

POLS News and Notes

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A note From the Department Head ...



Finally, we can put this crazy 2016 election behind us ... though the scholarly talks won't be ending any time soon. With job candidates interviewing for two positions this November, faculty and graduate students alike will be kept exceedingly busy as we move through the Thanksgiving holiday. The month of October was marked by a great loss: Louis Gerson, the

department's esteemed chair for over a decade, died on October 16 (see sidebar for details). It is amazing how many past professors and students reached out during the past few weeks to share their memories of Dr. Gerson. What were the most often heard comments? He was a terrific professor who cared deeply about his students. Perhaps that serves as a reminder for all of us faculty that our true legacy goes beyond scholarship ... it lies in our students. On that note, have a terrific winter break and remember ... almost 1500 days until the 2020 election!

—David Yalof

Recent Faculty Publications, Conferences and Honors



Prof. **Alexander Anievas'** coauthored book (with Kerem Nisancioglu), *How the West Came to Rule: The Geopolitical Origins of Capitalism* (Pluto, 2015), was awarded the 2017 Best Book Award by the International Political Sociology Section (IPS) of the International Studies Association (ISA). The ISA's Theory section also granted the book an Honorable Mention for its Francesco Guicciardini Best Book Prize. In addition, the blog *Progress in Political Economy* published a special symposium on *How the West Came to Rule*, available online at: <<http://ppesydney.net/west-came-rule-symposium/>>. Finally, the authors gave an interview about the book for the journal *Base* (formerly *The Occupied Times of London*), which appeared in its Fall issue (Vol. 30, No. 1) and is available here: <<http://www.basepublication.org/?p=144>>.

Former Head Gerson Leaves Large Legacy



Dr. Louis Gerson, 94, the political scientist and former department head who escaped the Holocaust as a teenager, died on October 16, 2016 in Southbury, CT. Gerson was a central figure in the post World War II development of UCONN; he was also active in local Democratic politics, serving on the Mansfield Democratic committee from 1969-1972. Yet perhaps his greatest legacy was as a member of the political science department – he taught courses over four decades and inspired many students to serve in various offices in Connecticut politics. Dr. Gerson also served as department head from 1967-77, and remained there until he retired in 1988.

Professor Elizabeth Hanson, now a Professor Emerita who still teaches in the political science department, offers her own personal reflections from her time



Prof. **Shareen Hertel** has an article forthcoming, “New Grain in Old Bags? Assessing India’s National Food Security Act,” to be included in a Special Issue on the Right to Food that will be published by *Human Rights Review* (Vo. 18, no. 2, 2017). The piece explores the longstanding Right to Food social movement and the Modi government, which can reap political gains from the stalling of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), a Sonia Gandhi-era law aimed at reforming public food distribution.



Prof. **Thomas Hayes’** article, “Bankruptcy Reform and Congressional Action,” is forthcoming at *Social Science Research*. His research links PAC contributions with key roll call votes on bankruptcy reform legislation in the House of Representatives.



Prof. **Matt Singer’s** paper, “Is the Party System Affected by Booms and Busts? Not Very Much” appeared on-line in *Electoral Studies*.



Prof. **Zehra F. K. Arat** presented “Changes in the Human Rights Discourse in Turkey, 1923-2007” at UConn’s Human Rights Institute on October 12th.



Prof. **Zehra F. K. Arat**, **Shareen Hertel**, and **David Richards**—together with UConn Political Science Ph.D. candidates **Thomas Briggs**, **Sercan Canbolat**, **Takiyah Harper**, and **Alyssa Webb**—were all invited participants to the 5th annual Binghamton University Department of Political Science’s Han-Jyun Hou Conference. This year, the meeting focused on “The Human Rights Implementation Gap.” Arat presented on “Human Rights Norms and their Rivals: A Historical Analysis of Challenges,” and Hertel on “New Tools for Economic Rights Fulfillment: The Potential and Limits of the Ruggie Principles on Business & Human Rights.” Richards presented on “State Commitment to International Law: Violence Against Women,” and our graduate students made poster presentations related to their ongoing doctoral and other research.

Gerson Leaves legacy

(Continued from page 1)

as an assistant professor:

“When I first came to UConn many years ago, Lou Gerson was the chair of the political science department. It was the last year of a decade in which he established the foundations of the department as we know it today. It was also a period of expansion. In 1969-70 alone he hired no less than 12 faculty members, most of whom received tenure at UConn and became notable contributors to the field of political science.

Alas, they were all men! In my first two years in the department I was the only woman in the 26-member department on the Storrs campus. Juicy anecdotes might be expected from this experience, but I cannot think of any. Lou was a supportive department head, and he must have set the tone that made me feel not just tolerated but also welcomed. My most vivid memories of Lou are around a table at lunch in the long defunct faculty club. He regaled us with his views on past and current U.S. foreign policy and always stimulated a lively discussion. It felt like we were talking to the Secretary of State and, in fact, I always thought he looked the part.”



Prof. **Prakash Kashwan** has two new publications. One, a skeptical look at comparative land conservation entitled “Inequality, Democracy, and the Environment: A Cross-National Analysis,” is forthcoming at *Ecological Economics* (2017). He published a blog post on the basis of the piece in the *The Monkey Cage*, available here: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/11/01/land-grabbing-or-global-conservation-the-answers-might-surprise-you/>. This was also highlighted at the digital platform Medium: <https://medium.com/@conserwatch/prakash-kashwan-on-inequality-democracy-and-protected-areas-b6084ac3bcb6#.h8n6nm2du>. The other paper, “What Explains the Demand for Collective Forest Rights Amidst Land Use Conflicts?” appeared in the *Journal of Environmental Management* (2016).



This past summer, Prof. **Prakash Kashwan** was a discussant for a panel on “Democracy, Neoliberalism, and the Politics of the New Right in Asia” at the 24th International Political Science Association (IPSA) World Conference in Poznan, Poland. While in Potsdam, Germany, he held research consultations at the Center for Development Research (ZEF), which is located at the University of Bonn, at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies. He also gave a book talk entitled “Democracy In the Woods: Environmental Conservation and Social Justice in India, Tanzania, and Mexico” at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. More recently, Prof. Kashwan was a discussant on a panel on “Decay and Revitalization in South Asian Social Movements” at the Annual Conference on South Asia at University of Wisconsin, Madison (October 20-23rd), where he also attended a day-long writing workshop organized by the Op-Ed Project <http://www.theopedproject.org/> with the goal of training scholars in the art of public engagement.



Prof. **Veronica Herrera** has a forthcoming article (July 2017) at *Comparative Politics* entitled “From Participatory Promise to Partisan Capture: Local Democratic Transitions and Citizen Water Boards in Mexico,” which won the Best Paper Award from the Urban Politics Section of the American Political Science Association’s annual meeting in 2014.



WalletHub

Prof. **Ron Schurin**’s analysis was featured in *WalletHub*’s recent piece about 2016’s most and least politically engaged states. The article is available here: <https://wallethub.com/edu/most-least-politically-engaged-states/7782/#ronald-schurin>.



Prof. **Zaid Eyadat** spoke at a symposium titled “Strengthening Refugee Access, Equity, and Inclusion: Developing a New Framework” at Columbia University on October 13th. Over the summer, he was the keynote speaker in the International Security Forum at the Geneva Center for Security Policy in Geneva, Switzerland. Prof. Eyadat will soon be in Abu Dhabi to participate in the Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate as a speaker. The conference will take place Nov 12th to 14th.



Prof. **Alexander Anievas'** article, entitled "History, Theory and Contingency in the Study of International Relations: The Global Transformation Revisited" was published in the November (Vol. 8, No. 3) issue of the journal *International Theory*.



Prof. **Paul Herrnson** gave three talks. He presented "Congressional Elections: A Prequel to 2016" at the Goldfarb Center at Colby College in Waterville, ME, on September 20th, "The 2016 Election" at the Metro-Hartford Alliance in Hartford on September 22nd, and "Single-Candidate Super PACs" at Wesleyan University on October 4th.

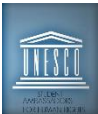


Prof. **Stephen Dyson** contributed an invited piece to the London School of Economics' British politics blog, based on his research into former Prime Minister Gordon Brown. It is available here: <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/did-personality-matter-in-gordon-browns-management-of-the-financial-crisis/>.

Active Emeriti



Professor Emeritus **Henry Krisch** served as the International Political Science Association's (IPSA) Secretary of Research Committee 26 (Human Rights) from 2014 to 2016. He presented an invited panel paper for the "Human Rights in the Age of Ambiguity" section at a joint meeting of IPSA, the International Studies Association, the American Political Science Association, and the European Consortium for Political Research in New York in June.



Graduate Student Achievements

Ph.D. candidate **Youssef Gabriel Bellamy**, coordinator for the UNESCO Student Ambassadors for Human Rights, collaborated with the non-government organization (NGO) Sawa for Development and Aid. This Fall, the groups held a two-day joint fundraiser called Henna for Humanity. The proceeds, totaling \$1,200, will go towards tents, medical supplies, and food for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. This December, the student groups will hold a fundraiser entitled "Prioritizing the Next Generation," which will donate proceeds to Homeless Youth Connect (which helps house homeless high-schoolers in Connecticut), as well as a secondary school in Chad in need of computers and textbooks. Youssef reports: "It is inspiring to know that our program can affect the lives of those who are in dire need, and if our efforts can give them hope then we have exceeded our expectations."



Prof. **Veronica Herrera** and Ph.D. candidate **Kelly Delaney** presented their coauthored paper, "Triangulation for Qualitative Political Research: On Meaning, Measures, and Method" at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting in Philadelphia this past August.



Prof. **Zehra F. K. Arat's** and **Caryl Nuñez's** collaborative paper, "The Limits of Tolerance and LGBT Rights and in Turkey," has been accepted for publication by *Human Rights Review*.



Ph.D. candidate **Meghan Bowden Peterson** accepted an adjunct research position at the Central Connecticut State University's Institute of Regional and Municipal Policy. Beginning in January 2017, she will be examining questions of law enforcement and criminal justice policies.

Undergraduate Students on the Rise



UConn

Eeman Abbasi, a student in Prof. **Zaid Eyadat's** class on the Syrian Refugee Crisis, organized an event entitled "From Syria to Our Backyard." The event will take place on November 10th at the Student Union Theatre from 5:30 to 7:00 PM and will feature Representative Joe Courtney (D – CT 2nd), Syrian families, and the prominent heads of resettlement groups.



Anna Middendorf (double major in Political Science and Human Rights) won an Aetna Writing in the Disciplines Award Honorable Mention for her paper "Constructing the World Cup Stadium: Migrant Workers' Labor Rights in the Spotlight," which she wrote for Prof. **Shareen Hertel's** seminar on Politics and Human Rights in Global Supply Chains.

Alumni in the News



Stuart Rothenberg (UConn Ph.D. '76), the esteemed political analyst who publishes *The Rothenberg Political Report*, will be the speaker at UConn's Master's Commencement ceremony to be held on May 6th, 2017. Vice Provost Kent Holsinger writes, "Dr. Rothenberg is one of the nation's leading commentators on national and gubernatorial politics, and his career exemplifies the values and character we would hope to find in all of our graduate students."

Upcoming Events

Monday, November 14 – Jenifer Whitten-Woodring (UMASS-Lowell)

- Title: The Fabled Fourth Estate: Challenging Assumptions about Media Freedom and Human Rights
- Hosted by the Department of Political Science
- Contact Matt Singer (singer@uconn.edu) or David Richards (david.richards@uconn.edu) for more information

Wednesday, November 16 – John Hudak† (Brookings Institution)

- Title: Marijuana – America’s Fastest Growing Public Policy
- Hosted by the Department of Political Science
- 4:00pm – Oak Hall 101
- Contact Matt Singer (singer@uconn.edu) or Virginia Hettinger (virginia.hettinger@uconn.edu) for more information

† UConn alumnus/alumna.

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 Matt Singer (matthew.m.singer@uconn.edu).