors was published in the *Hartford Courant*.” His letter is available here: <<http://www.courant.com/opinion/letters/hc-ugc-article-an-ominous-world-humanity-in-crisis-2015-12-02-story.html>>. He was also interviewed by the local NBC affiliate on the same subject. It is available here: <<http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/UConn-French-Students-Cope-With-Paris-Attacks-350846081.html>>.



Ph.D. candidate **Matthew Parent** was elected Vice President of the Graduate Student Senate for 2016-17.



Ph.D. candidate **Melanie Meinzer** received a 2016-17 Draper Dissertation Fellowship from the UConn Humanities Institute, as well as a 2016 Graduate Research Grant from the UConn Human Rights Institute to conduct dissertation field research in Jordan. She also received a 2016 Critical Language Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State to study Arabic in Tangier, Morocco this summer.



Ph.D. candidate **Steven Williamson** has been preparing a research paper on the politics of the Human Rights Commission in Peru with **Dr. Ernie Zirakzadeh**. Together they presented the piece, entitled “Narrating Civil War and Promoting Political Order: Peru’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Legitimation of Internal Colonialism” at the recent Midwest Political Science Association Meeting.

Undergraduate Students on the Rise



Professor Paul Herrnson recently collaborated with POLS Honors student **Christian J. Caron** on a paper presentation, “The Transparency of Single-Candidate Super PACs,” at the Annual Meeting of the New England Political Science Association in Newport, RI, April 21-23, 2016.



POLS major **Danielle Russell** was accepted into the American Political Science Association’s Bunche Institute this summer at Duke. She has been working with Professor Evelyn Simien, as well as Ph.D. candidates Kelly Delaney and Timothy Bussey, on a research project this semester. Danielle was also offered a summer research opportunity at the University of Michigan in Political Science. The last POLS student (Leslie McKnight) who participated in the Bunche Institute from UConn went on to pursue her Ph.D. in political science from the University of the Michigan.



Kaitlin Alper (POLS '14) just accepted a five-year funding offer for her Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has just received her M.A. from University College Dublin. Current POLS Honors student **Christian J. Caron** will join her as a Ph.D. candidate at UNC this coming Fall.



Eighteen POLS majors (one junior and seventeen seniors) have recently been invited to become members of the Epsilon of Connecticut Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in recognition of their superlative academic achievements. They will be honored at the Phi Beta Kappa initiation ceremony on April 30th. The new inductees are junior **Marissa Piccolo** (POLS '17); and seniors **Peter Bassine, Caitlin Briody, Emma Capron, Christian Caron, Brendan Costello, Caroline Gallucci, Adam Ghalmi, Riley Hasson, Olivia Karolak, Adam Kuegler, Rachael Ladd, Rachel Laffitte, Evelyn Luchs, Brian Manby, Rebecca Mancini, Carley Wetted, and Jacqueline Williams** (POLS '16).

Upcoming Events

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>

Thursday, April 21 – New Frontiers in Fair Trade Workshop

- 1:00pm-4:35pm, UCONN Co-Op Bookstore at Storrs Center
- Hosted by the Human Rights Institute and Asian & Asian American Studies
- For more information, contact Timothy Dzurilla (timothy.dzurilla@uconn.edu)

Monday, April 25 – Jane Gordon and Steven Manicasteri, 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://calendar.uconn.edu/event/44671/2016-04-25>

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>

† Part of the 2015-16 Graduate Student Visiting Speakers Series & the Political Science Visiting Speakers Matching Fund Series.

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).