

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

PhD Student Receives Prestigious Fellowship



PhD student Burak Giray has received a DAAD PRIME Postdoctoral Fellowship that will fund him for 18 months to do research in Germany and Sweden. Giray was one of 22 fellows selected from 231 applicants for this prestigious grant. He will be working on a project that will create an original dataset on the effect of public services that international peacekeepers provide to countries in conflict. Congratulations also to Giray who graduates with his PhD from our program in December 2022.

PhD Student Awarded Elinor Ostrom Fellowship

PhD Student Naomi Nubin has been awarded an Elinor Ostrom Fellowship from the Mercatus Institute at George Mason University. The Fellowship funds Nubin's travel to George Mason to attend several workshops and seminars over the course of the academic year to learn about markets, culture, and morality from an Austrian school of political economy.



JEFFREY CHURCH
Professor and Chair,
Dept. of Political Science

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Happy New Year! I send you best wishes for all the new plans and projects you will undertake in 2023. As it happens, our own department has developed its own "New Years Resolution" in the form of a new Strategic Plan that will guide us through this year and beyond. Our plan follows the university's Strategic Plan in emphasizing research excellence and student

success, but tailors it to our own department's aspiration to break further into the top 50 in the USNWR. In research, we aim to become recognized and go-to experts in our field. In teaching, we plan to expand our support for student professionalization and to tailor our curricular and co-curricular offerings to student career needs. Finally, in our outreach to the community, we aspire to do more outreach and stage more community-facing events. More specifics to come soon as we stick to our "Resolution."

GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Lukuyu June, **Myriam Shiran**, Ryan Kennedy, Johannes Urpelainen, and Jay Taneja. "Purchasing power: Examining customer profiles and patterns for decentralized electricity systems in East Africa." *Energy Policy*

Giray, Burak. "Public Support for UN Missions and Attacks on Peacekeepers: Evidence From the Democratic Republic of the Congo." *Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy*

Badas, Alex, **Billy Justus**, and Siyu Li. "Assessing the Influence of Supreme Court's Shadow Docket in the Judicial Hierarchy." *Justice System Journal*

CONGRATULATIONS PHD GRADUATES

Burak Giray, "UN Peacekeeping Operations: Conflicting Interests and Effectiveness". (Adviser: Tyson Chatagnier)

Samad Kerimov, "The Onset and Outcomes of Biased Mediation in International Conflicts". (Adviser: Tyson Chatagnier)

Hui Zhou, "Making Bureaucracy Accountable: Three Essays on Bureaucratic Accountability in China." (Adviser: Ling Zhu)



Samad Karimov with his son Altai Karim



PhD Student a Finalist in UH Competition

PhD Student Myriam Shiran (far right in picture) was a finalist in the 3 Minute Dissertation Competition put on by the UH Graduate School. Participants had to do a 3 minute "elevator pitch" about their dissertations. Ms. Shiran's dissertation examines conservative backlash against women politicians following the implementation of electoral gender quotas in Sub-Saharan African countries.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

New Public Law Internship Program Offers Hands-On Legal Experience



UH Political Science student Jose Gutierrez was one of ten students in the first UH POLS Public Law Internship Program. The program was designed by Professor Lydia Tiede and Jeffrey Church to give students significant, hands-on experience with the law in non-profit organizations with a strong sense of social responsibility. Mr. Gutierrez was placed in the Immigration Clinic at the UH Law Center. His main task was a semester-long project in which he was assigned to do legal research for a client who is seeking asylum in the U.S. Gutierrez reports that the internship “made me feel like I was part of something important,” and he now feels he is “well-prepared to handle serious case details whenever I become a practicing lawyer.”

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE STUDIES

CICS Global Fellows “Battle for Reality” Project



Instructional Assistant Professor Zachary Zwald led eleven undergraduate students in research organized through the Center for International and Comparative Studies (CICS) Global Fellows program. This semester, the students worked on Professor Zwald’s “Battle for Reality” project, building a database of Russian disinformation operations over the past 10 years. The students also were active participants in meeting with the many visitors hosted by CICS this semester. One fellow, JJ Caceres, finds the work “so interesting” because not only will it have a “major impact in the realm of political science,” but it also very relevant to the outside world.

UH Election Lab Receives Grant from APSA

UH’s Election Lab received a grant from the American Political Science Association to conduct research on recall elections in Texas and beyond. Led by Professor Brandon Rottinghaus, the undergraduate team has examined trends in the patterns of this (hyper) democratic process where elected officials can be removed from office. One student, Aaron Rollins, describes the lab as an “eye-opening and exciting experience” to take a “deeper dive” into a topic that has been understudied. Another student, Eos Sison, loves the research experience and “eagerly looks forward to continuing our work with the data in the Spring.”



Aaron Rollins



Eos Sison

FACULTY NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Professor Named Editor of JEPS

Associate Professor Scott Clifford was named co-editor of the Journal of Experimental Political Science (JEPS). JEPS publishes cutting-edge work using experimental methodology to investigate political phenomena. Clifford and his team were selected through a competitive process, beating out university teams from around the world.

UH POLS Faculty Contribute to Media Election Analysis



Many UH POLS faculty were invited onto news programs in the wake of the 2022 midterm elections to provide their analysis. A notable invitation was given to Associate Professor Jason Casellas, who joined the ABC News "Decision Desk" to analyze the election returns. Casellas is fourth from the left in the picture above.

UH Deliberation Testbed featured in Insight Higher Ed



The Deliberation Testbed, designed and run by Professor Ryan Kennedy, has been featured in an article at Inside Higher Ed. The Testbed gives students in the American Government Core classes opportunities to debate the major issues of the day online—including immigration, foreign policy, and health care. It also trains graduate and undergraduate students to be discussion moderators.

U of Houston strives to engage students in civil discourse (insidehighered.com)

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

“Light or Fire? Frederick Douglass and the Orator’s Dilemma”

By Michael C. Hawley

Assistant Professor Michael Hawley identifies and examines a distinct form of rhetoric, “hortatory rhetoric,” which seeks to motivate an already persuaded audience. Hawley draws on Frederick Douglass in his analysis and evaluation of this form of rhetoric, and provides a framework for understanding when it is desirable to abandon persuasion for exhortation.



DEPARTMENT EVENTS

This semester, the department introduced the “POLS Hour”—every Monday, UH POLS would host an academic talk from a faculty member, graduate student, or visiting scholar. This semester, we hosted four visiting speakers on the following topics:

- **Mary Stegmaier** (U Missouri), “Political Resources, Proximity and Voting in Preferential-List PR Systems”
- **Nicholas Valentino** (University of Michigan), “Outgroup Empathy and Opposition to Restrictive Voting Laws”
- **Megan Francis** (University of Washington), “The Crimes of Freedom: Prisons and State Building in Texas”
- **David Barker** (American University), “Intellectualism and Anti-Intellectualism and the Red/Blue Divide”



Mary Stegmaier
University of Missouri

2022-2023 Assistant Professor Excellence (APeX) Speaker Series

“Trump vs. Fox News: How Elite Press Attacks Reshape the Partisan Media Landscape”

Wednesday, September 28, 2022 • 12:15 – 1:15pm
M.D. Anderson Library, Room 306 and
via **Microsoft Teams**



Dr. Allison Archer
Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

Congratulations to Assistant Professor Allison Archer, who was selected to deliver one of the UH Faculty Senate APEX talks. Her lecture was well-attended and generated a lively discussion.



The UH Alumni Association Invites You To: 2022 Election Roundup Webinar

Join us as we discuss the recent election with our expert panelists who will weigh in on the results and implications on the local, state and national scene.

PANELISTS:



Jemonimo Cortina
Associate Professor,
Political Science, University of Houston



Jason Casellas
Associate Professor,
Political Science, University of Houston



Tanika Raychaudhuri
Assistant Professor,
Political Science, University of Houston

UH POLS faculty teamed up with the UH Alumni Association for a Post-Election Analysis over Zoom. The event was well-attended and informative.



Association for
Political Theory

In October, UH hosted the annual conference of the Association for Political Theory. 206 political theory scholars from around the world gathered on UH campus for a 3 day conference. The event showcased our campus and our department, as well as the nice hospitality at the UH Hilton. The event was co-sponsored by Baylor University Political Science Department.



(Roundtable participants on the "Health of the US-South Korean Alliance")

The Center for Comparative and International Studies hosted three events this semester on campus.

- September 9: Elizabeth Kennedy Trudeau, Assistant Secretary for Global Public Affairs, discussed her office's role in public diplomacy, fielded a range of questions from the students regarding the nature of a career diplomat, and gave students instructions on how to prepare for such a career.
- October 17: Ambassador Stefan Schluter, Program Director at the Diplomatic Academy of the German Foreign Office in Berlin, provided an overview of the European/German response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. He also discussed his unique perspective on American political dynamics over the past 6 years and how these dynamics affect European views of American leadership.
- November 17: CICS co-sponsored a roundtable with the South Korean consulate on "The Health of the US-South Korean Alliance." The event began with opening remarks from the Consul General, then I moderated a discussion of how current dynamics involving Russia, China, India, and North Korea are affecting the US-ROK alliance, and finally there was a 15 min Q&A session with students in attendance.

ALUMNI: Please send us updates about notable things in your career and life! We will include them in the newsletter.

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

COLLEGE of LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of Political Science

SUPPORT US

PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

3551 Cullen Blvd, Room 447 • Philip G. Hoffman Hall • Houston, TX 77204
713.743.3890 • jchurch@uh.edu