

Spring / Summer 2021

# Politics

Department of Political Science

University of Toronto



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With the hope that the pandemic will soon be behind us, we are planning ahead for the graduate program to resume in-person this fall. It has been a challenging year, but I'm very grateful for Carolyn and Louis's amazing work to keep the graduate office and program working well, and to support our students through incredibly difficult times. Earlier this term we rolled out a second round of COVID-19 financial support and piloted a TA buy-out award, offering several students the opportunity to focus exclusively on dissertation work. More recently, we successfully recruited 24 new PhD students, including two with Connaught International awards. Our MA program is welcoming an unprecedented 60 students. We are preparing for another round of online summer field exams and a continuation of our Scholarly and Professional Development series with workshops on publishing and career planning in the works. I thank our 2020-21 GASPS co-chairs, Selin Kepenek and James Ankers, for leading students through a complicated year with care and enthusiasm and welcome our incoming co-chairs, Marcus Closen and William O'Connell.

It has been an unprecedented academic year which brought great challenges for students, staff, and faculty. Though we have recreated many of our communities online, the loss of campus interactions has been profound. The undergraduate office remains dedicated to responding expeditiously to student queries while conducting its usual business. The first phase of our new curriculum, which launched with a selection of new courses in Fall 2020, has been well received by students with enrolment in first-year courses significantly higher than the previous year. The last phase of the new curriculum, involving the semesterization of all courses, was approved by Faculty governance and will launch this Fall. New faculty hires in Comparative Political Economy, Social Diversity, Canadian Politics and American Politics will add to the dynamism and diversity of the curriculum in the years ahead. We wish our graduating students the very best in their future endeavors and hope to see our current students on campus in the Fall.

My "Diary of a Plague Year" begins with gratitude that we have not lost any students, faculty, or staff. Against all odds, our pivoting to online instruction has gone remarkably well. Based on comments from surveys and teaching evaluations, students seem to have enjoyed their online courses; in a smaller world with fewer distractions, many students have engaged on a deeper level with their course material. Our departmental student associations (PSSA and the law-focused LSOU) have done a remarkable job planning co-curricular events organizing twenty-eight in total, including the first Highland Hall moot competition, the largest event of its kind in Canada. We are expanding our summer internship program "Beyond the Classroom" and would love to hear from alumni who have a place in their organization for a student volunteer. I would like to congratulate Diana Fu who was appointed to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists and Lucan Way, who won the UTSC Research Excellence Award. I would also like to welcome a new colleague - Dr. Neil Roberts (Professor) whose appointment begins in 2022.

As the days literally 'zoom' by and despite the pandemic, exciting things are unfolding at UTM. The department has come together virtually over the past few months for workshops on Indigenizing the Curriculum as well as hosting a diverse array of speaker events. We are celebrating the end of the academic year by handing out awards to ten outstanding undergraduate students, soon to be featured on our brand-new website - one that will also highlight some of our junior faculty, as well as our extraordinary alumni. I am also thrilled to announce that effective July 1, 2021, Dr. Emily Nacol will be granted tenure at the rank of Associate Professor and Dr. Edward Schatz will be promoted to Professor. We will also welcome three new faculty members: Nadège Compaoré and Arturo Chang as new Assistant Professors and Spyridon Kotsovilis as a new Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream. Hopefully in the not too distant future, we will all be able to come together in-person and celebrate all of our faculty, student, and staff accomplishments.

As my colleagues note, this has been a challenging, complicated, and difficult year for many. While we look forward - fingers firmly crossed - to returning to something resembling normal university life this fall, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the dedication, creativity, and good will of the faculty and staff with whom I have worked as Acting Chair. A special shout out to our students, whose commitment to both learning about and improving their world was especially impressive - and important - this year. To wit: Thanks to the leadership of Professor Wendy Wong, the Department co-funded a set of remarkable student-driven anti-racism initiatives this term, and a record number of students in political science received U of T Student Leadership Awards for their extra-curricular work. Political science thrives on debate and contestation, and we've had our share of it this year. As our students continually remind us, asking tough questions is a precondition for creating a better and more just world, and that is worth celebrating - especially during a pandemic.

# CAMPUS COLLOQUIES / Updates from our Students

UNDERGRADUATE *David De Paiva*

GRADUATE *Erica Petkov*



## Why did you decide to study Political Science & Urban Studies?

My fascination with politics began in high school so pursuing Political Science felt like a natural fit for me, allowing me to study Canada, public policy, and foreign political systems, all within one program. As for Urban Studies, I grew up in the suburbs and always enjoyed visiting downtown Toronto, finding the diversity of spaces within the city remarkable. Urban Studies, due to its multi-disciplinary focus, allows me to explore the city from several academic angles, from geography to literature, which is great!

## As graduation nears, what have been the most rewarding and challenging experiences thus far?

The most rewarding experiences I've had on campus were in my courses, clichéd though that may sound. I've learned so much from my professors, my TAs, and my peers. As was likely the case for most in my graduating class, COVID-19 presented the largest challenge for me during these past four years. When the pandemic hit, I was studying abroad in Switzerland, and having to evacuate was certainly an unfortunate experience I could never have anticipated.

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

I thought that coming to the University of Toronto might mean getting lost in the sheer size of the student body. My first Political Science course, *POL101*, had about 1,200 students enrolled in it, which definitely confirmed my initial fears. Thankfully I didn't get swallowed up in the U of T system, and as the years have passed, I've been able to find my academic niche and succeed in my courses. During the past two years especially, as I've taken more senior-level courses, I've really been able to burrow into my own research interests, which has been a delightful experience.

## How has the pandemic altered your experience of campus life?

The pandemic has had a huge impact on me and my experiences of campus life. Before the pandemic, I really enjoyed working, volunteering, and studying on campus. If I wasn't in class, I'd be in a library! Since school has moved online, and I have stayed almost exclusively at home, my learning experiences have been vastly different. I'm lucky in that I was already used to University before the pandemic struck, and I can only imagine how difficult the transition for first-year students must have been. Socially, as someone who really enjoyed meeting people in class, the pandemic has had a negative impact on this aspect of life.

## What do you plan to do after graduation?

I'd like to pursue a master's degree at some point, probably in either Political Science or Public Policy, but I'd like to take a year to explore my professional interests. I'm still uncertain about exactly what career path I want to go down in life, and so right now I'm keeping my options open and looking forward to where things take me.

## Please explain your research and its main findings thus far.

My research asks: how does political satire affect the political participation of Canadian millennials? To answer this question, I used a mixed methodological approach including a national survey of over 1500 Canadians and 12 focus groups with students at postsecondary institutions across the GTA. My research revealed that first, satire is very popular with Canadian millennials, with over 50% of Canadians in this age group regularly watching it. Second, viewers of satire most commonly feel cynical after watching it. Third and most surprisingly, this cynicism is frequently accompanied by a motivation to engage in politics, rather than a desire to disengage. I discovered that a satire viewer is most likely to subsequently engage in politics if they experience a negative emotional response to the satirical content (for example, they feel angry about a particular government policy that the satire discussed) in conjunction with a rise in political efficacy (that is, greater confidence in their ability to understand politics), a concept I have labelled "productive cynicism."



## Why did you decide to research this particular area and what impact do you hope your research will have?

I decided to study satire and participation not only because of a long-held personal interest in political comedy, but also because this field is under-researched within the field of political science. I hope my research will bolster our comprehension of the effects of satire, because if we are concerned about the long-term sustainability of liberal democracy, then we should understand precisely how citizens form their political attitudes, what drives them to engage, or not, in the political process, and the role that popular modes of political communication such as satire play in shaping these outcomes.

## How has juggling being a parent with a pandemic affected your research?

Juggling my research and being the parent of a young child during a pandemic has been immensely challenging. I have had to put my own work aside for many months to take care of my son while my spouse works. I am incredibly grateful for my empathic committee, and for the generous support I have received from the department. Thankfully, I was in the writing stage and had completed my data collection before the pandemic started, so I did not have to pivot my research design. The rate at which I could write my dissertation, however, has been significantly impacted.

## Future plans?

I hope to continue teaching, especially the course that I designed and taught at U of T several summers ago, *POL300: Humour and Politics*, which explores the history of satire and its contemporary impact on politics and society.

# PROJECT PODCAST /

In a bid to motivate her students in what has been a very difficult year, Professor Rebecca Kingston decided to give those enrolled in *POL303 Women in Western Political Thought*, the option to complete a different course assignment: create a podcast. Two students tell *Politics* why they decided to take up the offer to highlight some of the more obscure women in the history of political thought.



**MELISSA DE ANGELIS** I chose to create a podcast for this assignment because it seemed like a fun alternative to essay writing. Podcasts are a more digestible way to both communicate and receive information so I felt a podcast would be a better way to increase awareness about my notable woman thinker, **Zora Neale Hurston** (1891 - 1960). I chose to do my podcast on her because she was an extremely influential anthropologist, playwright, author and intellectual, who not only managed to capture the African American experience in the 1900's but also made extraordinary progress in advocating for Black women within feminist discourse. Feminism has been, and still is, largely centered around white women. Hurston was one of the first female thinkers to acknowledge that the experience of women cannot be essentialized; the experience of Black women, and other women of colour, varies greatly from that of white women. The project was extremely stimulating and kept me more thoroughly engaged with the content compared to writing a paper, as the act of "performing" my work prompted me to be hypercritical on the overall flow, outline and information I chose to include. It was a riveting experience and I hope to do similar projects in the future!



**GRACE LEE** I thought doing a podcast would be a nice break from writing traditional academic papers. As someone who enjoys listening to podcasts regularly, I saw this as my chance to learn the technical aspects of putting one together. I ultimately chose **Olympe de Gouges** (1748 - 1793), a difficult decision because there are so many great women intellectuals who are seriously understudied. Olympe de Gouges stuck out for me because she is considered by many to be one of the earliest women's rights activists and penned the striking *Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen* at a time when the rights of common men were barely taking shape. By unpacking her life and work, I hoped to shed light on how this proto-feminist understood gender roles and civic life, as well as challenge the assumption that politically engaged women are a relatively recent phenomenon. Despite being part of Gen-Z, I have negligible technical expertise, so learning how to record and edit audio for a podcast was a bit of a challenge. That said, it was a highly enjoyable process, and I appreciate having had the opportunity to branch out with this assignment. I think political science students would benefit from greater versatility in assignments; it allows us to expand our skillset, think more creatively, and engage with different ways of learning.

# WRITING MATTERS /

Professor Stefan Renckens sheds light on the research involved in writing his book, which has been shortlisted for CPSA prize in International Relations.

**Your most recent book *Private Governance and Public Authority: Regulating Sustainability in a Global Economy*, has been shortlisted for the 2021 CPSA Prize in International Relations. Can you tell us about it?**

The book is a revised and updated version of my dissertation. The initial idea dates back to 2010, when I was doing exploratory research on fishery governance in the European Union. At the time, the EU was considering regulating private fisheries eco-labels and eco-certification schemes, like the one from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), which was originally developed by Unilever and the World Wide Fund for Nature. This case was interesting to me since little was known about public authorities intervening in private governance. Such interventions mean creating a formal definition of "sustainable" production practices, or regulating the procedural features of eco-certification schemes, such as requiring third-party auditors for rule compliance verification. To explain variation in public interventions, the book compares four issue areas: fisheries, fair trade, biofuels and organic agriculture. The book argues that public intervention in private governance depends on the economic benefit this creates for local producers, and the degree of fragmentation of eco-certification schemes in the market. I also show that private certification organizations, like the MSC or Fairtrade International, actively lobby for their interests, a political activity that had been previously overlooked. Finally, I reflect on how the argument applies to countries outside the EU.



**Your inclusion on the shortlist is a huge accolade. What does this sort of recognition mean to you both professionally and personally?**

It's a great honor to be shortlisted. The research involved analyzing several hundred pieces of legislation and preparatory policy documents and conducting 75 interviews with policy makers and stakeholders. It was a challenging but fascinating journey, especially the interviews, which provide a crucial look behind the curtain of politics and policymaking. The fact that the nomination is for a prize in IR is recognition that my work appeals to several sub-disciplines in political science. The book is published in a series on "Business and Public Policy" and is comparative in nature, but in essence is about the EU and transnational private governance. I'm happy that this work is recognized by scholars in IR, which is the field I started in as a political science student.

**What are you currently working on?**

I'm currently working on a project related to the book which examines lobbying activities by private eco-certification organizations. Another is concerned with sustainable finance, in which I compare the rules and mechanisms that countries, international organizations and private organizations create to reorient the global financial system toward more sustainable practices. I'm also beginning a new project that examines the political power of international audit companies, such as KPMG or Bureau Veritas, which perform compliance audits on environmental issues for governmental and private organizations.

# MENTORING MATTERS /

Mentoring can have a profound impact, not only on the mentees, but on the mentors as well. Two participants in the Political Science Senior Mentorship Program share their experiences.

## MENTOR / Sheila Goldgrab

*Executive Coach and Founder of Goldgrab Leadership Coaching*



I planned to decline the invitation to serve as a mentor this year, thinking that mentoring remotely would diminish effective relationship building. I eventually came to the realization that a developmental relationship might be far more valuable in a year of student isolation and constant upheavals.

Any initial hesitation evaporated once I met Alex. Energetic, eager and curious, she brought positivity to an uncertain time, and I quickly discovered that my career experience still had relevance to a senior undergraduate student during

an unprecedented time in history.

Mentoring was an enjoyable respite during the pandemic. The fog of groundhog days lifted with our initial exchanges where we discovered lots of shared interests including travel, languages and of course, the politics of current events.

When we turned our attention to career development, we explored Alex's strengths and interests. Our conversations were a fun adventure as she has many interests and as a people-person, she is curious about others. There was enthusiastic sharing and learning for both of us.

Next, when we explored options for career planning, I encouraged Alex to reach out to the people I had introduced her to so she could learn directly from them. She not only maximized the opportunity to learn about the skills, education and knowledge requirements for each career path, but she also asked for and received guidance from each of them. Her approach to information gathering and relationship building wowed them all.

Finally, Alex set realistic goals on her own. Equipped with contacts, she revisited them to check in about her hope to spend time abroad to gain experience to pursue a career with an NGO, with the ultimate goal of applying to graduate school.

My job is coaching and guiding leaders to enhance their effectiveness and personal fulfilment and I'm often asked why I mentor in my spare time. The reason is simple. It offers the opportunity to listen to fresh perspectives and to make a positive difference in the life of a young person. It also strengthens the lessons I've learned about pursuing a fulfilling career, entrepreneurship and how to succeed in life. Wouldn't anyone want to do that?

## MENTEE / Alexandra McManus

*Senior Undergraduate Student*



Entering into my fourth year of University studying Global Health and Political Science, I was feeling uncertain about my future; especially about what career I wanted to pursue. On a whim, I applied to the Political Science Mentorship Program, a decision that has turned out to be an incredible experience.

My mentor, Sheila, provided the guidance I had been missing. Through our conversations, I was able to ascertain what I am truly passionate about and what I want my future to look like.

Through her contacts, Sheila was able to connect me with industry leaders in my desired career, opportunities that I never would have had in the past. This has allowed me to learn how to pursue my dream career, working with non-profits regarding health care equity, and to learn what I need to work on to accomplish this. On a more basic level, she assisted in the resume and cover letter writing process, showing me how to stand out in a sea of exceptional individuals.

We also connected personally, discussing everything from politics, to travel, to the books we are currently reading. While this process was a bit different due to COVID-19 restrictions, my mentor worked to establish a relationship with me while supporting me through a very stressful year. This program has given me an opportunity to connect with the political science department and peers at a time where connection can be increasingly difficult to forge.

Personally, my relationship with my mentor has meant so much more than I ever could have anticipated. Through our zoom conversations, Sheila has become a life-long friend, a guiding figure who has supported me both professionally and personally. I cannot thank her enough for all that she has done and hope that others will apply to experience the great benefits of having a mentor.

# A REMOTE FIRST YEAR /

Husband and wife Professors Olga Chyzh and Mark Nieman tell *Politics* about their experiences teaching online during their first year at U of T.

**Looking back on your first year with us, what were your experiences of the necessity to teach online?** Teaching online is nothing like teaching in person - group activities, discussions, or even jokes don't work as well remotely. We spent a lot of time thinking about how to improve the students' learning experience, investing in specialized recording equipment and video editing software.

**Has being husband and wife made teaching any easier in that you can share tips/ frustrations/ be supportive?** Like we teach in International Political Economy, it's about comparative advantage: One of us was in charge of video-editing while the other took on food preparation. Whoever was teaching got the office, the other worked at the kitchen table. Turns out all you need is an outlet to plug in your laptop.

**What are you most looking forward to if the campus returns to a more normal state in September?** It will be so nice to work from our university offices. As academics, we already have trouble with work/life balance, and working from home upsets this even more. When you literally live in your office, you feel guilty every time you step away from your laptop, which is not healthy.

**The transition from Iowa to Toronto - how has that been generally even though you are limited in exploring your new city?** They say it takes a year to acclimate to a new environment; however, we don't think last year counts. We were in lockdown for more time than we weren't. We have hardly seen any of the city or met our colleagues and students. We both feel our first real year at U of T will not start until the campus re-opens. We cannot wait to finally meet everyone!



## Emeriti Profile: Robert (Bob) Matthews

1960 with an Honours BA in politics and economics, Bob anticipated Pierre Trudeau's call for a truly bilingual country, securing a one-year teaching position at a high school in Paris. Remaining in France, he earned a diploma in European Studies at the University of Strasbourg, where he met his life partner, the artist Renwick Dill. Soon after their wedding in Paris, they joined *Cuso International* (formerly CUSO, Canadian University Service Overseas) and relocated to Ghana. During a busy two years there, they taught English and French at a high school in Tarkwa, welcoming two sons, Christopher and John, and later a daughter, Nadya. During that time, they travelled throughout West Africa, an experience which inspired Bob's subsequent scholarly career.



R. MATTHEWS

Bob was born in Ottawa, when his father was leading the war-time national price control board. John Holmes, esteemed diplomat and a family friend, suggested that the best place to pursue his new academic interests was Columbia University. Once enrolled in its MIA program, he was invited to edit their student-led *Journal of International Affairs*. Having published an article of his own in *International Organization* while still a master's student, Bob was clearly headed toward academic distinction. After a stint at the Brookings Institution, and two years before he finished his doctoral dissertation on inter-state conflict in Africa, he applied for and was soon offered an assistant professorship back in his alma mater.

Within a few short years, amidst rising debates on Canada's responsibilities abroad as the world began confronting the legacy of colonialism and structural racism, Bob joined Cranford Pratt and other eminent colleagues in elevating our Department into the global top-tier in the study of African politics. In the mid-1970s, he also played vital roles in inaugurating the International Relations program at Trinity College as well as the Development Studies program at UTSC. He later deployed his diplomatic and administrative skills on the new University-wide Faculty Grievance Committee. Between 1987 and 1995, with short breaks, he served as our Chair, never complaining, always quietly guiding his colleagues, and invariably letting others take any applause. He contributed outside the University too, chairing the International Affairs Committee of the Canadian Council of Churches from 1973 right through to 1995, and often participated in activities of the World Council, as well as co-editing *International Journal*, Canada's premier journal of international affairs for many years.

Now with eight grandchildren, Bob resides on the shores of Lake Simcoe and very much misses his late wife Ren and their son Chris but considers every year of his long career as "joyous . . . and filled with very kind colleagues." Long may those years continue.

- Louis Pauly

## In Memoriam: José Nun (1934-2021)

Buenos Aires on February 25, 2021. Known by his nickname "Pepe" to colleagues and students, he was recruited from Argentina for a one-year stint in 1970 and stayed on as Full Professor under terms that allowed him to return regularly to Latin America until his early retirement and definitive return home in 1993.

Pepe was a larger-than-life figure. Son of Jewish (Lithuanian-Russian) immigrant parents, he completed a Law degree (with distinction) at the Universidad de Buenos Aires (1961), and a diploma in economic development (1962). He then went on to study in Paris. Though officially enrolled at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques, where he obtained a Diplôme Supérieur in 1964 for work on military coups in Latin America, he gravitated to the École Pratique des Hautes Etudes and to sociologist Alain Touraine. His collaboration with David Apter's project on Latin American modernization at the Institute of International Studies, Berkeley (1964-1966) offered an opportunity to articulate his own distinctive analysis grounded in the specificities of the Latin American historical context, not in the abstract modeling of dominant US-based modernization theories.

In Argentina, Pepe authored and co-authored books that often expanded on his early classic articles still relevant 40 years on; among them, *La transición democrática en Argentina* (1987), *La rebelión del coro* (1989), *Marginalidad y exclusión social* (2001), *Democracia: ¿gobierno del pueblo o gobierno de los políticos?* (2010, revised 2015), and *La política y la democracia en clave argentina* (2020). He founded and directed the Instituto de Altos Estudios Sociales, Universidad Nacional de San Martín (UNSAM), and was Senior Researcher at CONICET (1985-2003). As Minister of Culture during the Kirchner government (2004-2009), he initiated *Libros y Casas*, a program that gifted small libraries to beneficiary families of Argentina's Federal Housing Plans. *Café, Cultura, Nación*, a funded cultural initiative, promoted dialogue between intellectuals, artists, and journalists with local residents in bars and cafés in different provinces, as did *Casa Nacional del Bicentenario*, a museum and cultural centre. They all reflected Pepe's vision of the democratic potential of culture as an everyday dialogical process.

Pepe's epistemological grounding crystalized a creative synthesis of insights from Marx and Antonio Gramsci, the philosophy of Wittgenstein, and the phenomenology of Alfred Schütz. To use his favourite expression, "this lens" enabled one to capture the specificities of Latin American politics. For those of us who had also been forced to leave our homelands, and who had followed a similar interdisciplinary intellectual path into the study of Latin American politics, his intellectual and ethical-political commitments offered not only a framing, but also a road map to make our way into the often brutal and painful realities of our own home countries. He taught with passion and conviction, dipping into that vast reservoir of anecdotes and experiences which we discovered made him a major protagonist of what would be regarded as the golden moment of an autonomous Latin American social science.

- Verónica Schild, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of Western Ontario



Photo provided by: Ricardo Daniel Rey, Télam

# WOMEN ON TOP /

*Politics catches up with two alumnae who have risen to the top of their professions.*



**Dr. Linda Bauld** (HBA, 1993)

John Usher Chair in Public Health, Usher Institute,  
College of Medicine, University of Edinburgh



**Dr. Georgette Zinaty** (HBA, 1990)

Executive Vice-President, *Corporate Class Inc.*  
Founder of *WHEW!* Women Helping Empower Women

## Why did you decide to study Political Science and how has your education benefitted your choice of career?

I began my degree at U of T intending to study languages, but during my first semester, I took an introductory political science course taught by Professor David Cameron and that appealed to me more. I benefited from studying politics because I combined it with debating. I was active in the UC and Hart House debating societies and was lucky enough to compete at the North American debating championships in Chicago where I won the best speaker prize, representing U of T. As a student, I was most interested in policy and that subsequently led to a PhD in social policy back in Edinburgh, where I am from.

## As a Professor of Public Health, what does your job entail?

My PhD focused on health policy, and as a post-doc at the University of Kent in the late 1990s, I became involved in evaluating public health interventions. That's been my focus ever since. I've retained an interest in political science by working with governments throughout my career, including as a UK scientific adviser, adviser to the World Health Organization and during COVID-19, as an adviser to the Scottish Parliament. For the past seven years, I've been seconded to the world's largest cancer charity a couple of days a week - Cancer Research UK - to support their work on cancer prevention which included being a media spokesperson for the charity.

## What advice would you give a new graduate considering going into academia or the workforce in general?

Find a mentor and learn from them. Even as a PhD student, I had a mentor that helped me secure a part-time researcher role in government and that stood me in good stead in the portfolio roles I've had since then. Follow your instincts and find something that really interests you. Political science is a great foundation for roles in many sectors. It builds critical thinking and analytical skills - plus a dose of healthy scepticism about particular positions or entrenched views and inequalities. Many employers seek those skills, from research to commerce, law, charities, international development - the list is endless.

## What do you enjoy most and least about your job?

The best things are supporting early career colleagues and seeing them flourish. It's quite amazing to be involved when a new policy is considered and then seeing it implemented by governments in ways that improve health and prevent disease. The downside of this means very long hours. I have two teenage children who have mostly flourished by being independent as I wasn't always there for them when I should have been. Work/life balance is a challenge, but I've been very fortunate and my years at the University of Toronto provided a foundation that I am immensely grateful for.

## Why did you decide to study Political Science and English and how has your education benefitted your choice of career?

I originally thought I would go to Law School so studying Political Science and English seemed like the best preparation. We had amazing faculty that opened up my world and understanding of what I thought I knew about world order, how governments are structured, the processes involved and more. In many ways, Political Science prepares you for the complexity of workplaces.

## How did *WHEW!* come to be and as the founder, what does your job entail?

I previously worked at U of T and loved every role I took on which included Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations at UTSC, and Executive Director of Advancement in the Faculty of Engineering. I was often one of the few women in the room, and at one point I was the only woman on the executive. I had also begun my doctoral journey in Business Administration (2016) where my research was focused on the scarcity of women in leadership with a diversity and inclusion lens. When I completed my doctorate and stepped down from U of T, I realized I was in a position with a network to affect change and that this was an area of passion where I could actually make a difference. In addition to being the Executive Vice President of *Corporate Class Inc.* where I lead the Center for Diversity and Inclusion practice, *WHEW!* was born out of my philanthropic passion to create a free, safe space for women to build their confidence, and become bold risk takers.

## What advice would you give a new graduate hoping to launch a non-profit?

Identify what you want to do, how you will achieve it and what the impact will be. Ask yourself why you are doing it. Surround yourself with a strong advisory board that will push your thinking and ideas, open doors and expand the impact of the non-profit.

## What do you enjoy most and least about your job?

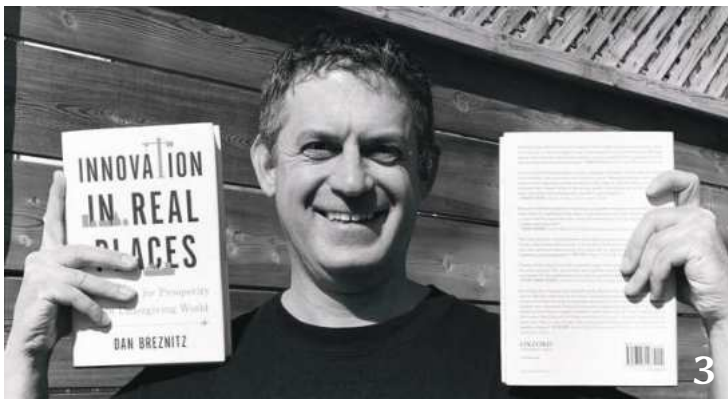
I love the work, waking up with purpose daily and knowing the work changes lives. A few years ago, after launching the Women in Leadership Initiative at UTSC, the program surveys came in with comments like "Georgette made me realize I have the right to have a seat at the table" or "I know my cup is all full", "why not me?" and many comments about how these young women reimagined what they knew about themselves. I cried in my car and thought this is what I need to be doing. I am filled with gratitude every day that I have the opportunity to do this.



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**1** Alumnus and Sessional Instructor Igor Shoikhedbrod with his recent U of T teaching awards.

**2** Nadège Compaoré (top right) joins Frédéric Mérand, Oumar Diallo, Iya Touré, Jean-Damascène & Amina Gerba at a recent CÉRIUM workshop.

**3** Dan Breznitz celebrates the publication of his book *Innovation in Real Places: Strategies for Prosperity in an Unforgiving World*.

**4** Graduate Secretary and Diamond Weapon band leader Louis Tentsos performs during a pandemic inspired 'balcony session.'

**5** Antoinette Handley celebrates her recent U of T African Scholar Award.

**6** Kate Neville at the recent online launch of her book *Fueling Resistance: The Contentious Political Economy of Biofuels and Fracking*.

**7** Professor Emeritus Emanuel Adler and his wife Sylvia enjoy a nature reserve near Kibbutz Ga'ash north of Tel Aviv, Israel.

# ASSOCIATIONS



*Madeleine Bauer*  
President

## APSS

### Association of Political Science Students

This semester, the Association of Political Science Students remained focused on supporting undergraduate students as remote learning continued. We co-hosted a social sciences mixer alongside several other FAS student unions where students could switch between various breakout groups to play different online games, helping to foster a sense of community despite the physical distance. We also held an Alumni Panel to discuss life after graduation, with Jerry Zhu, a current University of Toronto law student, Kerry Paterson, the deputy director of advocacy at the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) in NYC, and Ceren Gumus, a Senior Analyst in Immigration Case Management at Deloitte. Our junior mentorship program held a research and writing strategies panel, with advice from librarians, TAs, and writing center advisors. Finally, we held our elections for the 2021-2022 Executive and are glad to report that we had more candidates and voters than ever before, a happy side effect of hosting the elections online. It is with great pleasure that I announce my successor, Angie Luo, who will be taking over as President for the upcoming academic year. We wish everyone a healthy and relaxing summer ahead, and hope for a return to normalcy in the fall!



*James Ankers (above) & Selin Kepenek*  
Co-Chairs

## GASPS

### Graduate Association of Students in Political Science

As an unprecedented year draws to a close, so too does another term for GASPS. The department and our members have risen to the unparalleled challenges of an online, socially distanced year admirably. We managed to stay connected through well-attended online social events, including trivia nights, game nights, and more. GASPS members made use of a series of new skill-building and research-pivoting workshops offered by the department, and we are planning to maintain, build and expand on these for future years. During the year, we collected member feedback on a range of departmental policies and initiatives, the results of which were received positively by both the Interim Chair and Graduate Chair. Despite the physical interruptions, we were also able to maintain our extensive set of research clusters and special project groups, which have done excellent, member-led work in developing skills and disseminating new research. With a new leadership team in place, we are confident that William O'Connell and Marcus Closen will continue to build departmental collegiality even further in the year to come.

## WHY IS ACCESS TO JUSTICE CRITICAL TO OUR DEMOCRACY?

Fireside Chat with the  
Rt. Hon. Richard Wagner  
led by Marie Henein, Partner,  
Henein Hutchison LLP

Friday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021



### The Faculty Club

41 Willcocks Street, Toronto

Hosted by the University of Toronto's  
Political Science Alumni Association (PSAA)

*PSAA Fall Event*

## PSAA

### Political Science Alumni Association

The Political Science Alumni Association is organizing an in-person dinner at U of T's Faculty Club on December 10<sup>th</sup> this year, exploring the role of the Supreme Court in policy formulation and our democracy. Entitled 'Why is Access to Justice Critical to our Democracy?' the event will feature Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, the Rt. Hon. Richard Wagner, who will be interviewed by Marie Henein, Partner, Henein Hutchison LLP, one of Canada's leading criminal defense attorneys. The Attorney General of Ontario, the Hon. Doug Downey will provide closing remarks on recent policy initiatives the provincial government has undertaken to improve access to justice. Accredited by the Law Society of Ontario, the event will commence with a welcome reception followed by a seated dinner, concluding with an evening reception. Additional dignitaries and stakeholders will be confirmed in the coming months. Registration details will be made available in September. To learn more about this event, explore sponsorship opportunities or to get involved in your alumni association, contact Anthony Fernando by email: [anthonyfernando@gmail.com](mailto:anthonyfernando@gmail.com).

**Contributors:** James Ankers, Melissa Baker, Madeleine Bauer, Linda Bauld, Jacques Bertrand, Arturo Chang, Olga Chyzh, Allison Cuttner, Melissa De Angelis, David De Paiva, Connor Ewing, Dickson Eyoh, Anthony Fernando, Sheila Goldgrab, Selin Kepenek, Margaret Kohn, Spyridon Kotsovilis, Grace Lee, Brendan McElroy, Alexandra McManus, Eric Merkley, Mark Nieman, Andrea Olive, Oded Oron, Louis Pauly, Erica Petkov, Stefan Renckens, Verónica Schild, Robert Vipond, Nicole Wu, Georgette Zinaty.

## POLITICS

**Editorial:** Jennifer O'Reilly, Julie Guzzo, Elizabeth Jagdeo

**Design:** Jennifer O'Reilly, Cora Endean

**Cover Design:** Cora Endean

# POLITICS books & bites

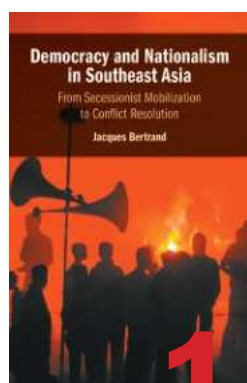
All the latest faculty and student news, awards, accolades and publications.

## FACULTY

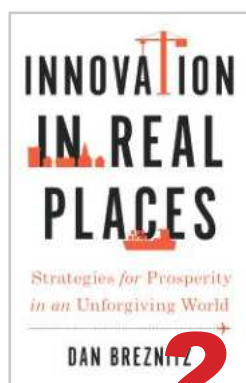
- **Martha Balaguera Cuervo's** dissertation "Citizenship in Transit: Perils and Promises of Crossing Mexico," received the best dissertation award from the Latin American Studies Association, Mexico Section.
- **Ronald Deibert's** book *Reset: Reclaiming the Internet for Civil Society* was shortlisted for the 2020 Donner Prize, as well as the Writers Trust of Canada Book Prize.
- **Diana Fu** was selected as a 2021 Wilson Center China Fellow for her project entitled "Is Chinese Civil Society Dead? How the U.S. Should Navigate People-to-People Exchange in a New Era."
- **Antoinette Handley** received an African Scholar Award. She was also named the Faculty of Arts & Science's new Vice-Dean of Graduate Education beginning July 1, 2021 for a four-year term.
- **Phillip Lipsky's** article "COVID-19 & the Politics of Crisis" received a 2020 Albie award.
- **Stefan Rencken's** book *Private Governance and Public Authority: Regulating Sustainability in a Global Economy*, was shortlisted for the 2021 CPSA Prize in International Relations.
- **Ran Hirschl's** book *Towards Juristocracy: The Origins and Consequences of the New Constitutionalism* was awarded the APSA Law & Courts Lasting Contribution Award.
- **Lucan Way** was selected as a 2021 UTSC Research Excellence Faculty Scholar.
- **Joseph Wong** was appointed U of T's Vice-President, International for a five-year term.
- **Jon Lindsay, Emily Nacol, Kate Neville** and **Ludovic Rheault** were granted tenure at the rank of Associate Professor.
- **Edward Schatz** and **Antoinette Handley** were promoted to Professor.
- **Dan Breznitz** was appointed University Professor, U of T's highest and most distinguished academic rank.
- We wish Professors **Ronald Beiner, Sanford Borins** and **Mark Lippincott** all the very best as they retire this summer!

## STUDENTS

- **New PhDs:**  
Dr. Brianna Botchwey, Dr. Kevin Edmonds, Dr. Asif Farooq, Dr. Elena Goracinov, Dr. Amy Janzwood, Dr. Scott McKnight, Dr. Jacqueline Peterson, Dr. Alesha Porisky, Dr. Abdul Reda, Dr. Evan Rosevear, Dr. Ella Street.
- **Undergraduate Awards & Scholarships 2019-2020:**  
Louis Michel Alteen, Saman Shabbir Asim, Sophie Barnett, Ziyang Cai, Tenzin Chime, Haseeb Rehman Chughtai, Ingrid Wanxiao Cui, Tessa Victoria Di Vizio, Amelia Eaton, Nouran Lotfy El Atreby, Anastasia Marie Hendricks, Abigail Alexandra Hill, Helen Ho, Talia Devi Holy, Brittanique Meisha Honeyghan, Soo Yeun Jin, Alexa Lalia Kalsatos, Njoki Kamau, Sharon Lee, Nichole Mary Levesley, Abeir Ahmed Liton, Erica Bining Liu, Melissa MacDonald, Nathaniel Steven Dallal McLean, Da Yeon (Ariel) Moon, Alyssa Rusonik, Katherine Eleanor Schneider, Arjun Singh, Ben Harrison Smith, Christine Ze Yan Sun, Alec Wilson, Kenneth Wong, Andrew Yuhua Zhao.
- **U of T Student Leadership Award Recipients 2021:**  
David Jonathan Allens, Chelsea Chioma Anthony, Katie Talar Bolissian, Amelia Carol Kelly Eaton, Andrew Gallant, Laura Eileen Gallo, Talia Holy, Njoki Kamau, Ally Yuqing Lu, Gurleen Mann, Chiara Perry, Katherine Eleanor Schneider, Elizabeth Shaw, Rafique Van Uum, Foti Vito, Hui Wen Zheng.



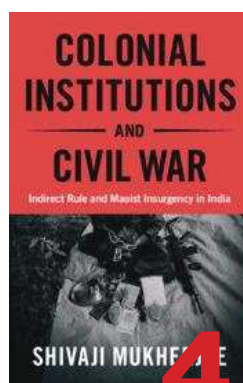
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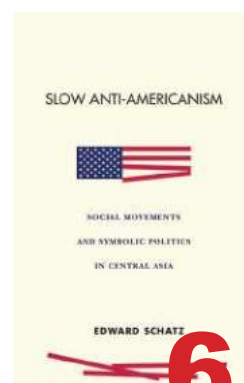
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1. *Democracy and Nationalism in Southeast Asia: From Secessionist Mobilization to Conflict Resolution* Jacques Bertrand Cambridge University Press 2. *Innovation in Real Places – Strategies for Prosperity in an Unforgiving World* Dan Breznitz Oxford University Press 3. *The Political Economy of the Abe Government and Abenomics Reforms* Edited by Phillip Y. Lipsky & Takeo Hoshi Cambridge University Press 4. *Colonial Institutions and Civil War: Indirect Rule and Maoist Insurgency in India* Shivaji Mukherjee Cambridge University Press 5. *Fueling Resistance: The Contentious Political Economy of Biofuels and Fracking* Kate J. Neville Oxford University Press 6. *Slow Anti-Americanism – Social Movements and Symbolic Politics in Central Asia* Edward Schatz Stanford University Press.

## NEW FACES



**MELISSA  
BAKER**

**Melissa** is joining UTSG as a Postdoctoral Fellow working with Peter J. Loewen in the Policy, Elections, & Representation Lab (PEARL). She will be completing her PhD in Political Science at the University of California, Merced during Summer 2021. Her research focuses on the political cognition behind politics, especially the emotional component of political attitudes and engagement.



**ARTURO  
CHANG**

**Arturo** (PhD, Northwestern University) joins UTM as Assistant Professor in July 2021. His research areas are comparative political theory, the history of political thought, as well as post-colonial and decolonial theory. His current book project analyzes the influence of Indigenous and black revolutionary movements for the development of republican institutions in the Americas. His research on American politics has appeared in the *International Journal of Political Economy* and focuses on the study of public opinion and political language. Arturo joins U of T from Williams College, where he was a Gaius Charles Bolin Fellow in Political Science.



**ALLISON  
CUTTNER**

**Allison** is joining U of T as a Postdoctoral Fellow working with Wendy Wong. She completed her PhD in Political Science at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia in 2021. Her research focuses on elite politics in authoritarian regimes and developing democracies with an emphasis on formal theory and applied statistical methods.



**CONNOR M.  
EWING**

**Connor** (PhD, UT Austin) comes to UTSG from the University of Missouri, where he was a Kinder Institute Assistant Professor of Constitutional Democracy. Spanning the fields of American Politics and Public Law, his research focuses on American political and constitutional development, federalism, and constitutional theory. His research has been published or is forthcoming in the *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Tulsa Law Review*, and multiple edited volumes.



**SPYRIDON  
KOTSOVILIS**

**Spyridon** (PhD, McGill University) will begin in July, 2021 as Assistant Professor (Teaching Stream) at UTM. He teaches International Relations and Comparative Politics, as well as war and international law, democratization and cyber politics at the University of Toronto, including the Munk School. In 2018, he was the recipient of the University of Toronto Faculty of Arts & Sciences Superior Teaching award, and in 2021 was awarded a Teaching, Development and Innovation grant for creating a podcast series for UTM students. He looks forward to teaching and developing new instructional techniques.



**BRENDAN  
MCELROY**

**Brendan** (PhD, Harvard University) will join UTSG as Assistant Professor in July, 2022 following a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His work examines the complementary processes of state formation and elite transformation in early modern Eastern Europe, with particular emphasis on the origins of representative assemblies, their evolution, and their consequences for state building and economic development. He is currently preparing a book manuscript under the provisional title *Peasants and Parliaments: Agrarian Reform in Later Eighteenth Century Europe*.



**ERIC  
MERKLEY**

**Eric** (PhD, UBC) will be returning to UTSG in July 2021 as an Assistant Professor in Canadian Politics. His research focuses on the link between elite behaviour, news coverage, and public opinion, especially as they relate to issues of expert or scientific consensus. His work has been published in journals such as the *American Political Science Review*, *Nature Human Behaviour*, the *British Journal of Political Science*, the *Journal of Politics*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, and *Political Communication*. He is currently working on a book project related to political polarization in Canada.



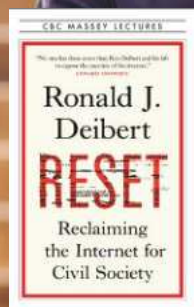
**ODED  
ORON**

**Oded** (PhD, University of Washington) is the Israel Institute Teaching Fellow in Political Science and Jewish Studies, and will be teaching an undergraduate course on Israel's modern tribes at UTSG. His research is concerned with forced migration and social movements. He previously worked as a journalist in leading media outlets such as *ynetnews* and *Haaretz*, and as a Senior Manager for Israel's Government Press Office. Prior to moving to Toronto, he worked in the non-profit sector in the U.S. and is currently completing his certification to become a licensed Immigration Consultant in Canada.



**NICOLE  
WU**

**Nicole** (PhD, University of Michigan) joins UTSG as an assistant professor in July 2021, following her postdoctoral fellowship at the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance at Princeton University. Her research examines the political consequences of two of the most important changes in the contemporary world economy: technological change and the rise of China. She is currently working on a book manuscript on how workers respond to employment threats from automation and globalization.



## THE RESET SCHOLARSHIP IN SOCIAL MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY

Following his book *Reset: Reclaiming the Internet for Civil Society* being shortlisted for the 2020 Donner Prize, Professor Ronald Deibert generously donated his finalist winnings to establish this new scholarship in support of a woman and/or BIPOC student who successfully completes the course *POL106H Contemporary Challenges to Democracy: Democracy in the Social Media Age*. The Department of Political Science, the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy and the Faculty of Arts & Science have each agreed to match the donation.

### STEP 1: GIFT AMOUNT

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### STEP 2: GIFT DESIGNATION

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