

# Poligram

Fall 2021

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



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# POLISCI FAMILIES

*University of Iowa political science alums make a difference across the world, but for these three families the impact has also been felt right at home.*



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 2021-2022 edition of the *Poligram*. Spring 2021 saw us finish the school year still mostly online, though with an online and in-person graduation ceremony at Kinnick. The Political Science Department and the University returned to having most of our classes and activities in person this Fall 2021. This edition of the *Poligram* focuses on families that are alumni of our department. We also like to think of our students, alumni, staff, and faculty as a big extended family, all working together to help each other grow and succeed. As a member of that family, please feel free to reach out to us with your news and thank you for your continued support of our program.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Lai".

**Brian Lai**  
Department Chair

## Brickleys Carry it Forward

**Amy (Brickley) Manternach** graduated in 1991 with a B.A. in Political Science and an International Business Certificate. After graduation, she worked at Prudential and rose to the role of Vice President, Total Retirement Solutions, and Site Lead at Prudential's Dubuque, Iowa office. For the past 9 years she has served as the Chief Operating Officer at the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque.



Six years after Amy, her sister **Ann Brickley** completed a Political Science B.A. at the University of Iowa in 1997 and earned a J.D. from DePaul University. After law school, Ann worked for the U.S. Customs Service in New York, then as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of New York, where she prosecuted narcotics trafficking and money laundering. From 2005 until October 2021, Brickley was a federal prosecutor at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., prosecuting corruption, crimes involving the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, money laundering, and civil forfeiture lawsuits against misappropriated cultural property. Career highlights include securing bribery convictions against U.S. Army Officers for a bribery and money laundering scheme during Operation Iraqi Freedom ('08); negotiating guilty pleas with foreign public officials and U.S.-based bribe payors ('17-'21); negotiating a settlement agreement that included returning a ceremonial war shield to the Pueblo of Acoma; and negotiating a settlement agreement that resulted in repatriating an ancient sumerian clay tablet bearing portions of the Epic of Gilgamesh to the Republic of Iraq ('21). Brickley has been awarded the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, the Assistant Attorney General's Award, and the Department of Treasury Award for "courage and bravery" on September 11, 2001. She is currently Senior Associate General Counsel at Nasdaq.

In the next generation, Amy's son, **Jared Manternach**, graduated from the University of Iowa in 2017 with a B.A. in Political Science and the University of Iowa College of Law in 2019 with his J.D. Jared currently serves as a prosecutor in the United States Navy JAG Corp in Washington, D.C. Amy's stepson, **Mitchell Manternach**, graduated from the University of Iowa with a B.A. in Political Science in 2006. Mitchell also obtained an MBA and has worked in several roles at John Deere since graduating. He currently serves as a global cotton aftermarket product manager. His daughter is projected to graduate from the University of Iowa with a Political Science degree in 2040.

## Westercamp Sisters

In the Westercamp family, **Jeralyn Westercamp** achieved two master's degrees, three certificates, and two BBAs along with her B.S. in political science from the University of Iowa in 2016. Jeralyn is currently an Economic Development Manager with the University of Iowa John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center. She manages Iowa Venture Mentoring Service, a program linking entrepreneurial ventures with experienced mentors to support entrepreneurs. **Kara Westercamp** (Political Science, '05) is a trial attorney in the Civil Division at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, DC. She practices before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the U.S. Court of International Trade, and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Prior to the DOJ, she practiced business litigation at Jones Day in NYC, and clerked for Chief Judge John A. Jarvey of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa. She is active in the Capital Area I Club, the Zeta Tau Alpha DC chapter, and the Daughters of the American Revolution, as well as several legal associations. **Laura Westercamp** (Political Science, '07) is a Managing Director in Accenture's Life Sciences and Digital Health practice. She has over 13 years of experience working in North America, Europe, and Africa, helping companies determine their digital health and commercial strategies, operational design, and product development approach. She is a volunteer serving on the



(L-R) Kara, Jeralyn, and Laura at the 2016 Rose Bowl.

University of Iowa's Entrepreneurial Center Advisory Board, working with early-stage entrepreneurs. She partners with MATTER, a healthcare start-up incubator. At Accenture, she leads strategy and innovation for Accenture's HealthTech Innovation Challenge. Prior to consulting, Laura was an investment banker at Goldman Sachs.



Alenah Luthens (left), Erik Luthens (center), Elaine Luthens (right)

## Luthenses Follow Dad's Footsteps

**Erik Luthens** (Political Science, '88) received a J.D. from Drake University Law School ('91) and is currently a shareholder / partner in the law firm Parrish-Sams Luthens Law, P.C., in West Des Moines, IA, practicing civil litigation. His daughters **Elaine Luthens** (Political Science, '14) and **Alenah Luthens** (Political Science, '18) followed in his footsteps. Elaine earned her J.D. in 2017 from the University of Iowa College of Law and is currently an Associate Attorney in the litigation practice group of Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons L.L.P., Minneapolis, MN. Alenah is in her last year at the University of Minnesota College of Law and has accepted a position as an Associate Attorney in the litigation practice group of Dentons Davis Brown in Des Moines, IA. Additionally, Eric's wife, Penny Luthens, graduated from the University of Iowa (Communications, '88) and is an Assistant Clerk of Court for the United States District Court (Southern District of Iowa). Their son, Armond Luthens, also earned a degree from the University of Iowa (Electrical Engineering, '16) and is currently a software engineer for DigniFi in Boulder, CO.

# FACULTY RESEARCH

## Examining the Consequences of the Secure Communities Program

Rene Rocha is currently working with JJ Park, a PhD student in the Department of Sociology, to determine whether recent changes to immigration policy cause undocumented immigrants living in the US to leave. They are examining the consequences of the Secure Communities program, which allows Immigration and Customs Enforcement to partner with local law enforcement agencies to identify, hold, and remove undocumented immigrants. Proponents of the program believe that even a small increase in immigration enforcement can encourage many undocumented immigrants to leave, an idea known as “self-deportation.” The logic is similar to that of issuing speeding tickets—only a few speeders are ever ticketed but the risk a getting a



ticket is a strong deterrent nonetheless. Opponents of the program believe immigration into the US is driven by powerful economic and social forces, and the ticket analogy just does not hold up: people usually don't speed out of desperation. Rene and JJ are investigating which of these arguments hold up when subjected to rigorous statistical analyses of government data and surveys of immigrants from Latin America.

## Publications

**Frederick J. Boehmke**, Scott J. LaCombe. 2021. “The Initiative Process and Policy Innovation in the American States.” *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 21 (3): 286–305. <https://doi.org/10.1017/spq.2021.1>.

**Frederick J. Boehmke**, **Douglas Dion**, and Charles R. Shipan. 2020. “A Duration Estimator for a Continuous Time War of Attrition Game.” *Political Science Research and Methods* 9 (4): 760–78. <https://doi.org/10.1017/psrm.2020.29>.

**John S. Nelson**. 2021. *Defenses against the Dark Arts: The Political Education of Harry Potter and His Friends*. Lexington Books.

**Elizabeth J. Menninga**. 2020. “Complementary Mediation: Exploring Mediator Composition in Civil Wars.” *International Interactions* 46 (6): 893–921. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03050629.2020.1814759>.

**Elizabeth J. Menninga** and Alyssa K Prorok, “Battles and Bargains: Escalation, Commitment, and Negotiations in Civil War,” *International Studies Quarterly*, Volume 65, Issue 2, June 2021, Pages 406–422, <https://doi.org/10.1093/isq/sqab013>.

**Sara McLaughlin Mitchell** and John A. Vasquez. 2021. *What Do We Know About War?* (Third Edition). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Bomi K. Lee, **Sara McLaughlin Mitchell**, Cody J. Schmidt, and Yufan Yang. “Disasters and the Dynamics of Interstate Rivalry.” forthcoming, *Journal of Peace Research*.

**Sara McLaughlin Mitchell** and Andrew P. Owsiak. 2021. “Judicialization of the Sea: Bargaining under the UNCLOS Regime.” forthcoming, *American Journal of International Law*.

Cody J. Schmidt, Bomi K. Lee, and **Sara McLaughlin Mitchell**. 2021. “Climate Bones of Contention: How Climate Change Influences Territorial, Maritime, and River Interstate Conflicts.” *Journal of Peace Research*. 58(1): 132-150.

**Sara McLaughlin Mitchell** and **Elise Pizzi**. 2021. “Natural Disasters, Forced Migration, and Conflict: The Importance of Government Policy Responses.” *International Studies Review* 23(3): 580-604.

**Sara McLaughlin Mitchell**. 2021. “The Path from Iowa Farm Girl to Iowa Professor.” H-Diplo Essay 325. Essay Series on Learning the Scholar's Craft: Reflections of Historians and International Relations Scholars. <https://issforum.org/essays/PDF/E325.pdf>.

Jonathan D. Caverley and **Sara McLaughlin Mitchell**. 2021 (01/25). “A Liberal Case for Seapower?” *War on the Rocks*, <https://warontherocks.com/2021/02/a-liberal-case-for-seapower>.

**Sara McLaughlin Mitchell**. 2021. Essay for H-Diplo Roundtable on Teaching IR's Paradigms, [https://networks.h-net.org/node/28443/discussions/7159136/h-diplo-teaching-roundtable-xxii-23-teaching-ir%E2%80%99s-paradigms#\\_Toc62232305](https://networks.h-net.org/node/28443/discussions/7159136/h-diplo-teaching-roundtable-xxii-23-teaching-ir%E2%80%99s-paradigms#_Toc62232305).

**William M. Reisinger**, **Marina Zaloznaya**, and **Vicki L. Hesli Claypool**. 2021. “Popular Legal Attitudes and the Political Order: Comparative Evidence from Georgia, Russia and Ukraine,” *Europe-Asia Studies*, 73:1, 36-59, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2020.1807469>.

**William M. Reisinger**, **Marina Zaloznaya**. 2021. “The Democratic Promise of the Putin Generation? Cultural Legacies, Generational Cohorts, and Democratic Values in Russia,” in Guoli Liu, ed., *Soviet and Russian Studies: Co-optation, Congruence, and Mediation* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books), forthcoming.

Karen Mossberger, **Caroline J. Tolbert**, and Scott J. LaCombe. 2021. *Choosing the Future: Technology and Opportunity in Communities*. Book edition, Oxford University Press.

# LOEWENBERG GRADUATE SUITE

The Loewenberg Graduate Office remodel is complete thanks to generous contributions made to our Gold Rush campaign earlier this year. For decades, 330 Schaeffer Hall has been the very first office space assigned to new political science graduate students, but many years of wear and tear left the space unequal to the bright new ideas it held. With this long-needed update, the special room has been named after Jerry Loewenberg, who served as an inspirational mentor and colleague from the time he joined the Department of Political Science in 1970 until his retirement in 2003. The room is now reinvigorated with new carpet, fresh paint, new desk chairs, updated cubicle configuration, a large whiteboard for collaboration, and desk plaques recognizing ten desk sponsors. Now that the old maze-like configuration and expired carpet are gone, the room looks brighter, more spacious, and more professional: an excellent place for our invaluable graduate students to begin their own scholarship and mentoring.

PICTURED: (upper-left) Loewenberg Graduate Suite donor recognition wall plaque (upper-right) one of the ten donor desk plaques (lower-right) view of the room after new carpet and paint completed.



## HONORING THE 2020-21 GRADUATES

As COVID-19 swept through our communities and changed life as we know it, the Political Science faculty, staff and students found ways to move forward. To honor those students who persevered to complete their studies and graduate at the height of the pandemic, wall panels now hang above the bench across from the main office. Three wall panels were installed with the names of political science and international relations students who graduated in Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, and Summer 2021.

PICTURED: (left) Wall panels honoring the 2020-21 graduates installed on the 3rd floor of Schaeffer Hall.

# DEPARTMENT NEWS

**Tara Atkinson** joined as Graduate Program Coordinator in January 2021.

**Fred Boehmke** was elected to serve as MPSA Council Member for 2021-2024.

**Kellen Gracey** taught American State Politics this fall as Adjunct Assistant Professor.

**Brian Lai** received the Lane Davis Award for Honors Team-Teaching from Honors at Iowa.

**Nicholas Martini** is currently teaching Politics of International Politics and IR Senior Seminar as Adjunct Assistant Professor.

**Ron McMullen** received a new title as Associate Professor of Practice.

**Sara Mitchell** was elected as a 2021-2024 council member for American Political Science Association (APSA) and was recently awarded funding through the Public Policy Center's Summer Policy Research Program (SPRP) for a project titled, "Disaster-Driven Migration and Conflict and the Role of Government and Third Party Action." **Elise Pizzi** also worked on the project.

**Dallas Petersen** oversees IT Support for the department, as of August 2021.

**Rene Rocha** was named the Herman J. and Eileen S. Schmidt Chair and is the Director of Latina/o/x Studies.

**Caroline Tolbert** was awarded the prestigious 2021 Carnegie Fellowship and recently given the additional title Lowell G. Battershell University Distinguished Chair.

## PhD & Placements



### Yooneui Kim, PhD 2021

Thesis: *Explaining Human Rights Cooperation and State Compliance: Analysis of the Universal Periodic Review at the United Nations Human Rights Council*

Placement: Lecturer of International Relations in the Global Studies Department of Bentley University



### Bomi Lee, PhD 2021

Thesis: *Interconnected Rivalries*

Placement: Postdoc at University of Kentucky studying international conflict, interstate rivalries, and network analysis



### Rachel Torres, PhD 2021

Thesis: *The Consequences of Policy Layering: Interactions of Policy and Context*

Placement: Assistant Professor of the politics of race and ethnicity at James Madison University



## New 2021 Graduate Students

The Department of Political Science welcomed five new graduate students to academic year 2021-2022 (picture above) L-R Weidong Zhang, Cassidy Oberreuter, Stephanie Schmitt, Alex Bezahler, and Eric Ngo. Visit their profiles online at [www.clas.uiowa.edu/polisci/graduate/graduate-students](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/polisci/graduate/graduate-students).

## Alumni Advisory Board

The Alumni Advisory Board continues to expand and has added five new members over the past year. Their focus is on supporting the department and its undergraduate students by developing several new initiatives to enhance experiential learning and hands-on experiences. The Board is also planning an alumni event in Des Moines this May.

### Welcome New Board Members



**Michael  
Charles**



**Nicole  
Fortner**



**Michael  
Hais**



**Ginny  
McCalmont**



**Ashley  
Vanorny**

For more information about the Political Science Alumni Advisory Board visit:  
[www.clas.uiowa.edu/polisci/alumni/advisory-board](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/polisci/alumni/advisory-board)

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



### **Seung Min Kim ('07)**

Seung Min was awarded the Recent Graduate 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Iowa and was featured in the University of Iowa Homecoming Parade, October 15.



### **Rebecca Kreitzer ('12)**

Rebecca was promoted to Associate Professor of Public Policy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She recently received a National Science Foundation grant to study the politics and implementation of Title X, including mapping to affordable family planning.



### **Chris McCullough ('91)**

Chris has been a business lawyer in Minneapolis for over 20 years. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of Minnesota Law School and serves on the Wayzata (MN) School Board.

**Have an update to share?**

Connect with us on LinkedIn or email [polisci@uiowa.edu](mailto:polisci@uiowa.edu).

# Poligram

Fall 2021

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