

POLITICAL SCIENCE

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What is Political Science?

- Specialists in **Comparative Politics** analyze power dynamics in communities, states, and regions throughout the world.

- Specialists in **International Relations** focus on the power relationships between countries and between citizens and organizations of different countries.

- Specialists in **Public Policy** analyze the processes, structures and outcomes of government policies and policy-making.

- Specialists in **American Politics** look at the exercise of power domestically, through American institutions and processes ranging from the state to social movements.

- **Political theorists** address fundamental normative and explanatory assumptions, such as the nature and purpose of the state; who should have power and why; and what would constitute a good society.

Newsletter

Editor:
Jeffrey Seib

Faculty Advisor:
Dr. Ruth Groff

Meet the Faculty: Dr. Wynne Moskop



What roles have you played here at SLU? What positions do you hold now?

I have enjoyed collaborating with colleagues in Political Science, American Studies, where I had a joint appointment for many years, and Women's and Gender Studies, where I currently have a secondary appointment. In Political Science, I served two terms as department chair and interim stints as both department chair and director of graduate studies. Next year, I'm scheduled to serve as DGS again. Other roles include chairing Arts & Sciences Faculty Council committees, coordinating faculty and chair searches in Political Science and other academic units, and serving in the Faculty Senate—as a senator, co-chair of a task force, and member of multiple committees. My favorite position is as a teacher of undergraduate and graduate political theory courses.

What do you like about SLU and SLU students? How would you characterize either or both?

I appreciate that SLU attracts students who are engaged and engaging. Social justice issues and an inclusive environment matter to them. This engagement with the world is particularly valuable for a political theory classroom and for students who design their own research or community-based projects. But its value is evident at other times as well. For instance, our engaged students are valuable as a recruiting resource. They always impress our faculty job candidates, which, of course, reinforces our own opinion of them.

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Primary, Caucus & Super Tuesday Watch Parties

By Dr. Steven Rogers



To promote student engagement in politics and the 2016 Presidential Election, the Political Science Department hosted Election Night watch parties for the Iowa Caucuses, New Hampshire Primary, and Super Tuesday. Over 175 students attended each watch party, and the events received local news attention from KMOV-Channel 4 and KTVI-Channel 2.

While watching news coverage of election results, faculty discussed how various theories help to explain the outcomes of the 2016 nomination contests, and student groups, such as Political Round Table and the College Democrats, informed students about how to become more politically involved on campus.

President of the Political Round Table, Alex Hanel, stated that “By hosting events like these, the University is making an effort to encourage students to get involved and vote.” To further aid in this effort, SLU freshman Tom Bergan with the voter registration group Headcount registered over 50 students to vote at the events.

Building upon the success of the watch parties, the Political Science department plans to host watch parties for the Presidential debates and election this fall.

Students Participate in Democratic Process with Watch Parties



Two New Concentrations for Undergrads

The Political Science Department will now be offering two more options for undergraduate majors to concentrate their studies. What are these two new concentrations?

International Affairs

This concentration permits students to study such topics as economic development, international security, and political change around the world.

Public Law

This concentration focuses attention on law and courts and the relationship of both to larger issues of justice, social change, and democracy.

Baili Volluz Presents Research in DC & Chicago

By Baili Volluz, Senior, Political Science

In February of this year I was given the opportunity to present my Honors Thesis on Public Opinion of Labor Unions in the United States at the Pi Sigma Alpha undergraduate Political Science Conference in Washington D.C.. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with other undergraduate political scientists and to spread the word about my work. The conference is held every year and allows students to present their work in the form of a panel presentation. My experience as a SLU student was very positive as I felt that my project ended up being one of the most thorough studies. I attribute this to SLU's Honors Thesis process, which takes a year and requires two separate defenses. My mentors made sure my work was thoroughly researched and I was much better prepared than many of my fellow conference goers. Thanks to SLU I was able to create a publishable and presentable work as an undergraduate. This was an amazing experience for me with many firsts along the way. This, along with my presentation at the Midwest Political Science Conference in Chicago, has been instrumental, as my paper has been accepted for publication in the Pi Sigma Alpha student journal. I would like to extend a big thank you to all of the SLU professors that helped me out on this process.

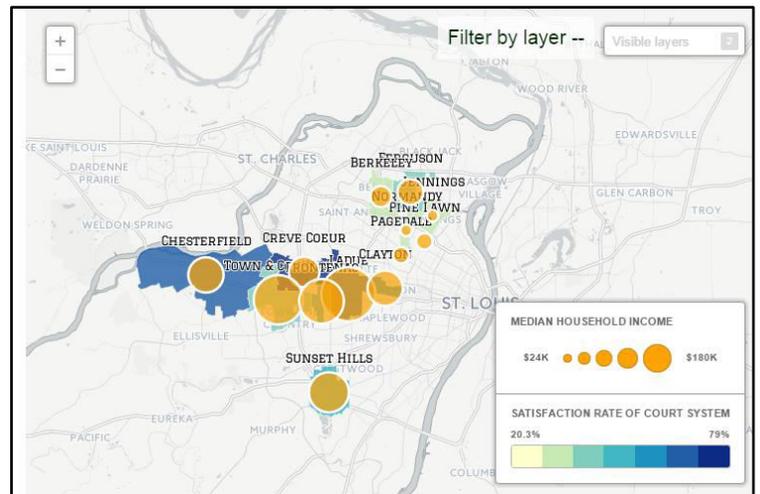


Above: Baili presents research in Washington DC.

Inequality in the St. Louis Municipal Justice System

By Dr. Kenneth Warren

Our municipal court exit survey, directed by Professors Warren and Sandoval, was an ambitious project involving many student interviewers. Mostly political science/public policy / public administration students interviewed a total of 753 people as they exited municipal courts in thirteen municipal court sites in Saint Louis County. Seven were in very affluent cities averaging more than \$121,000 medium household income (Chesterfield, Sunset Hills, Clayton, Ladue, Creve Coeur, Frontenac, and Town & Country) and six were in very non-affluent communities averaging less than \$31,000 medium household income (Berkeley, Ferguson, Jennings, Normandy, Pagedale, and Pine Lawn). Our general conclusion was that blacks were much more likely to rate various municipal court systems worse than whites, but both whites and blacks rated their treatment by the municipal court systems (including police, municipal court officials such as prosecutors and clerks, and municipal judges) worse in



Above: an interactive map shows satisfaction with court system and medium income within municipalities.

the non-affluent communities. The relationships were statistically very significant.

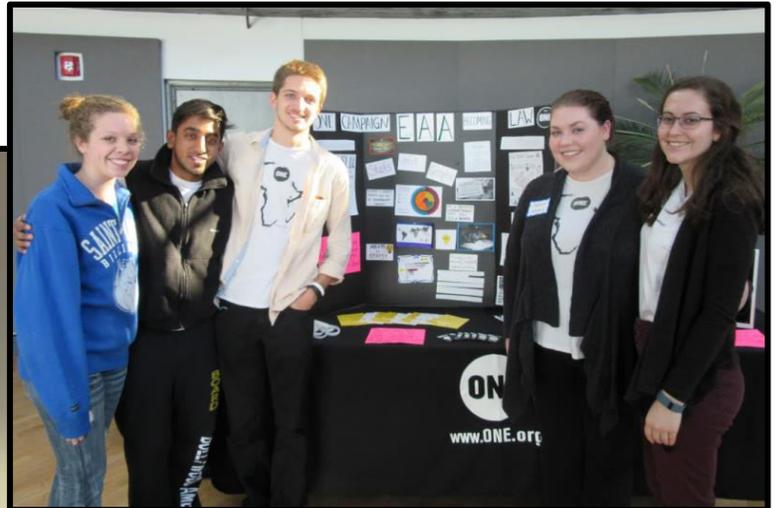
The purpose of this study was to shed light on a very serious problem in Saint Louis County where people are found to be treated much worse in municipal court in the poorer, predominantly black communities than they are in the richer, predominantly white communities. We are now in the process of writing up our results for publication in academic journals.

2016 Global and Local Social Justice Conference

By Dr. Strikwerda

The Sixth Annual Global and Local Social Justice conference was 19 February 2016 in the Center for Global Citizenship. Dr Tim Huffman from the Communication Department was an inspiring keynote speaker. As always there was a very good representation of Political Science students. Zara Petković and Stephanie Roderick presented research papers; Alex Hanel and Baili Volluz had posters on their work.

Below: Graduate student, Tommy Lucas , presents on research done following Occupy SLU in fall 2014.



Above: The ONE Campaign at SLU presents on recent success with the Electrify Africa Act passed in congress.

Below: Dr. Tim Huffman, Communications, was the conference's plenary speaker. He gave an inspirational talk about "The Social Part of Social Justice".



Above: Dr. Robert Strikwerda, the conference coordinator, speaks to an interested audience.

Mentoring Matters!

Pre-Law Students Meeting

By: Dr. Morgan Hazelton



Above: Floyd Welch (Career Services, Career Development Specialist) provides students with law school information.

The pre-law mentoring session brought together Morgan Hazelton from Political Science, Alice Dickherber from SLU Law Admissions, Colleen Dunn from Legal Studies, and Floyd Welch from Career Services along with special guests, Rachael Hinkle (SUNY-Buffalo) and Jesse Doggendorf (SLU Alum and current law student) to provide pre-law students with information about law school and the application process.



Above: Students listen to presenters talk about the law school application process.



Above: Students and presenters sit together taking in law school information.

Conference on Causal Powers & Social Science

By: Dr. Ruth Groff

Dr. Groff co-organized an international working conference with Professor Phil Gorski (Yale University, Department of Sociology) on the topic of causation in the social sciences. The conference was held at the beginning of March as part of a two million dollar, multi-year grant from the Templeton Foundation, meant to introduce American social scientists to an approach known as critical realism. Participants - mostly prominent philosophers and sociologists - came from the US and Europe. One of the attendees was Margaret Archer, who is President of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, at the Vatican. Dr. Groff has written and edited several books and articles from a critical realist perspective. Dr. Groff's paper at the conference had to do with what a social structure is, and what such a thing can and cannot do.

Political Science Undergraduates at Senior Symposium



Emma Sikora Paulus, Senior, Political Science, presents research in front of an audience.



Stephanie Roderick, Senior, Political Science, presents research on volunteering and political behavior.



Baili Volluz, Senior, Political Science, presents a poster on public opinion and labor unions.

Pastries with Professors

By: Jeffrey Seib, Junior, Economics and Philosophy, editor



With campus actively enjoying the fresh spring weather, what better time for the Political Science faculty to meet with students? On the afternoons of April 13th and 20th, Political Science faculty came to the clocktower to share bagels, croissants, and all your other favorite pastries with anyone willing to share a few words. This event was sponsored by the Office of the Provost.



ATLAS Week 2016

Dr. Michelle Lorenzini and her student interns organized Atlas Week 2016 "Reaching Across Borders: Embracing Our Global Community." The keynote speaker for the week was Kilian Kleinschmidt, an expert in humanitarian aid and refugee relief who is known as the "Mayor of Za'atari" for his work reforming the Za'atari refugee camp. The week's distinguished guest lecturer was Dr. Mukesh Kapila, a medical doctor, humanitarian expert, and international aid diplomat known for exposing the genocide in Darfur.



Pi Sigma Alpha Prospers in 2016

By Dr. Robert Strikwerda

SLU's Epsilon Delta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honorary society, has had an excellent year. Three students joined last fall; nine students will be inducted this spring at graduation. Two students graduated in December; ten members will graduate in May.

The chapter was able to support two members for research travel. Baili Volluz presented her honors thesis research at the Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Research Conference in Washington, D.C. in February and to the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago in April. Zara Petković will be going to the Public Education Leadership Network's (PLEN) seminar on Women in Global Policy in Washington, D.C. this May. Four members presented at the Global and Local Social Justice conference on campus: Petković, Volluz, Stephanie Roderick and Alex Hanel.

Spring Speaker Series

Amber Knight, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Saint Louis University, presented research in progress on "Disability and its Challenge to Dworkin's Equality of Resources" in February. She argued that Dworkin (1) mischaracterizes disability by undertheorizing its social dimensions, (2) cannot explain why ongoing inequalities between able-bodied and disabled people develop and persist, and (3) offers inadequate solutions to remedy disability-related injustice.

Wojciech Michnik, Assistant Professor of International Relations and Security Studies at Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow, Poland, and a Fulbright visiting scholar at Columbia University's Harriman Institute gave two talks at SLU in February. In a talk sponsored by the Political Science department and the Russian and East European Area Studies program, he spoke on Polish perspectives on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. Political Science and the Intercultural Studies Center sponsored a second talk on "Beyond 'Fortress Europe' – The European Union and the Current Refugee Crisis."

Inés Valdez, a feminist political theorist at The Ohio State University, spoke on "Europe and the Space of the Colonies: Kant's Anti-Colonialism and his Philosophy of History" in April. Dr. Valdez argued that colonialism was problematic for Kant not because it caused him to reconsider his hierarchical views on race but because colonialism allowed for unending expansionism and intra-European conflict, threatening the development of the nascent republics of the United States and France and peace within Europe.

Meet the Faculty: Dr. Wynne Moskop Continued...

What got you into political theory?

Political theory has been my favorite subject since I was an undergraduate, probably because I grew up in a politically-oriented family that was also philosophical. We spent many hours in dinner discussions at an octagonal table that my father built to give everyone a clear space for talking and listening. As I transitioned into graduate school, I naturally gravitated toward political theory and toward the discussion format that is traditional in many political theory classes. It also fits well with feminist pedagogy.

What is your research about? Has it changed over time, or have you always had the same interests?

I have been interested in applications of Aristotelian *phronesis* (translated variously as prudence, practical wisdom, practical reason or, sometimes, simply judgment) to political leadership since I was a graduate student. In recent years, as my involvement in Women's and Gender Studies has grown, I have become increasingly interested in Aristotle's approach to political friendship, in large part because friendship has been attractive to feminist thinkers historically. I have written about Aristotelian friendship and justice in contemporary contexts that concern feminist thinkers—for example, the transnational migration of care workers from the global South to the global North.

What are you working on now?

Right now, I am writing about Jane Addams as an exemplary practitioner and theorist of (semi-Aristotelian) political friendship in her own cosmopolitan environment—the immigrant neighborhood surrounding Chicago's Hull House settlement in the Progressive Era. In addition to serving as a model that is useful in urban settings, Addams's friendship practices offer insights that are useful for understanding how transnational friendships can counter injustices in the global market.

What courses do you teach?

Undergraduate and graduate courses in political thought, including feminist theory, American political thought, contemporary political ideologies, specialized seminars such as "Care, Justice, and Friendship," and survey courses in the history of political thought

How do you see political theory fitting into the discipline of political science?

I think of political theory as a subfield that makes room for, and has the capacity to value, insights and evidence from all political science subfields. Because political theory as a whole takes a macro perspective, it provides a space where scholars and students confront and debate different, sometimes conflicting, perspectives on political and social issues. At the same time, political theory, particularly feminist theory, insists that we understand the micro implications of different approaches to legal and social justice, not only in relations among citizens, but among citizens and noncitizens and among members of a family or, for that matter, among parties to any association.

What are some of your favorite works of political theory, and why?

Because of my interest in theories of political action and political leadership, the work that has been most useful to me over time is Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*. However, I would not say that is my favorite work to read. A 20th century work that I benefit from reading time after time is *The Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B. DuBois.

So many works have provided striking insights that continue to inform my teaching and research. I will mention a few more:

On bureaucratic institutions, social construction, and epistemic frameworks: Max Weber's writings on bureaucracy and "Politics as a Vocation"; Hamilton, Jay, & Madison, *The Federalist*; Nancy Hartsock, "The Feminist Standpoint"; Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought*; Mirander Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice*

On the relationship between political action and technical production: Karl Marx, *Paris Manuscripts*; Hannah Arendt's books *The Human Condition*, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, and *On Revolution*

On inequality, social injustice, and cultural oppression generally: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, *Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions*; Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July"; Anna Julia Cooper, *A Voice from the South*; Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Women and Economics* and *The Yellow Wallpaper*; Jane Addams, *Twenty Years at Hull House* and *Democracy and Social Ethics*; Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*; Nancy Fraser, *Justice Interruptus*