

SLU Political Science Newsletter

News for alumni and friends of the Political Science Department

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 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.

An Interview with Dr. Katagiri on Receiving Tenure



Professor Katagiri before his F-15 flight

Professor Katagiri, you've recently been promoted to associate professor of political science. What courses are you teaching?

I teach international relations and comparative politics. In Spring 2019, I will be teaching POLS2560 politics of Asia and POLS4560 war, peace, and politics. POLS2560 is an introduction to the region's key political, economic, and security issues we should know. Students who want to know what's going on in North Korea, China, or Japan, for instance, should think about taking this.

POLS4560 is an advanced seminar on international security and strategic studies, where students study a wide range of contemporary topics, including causes of war, terrorism, cyber security, nu-

clear weapons, and US security and foreign policy. We start with classic books written by Prussian general Carl von Clausewitz and Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu, appreciate the importance of these works, and see how much they apply under today's strategic circumstances.

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An Interview with Dr. Katagiri on Receiving Tenure Continued

What topics are you researching these days?

Of several papers I'm writing these days, one deals with offense/defense strategy in cyberspace. It's a spillover analysis from my Japan project with the Mansfield Foundation. But the paper is intended to offer ideas that go beyond Japan for all cyber security scholars, including ideas about precisely how nations can conduct cyber attacks effectively for deterrent pur-

poses. I will discuss this work in progress with my colleagues in Washington next month.

Another paper deals with the current situation in North Korea. There is so much going on in the Korean peninsula lately, and I'll be in South Korea next month to gather their views on the latest development. It's a collaborative work with other Asia experts across the country, and I will present my findings at a joint workshop at Nor-

wich University in the fall. This piece will be published next year in the Journal of Peace and War Studies, so I hope that I can use this research in my class next spring.

What its like to receive tenure?

It's such an honor. It allows faculty to be even more productive in teaching and research

Featured Senior Seminar: Reading Capital, Vol. 1



Naveen Rau, Harrison Kratochvil, Will Hopper, Sean Ferguson, Dombiffignani, Pam Cutright, Phil Soley, Henry Gunther (missing: Jennifer Jones, Brandy Fox, Tabitha Crawford-Obialo and Caroline Rectenwal); POLS 4740/5740, fall 2017

Dr. Groff's seminar on Volume 1 of Marx's *Capital* started out as a reading group that she ran with SLU students almost 10 years ago. Students liked it so much that she turned it into a class. This past year, members of the class decided to keep meeting in the spring and on into the summer, in order to read Volume 2 together, and maybe Volume 3. Dr. Groff likes to teach the course because *Capital* is, in her view, a brilliant work of Aristotelian social theory and because students get so much out of working slowly and carefully through such rich, complex material. As Daniela Feliciano put it, after taking the class in 2016: "It's an amazing text; I'm not even going to lie." Don't take our word for it.

Here are some things students have said about the course.

"Reading *Capital Volume I* in my course with Dr. Groff was one of the best choices I made during my last semester of undergraduate at SLU. The seminar-style classroom gave us as students a sense of comradery as we worked through this massive work together. I feel as though Marx's contribution to economics is oftentimes overlooked due to how parts have



Jennifer Jones; POLS 4740/5740, fall 2017

I am grateful to Dr. Groff for holding this course and indebted to my fellow students for giving me different perspectives during our time together." – Sean Ferguson

"Opening up Marx's *Capital* is pouring out the pieces to a 1000 piece puzzle. Beforehand, you might know the

been applied around the world, and it was gratifying to learn directly from the source instead of through misconceptions. Currently, a couple of us have spent many Sunday afternoons this semester sifting through *Volume II* which has been absolutely wonderful.



McKenna McAreavy, Ben Hoover, Daniela Feliciano, Ryan McAtee, Jack Manning, Dylan Stege (missing: Mike Mungovan); POLS 4740/5740, fall 2016

conclusions; you see the picture on the box, but that does not make binding together the initial concepts much easier. You frantically locate a corner and slowly attach some implications. You stumble onto some random combinations of pieces and have absolutely no clue where they go. But, hey, you take some solace from the fact that you're making progress. However, once you develop the outside framework, the concepts come easy. You start to see the picture. As it becomes easier and the picture grows, the random pieces start to fit. The process becomes more and more satisfying until you finally weave the mechanics into the conclusions. You decide that maybe there's a reason people are still reading this stuff and join a reading group for Volume 2." –Harrison Kratochvil

An Excerpt from "What Do We Owe Each Other?" By Steven Komorek which won the Timothy Lomperis Award

During my time in the Political Science Department, I have taken classes spanning from political theory to international relations. No matter the subfield of political science, each class provided me a different component to the answers to the questions of *what do we owe each other, and how do we provide it?* Professor Groff's classes allowed me to formulate a basic answer to the first question, through the reading of various political thinkers, while Professors Carnaghan and Hazelton awakened me to the many inequalities that exist in America's economic and political institutions. Meanwhile, Professor Katagiri gave me a global perspective on America's role in international politics. While this list of professors who have influenced my time at SLU is far from exhaustive, it was the classes listed above that most empowered me to recognize my responsibilities and obligations to society.

My post-graduation plans have changed as a result of this. I had initially planned to go directly into law school, and from there pursue a career in international business and law, but I no longer feel as if that would be satisfying work for me. Now, knowing the obligations I have as a privileged member of society and knowing the many ways in which society has failed different classes of people, I feel unsettled and I have a desire to affect change. After I graduate in May, I plan to spend a year working at various different organizations, learning about sources of inequality and the work being done to correct them. After that year, I still plan to attend law school, but with a much different objective after graduation. In Professor Hazelton's class, I was struck by the historical power of the law to act as a tool to resolve injustices, and I plan to use an education in law to advocate for greater equality in our society, either through work with the government or with advocacy groups. I am not entirely sure which issues I hope to focus on or which avenues I intend to pursue to correct them, but I do know that I cannot be satisfied with the status quo and that I feel a responsibility to repay to society everything that it has given me.

In sum, if SLU's purpose is to make men and women for others, then the Political Science Department has certainly helped the university achieve that goal. With a focus on service and justice, my time as a political science major has taught me what I owe to the world and the different ways that I can act on my obligations. My political science education has influenced me so greatly that it has given my life a new purpose – to work towards greater equality – and given me the tools needed to pursue that goal, and for that, I am forever grateful.

Political Science Club holds Annual Panel



Political Science Club hosted the Second Annual 'Engage with Disability' Panel alongside its founding members in April. The panelists included Dr. Elizabeth Pen-do from SLU Law, Kim Lackey from Par-

aquad Inc., and SLU students Annesley Clark, Jacob Pearson, and Rene Runions. Together the panel discussed accessibility issues on campus, stigmas around living with a disability, and disability rights issues in both the St. Louis community and



the world beyond. We look forward to hosting this panel again in the future, as we believe it is an incredibly important conversation to have. A large thank you to everyone who attended and an even larger thank you to our panelists!

The Political Science Department Sponsors a Variety of Atlas Events

Professors get Involved



Dr. Bowen and Dr. Arbelaez presenting

Dr. Olga Arbelaez and Dr. J.D. Bowen have been working on a research project on the challenges of building peace and sustainable development in Colombia after the signing of the peace agreement in 2016. They recently returned from El Choco region, one of the areas most impacted by decades of war and insecurity. They shared some preliminary results of their work, particularly the role of women in peace-building and sustainable development during Atlas week.

Classes Share their Work During Atlas week.

Many Political Science classes hosted events as an opportunity to teach others some of the material covered in their course. These classes were all of the seminar or graduate variety.

Dr. Moskop's Political Ideologies course and Dr. Uwalaka's Global Health Politics course both gave students a chance to share their own going research. Both classes required student to conduct a large research papers. The Atlas event was a chance for students to share their findings.

Dr. Carnaghan's Democratization course hosted a panel of students to discuss populism. They touched on the definition of populism, examples of populism, and if populism is a threat to democracy in the United States.

All of the classes who participated in Atlas week saw it as an opportunity to share work relevant to their course. It was also a chance for students to receive constructive criticism on their ongoing research projects.

Students Present their Passions



Tegan Hoover presenting

Many students of the Political Science department hosted their own Atlas Event this year. By doing this, students were able to share experiences and research

that they were passionate about.

Senior Tegan Hoover stated, "It was a great opportunity to share what I learned during my summer in Puerto Rico. It was also a great chance to share what injustices this part of the world is experiencing." Hoover hosted an Atlas Event that analyzed murals in Arecibo that depicted the current struggles that face the people of Puerto Rico.

Many other students felt the same as Hoover. It was a great experience to share and teach others about a topic the student was passionate about.

Events Sponsored by the Department



Russia Beyond Putin: A Conversation with an Enemy

Is the War Really Over?: The Challenge in Building Peace in Colombia

Film and Discussion: "It Must Make Peace"

Political Ideologies: Global and Local

NAFTA and How It Impacts You

Arte o Muerte: Exploring Injustices through Art in Puerto Rico

Professors and Pastries: "... with liberty and justice for all."

Is Populism a Threat to Democracy?

Global Health Politics

ACLU Legal Observer Training

Not All Latinos Are Mexicans

International Collaboration

Dr. Groff has been named a Senior Research Fellow of the Centre for Aristotelian Studies and Critical Theory, a European-based research network directed by Dr. Andrius Bielskis. The aims and objectives of the Centre include:

- Exploring various aspects of Aristotle's philosophy and their relevance today.
- Identifying and elaborating up-

on those aspects of Aristotelianism that provide philosophical tools for social critique and political action.

- Promoting high quality research at the international level as well as encouraging interdisciplinary approaches to research on a wide range of topics (philosophy, politics, political theory, law, etc.).
- Organizing conferences, seminars and specialized reading groups in

collaboration with other established Societies, Institutes and Universities, both at home and abroad.

Dr. Groff is delighted to be associated with the Centre, since she believes that critical versions of Aristotelian theory are crucial for thinking well about contemporary conditions.

Trevor Bachus Presents His Research to MPSA



In early April, I had the opportunity to present an original research paper titled "How do Ethnic Parties Link to their Constituencies:

Evidence from the Third Wave" at the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) conference in Chicago. Not only was this a great excuse to get away for a long weekend in Chicago, but more importantly it was a rare opportunity for professional feedback and networking. Up to that point this had been a pretty frustrating project, and after the panel I was lucky enough to have some good conversations about new research avenues that ended up helping my project overall. Besides

that, the opportunity to meet future and current scholars on the subject was great. MPSA does a good job of splitting scholars by research interests – meaning everyone on my panel was focused on a similar topic. Meeting and making new friends in a professional context was very beneficial and could open up new possibilities in the future.

Based off my experience, I would definitely recommend to anyone interested to apply to the next MPSA conference. There are many options for research presentations available: undergraduate (and graduate) students can present posters, but if you're very confident with your project it's always possible to apply for a spot on a panel. If you're stuck in a rut with your project, then the odds are that someone there will be able to steer you in the

right direction. If you're like me – and just wanted a new experience – then you'll get to meet very interesting people! In my case, I was the both the only American and the only scholar who hadn't done comprehensive fieldwork for their project. So, not only was I getting the chance to meet people from all over the world – but I was also getting the change to meet people who had done extensive ethnographic and political fieldwork, sometimes in really interesting ways. It was also helpful to talk about how they had gone about securing research/travel grants, since that is something that I've always been interested in. All in all, it was a great personal and professional experience, and one that I would highly recommend to anyone who is interested!

John Pfeifer on his Upcoming Internship

I've recently had the pleasure and privilege of accepting a summer internship opportunity with the St. Louis division of the ACLU. The ACLU is one of the largest and most active civil liberties advocacy groups in the United States. As a non-partisan organization, the ACLU advocates for the defense of civil liberties for every group and demographic in Amer-

ica. Considering the state of civil liberties today, such as freedom of speech on college campuses, I consider my work at the ACLU to be of the utmost importance and I am certainly enthusiastic to be involved with such a fine organization. My duties as an intern involving designing and building a legal education seminar series to be launched in the fall for lawyers,

activists, and other professionals involved in civil liberties activism. Responsibilities include identifying appropriate speakers, coordinating dates with their offices, reviewing lecture content, and topic identification. I'm very much looking forward to all the new experiences the ACLU has to offer.

Saint Louis University Political Science Department

McGannon Hall
3750 Lindell Blvd
Saint Louis, MO
63108

www.slu.edu/departments-of-political-science-home



The Department of Political Science is home to outstanding faculty members and engaged and thoughtful students who are eager to serve in solidarity with others to address sources of injustice in our community and the world. The discipline of political science provides analytical tools to better understand the structures of power that produce inequality and oppression and also the knowledge to build systems more likely to heighten liberty. Through graduate and undergraduate programs in political science and international studies, the department trains students to meet the challenges of public service, to take active roles as citizens, and to address critical challenges in the world today. Faculty research examines questions of citizenship, representation, law, urban and international development, national security, democratization and other topics vital to communities and countries around the world.

Fun Facts about Atlas Week 2018

- ◆ Over **120 Countries** were represented in the Parade of Nations this year.
- ◆ Over **200 guests** from local high schools and neighboring universities participated in the Billiken World Festival.
- ◆ The Billiken World Festival had over **1000 participants** .
- ◆ The Parade of Nations had **three marching bands**.
- ◆ The Political Science Department officially sponsored **11 events** this year.
- ◆ Atlas Week had over **250 volunteers** that helped make this amazing week happen.

