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department of political science



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With little relief from COVID-19 in sight, faculty continue to discover innovative ways to deliver courses (mainly) online this fall – synchronous, asynchronous, and hybrid – replete with discussion boards, podcasts, video segments, and online office hours. When the pandemic struck, we were in the midst of renovating our undergraduate curriculum to give students greater flexibility and choice. Students are still required to study Canadian politics, political philosophy, and learn the basics of statistical methods. Subsequently, they now can mix and match semester rather than year-long courses, and we have introduced a set of new and diverse first-year courses to give incoming students a panoramic view of the study of politics. We also now require our students to take courses that speak to the themes of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Pandemic or no, our enrolment among new students has increased smartly over last year. On a very sad note, we continue to mourn the loss of our colleague and friend Carolina de Miguel Moyer, who died much too young from metastatic cancer in August. You will find a beautiful tribute to Carolina on page 3.

Graduate program activity has been far from business as usual. Our primary focus recently has been to navigate our way through COVID-19 disruptions by way of town hall check-ins with students, and working with FAS and SGS to provide emergency supports including completion bursaries, tuition exemptions and research pivoting funds. Faculty from our methods area group have recently developed a series of workshops to help students pivot their research and explore new ways of gathering data under COVID restrictions. In terms of more 'regular' changes, a new PhD exit survey is currently in circulation and will be used to gauge student experience. Finally, we continue to have success with PhD placements, including tenure-track positions at the University of Amsterdam, University of Texas at Austin, Fudan University, University of Ottawa and the University of Guelph, as well as postdoc positions at Harvard, University of British Columbia, McGill University, University of Western Ontario and the University of Michigan.

It remains strange to process the reality of an academic year online, to visit a ghostlike campus, and to be greeted by eerie silence upon arrival at Sidney Smith Hall. The physical and psychological challenges of interacting virtually persist for our students, faculty and staff. As we approach year end, it is heartening that our worst anxieties have not materialized. Departmental support for online teaching ensured that faculty gained the fundamental expertise required to respond speedily to technical problems both during and outside class. We have maintained the calendar of key aspects of the undergraduate program and will continue to respond to student enquiries. We secured approval for the launch of phase two of the new curriculum: the retirement of 300 and 400 level Y courses and their replacement with new H courses in addition to a new second-year elective course in Qualitative Methods. On behalf of the Undergraduate Office, I wish everyone a fantastic holiday and very much look forward to the post-COVID era of an in-person academy.

The department at UTM has made a full transition to online teaching and virtual connection aided by tremendous support from our staff, who have become experts on Quercus, Zoom, & MS Teams. Over the summer, we all learned new platforms with our junior scholars starting a Zoom writing group that has kept their spirits high as book deadlines loom. In the past year, almost every faculty member in the department – including all seven junior scholars – received grant funding for a research project and four faculty have a forthcoming book. The icing on the celebratory cake was Steven Bernstein being named a Distinguished Professor at UTM and, on the teaching side, Richard Day marking 50 years at UTM this past June! As COVID-19 continues to disrupt our lives, we have yet to commemorate the retirement of Ronald Beiner and Mark Lippincott, both of whom spent their careers at UTM. Finally, the department prepares to say goodbye to Erin Tolley, who has taken a position at Carleton University (January 1, 2021). We will miss her and wish her all the best in Ottawa.

In her essay, "The Uses of Disaster," Rebecca Solnit makes an unsettling claim: everyone has their favorite disaster. Disasters bring communities together by providing an opportunity to express solidarity in action. In some ways, COVID-19 has been a disaster of a disaster because its distinctive feature is isolation. Yet serving as Chair during the pandemic has given me the opportunity to appreciate the resilience and selflessness of students, staff and faculty. The UTSC Political Science Student Association (PSSA) offered to run community-building activities in first-year courses to combat isolation and to carry out a research project about student mental health. In the summer, the faculty enthusiastically embraced professional development workshops that helped them design high-quality on-line courses. The staff not only did a fantastic job transitioning to remote work, they also implemented on-line birthday celebrations and coffee breaks, to ensure that no one felt too disconnected. I am also proud that our administration strongly supports efforts to combat anti-black racism, funding a senior position for a scholar of Afro-Caribbean thought in our department.

In Memoriam

In what has already been an exceedingly difficult year, we were profoundly saddened by the passing of our dear colleague, Carolina de Miguel Moyer, on August 20th. Carol, as she was known to her family and friends, lost a battle with cancer, four days after her 41st birthday. She was a gifted researcher, a committed teacher, an exceptional mentor, a wonderful mother and partner, an amazing friend, and one of the finest people any of us could ever hope to meet.

Carol was born in Barcelona, Spain, and grew up there. As the daughter of two academics, she was introduced to the world of books, ideas, and issues from an early age. Carol was also exposed to a range of global experiences through her life. Apart from Barcelona and Toronto, she spent extended periods of time in California, Chicago, Tokyo, Paris, Ann Arbor, and Adelaide. Carol completed her undergraduate degree at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, and her MA and PhD at the University of Michigan.

From the time she came to our department in 2012, Carol was an integral, much-valued, and much-loved member of the department. As a researcher, she was well on her way to establishing herself as an important scholar of parties, electoral behavior, federalism and decentralization, and political geography. Her publications reflected her impressively sharp intellect and keen insight, and her articles have appeared in the *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, and *Electoral Studies*, amongst others. She was also the author of several book chapters and was in the process of completing her manuscript, *Divided Geographies: Diversity, Inclusive Parties, and the Conditions for Nationalization*. Her book project sought to explain when and why regional parties succeed in nationalizing. She also had interests in examining electoral behavior in competitive authoritarian systems. More recently, she had been working on several articles on gender and political behaviour that explored the role of psychological mechanisms. Though she was a specialist of European politics, Carol's work covered several other regional contexts, including the Middle East. Her intellectual range was appreciated by her peers, as she was often part of collective research efforts as a valued collaborator and co-author.

An outstanding teacher and an exceptional mentor, Carol touched the lives of numer-



Carolina de Miguel Moyer
(1979 - 2020)

ous undergraduate and graduate students. Since her death, it has been bittersweet to learn from students how much Carol meant to them and how instrumental she had been in guiding their interests. Every single one of them highlighted her incredible kindness, collegiality, and generosity. From helping students find a research question, assisting with the formulation of research proposals, providing insightful suggestions on both theoretical and methodological aspects, reading multiple drafts, and offering a patient ear and thoughtful words, Carol went above and beyond her responsibilities as a faculty member. In the words of one of her doctoral students, Zain Asaf: "As I was struggling with my proposal, she spent hours discussing ideas, and always did so while providing constructive criticism and kind encouragement. As I turned to the dissertation, she continued to be an amazing supporter. She read over countless drafts and re-drafts, giving incredibly helpful advice and sharp insights on how I could improve my work, and

always made herself available. Carolina really was the model of an academic mentor." It was not only her willingness to help that endeared her to students but the manner in which she offered assistance – calm, composed, collegial, and always constructive.

Carol was an incredible public citizen of the Department. She taught core courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels, organized the department seminar series for three years, actively participated in workshops and seminars, and served on a variety of departmental committees. She was generous with her time, and made meaningful and essential contributions to the overall well-being of the department.

Away from her academic pursuits, Carol was truly a multi-faceted person who lived a full and varied life. Her interests were wide-ranging – she was an excellent chef and baker, a proficient skier, an enthusiastic runner, was taking painting and ceramics classes, and enjoyed a range of cultural experiences from music to movies, theatre and art. Carol had a very keen sense of aesthetics and style. As our department communications officer, Jennifer O'Reilly, described, "Carolina always had a gentle chicness to her!"

Above all, Carol will be remembered for embodying the qualities towards which many of us strive. She was an incredibly kind, sensitive, generous, and empathetic person whose calm demeanour, patience, thoughtfulness, and open-mindedness were enormous sources of strength to everyone around her. She was the voice of reason in any circumstance and was always ready to lend a helpful ear to anyone who needed it. Carol was also one of those rare souls who never uttered a sharp word, and her gentle and charming presence was always an immense pleasure to be around. She exemplified the highest levels of integrity and was grace personified. She touched everyone around her deeply with her presence and her loss will always be felt very deeply by all those who were close to her.

Carol is survived by her partner, Benjamin Goldman, her sons, Elias and Gabriel, her mother, Melissa Moyer, her brother, Robert de Miguel Moyer, and is remembered by her extended family, friends, colleagues, and students.

Kanta Murali

CAMPUS COLLOQUIES / *Updates from our Students***Undergraduate / Cheryl Cheung****Why did you decide to study Political Science & American Studies?**

Parental influence. When my parents separated, my mother revisited the Confucian texts she studied in college for comfort, pondering what Confucian modesty meant and whether she prefers the deterministic world proposed in *Plato's Republic*. I just stood by and listened. I didn't decide to study anything. I just gravitate toward courses in both fields.

As a third-year student, what have been the most rewarding and challenging experiences thus far?

I did not know whether I could afford post-secondary education. Putting financial stressors aside has been met with the rewarding experiences of work opportunities in academia. I'm thankful for Dr. Seva Gunitsky taking me under his wing to look at authoritarian regimes this summer. I am indebted to Dr. Ryan Balot for supervising my intellectual musings on Viktor Orban. Dr. Ryan Hurl's unparalleled support on my inspection of political tweets has served as the



launching board for a couple of research projects.

How has the pandemic altered your experience of campus life?

There is no more campus life for me, for now. I miss being able to swing by office hours to discuss whatever is on my mind. Many of my friends at U of T were made by casually chatting during a tutorial. The pandemic has certainly magnified the significance I assign to memories of campus life.

What does receiving the Killam Fellowship mean to you?

I cried when I received my acceptance letter, as a Fulbright award is a signifier of excellence, that I'm good enough and the title itself is helpful in gaining further opportunities. My mother cried because she thought I was leaving her for America! She thought I wouldn't return after realizing the wealth of academic opportunities offered abroad. My mother didn't complete her undergraduate degree. Perhaps I would have dropped out too, had I not been given the financial and educational support extended by the department, the University and Fulbright Canada.

What do you plan to do after graduation?

I want to stay in school forever! This is something I tell everyone, irrespective of whether they ask, "so what are you going to do with a degree in political science?" I'd like to do a PhD with a focus on quantitative analysis. Voter mobilization is an underdeveloped field of study which I'd like to help develop.

Graduate / Isabela Dos Santos**Tell us about your research.**

Since I can remember, I've been interested in the relationship between state and society. My research focuses on what enables just and peaceable co-existence in light of the complexities that pluralist and multicultural societies present. While the state plays a role in fostering justice and peace through the enacting of laws, as individuals we also contribute to that co-existence through how we practice peace and justice in our daily lives.

Why did you decide to research this particular area, and what intrigues you the most about it?

I would say that my research topic chose me! Looking back on my high school essays, undergraduate papers, and master's thesis, my research has always been concerned with our role as individuals and the role of the state in exercising justice and fostering peaceful co-existence. I hope that my research will help us reflect on how our daily practices of justice and peace can really transform our societies and states.

How has the pandemic affected your research?

The pandemic has affected my research primarily in two ways. First, I was planning to go to Israel this past summer to conduct some preliminary research and to continue with my language training. Second, the uncertainty of the pandemic has made it hard to make long-term research plans. I am hoping to travel to Israel in the summer of 2021 to begin my fieldwork but a potential third wave and border closures loom. I've had to think creatively about how to get exposure to my research site without being physically there.

What are you learning as Lead Writing TA for 2020/21?

The highlight for me has definitely been the opportunity to reflect on teaching pedagogies! Being exposed to the teaching pedagogies of other disciplines has helped me reflect on the strengths of how we teach political science and what we can learn from other disciplines such as history or even mathematics!

Future plans?

Prior to my studies at U of T, I was working in the NGO sector at both the international and local level. I would love to return to that type of work while maintaining ties to academe. Some of my favourite professors were those who infused their classrooms with experiences from the field. I would love to bring that kind of dynamic to my future teaching.



Focus on Faculty

Professor Wendy Wong on her new appointment at U of T's Schwartz Reisman Institute

Tell us about your most recent appointment as part of the Research Leadership Team at U of T's Schwartz Reisman Institute.

The Research Leadership Team works with the Director of the Schwartz Reisman Institute (SRI), Professor Gillian Hadfield, to provide the overall research agenda. It's a very interdisciplinary team with representation from biology, computer science, economics, electrical and computer engineering, law, philosophy, and political science. Our work began during the pandemic, so we've gotten to know one another over Zoom. We've spent a lot of time learning from one another, discovering how to explain ourselves without jargon, and discussing basic concepts that don't translate well outside of our home disciplines. I have found it very helpful for thinking about the implications of technology, especially artificial intelligence (AI) and the move towards Big Data, in the context of my main area of research, international relations. Through SRI, I'm better able to tackle how AI and Big Data affect core international concerns, such as global governance, human rights, and civil society activism.

What does this appointment mean to you both professionally and personally?

I'm interested in how the Internet and communications technologies shift the way activists work, and who partakes in social movements. SRI has given me the opportunity to engage with people outside of my discipline on issues that require technical expertise. AI and Big Data are incredibly rich areas of research in terms of technical advancement, but they are also areas for social scientists to tackle in terms of understanding how these rapid and widespread changes are affecting our lived realities. SRI has supported my research on the human rights implications of Big Data and the datafication of our lives, which is key to my finishing a book for general audiences on the topic.

What are you hoping to achieve during your time there and what, if anything, have you learned thus far?

Institutionally, I'd like to help SRI define its vision as an institute that uncovers the intersection between technology and society, showing how humanity creates and adapts to technological changes. I think my global affairs perspective, and my focus on political institutions, especially international human rights, is a key contribution in this area. In terms of political science, I hope my involvement with SRI signals the importance of our discipline to questions around AI and Big Data. I think that international relations hasn't taken up questions around technology nearly as much as it probably should. There are nota-

ble exceptions, including our colleague Ronald Deibert, but generally, we have lagged behind other fields in being engaged with the governance of Big Data and AI. These technologies have emerged, largely governed by the companies that created them, and that's a very interesting – and perhaps problematic – reality that demands exploration. Personally, SRI has greatly helped me already with two things. The first is simply communicating ideas to a much broader audience with different concerns. The second is getting the book completed. By the time my term is up at SRI, I hope to have a book ready for publication!



Photo by: Jenna Muirhead

Spotlight on Courses Inspired by the Pandemic

Professors Emily Nacol and Seva Gunitsky on their pandemic-related courses

*Not only has the pandemic pushed teaching online, it has also inspired many universities across the province to offer COVID-themed courses across a wide range of subjects like health, law, politics, history, sociology, economics and art. Two of our political science professors tell **Politics** about their pandemic themed teachings and what they hope students will learn.*

Emily Nacol last taught *Plagues in Political Thought*, which focuses broadly on the problem of plague in political thinking and writing, in the fall, 2019. "From my perspective as a political theorist, courses like this are valuable because they encourage students to see the political and ethical sides of large-scale disasters like pandemics. It's important for them to learn about how and why communities either come together or break apart during epidemiological crises; pandemics offer a case study for them to explore the social and political meaning and value of solidarity, trust, and responsibility with and for others (or their absence). Political science courses

on pandemics also help students understand the human-made elements of the crisis, and to think critically about how our political institutions and practices (at the local, national, and global levels) help or hinder us in times of pandemic."

Seva Gunitsky will be teaching *Global Politics of Pandemics* in the winter, 2021 term. His course will examine the impact of pandemic diseases on international politics, including its effects on both conflict and cooperation, focusing primarily on COVID-19. "The goal of the course is to step away slightly from the daily headlines and try to examine what the pandemic means

for the big questions we now face - the future of the global order, peace and conflict, globalization, et cetera. The idea is to raise questions and discuss the various arguments without having to come away with definitive conclusions. I think it will be enjoyable to apply theoretical frameworks to something that is very much ongoing and in the news. Ideally, it will help students think about these big events from a social science perspective. I hope they come away with a broader understanding of the political and social forces that shape our response to pandemics, and their effects on international relations and the global order."



Visiting Professor Sam Tanenhaus on teaching 'Trump, the Media and the Election'

Sam Tanenhaus, a prolific and influential journalist, author, historian and former editor of the *New York Times Book Review*, is currently a visiting professor at St. Michael's College, where he is teaching 'Trump, the Media and the Election.' The course is co-sponsored by the department of Political Science, the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, St. Michael's College and the Faculty of Arts and Science. Sam previously taught 'Trump and the Media' at U of T in the fall, 2018.



Describe your course and what you hope students will learn from it?

We convene once a week for two hours and chew over what has happened since we last met, approaching it from different aspects, including the policy and political science angle. I had students write imitation Trump tweets - some were freakishly accurate - and we also drafted memos for the presidential debates. We made them all switch sides, first writing for one team and then for the other. The idea behind this was to think about politics strategically and put oneself in the "enemy" camp. Why? One reason is that learning to think like a brainy adversary helps you sharpen your own arguments and rebuttals and burst through the cocoon of your own beliefs. It was fun because we are all absurdly well informed but bring different perspectives. In one class we burrowed into the weeds: the two-party system, the Electoral College, culture wars, judicial philosophy "originalism," "textualism," slavery and racial politics. In another class, we discussed Kamala Harris's Instagram account and her collection of Converse high tops.

What is standing out about the students in the class?

The students are super-smart, well informed and beyond savvy on social media. They can dissect a video or tweet better than most professional journalists.

Are you engaged in any other activities while you are here for the semester?

I've done three other events this term. The Centre for the Study of the United States (CSUS) hosted a debate watch party in late September where attendees all "got together" for the first Biden-Trump debate. All the "grown-ups" agreed that the students, who were hilarious and snarky throughout - made a dismal event somehow bearable. St Mike's also organized an election night event, attended by more than 200 people. At the Toronto International Festival of Authors, I moderated a pre-election conversation with Toronto's own Marcel Wieder, who knows more about American election politics than most American "experts," myself included! I've also done plenty of the usual election-based media "appearances" (all remote) for various Canadian broadcasting outlets.

From Refugee to U of T

Jaivet Ealom is the first known asylum seeker to be resettled in a third country after escaping from the notoriously brutal Australian-run refugee detention center on Manus Island. Now resettled in Canada and working on a book about his plight with Penguin Random House, his future looks promising. He tells **Politics** why he decided to study Political Science and Economics at the University of Toronto.



Photo by: Cole Burston

Why did you decide to study Political Science and Economics?

I previously studied Industrial Chemistry in Burma. As a Rohingya refugee fleeing Myanmar's campaign of genocide, I experienced conflict, torture, and imprisonment from which I eventually escaped. These experiences and my search for refuge and safety drastically changed my view on the world. I came to realize the fundamental importance of socio-economic freedom in one's life. Time and again, I witnessed innocent people suffer while others, be they individual or groups, stand by and benefit, either politically or economically. Sometimes power and money reinforce each other. For example, I have seen prisons built and filled with people not because they have done anything wrong but because there is money and political gains to be made. When I started school, I did not realize that money and power are two sides of the same coin. I was curious to see what would be revealed by connecting these two areas of study.

What have you enjoyed most about studying Political Science at U of T?

I really like the diversity of courses available and the flexibility some instructors show in allowing students to choose their topics of interest, even if it is outside the syllabus. I have also really enjoyed comparative studies and am fascinated to see the same patterns occurring in two seemingly unrelated countries or, at different times in history.

What are you hoping to do after you graduate?

Like many of my University peers, what to do after graduation is something that is constantly evolving. Initially I wanted to work in the non-profit industry and work directly with stateless and persecuted minorities. I am currently co-running a small non-profit called the Canadian Rohingya Development Initiative which has made me more aware of the deeper, root causes of injustice suffered by persecuted minorities and have since become more interested in pursuing a career in law. I will see how this will evolve by the time I graduate next November.

To read an in-depth account of Jaivet's incredible story visit: <https://www.smh.com.au/world/north-america/the-only-one-who-made-it-out-incredible-manus-island-escape-revealed-20200220-p542hh.html>

ALUMNI FOCUS

Healthcare Affairs



AVRAM DENBURG
BA (2003)
Pediatric Oncologist
Hospital for
Sick Children

Why did you decide to study Political Science and how do you think your education in Political Science benefitted your choice of career?

I was inspired to pursue studies in political science through the examples and mentorship of Professors Janice Gross Stein and Ronald Deibert, who co-taught my first-year political science survey course. As an extension of the course, they ran an intensive summer internship focused on civil society activism and political advocacy, for which I was lucky enough to be selected along with a great group of fellow students-cum-activists. We were charged with forming our own civil society group focused on an issue of shared interest and to advocate for political attention to it. We formed the first incarnation of Dr. Deibert's Citizen Lab, which remains a vital force for political activism in Canada. It fostered twin passions for politics and global health, which remain two of my motivating passions to this day.

Why did you decide to pursue a career in healthcare and describe what your job entails as a Pediatric Oncologist.

My interest in a career in healthcare and health research was somewhat uniquely stoked by my early academic and applied experiences in political science! The intersection of health, economics, and politics fascinated me, and fascinates me still. My research is concerned with the social determination of children's health, and more specifically the political economy of drug access for children, in both local and global contexts. I feel very lucky to be able to move between the clinic and the academy: my interactions with patients ground me in real-world stories and issues, which spark questions that guide me down avenues of health system research. I strive to bring my research findings back to the clinic, where they ideally will help shape health policies and programs to optimize children's health.

What advice would you give a student hoping to go to medical school?

Medical school is not for the faint of heart! The road to becoming an independent physician is long and intense, and it equips one at the end of the day with a very specific skillset: caring for individual patients. I would strongly encourage anyone with a passion for hands-on care of others to apply to medical school. But I would also caution students that, if your passion is research or policy, there are many career paths you can follow to stoke and fulfill that passion – including applied policy roles and graduate studies in political science!

What do you enjoy most about your job?

My favourite part of my job is interacting with children and their families. It is sometimes stressful, and often charged with emotion, but never gets old or tiresome. I also deeply value the opportunity to step away from the clinical interface to think about larger political and health system issues. It is this dual identity as physician and scientist that affords me balance, each role reinforcing the meaning and joy of the other.



PAUL TAYLOR
BA (1977)
Patient Navigation Advisor
Sunnybrook Health Sciences
Centre

Why did you decide to study Political Science and how do you think your education in Political Science benefitted your choice of career?

I always knew I wanted to be a journalist. In high school, I sought the advice of a family friend who was a reporter at *The Globe and Mail*. He recommended a rigorous academic education to develop critical thinking and urged me to go to the University of Toronto. Political Science seemed like a logical major for a future journalist. However, when I attended U of T, political science and economics were combined into one department. As a result, I took courses in both. After completing my undergraduate degree, I studied journalism at Ryerson. Still, I think my U of T training gave me the confidence to tackle complex financial subjects, which helped land my first journalism job – a summer internship at *The Financial Post*. The following year, I had an internship at *The Globe's Report on Business* which ultimately turned into a permanent position.

Why did you decide to pursue a career in healthcare and describe what your job entails.

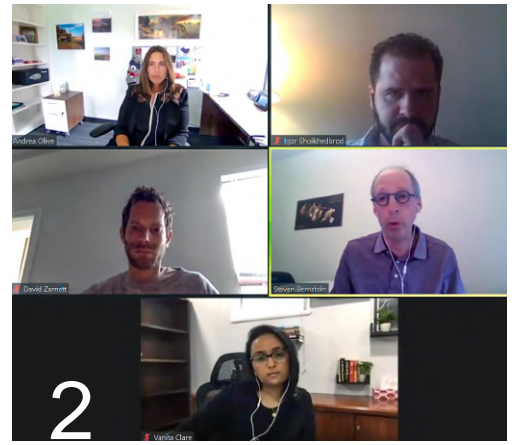
I ended up in healthcare as a result of the path I followed in journalism. Initially, I did a variety of different reporting jobs at *The Globe*, but I was especially interested in science-related subjects. When the medical beat opened up, I leapt at the chance to do it. After covering medicine for several years, I was asked to take on a new role as health editor and to launch a weekly health section, which eventually became a daily health page. It was an incredibly satisfying job, but after more than a decade in that position, it was time for a change. I felt that the knowledge I gained covering health gave me an advantage in providing accurate and reliable information directly to patients. Fortunately, others thought so, too. In 2013, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre took me on as a Patient Navigation Advisor. In this role, I write an online column in which I answer questions from patients and their families. However, I believe my most significant contribution has been in helping Sunnybrook staff create guides for patients undergoing various procedures including surgery for breast and skin cancers.

What advice would you give a student about to graduate?

The economy will likely face a series of shocks – even after COVID-19 is brought under control. Think climate change. Nevertheless, if you're flexible and learn to adapt to changing situations, you can still succeed.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

It's mentally stimulating because I'm always learning new things.



Our 'Online Teaching Support Specialist' Nikola Milicic with Professor Courtney Jung (R) has been instrumental in helping faculty develop new teaching methodologies.

UTM Chair Andrea Olive, Professor Steven Bernstein, Instructors Igor Shoikhet and David Zarnett and PhD student Vanita Clare were all on board to respond to a multitude of queries from interested graduate school candidates at this year's online event.

Vanier Scholar Yojana Miraya Oscoco visits Machu Picchu in her home country of Peru before the pandemic halted international travel.

UTM Chair Andrea Olive boards a float plane to view the Churchill River delta in Northern Saskatchewan on her summer research trip.

Professor Alexander Reisenbichler was joined by panelists including former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Senator Ratna Omidvar and retired news anchor Peter Mansbridge to discuss the reunification of Germany. The event was co-sponsored by the German embassy and the Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (CERES) at Munk.

The flag at U of T's Simcoe Hall is flown at half-mast to honour our friend and colleague Carolina De Miguel Moyer on September 8, 2020. Photo by Dewey Chang.

Professor Kate Neville enjoys the beautiful surroundings while working remotely in British Columbia recently.

A S S O C I A T I O N S



Madeleine Bauer
President



James Ankers (above) & Selin Kepenek
Co-Chairs



Jennifer Wells
Manager, Arts & Science Alumni Engagement

APSS Association of Political Science Students

This semester, the Association of Political Science Students was busy trying to adapt to our new environment and brainstorm events that will help meet the needs of the undergraduate political science student body. We co-hosted a Social Sciences Mixer on Zoom with other student unions, including the International Relations Society and Ethics, Society, and Law, to introduce first-year students to the program. We also launched our Junior Mentorship Program, where senior students mentor students in their first and second years. We had more participants than in previous years, and we hope that it will provide a sense of support and guidance to our newest students, who are having a vastly different introduction to university life than in previous years. We managed to host an online academic panel on the U.S. Election with Professors Ryan Hurl, Emily Gilbert, Lawrence Leduc, and David Soberman where we discussed predictions and challenges of the upcoming election and its outcome. I look forward to working with the executive throughout the year to plan more innovative academic and social events.

GASPS Graduate Association of Students in Political Science

This new term has brought a host of new challenges and opportunities for GASPS. So far this year, we have held several meetings with the department to discuss the difficulties faced by our members as teaching moves online, fieldwork becomes impossible, and our sense of departmental community is challenged. As a result, we have been pleased to see the department develop a range of assistance efforts, including some new funds, research pivoting workshops, and a town hall. At the beginning of the year, we sent a survey to new and current graduate students to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on their work and the resources that might be valuable to them moving forward. We have communicated these findings to the department, and are presently working on doing our part to maintain some semblance of normalcy as the year progresses, while maintaining our commitment to represent our members' pressing concerns, including mental health and isolation, equity issues, and the shifting financial and time-management burdens that come with working from home. Despite the challenges, we have a new appreciation for our occasional interactions in the department. We welcomed our new members virtually for the first time, and we are keeping in touch through our new Slack channel and Facebook group. Through everything, we have been buoyed by the support of our community, which remains indefatigable as the months go on. Please feel free to email us at james.ankers@mail.utoronto.ca or selin.kepenek@mail.utoronto.ca.

ASAE Arts & Science Alumni Engagement

In an unprecedented year, A&S alumni have shown compassion, resilience and ingenuity. Whether supporting students and essential research through donations to the University's COVID-19 relief funds, mentoring students online, celebrating and welcoming our newest cohort (congratulations to the [Class of 2020!](#)), A&S grads have made a difference. By doing your part and staying home if able—tuning in to read all the [A&S News](#), participating in educational and entertaining online activities like crossword puzzles, trivia games, or attending any one of the many lectures and events offered through the virtual [Alumni Hub](#)—you're making our community safer. There has been great demand for the online programming offered by the University, and A&S continues to offer ways for you to connect from a distance until we can be together again. Whether you are looking for [courses to help you upskill](#) for the job hunt, are a recent grad looking for [career advice](#) or want to [mentor students](#) starting their own venture, there's a lot on offer. I encourage you to visit the [A&S website](#) to read about all the latest developments and check out the virtual [Alumni Hub](#) to see the latest online event offerings. The Alumni team at A&S would be pleased to hear from you about the ways you can get involved. Drop us a line at alumni.artsci@utoronto.ca. PSAA (Political Science Alumni Association) can be contacted by emailing Anthony Fernando at anthonyfernando@gmail.com. Wishing everyone a safe and healthy winter term.

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

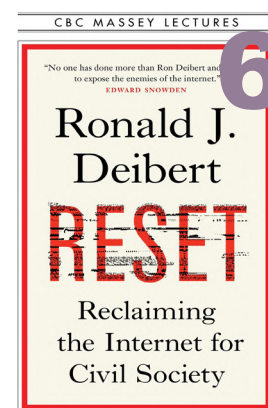
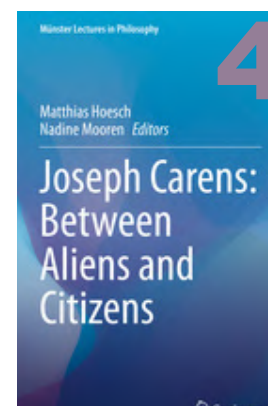
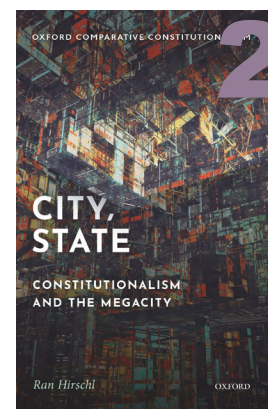
politics books & bites

FACULTY

- **Ran Hirschl's** work on the high global stature and reputation of Canadian constitutional law and the Supreme Court of Canada was quoted in a recent landmark ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada.
- **Elizabeth Acorn** (UTSC) and **Martha Balaguera Cuervo** (UTM) both received a U of T Connaught New Researcher Award.
- **Diana Fu** was appointed to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.
- **Carolyn Tuohy** was awarded APSA's 2020 Seymour Martin Lipset Best Book Award.
- **Steven Bernstein**, **Randall Hansen**, **Matthew Hoffmann**, **Peter Loewen** and **Wendy Wong** all received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada 2019-20 Insight Grant.
- **Joseph Wong** was appointed as U of T interim Vice-President, International.
- **Janice Stein** was appointed Chair of the Halifax International Security Forum.
- **Wilson Prichard** was appointed CEO of the International Centre for Tax and Development (ICTD).
- **Peter Loewen**, **Shivaji Mukherjee**, **Emily Nacol** and **Julie Moreau & Michael Donnelly** all received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada 2019-20 Insight Development Grant.
- **Ayelet Shachar** was appointed to the Munk School's Robert F. Harney Professorship in Ethnic, Immigration and Pluralism Studies.
- **Steven Bernstein** was named a University of Toronto Distinguished Professor.
- **Alison Smith** and co-author Jack Lucas won the 2019 J.E. Hodgetts award for best article in the *Journal of Canadian Public Administration*.
- **Kate Neville** was appointed as a Trinity College Fellow.
- **Courtney Jung** was appointed as the George Ignatieff Chair in Peace and Conflict Studies.
- **Wendy Wong** was appointed to the Research Leadership Team at U of T's Schwartz Reisman Institute.
- **Aisha Ahmad** and **Theresa Enright** were granted tenure at the rank of Associate Professor. **Andrew Sabl** was promoted to Professor.
- We wish all the best to **Harald Bathelt** who joined the Department of Geography on July 1, 2020 and to **Erin Tolley** who begins a new position at Carleton University in January, 2021.

STUDENTS

- **New PhDs:** Dr. Erin Aylward, Dr. Pierre-Olivier Bonin, Dr. Sophie Borwein, Dr. Minh Do, Dr. Jennifer Fender, Dr. Ching-Fang Hsu, Dr. Chi Kwok, Dr. Charles Larratt-Smith, Dr. Alexis Lerner, Dr. Stephanie Murphy, Dr. Kristen Pue, Dr. Joanna Rice, Dr. Takumi Shibaike, Dr. Zhichao Tong, Dr. Shu Liang Yan.
- **Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Domestic PhD):** Amanda Arulanandam, Tanya Bandula-Irwin, Brianna Botchwey, Jasmine Chorley Foster, Rachel Desborough, Alexandre Fortier-Chouinard, Anika Ganness, Omar Santiago Garcia Diaz, Jonah Goldberg, Busra Hacioglu, Selin Kepenek, Mary MacDonald, Stefan Macleod, Nicole Morar, Devin Ouellette, Michael Sabet, Jason VandenBeukel, Jacob Winter.
- **Ontario Graduate Scholarship (International PhD):** Semuhi Sinanoglu.
- **Ontario Graduate Scholarship (MA):** Mikael Dimaksyan, Tejas Pandya.
- **Canada Graduate Scholarship – Doctoral:** Salam Alsaadi, Sanjida Amin, Michaela Pedersen-Macnab.
- **Canada Graduate Scholarship – Masters:** Ranfateh Chattha, Claran Sheahan.
- **SSHRC – Doctoral:** Justin Savoie, Christian Elliott.
- **Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (SSHRC):** Yojana Miraya-Osco.



1. *Advising Governments in the Westminster Tradition - Policy Advisory Systems in Australia, Britain, Canada and New Zealand*, Jonathan Craft & John Halligan, Cambridge University Press 2. *City, State - Constitutionalism and the Megacity*, Ran Hirschl, Oxford University Press 3. *Canadian Federalism: Performance, Effectiveness, and Legitimacy*, Fourth Edition, Edited by Grace Skogstad and Herman Bakvis, University of Toronto Press 4. *Joseph Carens: Between Aliens and Citizens*, Edited by Matthias Hoesch & Nadine Mooren, Springer 5. *Identities and Interests - Race, Ethnicity, and Affinity Voting*, Randy Besco, UBC Press 6. *Reset: Reclaiming the Internet for Civil Society*, Ronald J. Deibert, House of Anansi Press.

NEW FACES



Sophie Borwein (PhD, U of T) is a Postdoctoral Fellow working in the Policy, Elections and Representation Lab (PEARL) with Professor Peter Loewen. Her research connects political economy and political behaviour to understand how inequalities in income and wealth shape political preferences and government policy responsiveness. Her recent publications include *Policy Transformation in Canada; Is the Past Prologue?* (University of Toronto Press, 2019, co-edited with Carolyn Hughes Tuohy, Peter John Loewen, and Andrew Potter), and *Fiscal Burdens and Knowledge of Immigration Selection Criteria* (Journal of Ethnic Migration Studies, 2018, with Michael Donnelly). As a postdoctoral fellow, she will be working on a project examining how economic dislocation associated with automation is shaping policy and politics in advanced industrial economies.



Maria J. Mendez Gutierrez (PhD, University of Minnesota) will be joining the Department of Political Science in April 2021 as an Assistant Professor. Her research is rooted in international relations and political theory, with special interests in critical development studies, indigenous and decolonial politics, feminist theories of violence and work, and illicit economies. Currently a junior fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows, she is working on a book project that examines the gendered political and economic entanglements of transnational gang violence in Central America. She is also a board member of Witness for Peace, a US-based grassroots organization that campaigns for peace, justice, and sustainable economies in Latin America.



Eric Merkley (PhD, UBC) is a SSHRC postdoctoral fellow supervised by Professor Peter Loewen. He is also the lead survey analyst of the Media Ecosystem Observatory – an interdisciplinary research team that is monitoring Canadian public opinion and the health of the media information ecosystem during the COVID-19 pandemic. Eric's 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 including the *British Journal of Political Science*, *The Journal of Politics*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, and *Political Communication*. He is currently working on a book project on political polarization in Canada.

POLITICS

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

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Undergraduate Director Dickson Eyoh (L) and Interim Chair Robert Vipond (R) congratulate student Ninar Fawal on her award at the 2019 undergraduate student awards. The annual undergraduate awards are made possible through the generous contributions of our donors.

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