

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Poligram

Fall 2019

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



1 Welcome
+ Learning & Interning
on the Campaign Trail

2 UNDERGRADUATE
INITIATIVES

*Creating opportunities
for student success*

3 Department News

4 Faculty Research

5 Alumni Updates

6 Alumni Board & Events

Welcome!

Brian Lai
Department Chair



Welcome to the 2019-20 edition of the Poligram. This has been a busy time for the Department of Political Science and the state of Iowa. With the 2020 Iowa caucuses right around the corner, political candidates have been visiting Iowa City at a regular rate. Our majors have taken advantage of this opportunity, serving as staff members, interns, and volunteers. The Department has been busy hosting speakers and conferences, including Ida Beam Distinguished Speaker Anne-Marie Slaughter. This edition of the Poligram highlights what alumni from across the years are doing as well as news from our alumni advisory board. Student internships and campaign experiences are also highlighted, which are made possible by the generous support of our alumni. When you have time, please email me about how you are doing and how you want to engage the department and our students.

Brian Lai

Learning & Interning on the Campaign Trail



Jocelyn Roof, a junior studying political science and sociology with a certificate in social science analytics, served as governmental relations chair in the undergraduate student government last year. As part of her role, she worked on voter engagement in the 2018 midterm election. Student participation in the 2018 election increased nearly 17 percentage points because of these efforts. Looking ahead to 2020, she has founded UI's student-led initiative: Hawk the Vote. She and her executive team of seven students, with the help of dozens of volunteers, are working to increase student voter registration, education, and turnout in a nonpartisan manner on campus. They have registered nearly 2000 students to vote this semester, increased student turnout in the 2019 local elections, and are planning a mock caucus for the end of January.



Isabella O'Connor, a freshman studying political science and social justice, interned with the Elizabeth Warren campaign since June and worked during the summer as the Digital Communications Intern at the Iowa campaign headquarters in Des Moines. Since moving to Iowa City, she has worked mostly on campus and in surrounding neighborhoods. She says being a part of this campaign has been incredibly empowering and has expanded her knowledge of policy, campaigns, and the Iowa caucuses.

Students in David Redlawsk's class, *Special Topics in Politics: Understanding the 2020 Iowa Caucus*, had the opportunity to experience the caucus in the classroom. Besides studying the history and impact of the Iowa caucuses, they participated in several events across the state and built a research project from the data they collected.



Undergraduate Initiatives

Creating opportunities for student success

Thanks to alumni donations and dedicated faculty mentorship, our students gain valuable experience by participating in high-quality research and internship opportunities.



Abbi Denner & Jackson Guilford
STUDENT CONFERENCE
ON U.S. AFFAIRS

Students Abbi Denner and Jackson Guilford attended the 71st annual Student Conference on U.S. Affairs held in West Point, NY. While at the conference, they participated in roundtable sessions and panel discussions on the theme, "Advancing the National Interest: The Intersection of Domestic Politics and American Foreign Policy." Their trip was funded by a generous donation from advisory board member Richard Tyner.



Graduate instructor, Jielu Yao, going over the the concept of margin of error.

Hawkeye Poll

The Hawkeye Poll is a one-of-a-kind course that gives students hands-on research experience creating surveys and collecting public opinion data. Topics covered in this year's poll were the Electoral College, reproductive policy, criminal justice, and a universal basic income.



Hannah Altman
RESEARCH IN DUBLIN

Senior Hannah Altman spent this past summer living in Dublin, Ireland researching actors influencing anti-terrorist legislation. For her research, she interviewed Irish legislators, politicians, professors, and attorneys. Her favorite part about Ireland was how friendly everyone was and the helpfulness she received from the Irish government for her project.



Megan Phillips
STATE DEPARTMENT
INTERNSHIP

Megan Phillips spent a semester as an intern in the political/economic section of the U.S. Embassy in Riga, Latvia. Megan learned what life in the foreign service looks like. Activities included researching and writing a cable, making frequent trips to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and riding along with NATO soldiers on visits to regional high schools. She says the experience was one of the most transformative periods of her life and she gained a deep interest in foreign influence in Eastern Europe.



Professor Martini (center) with IPRO students during Hawkeye Caucus Day 2019.

Iowa Policy Research Organization (IPRO)

The Iowa Policy Research Organization (IPRO) provides the Iowa Legislature with timely, high quality research and information on important policy issues discussed in each legislative session. Student members of IPRO meet major figures in government and politics throughout Iowa and communicate the results of their research directly with Iowa legislators and other policymakers.

Department News

Fred Boehmke received the 2018-19 Graduate College Outstanding Faculty Mentor, Social Sciences, Honorable Mention.

Liz Cecil joined the department as Departmental Administrator.

Sam Glaser joined the department as a Visiting Assistant Professor. This fall, he taught Political Polarization, U.S. Congress, and Social Media and Politics. Sam received his PhD from the University of Notre Dame and specializes in American Politics.

Kelly Kadera will be part of the editorial team for the APSA *American Political Science Review*, 2020-2024.

Martha Kirby received the 2019 Excellence in Advising Award, Advisor Primary Role, from the National Academic Advising Association, North Central Region 6. She was also awarded the 2019 Lola Lopes Award for Undergraduate Student Advocacy, based upon ratings from students.

Michael Lewis-Beck was appointed co-editor of *Electoral Studies Journal* and recently published a book of poetry titled *Rural Routes*.

Ron McMullen received the 2018-2019 International Engagement Teaching Award, jointly given by CLAS and UI International Programs.

Elizabeth Menninga received the 2018-19 Collegiate Teaching Award and was recently awarded a grant from Folke Bernadotte Academy. The grant, titled *Negotiation Dynamics: Evaluating the Cumulative Effects of Negotiations in Civil War Resolution*, will provide \$28k (265k Swedish Krona) to fund an RA position for spring and summer 2020.

Sara Mitchell and Paul Hensel received the J. David Singer Data Innovation Award from the Conflict Processes Section, awarded during the 2019 American Political Science Association conference, in recognition for their data collection project, the Issue Correlates of War (ICOW).

Tracy Osborn will join the editorial team for *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* in June 2020.

Rene Rocha has been promoted to full professor.

Wendy Sandersfeld rejoined the department as Undergraduate Program Coordinator.

PhD Placements

- **Christopher Junk**, MA 2019 (PhD anticipated 2020)
New position: Data Analyst, CVS Headquarters, Chicago, IL
- **JongHwan Han**, PhD 2019
Placement: South Korean Navy
- **Desmond Wallace**, PhD 2019
Placement: Alfred University

Publications

- Dion, Michelle L. and **Sara McLaughlin Mitchell**. 2020. "How Many Citations to Women is 'Enough'? Estimates of Gender Representation in Political Science." Forthcoming, *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 53(1).
- Lee, Sojeong and **Sara McLaughlin Mitchell**. 2019. "Energy Resources and the Risk of Conflict in Shared River Basins." *Journal of Peace Research* 56(3): 336-351.
- Owsiak, Andrew P. and **Sara McLaughlin Mitchell**. 2019. "Conflict Management in Land, River, and Maritime Claims." *Political Science Research and Methods* 7(1): 43-61.
- McMullen, Ronald**. 2019. "The United States Diplomatic Service." In *Modern Diplomacy in Practice*, edited by J. Suri and R. Hutchings, 189-224. Palgrave Macmillan.

Wenfang Tang Retires

Wenfang Tang retired in July and has started a new position as Director of the Division of Social Sciences at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He served as department chair 2016-2019.



Faculty Research

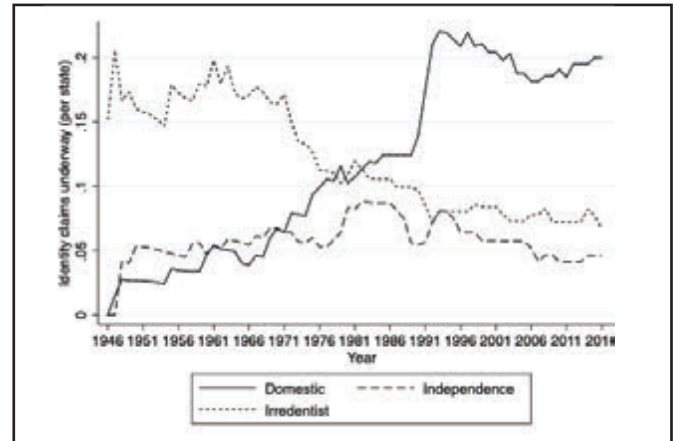
Understanding Ethnic Conflict Across Countries

Sara McLaughlin Mitchell

States often make diplomatic claims against other countries on behalf of their co-ethnic kinsmen to project their power and protect ethnic allies. Russia, for example, used such a claim to justify both its involvement in Ukrainian politics and its annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in 2014. These *identity claims* can involve demands for equality or better treatment of an ethnic group (*domestic*), support for the group's autonomy or secession (*independence*), or annexation of territory where ethnic kin live (*irredentist*).

With over \$750,000 in funding from the Department of Defense's Minerva program, our research team is able to identify and code all cases of international disagreements over shared ethnic groups since World War II. We seek to understand when identity claims are most likely to begin, when they are most likely to escalate to interstate or civil war, and how they can be settled peacefully.

The figure shows that domestic identity claims have become more frequent over time. This change reflects the decline of traditional



interstate territorial disputes and shows that countries are now supporting co-ethnics in other countries with diplomatic pressure instead of force. Our research suggests that identity claims arise between countries that share ethnic groups when co-ethnics represent a larger share of the target state's population and they are discriminated against politically or economically. Identity claims are also more common for countries that are newly independent and those that have experienced civil conflicts.

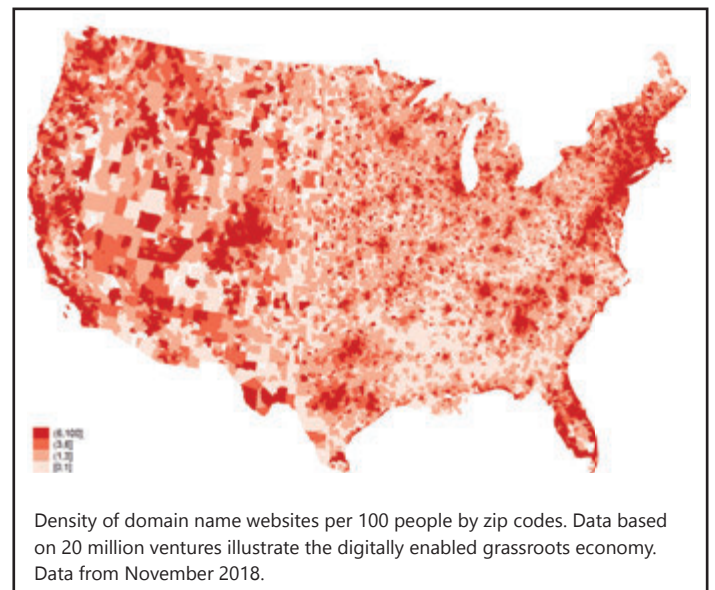
More at: www.paulhensel.org/icowiden

21st Century Metrics for Measuring the New Digitally Enabled Grassroots Economy

Caroline Tolbert

Our team analyzed data from GoDaddy that illuminates, for the first time, the outsized impact of digitally-enabled commercial activity across the U.S. The dataset of 20 million website domain names, or "ventures," was aggregated to zip codes to create a new measure of "venture density." This new metric, along with others, provides an accurate view of previously hidden aspects of the economy – the digital activity of brick and mortar businesses, micro-entrepreneurs, and the impact of domains on local economic growth and prosperity.

The statistical analysis included 900+ metropolitan and micropolitan areas using multivariate regression to control for factors that would affect economic outcomes, such as education, age, race and ethnicity, occupation, and broadband subscription. Density of ventures predicted regional economic prosperity and was also significantly related to increases in median income from 2017 to 2018. For instance, for each highly active venture added to an average metro of 250,000 people, annual median household income increased on average \$446.23, controlling



for other factors. As a baseline, average annual change in median income for this time period across ventures is \$1800.

The UI team who conducted this research is led by Professor Caroline Tolbert collaborating with Karen Mossberger (School of Public Affairs, ASU). It includes UI doctoral student Scott LaCombe, post-doc Kellen Gracey, doctoral students Bomi Lee, Joseph Coll, Cassandra Tai, and Natasha Gaydos.

Alumni Updates



K.C. Atha ('06)

Krystal Celeste (K.C.) Atha is a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) strategist and facilitator. She founded Sembramos, an organization that helps socially conscious leaders develop holistic solutions that lead to transformational change. K.C. has also worked on Capitol Hill, served in the U.S. Peace Corps, and worked as a human rights reporter in Jerusalem and the West Bank.



Ann Brickley ('97)

Ann Brickley is a prosecutor at the U.S. Department of Justice. She investigates and prosecutes corruption, money laundering, and fraud. Brickley also serves as the Department's Cultural Property Coordinator, investigating the theft of native and foreign native artifacts. Whenever possible, the artifacts are salvaged and returned to their legal owner.



Andrew Hirst ('16)

Andrew Hirst serves in Peace Corps Zambia for the LIFE (Linking Income Food and Environment) within Luapula Province. The community has been working on livestock, permaculture gardening, bee keeping, and tree planting programs. Besides keeping busy with farmers and cooperatives, Andrew enjoys biking the Zambian countryside and sharing his music interests with neighbors.



Marcus Miller ('18)

Marcus is a first-year student at Harvard Law School pursuing a JD. He is involved with the Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project, where he is currently representing a client in prison who is facing a disciplinary hearing. His interests include criminal justice reform, holistic defense, and increasing access to legal services for those who cannot afford representation.



Lilián Sánchez ('18)

After graduation, Lilián served as a Ladis Kristof Fellow for Amnesty International and as a Legislative and Operations intern in Sen. Kamala Harris' office in Washington, D.C. She recently returned to Iowa to serve as the Executive Assistant for State Auditor Rob Sand and as the Iowa Deputy Political Director for Kamala Harris' Presidential campaign.



Andrey Sazonov ('16)

Andrey currently works at Facebook where he specializes on payments investigations and sanctions. Prior to joining Facebook, he was an associate at Kroll, a division of Duff & Phelps, and worked at several D.C.-based think tanks including the Wilson Center and the Atlantic Council.

Have news to share?

Join us on LinkedIn or email us at polisci@uiowa.edu.

Alumni Board & Events

Welcome New and Returning Alumni Board Members



**Barrett
Anderson**



**Carter
Bell**



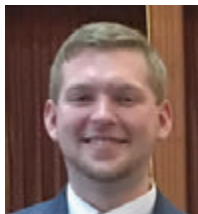
**Thomas
Ewing**



**Greg
Ganske**



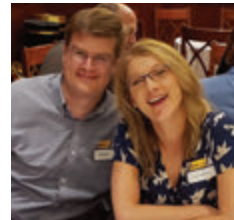
**Jenny
Wing Harper**



**Ryan
Sempf**



**Stacey
Walker**



FROM THE OLD CAPITOL TO THE U.S. CAPITOL

On Thursday, August 29, 2019, the Department of Political Science held an alumni event in Washington D.C. The first part of the event was sponsored by alumni board member Tom Wickham, the U.S. House Parliamentarian. Tom provided an insider's tour of the U.S. House, which gave alumni and attending faculty members the opportunity to sit in the U.S. House chamber, learn more about the history, and discover some unique features of the U.S. House, including seeing a statue of Norman Bourlag. After the tour, a reception was held at the U.S. Capitol Visitor's Center. Senator Grassley's office helped us reserve the space, which was the perfect setting for alumni and faculty to reminisce and share about life since leaving Schaeffer Hall. Alumni included very recent graduates as well as those taught by Professor Donald B. Johnson.

Our next alumni event is planned for mid-April 2021 in Chicago, IL.

For more information and member profiles, visit: www.clas.uiowa.edu/polisci/alumni/advisory-board

Poligram

Fall 2019

 THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Department of Political Science
341 Schaeffer Hall
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1409

Give a gift...

Join the ongoing effort to support our program. Your generosity helps fund student opportunities, research, and our continued growth in educational excellence.

Make your gift online:

www.givetoioiowa.org/polisci

For more information about giving options please contact Adam Blind, Associate Director of Development, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at adam.blind@foriowa.org.



Department of
Political Science

VIEW THE POLIGRAM ONLINE:

www.clas.uiowa.edu/polisci/poligram

