

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



Department Updates



Steven Bernstein
Chair, UTM



Christopher Cochrane
Chair, UTSC



Louis Pauly
Acting Chair, UTSG



Theresa Enright
Graduate Director &
Associate Graduate
Chair



Peggy Kohn
Tri-campus
Graduate
Chair

This summer we launch our Politics, Law and Social Justice certificate program in response to long-standing interest in these themes among our fantastic students. Their accomplishments are too numerous to list, but one exceptional highlight is Phoenix Seelochan being named a 2024 Student of the Year by Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning (CE-WIL) Canada for her leadership of the NATO Association of Canada's Environment, Climate Change and Security Program. Meanwhile, faculty who published books include Noel Anderson, Alex Reisenbichler, myself, Ronnie Beiner (Emeritus) and Ed Schatz. Many more published stellar articles on topics ranging from political responses to the housing crisis (Alison Smith) to a manifesto on feminist protest (Martha Balaguera). Both Noel and Alex also received tenure! Adding to our ranks this fall, we are especially excited to welcome Sheng-qiao Lin as an Assistant Professor with a specialization in Chinese Politics and Political Economy. With more mixed feelings, Richard Day, who has been on faculty for 55 years(!), will be retiring. Stay tuned for a fuller tribute in a future issue!

Thanks to the leadership of Andrew McDougall and Liz Acorn, the new Public Law Major at UTSC welcomes its first cohort of students in September 2025. UTSC has become a hub for public law at U of T due to vibrant student groups and incredible support from faculty mentors. This past year, UTSC welcomed students from across Ontario, Quebec, and the Northeast US for the Highland Cup moot competition. Aisha Ahmad scored a "hat trick." She published an edited volume, *Securing Canada's Future*, won three research grants and designed a new interdisciplinary course, Grand Challenges UTSC, a fourth-year experiential learning class built around teams combining students from STEM, Social Sciences, and Humanities. Robert Schertzer led an incredible year for departmental research and funding. He published articles in *Nations and Nationalism* and *Publius* and won a SSHRC Insight Development Grant to investigate nationalism and climate change in the US and Canada. Behind the scenes, Rob also reviewed and supported at least a dozen grant applications and award nominations from colleagues. It was a record-breaking year for UTSC Political Science, thanks in no small part to Rob's leadership and support.

It is an exciting time of renewal on the St. George campus. After a busy recruiting season, we are delighted to announce the appointment of four new faculty members: Daniel Rubenson, an established leader in the fields of Canadian and Comparative Politics; David Raggazzoni, a prominent theorist specializing in liberal democratic theory; Derefe Chevannes, a leading scholar in the field of Black Political Thought; and Chagai Weiss, an outstanding comparativist who will hold the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Chair in Israeli and Jewish Studies. In addition, Jacques Bertrand was awarded the Dr. David Chu Professorship (Chair) in Asia-Pacific Studies, Seva Gunitsky was named the George Ignatieff Chair in Peace and Conflict Studies, and Ran Hirschl was officially inducted as a University Professor. A dozen colleagues won highly competitive research grants from research councils in Canada and Europe, ten published new books, and we were ranked among the top ten political science departments in North America in terms of the recent impact of our article-based research. With great students, we know the best is yet to come!

Next fall we will be rolling out an important innovation to our Doctoral Program. The new Methods field will strengthen students' training in statistical, computational, and formal methods. Our expanded curriculum in Quantitative Methods will benefit from the expertise of our new faculty colleagues Chagai Weiss and Daniel Rubenson. Congratulations to I Younan An, a recipient of the 2024 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) student award and Miko Zeldes-Roth, the winner of the Elaine Stavro Prize, a new endowed award for the Best Paper in Critical Political Theory. We've recently wrapped up our admission process and are excited to welcome twenty new PhD students in the fall. Those admitted were selected from more than 240 applicants working on a variety of topics and from all over the world. Our MA program will welcome a cohort of 30 students, including 9 international and 21 domestic students. We look forward to the fresh energy and diverse ideas they promise to bring to the department!

Krista Mahler

Gamal Mansour

Undergraduate Student

Graduate Student

MEET
OUR
STUDENTS**Why did you decide to study Political Science, Philosophy and Anthropology?**

In my first year as an undergrad, I took a variety of classes in the social sciences and humanities fields. Political Science provided the best explanations for the answers I was searching for about the world. I chose Philosophy because of its possible ability to prepare me to think in a way that law school requires, which I was considering early on. Finally, I decided to study Anthropology because I enjoyed the topic and was good at it. It also provided an explanation for how the world's systems function in a way that was similar to Political Science but from a different lens.

What have been the most rewarding and challenging experiences during University thus far?

The most rewarding experiences have been the connections I have made with students, faculty, and staff. I have met so many incredible people at U of T that have really inspired me along my journey. Academically, the rise of my GPA has really been rewarding as high grades did not come easily to me initially. When it comes to challenges, it was difficult for me to use my voice when I first started at U of T. I feared public speaking, but this gradually changed as I grew more and more confident; raising a hand during a lecture, or asking a classmate for clarification on a text, to eventually speaking on panel discussions with audiences of 200 plus people.

What did you learn at University that you did not expect to?

I learnt about the power of consistency. Consistently doing your readings, consistently showing up for office hours, or consistently getting involved on campus one way or another. I learned that consistency will get you a lot further in your personal and academic journey than perfection ever will. It is important to keep showing up, with the right self-care and rest, to achieve your goals.

What do you plan to do after graduation?

After graduation, I plan to study at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, pursuing a Master's degree in Public Policy. I am incredibly excited and grateful to continue my time at the University of Toronto and can't wait to experience this next chapter!

Please explain your research and its main findings thus far.

I'm researching business-state relations under authoritarianism. My particular case country is Syria under the (now-former) authoritarian Assad regimes (1970–2024). I'm researching the manner in which social classes—in this case the business classes—find, maintain, and increase their spaces of autonomy under a strict and coercive regime. This is new to the discipline as most studies focus on what the authoritarian state does, how it does it, and how successful/unsuccessful it is in hegemonizing society. My findings point to the fact that social classes can and do find spaces of autonomy; and that the hold of authoritarian regimes, as strong as their hegemony over their societies may be, remains tenuous.

Why did you decide to research this particular area and what intrigues you the most about it? What impact do you hope your research will have? Any surprising findings?

I pursued a PhD because I wanted to dedicate my life to research, writing, and teaching, as straightforward and even clichéd as this may sound. This is my second stint at academia, which I began aged 47. I found my calling and I am pursuing it. I know that my research will be impactful; my country of origin and area of research, Syria, has just emerged following five decades of authoritarianism. My research has now become even more relevant and may offer scholars new insights into comparative cases, which is my specialty as a comparative political scientist.

What has been the most challenging aspect of pursuing a PhD?

Doing it at my age, with my responsibilities as a husband and a parent who has a special needs' daughter. Also, doing this as a full-time student with the income limitations it imposes in a city like Toronto was also quite challenging. But it has been worth it so far!

Future plans post PhD?

Ideally, pursuing an academic career—researching and teaching. But I also wish to be impactful and beneficial to my country, Syria. There are many things to which I can (and feel the need to) contribute. This includes transferring knowledge and expertise, by helping teach and research, as well as creating new academic opportunities in Syria. This also includes helping academics to achieve their full potential in a country where authoritarianism had all but decimated academic freedoms and critical thinking.

Ato Kwamena Onoma on his Jackman Humanities Institute Faculty Research fellowship year (2024-25) and the projects he undertook

Cambridge
Elements
Politics of DevelopmentThe Undulating
Capacity of
the State

Ato Kwamena Onoma



I spent my year as a Faculty Research Fellow at the Jackman Humanities Institute working on two research projects; a book manuscript on faith and the segregation of cemeteries that is tentatively titled *Mobility, Faith and Segregated Cemeteryscapes*. Focusing on Senegal, the manuscript explores why some communities insist on the segregation of cemeteries based on faith while other localities are open to the operation of cemeteries that accept the dead of all faiths. Using JHI's theme of the year *Undergrounds/Underworlds*, I use the work of "boring down" into cemeteries and the secrets that their graves hold as a way of clarifying patterns of mobility, identity formation, and inter-communal relations among those that inhabit our "surface worlds." I explore "what a descent into the underworlds might reveal," by using the study of cemeteryscapes to highlight and explain variations across communities in what are seen as appropriate ways for people of different faiths to interact in our diverse communities.

I also completed work on an Element for the Cambridge University Press Elements Series on the Politics of Development, called *The*

Undulating Capacity of the State: Autochthony and Infrastructure Development in African Cities (July 2025). Also focusing on the built environment and the question of belonging, it explores the ways in which the capacity of the African state to undertake largescale infrastructure projects rises and falls as it traverses neighborhoods in some of the largest cities on the continent. Exploring the Senegalese state's construction of the VDN 2 highway in Dakar, I argue that neighborhoods that claim autochthony in Africa's colonial cities tend to regard the state with greater distrust than those neighborhoods that regard themselves as agglomerations of recent migrants. Because of this, states display greater ability to undertake infrastructure projects in these migrant neighborhoods than in autochthonous ones.

Interacting with a group of fellows from many disciplines at JHI forced me to improve my capacity to engage with audiences beyond my discipline and to place my work in a broader context. The staff of JHI have meticulously created a space and a set of events that facilitates engagement through joint activities while leaving significant space for writing and reflection.

Matthew Walton discusses his latest book projects and the *Myanmar Policy and Community Knowledge Hub (MyPACK)***Can you tell us about MyPACK and how it came to be?**

We have incredible students here at U of T and over the last two years, I found myself working with a group of them to inform and lobby the Canadian government on issues related to Myanmar. We eventually got some funding from IDRC (the International Development Research Centre) to create the Myanmar Policy and Community Knowledge (MyPACK) Hub. We are centering community expertise in our work—whether the diaspora or in Myanmar itself—since policy work is often understood only as the domain of experts. MyPACK's first big project in 2024 was an assessment of Canada's performance against the benchmarks former special envoy Bob Rae set in his 2016 report on the Rohingya genocide. Working with Bob on that was an amazing experience for the students. When we noticed that Global Affairs Canada was dragging its feet on producing its promised Phase III Strategy for Myanmar engagement, we decided to write it for them! The team was invited to present the report to GAC and to a group of MPs in Ottawa, as well as to the Canadian Embassy staff in Yangon.

Tell us about your current research and why you decided to focus your work in Southeast Asia, with a special emphasis in Myanmar.

I'm currently finishing up two book projects: a comparative study of Buddhist political thought across South and Southeast Asia and a more detailed study of the recent period of "Buddhist nationalism" in Myanmar. I've also just started a new project—working with Aye Thein, one of our PhD students—studying the dynamics of solidarity that we see emerging within the global diaspora in the midst of Myanmar's current revolution. I initially got interested in Buddhism and politics following a meditation retreat in Myanmar back in 2002. After getting more attuned to Buddhist teachings, I was intrigued by the many ways in which people would refer to them to make sense of the political world.



The MyPACK team meets with Bob Rae to discuss their assessment of Canada's performance on his 2016 report on Myanmar and the Rohingya crisis. (L-R): Nisha Toomey, Matthew Walton, Bob Rae, Mercy Sang Te, Mehek Berry and Napas Thein

With the enduring civil war in Myanmar, what is your best hope for its future and an end to the conflict? How does it shape your research?

This is a devastating conflict, but it's a testament to the commitment of Myanmar's people that they've been able to sustain their struggle for more than four years with virtually no outside support. One aspect I find inspiring is how conversations about a post-military future have focused on questions of meaningful political inclusion, with a lot of public criticism of entrenched hierarchies. The Gen Z voices pushing the revolution forward have been so inspiring in this respect.

A ROYAL AWARD

Tell us how receiving the King Charles III Coronation Medal came about.

Since high school, I have been writing songs and performing at numerous community get-togethers such as city-held holiday events, political community gatherings, diversity and youth festivals, and *Portraits of Giving* which celebrates leaders in York Region who demonstrate social and corporate responsibility. It was a wonderful surprise to be informed by MP Scot Davidson that I would be a recipient of this award for my contributions to the community.

What did receiving the medal mean to you both personally and professionally?

It was an honour to be a recipient of this prestigious award. It acknowledges my work ethic and dedication to serving my community through my artistic strengths and diligence. Personally, it is a reminder to keep going, that I'm doing something worthwhile, and that I have so much more to give.

Vanessa Wang, anthem singer, songwriter and musician, is a second-year political science and statistics student who was recently awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal for her efforts to build community through music and civic engagement across the GTA.



Vanessa Wang with her King Charles III Coronation Medal

Student Focus

Why did you decide to study statistics and political science? Did you ever consider majoring in music?

I think political science and statistics complement each other. I study political science because I am interested in topical issues. Also it is valuable to learn how to collect and analyze data alongside political theory to provide a more effective and well-rounded understanding of the world. I studied classical piano and theory when I was younger, and I find that foundation very valuable today. Musical innovation and performance require much 'doing,' real-world experience, and collaborating with others.

Can you tell us about 'uniting communities through music' and how that works for you and your audience.

Writing music has been a wonderful creative outlet for me over the years which is enjoyed together by various groups in our community from kids who dance along, to seniors who are surprised when I can sing songs they listened to when they were young. For example, my original song "I Am Canadian," which I sang at my King Charles III Coronation Medal Ceremony, is a tribute to Canada and celebrates outstanding Canadians, illustrating the power of our combined efforts and how our strengths build each other up.

MICRO POLITICS

Undergraduate students enrolled in Semra Sevi's winter courses *Elections & Voting* and *Experiments in Political Science* had the rare opportunity to help **Global News** call the federal election on election night. Mercy Sang Te, a political science major, tells us about her experience

"As a political science student, I'm used to analyzing elections and governments through academic literature. However, helping **Global News** cover the 2025 Canadian federal election was an incredible opportunity to experience the practical side of politics. While the literature often focuses on macro-level trends, such as nationwide voting patterns and electoral behaviour, election night coverage emphasized the micro-level, as we tracked individual ridings, the performance of cabinet ministers, and party flips. With my academic background, I felt a responsibility to identify key developments at the riding level and to consider their historical context, knowing this election may later be studied and contribute to future scholarship. I also gained a deeper appreciation for the care and effort involved in electing Members of Parliament, highlighting due diligence in maintaining the democratic process. In hindsight, taking Professor Sevi's course was a very exciting choice for my final year as it allowed me to experience this key election from both the classroom and the newsroom."



Back Row (L-R): A. Gautham, C. Gordon, W. Crosta, J. Sidhu, S. Kim, L. Sousa, H. Ahmad Khalil Lajan, Z. Chong Wang, Z. Alnaji. Front Row (L-R): Chief Political Correspondent David Akin from Global News, A. Bondarenko, J. McClement, T. Tong, A. Robart, S. Giles Candela, T. Nizam, E. Young, M. Sang Te, S. Sevi

Building Community

Marking ten years of community building, fostering intellectual dialogue, supporting students and promoting gender equity, The Women's Caucus Co-Chairs Magdalee Brunache and Simran Hardeep Singh share their latest endeavors and how people can get involved



What is the Women's Caucus and how long has it been in operation?

The Women's Caucus is a community-building space for women and non-binary people in the department. It was established in 2014-2015 to foster mentorship, advocacy, and mutual support among members while promoting gender equity within the department and the broader academic community. During the pandemic, the Women's Caucus was dissolved due to decreased engagement, before being reinstated in Fall 2023.

What is the aim of the Caucus?

Outside of organizing events, the caucus aims to address structural challenges. One major initiative led by previous committees was a departmental survey that gathered input from grad students, faculty, and administrators about equity, sexual violence, bullying and harassment. The results were compiled into a report that highlighted the general findings, identified key areas of concern, and called for changes, including a dedicated section in TA training to better prepare female TAs

to deal with gender-based harassment and bullying.

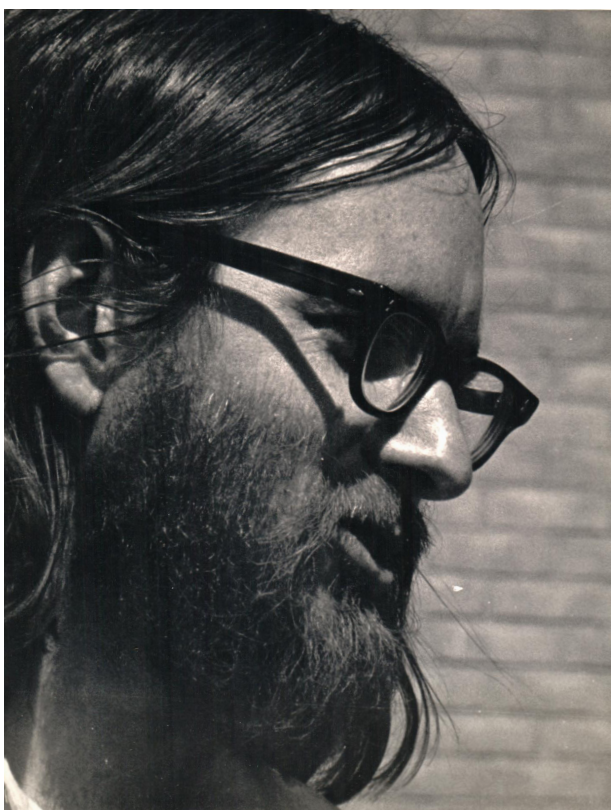
In January this year, the Caucus led an initiative to create the Women's Caucus Student Safety Commission (WCSSC) in response to growing concerns about student conduct and institutional gaps in preventing sexual harassment and violence. Beyond its advocacy efforts, the Caucus organized several events to foster intellectual dialogue, build community, and support students. During Ramadan, the Caucus hosted an Iftar and screened the short film *The Silent Protest: Jerusalem*, directed by Palestinian filmmaker and professor Mahasen Nasser-Elidin. This event brought together PhD students from various subfields and created a space for discussing anti-colonial and gender struggles. The Caucus also reintroduced a self-defense workshop following its success last year, organized a community crochet session, and held an end-of-year movie event.

How and why should students get involved?

The Women's Caucus is a supportive and advocacy-driven space, committed to fostering gender equity, building solidarity, and creating opportunities for collective engagement. The Caucus operates through several subcommittees that carry out our mission across areas such as event planning, investigation and action, and equity initiatives. There are several ways to engage meaningfully. The Women's Caucus holds social hours in the political science lounge on Wednesdays from 2:30pm to 4pm, including during the summer. We invite all women and non-binary people to come join us for a casual gathering where we can connect, share ideas, and support one another. Our goal is to build a strong sense of community within our department, and we warmly welcome your presence.

An Inadvertent Career

How Professor Emeritus Joseph Carens became a political scientist



Professor Emeritus Joseph Carens during his days at Yale

I became a political scientist by accident. I grew up in the US in the 1950s as a devout and traditional Catholic, studied theology and philosophy as an undergraduate, and entered a PhD program in religious studies at Yale. In all that time, I never took a course in political science (or, indeed, a course in any other social science). By the spring of 1969, I had completed my PhD exams, but I did not want to continue in religious studies because I had lost my faith in God (though not my belief that good and bad, right and wrong, and justice and injustice matter). The war in Vietnam was raging. If I had dropped out of school, I would have lost my student deferment and been drafted. Since I was not willing to serve in the war, I would have had to go to jail or to Canada. Neither seemed attractive. (I was ignorant, and we all make mistakes). Yale had a rule that permitted students to transfer from one graduate department to another without going through the normal application process. I had become interested in politics, and the DGS in political science said he would admit me to their PhD program because I had good grades in another Yale department and an external fellowship. That is how I became a political scientist. It is not a path that inculcates in one a sense of the crucial importance of disciplinary training.

I also wound up at the U of T largely by accident, but I don't have the space to tell that tale. The main point is that I am glad that it happened. Much of that has to do with living in Canada and in Toronto, but it is also about the department. Several years ago, when I finally published a book on immigration that I had been working on for decades, I wrote in the preface that I thought that U of T's Department of Political Science was the best place in the world to be a political theorist. For me, what made the department so special was the size and the diversity of the political theory community, the culture of mutual engagement and respect among theory faculty and students, and the openness of colleagues and students in other subfields to exchange with theorists.

Saying that the U of T is the best place in the world to be a theorist does not mean that I think that the department as a whole or the theory sub-field is without problems and flaws, and I have spent some of my time here, even after retirement, offering suggestions about how to make things better. Nevertheless, I still feel very fortunate to have spent most of my career here.



SHANEISTA HAYE

MA, 2012

Senior Policy Advisor

The Canadian Human Rights Commission

Why did you decide to pursue an MA in political science?

Following my BA in Criminal Justice and Public Policy at the University of Guelph, I decided to pursue an MA in Political Science, with a specialization in Political Economy of International Development, because I have always been drawn to public policy and the challenge of addressing complex social and economic issues. Pursuing an MA in this area felt like a natural step towards a career in public service, allowing me to deepen my understanding of systems, governance and policymaking.

As a senior policy advisor at the CHRC, what does the job entail and what might a typical day look like for you?

As a Senior Policy Advisor, I provide strategic advice on a wide range of human rights issues, with a focus on advancing equity and addressing systemic discrimination. On any given day, I advocate for the rights of individuals and communities facing systemic barriers. I support the complaints process, particularly where complaints involve disability, race, colour, and national or ethnic origin, by offering guidance in the public interest. I also conduct policy reviews for respondent organizations that have been ordered to remedy discriminatory practices.

What advice would you give a student considering going into a policy role?

Policy work is a competitive field, so don't get discouraged if things don't happen right away. I started out with no network at all, but I learned that it really pays off to reach out and build authentic connections. Stay optimistic, keep knocking on doors, and be open to taking the road less traveled. For example, I had to move out of the province to secure my first job in the public service before eventually returning to Ontario to work in Ottawa. Sometimes the path isn't straight, but persistence, flexibility and building relationships really make a difference.

What do you enjoy least and most about your job?

What I enjoy most is advancing human rights issues and seeing positive changes happen — whether that's through shifts in culture or the progress of bills in Parliament concerning human rights issues that I'm passionate about. It's exciting to see how advocacy can help drive real change. At the same time, the work can sometimes feel heavy because the issues are complex and deeply important to me. Still, being part of meaningful change makes it all worthwhile.

Any fond memories of being a student here?

My fondest memory as a student was being immersed in the energy of big city life while still feeling part of a close-knit community. Being a varsity athlete on the track and field team was by far the highlight for me — it gave me a strong sense of belonging and some unforgettable experiences.



ELIZABETH TUDOR-BEZIÉS

BA, 2016

Second Secretary

Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations

Why did you decide to study political science, European studies and spanish?

I decided to study political science because I have always been fascinated by how the world works, how we cooperate with each other and how countries make their decisions. I focused on European studies because as someone with close ties to Europe, I wanted to broaden my horizons beyond just Canadian politics. I studied Spanish because I love to learn new languages, and it was a requirement for my European Studies degree.

As a Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, what does the job entail and what might a typical day look like for you?

As a Second Secretary, I work on the human rights team at the Permanent Mission, where I promote Canada's priorities in that field. I particularly focus on protecting and promoting freedom of religion or belief, the rights of youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and people of African descent. The fun part about the job is that there's no such thing as a typical day! It can range from meeting countries to discussing positions for high-level processes, to meeting civil society partners to hear their views on my files, to being in the UN all day to negotiate resolutions.

What advice would you give a student considering going into international affairs?

My biggest advice to students is to be flexible, open-minded and above all, patient! The international affairs field is so unpredictable and the hiring process for most jobs in the field are both long and opaque. Be flexible in what you want to do, be open minded on where you want to work, and be patient with the process.

What do you enjoy least and most about your job?

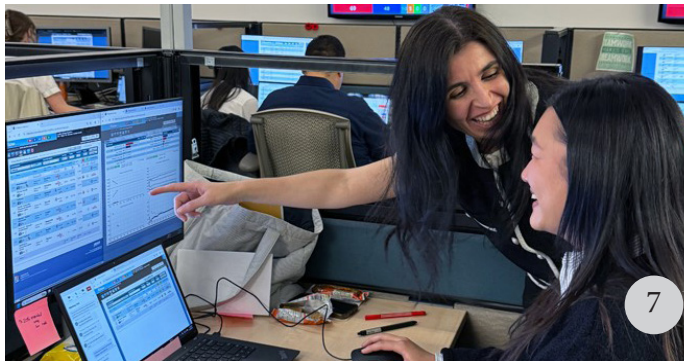
I love the ability to make a positive contribution to our work on advancing human rights. I'm currently the Vice-Chair of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and I'm extremely proud of the fact that I was able to put Indigenous persons with disabilities on the agenda for the first time ever. The thing I like the least about the job is the lack of work-life balance at times - the UN doesn't rest, so neither do we!

Any fond memories of being a student here?

I loved the wide variety of classes I was able to take at U of T and all of the international research opportunities we were provided. I will always remember the international research trip to Georgia in my third year, which was an incredible opportunity to conduct research in the field (and still enjoy the sights of Tbilisi!) and get published, which is so rare. But beyond this, the amazing friends I made during my time at U of T is something I deeply cherish.



1. Professors Antoinette Handley (L) with her guest speaker Emmanuel Gyimah-Boadi and Nadège Compaoré (R).
2. *Seeing China's Belt and Road* book launch with authors Ed Schatz and Rachel Silvey, and speakers Christoph Emmrich (L) and Diana Fu (R). Photo: Dewey Chang.
3. Professor Paul Magocsi, the John Yaremko Chair of Ukrainian Studies at U of T, speaks at his retirement party at the Faculty Club.
4. Professor Ran Hirschl with U of T President Meric Gertler (L) and Provost Trevor Young (R) at a ceremony to mark his inauguration as University Professor.
5. Professor Emeritus Richard Sandbrook presenting a lecture at a hybrid 'Science for Peace' event at University College.
6. Christi Nazmy Markos receives the Lee Ann Fujii Comparative Politics Award at UTM's annual Student Awards Reception (2024).
7. Semra Sevi and student Shin Young Kim discuss what trends they could be seeing in data modelling for ridings at the **Global News** studio on election night. Photo: Zain Al Najj.



Political
EVENTS
Science





Emma Dobrovnik

President
Association of Political Science
Students



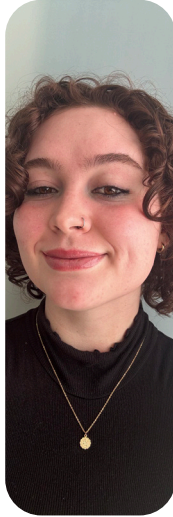
Anthony Fernando

Alumnus
Political Science Alumni Association



Marc Calabretta & Piper Sterling

Co-Chairs
Graduate Association of Students in
Political Science



Geoff Dancy & Menaka Philips

PhD Job Placement Coordinators
Academic Job Market Report



This past semester, the Association of Political Science Students placed a special emphasis on representing student interests at the administrative level. One of the initiatives we're most excited to announce is the development of a Political Science Writing Center! We released a survey which confirmed that 97.8% of respondents would benefit from writing support tailored to political science. Stay tuned for further updates as we work alongside the department to finalize the centre's details. As part of our office hours series, we also released an interest form that gauged student satisfaction with the department. These insights were relayed to department heads at our newly mandated union-department transition meetings. We also held our Undergraduate Research Conference, showcasing a variety of student research ranging from theory to international relations. Additionally, we released the eleventh edition of *POLIS*, the undergraduate program's academic journal. Check it out on Instagram @utapss!

The PSAA is planning several events for Fall 2025, including a weekend field trip to the Six Nations Reserve, outside Brantford Ontario, and two evening panels with several Deputy Ministers from the Ontario Government. The alumni association will also be hosting a "Pub Night" on the evening of Wednesday, June 25th at the Faculty Club. Our special guest will be City Councillor Jamaal Myers, Chair of the Toronto Transit Commission. Jamaal was born and raised in Scarborough and is a regular TTC passenger. Having grown up in Toronto Community Housing, he understood from an early age that education is key to upward mobility and the importance of properly funded public services. With the support of his family, access to strong public schools, loans, scholarships and summer jobs, including three summers cleaning TTC trains, he has earned degrees from the University of Western Ontario, the London School of Economics and New York University's School of Law. For more information on these events or to get involved, please email Anthony N. Fernando at: anthonyfernando@gmail.com

anthonyfernando@gmail.com

We started the winter semester off with a roller-skating excursion at a Union Station pop-up, followed by our monthly collegial Fridays at various venues around the city. The Area Group Representatives were also busy organizing different events. The Political Theory Research Workshops continued apace, with many students and faculty sharing their work. The Contentious Politics group also organized workshops and informal discussions, including one for Valentine's Day, "Love as a Radical Force in Politics". The International Relations Area Group arranged a screening of the all-time political science classic, *Dr. Strangelove*. Our final event for the year, the Post-MFE Celebration, was held on May 15 at the Duke of York pub. While we faced challenges with attendance at times, the collegiality amongst those present was great and always supportive. With that, we are pleased to introduce the new GASPS Executive for 2025!

Co-Chairs: Marte Vroom & Piper Sterling

Treasurer: Ozan Bozkaya

Secretary: Sihan Ren

Social Convenors: Alexandra Shkandrij & Natalie Playford

Over the last year, the Graduate Placement series consisted of five 'how to' professionalization workshops—from applying for academic positions and post-docs, to crafting an effective presentation. We also ran ten practice job talks featuring graduate students both actively on the market and those preparing for the future. The series benefitted from great student and faculty engagement throughout. Since becoming placement directors in fall 2023, we have aimed to provide graduate students critical tools for professional development, and to foster a culture of departmental support and peer feedback among graduate students at all levels. Salam Alsaadi (2025 Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard University): "The graduate placement workshop was invaluable during my time on the job market, offering not only practical advice— from application materials and job talk preparation to navigating campus visits— but also a supportive community. It helped me feel prepared, not just for the things I knew would come, but for the moments that might catch me by surprise throughout the process." We look forward to continuing the series in 2025-2026!

Editors: Jennifer O'Reilly, Julie Guzzo, Elizabeth Jagdeo

Front Cover & design: Chenyu (Donny) Wang

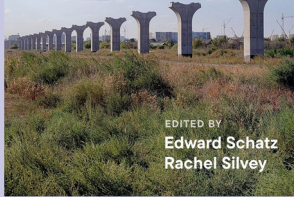
Front Cover: 100 St. George Street, Faculty of Arts & Science. Courtesy U of T. Photo by Diana Tysko. Collage recreation by Donny (Chenyu) Wang

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POLITICS BITES

ALL THE LATEST FACULTY & STUDENT NEWS, AWARDS, ACCOLADES & PUBLICATIONS

Seeing China's Belt and Road



Seeing China's Belt and Road

Edward Schatz (co-ed)
Oxford University Press

WARS WITHOUT END

Competitive Intervention, Escalation Control, and Protracted Conflict

NOEL ANDERSON



Wars Without End: Competitive Intervention, Escalation Control, and Protracted Conflict

Noel Anderson
Oxford University Press

Cambridge Elements International Relations Norms, Practices, and Social Change in Global Politics

Steven Bernstein, Aarie Glas and Marion Laurence



Norms, Practices, and Social Change in Global Politics

Steven Bernstein (co-auth)
Cambridge University Press

CYBER ESPIONAGE, SUBVERSION, AND THE GLOBAL FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

CHASING SHADOWS

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Chasing Shadows: Cyber Espionage & the Fight for Democracy

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FACULTY

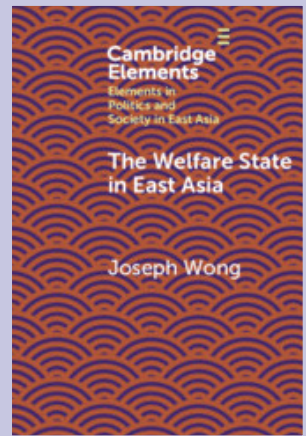
- **Aisha Ahmad** was shortlisted for CPSPA's prize in teaching excellence.
- **Robert Austin** received the President's Teaching Award.
- Professor Emerita **Sylvia Bashevkin** was shortlisted for CPSPA's Jill Vickers Prize.
- **Steven Bernstein** will serve as Acting Graduate Chair effective July 1, 2025 until June 30, 2026.
- **Jacques Bertrand** was awarded the Dr. David Chu Professorship (Chair) in Asia-Pacific Studies.
- **Seva Gunitzky** was named the George Ignatieff Chair in Peace and Conflict Studies.
- **Caroline Shenaz Hossein** was named the 2024-25 Black Feminist Economics Fellow at the Boston Ujima Project.
- **Sheryl Lightfoot** was appointed to the inaugural Standing Table on Human Rights.
- **Menaka Philips** received UTM's 2024 Research Prize in the Social Sciences.
- **Caleb Pomeroy** won the 2025 Best Security Article Award from the International Security Studies Section (ISSS) of the International Studies Association.
- **Semra Sevi** received an Early Researcher Award.
- **Alison Smith** was shortlisted for CPSPA's prize in teaching excellence.
- We wish all the best to **Richard Day** and **Paul Magocsi** as they retire this summer!

STUDENTS

- **New PhDs:** Matthew Ayling, Charles Bain, Tanya Bandula Irwin, Gözde Böcü, Rachael Desborough, Alexandre Fortier-Chouinard, Anika Ganness, Logan Gates, Kyumin Ju, Faisal Kamal, Steven Loleski, Erich Daniel Luna Jacobs, Irene Poetranto, Georgios Poulakidas, Michele St-Amant, Tracey White, Zhen Zhao.
- **U of T Student Leadership Award Recipients 2024:** Nejat Ahmed, Justin Chiu, Michael Elsaesser, Samantha Guevara, Helia Karami, Lisanne Koehler, Kyle Newcombe, Eshika Sehgal.
- **Undergraduate Awards and Scholarships 2023-2024:** Success Achu, Ashviin Ahilesan, Narges Baheej, Camila Calderon-Cruz, Juliana Diradour, Lara Devotto Pimenta, Itay Elkoubi, Cathalyn Francis, Tshephiso Gaamangwe, Jolie Gan, Avishka Gautham, Julia Gavieta, Mariana Deganis Silva Gola, Maia Christena Hagen-Rattan, Vaanya Hassan, Victoria Elizabeth Kanczula, Helia Karami, Lawrence Vincent King, Max Elliot Korzen, Nathan Li, Young Luk, Yuehang (Peter) Ma, Zoha Mahroof, Rein Fredrick Maynard, Ciara Rose McGarry, Zakaria Ahmednassir Muse, Kaiya Nixon, Rayyan Noman, Eileen Ou, Daniel Prasuhn, Isabella Victoria Reny, Amareena Saleh-Singh, Luis Sanchez, Akshita Sangha, Tasiana Shirley, Farah Sobhy Mohamed, Dean Robert Tessaro, William Wang, Youyou Xu, Cara Yun.
- **2024 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) student award:** Bavan Pushpalingam (undergraduate), I Younan An (graduate).
- **Elaine Stavro Prize:** Miko Zeldes-Roth

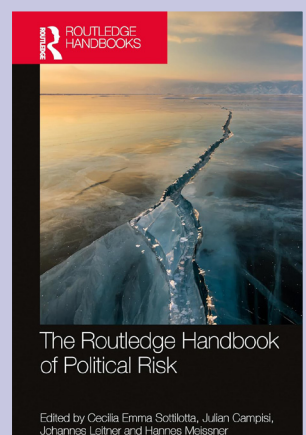
The Welfare State in East Asia

Joseph Wong
Cambridge University Press



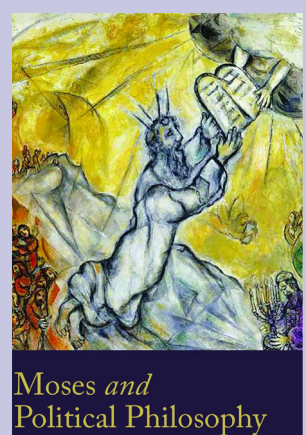
The Routledge Handbook of Political Risk

Julian Campisi (co-ed)
Routledge



Moses and Political Philosophy

Ronald Beiner (co-auth)
University of Toronto Press



NEW FACES



Nikki Carter
BEEd, Ontario Tech University

Nikki joined UTSC as a Department Assistant in April 2024. She brings a background in education, having previously worked as a classroom teacher with a focus on student-centered learning and curriculum development. Her academic and professional experience informs her contributions to departmental administration, where she supports faculty, students, and staff with a strong commitment to service and organizational excellence.



Anupam Chaudhri
BA, University of Toronto

Anupam is the Assistant to the Chairs in the Departments of Political Science, Human Geography, and Global Development Studies at UTSC. She has previously held positions in the Department of English and at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy. In several roles, Anupam has excelled in providing administrative support in a service-oriented environment, facilitating online teaching/learning initiatives, faculty searches and academic reviews, student admissions and recruitment efforts, and event planning.



Thorsten Faas
PhD, University of Duisburg-Essen

Thorsten will hold the Hannah Arendt Visiting Chair in German and European Studies (2025/26) at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy. The Chair is supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). A political scientist who studies elections and public opinion, he is currently a full professor at the Free University of Berlin. He is principal investigator of the German Longitudinal Election Study (GLES) and a member of the current planning committee of The Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES).



Derefe Kimarley Chevannes
PhD, University of Connecticut

Derefe joins the department as Assistant Professor in Black Political Thought. His research explores Black liberation and Black radical thought in the modern world, situated at the intersection of Political Theory and Black Studies. He is currently completing his first book, *Against American Ethnocracy: Race, Sovereignty & the Myth of Black Citizenship*, and has published in numerous journals and edited volumes. He was previously an Assistant Professor in Political Theory at the University of Memphis.

David joins the Department as Assistant Professor in Political Theory from NYU School of Law where he was a postdoctoral research fellow. His articles have been published in *Constellations*, *An International Journal of Democratic and Critical Theory*, *Journal of Political Ideologies*, and *Ethics and International Affairs*. He is a co-author (and the co-editor with Sandrine Baume) of *Hans Kelsen on Constitutional Democracy: Genesis, Theory, Legacies* (Cambridge Studies in Constitutional Law series, Cambridge UP, forthcoming 2025).

David Ragozzoni
PhD, Columbia University



Daniel joins the department as Professor. His research focusses on elections, political participation and social identity. He is Executive Director of Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP) and co-Principal Investigator of the Canadian Election Study. His work has been published in the *American Journal of Political Science*, the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *The Journal of Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, and *Political Psychology* among others. Previously he was Professor in the Department of Politics at TMU and has held visiting positions at Sciences Po, the European University Institute and Facebook.

Daniel Rubenson
PhD, London School of Economics



Chagai joins U of T as an Assistant Professor of Political Science and the Charles and Andrea Bronfman Chair in Israeli Studies, cross-appointed with the Anne Tanenbaum Center for Jewish Studies. He previously spent two years as a Middle East Initiative predoctoral fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School and is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University. Chagai's research focuses on the political effects and institutional remedies of conflict and polarization. His research has been published or is forthcoming in various outlets, and his current book project is under advance contract with Princeton University Press.

Chagai M. Weiss
PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison





Congratulations to political science alumnus (PhD, International Relations and Canadian Politics, 2016) and Victoria Liberal MP-elect Will Greaves (L) who captured 54.3 per cent of the vote in the riding on election night, beating out the NDP, which has held it since 2006, and giving Victoria a Liberal seat in government that it has not had for nearly two decades. Will is also an associate professor at the University of Victoria, where his research focuses on climate change, security, and Arctic politics. Congrats Will!

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