



## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

### Congratulations 2024 PhD Graduates!



Jack McDonald  
(Jeffrey Church,  
advisor)



Sarah Mallams  
(With Jeffrey Church)



Gathoni Kimondo  
(Jennifer Clark, advisor)

### Graduate Student Naomi Nubin Receives Fellowships

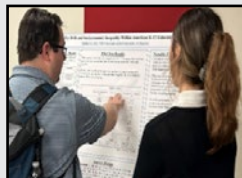
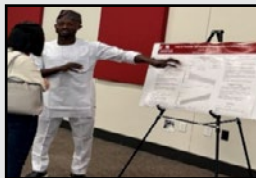


In Fall 2023, Nubin was awarded a PhD dissertation fellowship from the Mercatus center located at George Mason University. In addition to her fellowship at GMU, she was also awarded the 2023 Jo Ann Robinson Gibson Dissertation Award. This award was granted from the Association for the study of Black women in politics, and this competitive award is only granted to one individual per year, nationally.

Nubin will also take on an instructor role for the Race Ethnicity and Quantitative Methods course at the ICPSR Summer Program.

### Graduate Students Poster Session

The PSGSA hosted a poster session event for graduate students giving them the opportunity to present the research they had been conducting in their classes. Throughout the event, students obtained feedback about their research from faculty and fellow students. The event was held May 8th from 3PM- 5PM at The UH Student Center South Multipurpose Room. A big thank you to everyone who attended the poster session!



JEFFREY CHURCH  
Professor and Chair,  
Dept. of Political Science

### NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Thanks to everyone for an exciting Spring semester! We had a lot of great events this semester, including a conference on AI, a Q&A with a former Attorney General, visiting scholars, and much more. This semester, we've also seen faculty and graduate students continue to partner to publish co-authored cutting-edge research. I have long thought that a real strength of our

program is the close mentorship relationship that our faculty have with the graduate students, which leads to student success both in degree completion and in placement after graduation. Enjoy this news and please stay in touch!

-Jeffrey Church

### Graduate Student Research Series

This spring semester the UH political science department kicked off the **Graduate Student Research Series**, a regular workshop where graduate students practiced their presentation skills and received feedback on research in progress. Organized by Professors Jae-Hee Jung and Michael Kistner, the event included the following presentations:

**"Balanced Cynicism: Identifying Negative Partisanship in Measures of Political Cynicism"**  
PRESENTED BY: Lucas Lothamer (1/24)

**"The Impact of Critical Events on the Attitudes of Independents"**  
PRESENTED BY: Ting-Wei Weng (2/14)

**"Firm Engagement in the UN Global Compact"**  
PRESENTED BY: Rebecca Da Costa (2/28)

**"Executives' Attacks on Courts in Latin America (2009-2018)"**  
PRESENTED BY: Eugenia Artabe (4/3)

**"A Formal Model of Redistributive Preferences Under Conditions of Sociotropic Sufficiency and Scarcity"**  
PRESENTED BY: Amanda Austin (5/1)

## Student Aparajita Datta Receives Fellowship



Congratulations to Aparajita Datta, a PhD candidate in the political science department, who recently received the Christine Mirzayan Science & Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship Program fellowship. This 12-week fellowship takes place at the

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) in Washington, DC, where participants learn about science and technology policy and the role that scientists and engineers play in advising the nation.

### GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Badas, Alex & **Billy Justus** (2023): "Media Attention and Deliberation on the Supreme Court." *Political Research Quarterly*

**Artabe, Eugenia, Samantha Chapa**, Leah Sparkman and Patrick E. Shea: (2023) "External Threats, Capacity, and Repression: How the Threat of War Affects Political Development and Physical Integrity Rights." *British Journal of Political Science*

Kennedy Ryan, and **Amanda Austin**: (2024) "A Protocol for Integrating Dynamic Adaptive Questions from Generative AI into Qualtrics Surveys with Minimal JavaScript." *Social Science Research Network*

**Datta Aparajita**, and Ramanan Krishnamoorti: (2023) "Analysis of direct air capture integrated with wind energy and enhanced oil recovery." *Environmental Science & Technology*

Mallette, Adam J., **Aparajita Datta**, and Ramanan Krishnamoorti: (2023) "Consolidated nuclear waste storage in Andrews, Texas: An integrated technical and policy risk analysis." *Energy & Environment*

Clark, Jennifer Hayes, and **Gathoni Kimondo**: (2024) "When women run: explaining the emergence of women state legislative candidates." *The Journal of Legislative Studies*

### GRADUATE ALUMNI NEWS

**David C. Barker**, PhD UH 1998, was appointed Director of the Social and Economic Sciences Division at the National Science Foundation



**Robert Coghlan**, PhD UH 2011, was appointed as an Ambassador of the Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research (FNINR)

**Adolfo Santos**, PhD UH 1998, was appointed Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Arkansas Tech University.

Adolfo Santos

### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

#### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Congratulations to the Peek Family Scholarship Winners

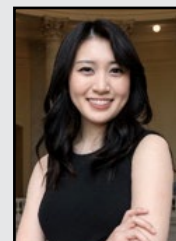
Three political science majors were accepted as Peek Scholarship Recipients in 2024. The Peek Family Scholarship is given to top Political Science undergrads who demonstrate promise in giving back to their community. The three recipients of this competitive award are listed below.



**Elise Mitchell's** future plans involve attending law school with a public interest clinic. Elise plans to continue to stay involved volunteering and fighting the housing crisis.



**Lucia Romo** plans to enroll in law school after her undergraduate studies to pursue a career in public interest law. Lucia aspires to work on legislation to improve workplace conditions for women.



**Winnie Pham** plans to attend law school after her undergraduate studies, with an emphasis on economic and labor law. Winnie is interested in working for the U.S. Department of Labor as a legal counsel to protect workers and their families.

## STUDENT EVENTS



### Undergraduate Research

Undergraduate student Alicia Lartigue presented her research "Gender Representation, Public Opinion, and Legitimacy in Decisions with Women's Policy in the Judiciary" at both CLASS' undergraduate research day and the larger university-wide undergraduate research day. Professor Alex Badas supervised her research as part of the SURF program.

## FMC Forum Spring 2024

This spring semester we had Charlie Gonzalez (D-TX) and Jim Gerlach (R-PA), two former members of congress, visit our American Government students. This virtual forum, moderated by Dr. Jeff Church gave the over 400 students in attendance an opportunity to ask both members questions about their extensive career in politics.



Charlie Gonzalez



Jim Gerlach

### Using Your POLS Degree



#### Political Science Career Event

Wednesday, March 27  
Noon - 1:00 PM  
S 114

### POLS CAREERS

The Political Science department had a career event on March 27 that included a speaker from the Career Center, it was a well-attended event.

## FACULTY

### MAJOR PUBLICATIONS



#### "Counter-Stereotypes and Attitudes Toward Gender and LGBTQ Equality"

By Jae-Hee Jung and Margit Tavits

Insights from social psychology and the gender and politics literature, as well as discussions and campaigns in the policymaking world, suggest that exposure to counter-stereotypes about gender roles might improve people's attitudes toward gender equality and LGBTQ rights. Dr. Jung and Co-Author test this expectation by conducting five survey experiments and a separate, follow-up experiment in the US context using counter-stereotypical treatments commonly encountered in the real world.



#### "Varieties of Values: Moral Values Are Uniquely Divisive"

By: Jae-Hee Jung and Scott Clifford

Political scientists have long viewed values as a source of constraint in political belief systems. Yet, there is little direct and systematic research on which values are perceived as moral values. Drawing on a broad literature on cooperation, Dr. Jung and Co-Author first develop theoretical expectations for the extent of value moralization both between and within value systems, and argue that this moralization matters because it intensifies the effects of value disagreement on social polarization.

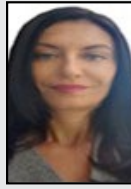
# FACULTY NEWS

## New Chair Holders

Congratulations to the new holders of our endowed chairs in our department. Faculty hold these chairs for three years.



Boris Shor  
Pauline Yelderman Chair



Tanya Bagashka  
Kenneth Lay Chair



Jeronimo Cortina  
Senator Don  
Henderson Professorship



Jeffrey Church  
Ross M. Lence  
Distinguished  
Teaching Chair

## Libby Jenke to be Visiting Professor at Harvard



Congratulations to  
**Assistant  
Professor Libby Jenke**,  
who will be a Visiting Faculty  
in the Department of Government  
at Harvard University  
for next semester.

## Faculty Promotion



Congratulations to  
**Alex Badas**, who will  
be promoted to  
Associate Professor  
with tenure as of 9/1/24

## Internal Awards



Congratulations  
to **Associate Professor  
Beth Simas**, who has won  
the University's Research  
Excellence Award



Congratulations to  
**Professor Brandon  
Rottinghaus**, who has  
won the College  
Distinguished Professor  
Award

# NEW STAFF

The Political Science Department welcomes two new staff members, Marie Schwartz (Department Business Administrator) and Joshua August (Financial Coordinator II)



# IN MEMORIAM



The department honors the memory of emeritus professor Donald Lutz, who passed away in January 2024. You can find a link to his full obituary here: <http://www.dignitymemorial.com/>



We had a celebration of his life at the Red Lion Pub on Sat. Feb. 24

Chris Hammons speaks to the group.



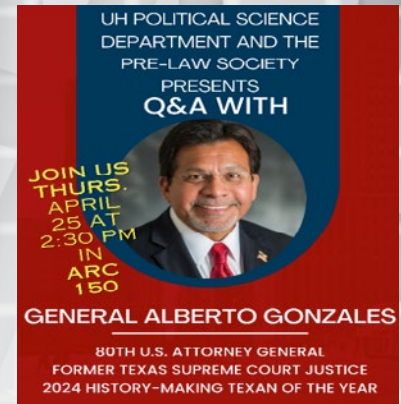
Emeritus Professor Bob Carp and Linda Westervelt.

## DEPARTMENT EVENTS

### Q&A with Former U.S. Attorney General

This past April Alberto Gonzales came to campus, in this well attended event Dean Gonzalez had a Q&A with the audience where he discussed his career and offered advice to prospective law students.

The event, promoted with the help of the Pre-Law Society and the Honors College, generated positive feedback and sparked interest in law school among some students.



### Tocqueville Forum on American Ideas and Institutions

University of Houston - Political Science

Old Lessons for New Challenges: What the Past Can Teach About AI and New Media

Preliminary Conference Program (January 26-27, 2024)

### Tocqueville Forum

The Tocqueville forum hosted a conference January 26-27 on Old Lessons for New Challenges: What the Past Can Teach About AI and New Media. The forum hosted an array of presenters from various Universities across the country.

## Visiting Speakers



The department of Political Science had a distinguished list of visiting speakers this Spring.

- Christian Grose (USC) March 18
- Gianna Englert (SMU) March 22 (Pictured)
- Jessica Gottlieb (UH Hobby School) April 8
- Bryan Garsten (Yale) April 19
- Yanna Krupnikov (U Michigan) April 22



### End of the Year Party

The Political Science Department held its end-of-year party on May 8th in PGH. Here, the PSGSA awarded Best Mentor awards to Professors Cortina and Kistner (pictured). Faculty, Graduate Students and Staff attended.

### Norwegian Lunch

Throughout the semester the department rendered their own Norwegian-style lunch. In here students and faculty were able to relax from their busy schedule and catch up with one another.



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



Political Science  
College of Liberal Arts  
and Social Sciences

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