

Poligram

Fall 2020

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



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IOWA

Brian Lai
Department Chair



Welcome to the 2020-2021 edition of the *Poligram*. It has been a challenging year for everyone. As COVID-19 started to spread throughout the U.S., the Department of Political Science, like the rest of the University, rapidly transitioned to online classes in the spring. With extensive planning and effort, we were able to provide safe, socially distant classes in person and online for the fall semester. This edition of the *Poligram* focusses on the many ways we managed to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 response and what some of our alumni achieved in their own communities. Our department news features the retirement of long-time faculty member, Cary Covington.

Thank you for your continued support of our program. Please email me when you have time to share what you are up to and how you might want to be engaged with the department and our students.

Brian Lai

Standing Together and Rising to the Challenge

The challenging year of the coronavirus pandemic taught us new ways to learn, teach, work, and connect.

Our department converted 40 classes to an online format in March in response to the pandemic. While we have some expertise in developing online classes, making the change in two weeks was a bit of a challenge. Faculty worked hard to provide high-quality class experiences. Ambassador in Residence, Ron McMullen, provided students with digital versions of what he would normally go over in class, such as maps, graphs, photos, and video clips to augment his recorded lectures. Professor Elise Pizzi had students post a video for their regularly-scheduled presentation and students worked collaboratively on Zoom and shared documents. Our fall semester included a mix of online, in-person, and hybrid classes, providing students the ability to choose their mode of learning.



Though working remotely, our office maintained a sense of community using Microsoft Teams, virtual meetings, Yo!Tribe gatherings, and online group crossword puzzles. Instead of our annual awards ceremony and graduation receptions, we created video tributes for our scholars and 2020 graduates. Our speed networking event was held on Zoom for the first time and the use of webinars gave us the opportunity to present informative workshops and a multi-college election forum.



Connor Wooff

*Senior, Political Science
President, Undergraduate Student
Government*

Undergrads create an online presence

As the university shut down and students went home to communities across the country, Mara Smith and I had a job to do – engage the student body and make our case for student body president and vice president. Since the summer, we had been planning for in-person public events at downtown businesses and the T. Anne Cleary Walkway, but sitting at home with piles of campaign buttons and Tiger King on repeat we were forced to shift our efforts to solely social media. With the help of fellow students, we were able to build a strong online presence through graphics and Instagram “live” conversations. It was not the campaign experience we had hoped for, but it was a challenging opportunity that prepared us for serving students during this unprecedented online year.

Speaking up for Linn County, Iowa

As a Linn County Supervisor, I've been involved with COVID-19 mitigation and public health planning since the beginning of the pandemic. I worked with my fellow supervisors and community leaders early on to activate an incident command structure to coordinate information sharing among various entities of government. I was the designated spokesperson for the board of supervisors and our emergency operations team, holding press conferences when they were needed. In the beginning, it was a challenge to push out important information because the public was often confused or misled by inaccurate media coverage. After the first few months, our response team had to switch course to fit the long-term reality of the pandemic. Sadly, many of the actions we wanted to take, such as a temporary shelter-in-place, were in direct opposition to that of the state government, which

made it difficult to take meaningful action. Despite this resistance, our team continued to express our concerns with the Governor and issue proclamations in favor of stronger mitigation efforts.

Taking bold actions on the front end could have saved many lives, salvaged the economy, and prevented us from being in the bleak state we are currently in. As we have learned throughout the pandemic, underreacting has had grave consequences with more possible on the horizon. Our institutions must also do a better job of protecting all members of society. Addressing crises certainly requires elected leaders to consider the economic consequences of the initial event and any decisions they make afterward, but the chief priority of any leader is the safety of their people.



Stacey Walker ('10)

*Supervisor, District 1,
Linn County, Iowa*



Rachel Zuckerman ('17)

*Policy Staffer, Michigan Department
of Health and Human Services*

Responding to community needs in Detroit

My home state of Michigan was among the hardest hit in the early days of the pandemic. Back in March, as a policy staffer at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), I immediately halted work on my "day job," behavioral health policy, and transitioned fully into COVID-19 response.

For the first few weeks, the situation was rapidly changing, and I helped wherever I was needed. My team launched the public hotline that would eventually field tens of thousands of questions from concerned Michiganders. Then, when hospitals in southeast Michigan were reaching capacity in April, I helped convert Detroit's convention center—best known as the home of the North American International Auto Show—into a field hospital that could care for up to 1,000 patients. Ultimately, I spent the majority

of my time working alongside Michigan's leading public health professionals to develop our state's contact tracing strategy to contain the spread of the virus.

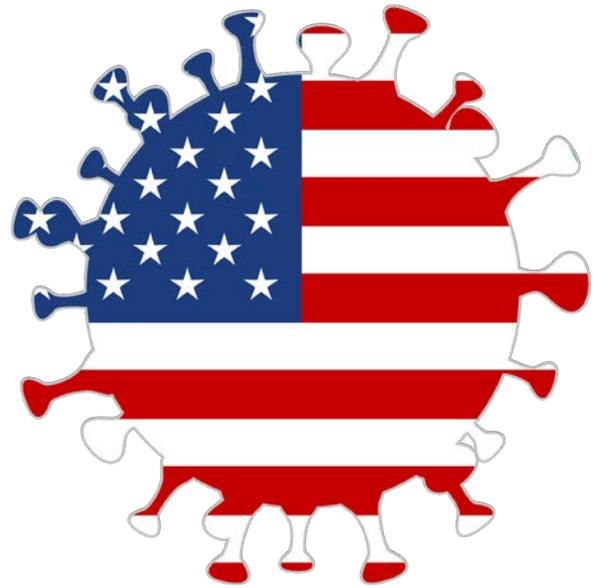
Thinking back to my time at Iowa, I remember believing I should run for office or move to D.C. to make a difference. However, my work at MDHHS, and COVID-19 response in particular, helped me see that jobs in state government offer a remarkable opportunity to impact public policy, shape government programs, and serve residents—whether responding to a once-in-a-century pandemic or redesigning Medicaid programs. For soon-to-be grads, I hope you'll look seriously at careers in state government as a worthwhile place to invest your talents!

Faculty Research

Like a virus, state responses to COVID-19 also diffuse

Frederick Boehmke

Back in March, MSNBC journalist, Chuck Todd interviewed Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, about the response to the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). He noted that “every state that touches Indiana has closed schools, but Indiana hasn’t, for instance. So is – are you risking something if not everybody is following the same guidelines?” This question acknowledges that viruses move easily across state lines, but it also underscores how success in combating the virus in one state depends on the choices made by other states. The study of policy diffusion goes back over half a century in political science and seeks to understand how policies adopted in one location affect the policy choices made in other places. The spread of state responses to COVID-19 provides an important instance of diffusion since policies that succeed in one state may save lives when they are adopted in other states. Fred Boehmke, in partnership with colleagues at Penn State and Notre Dame, received fund-



ing from the National Science Foundation to collect and publish a comprehensive database of state policy responses to COVID-19. The team includes a half dozen graduate and undergraduate research assistants at Iowa and has been collecting and coding these policy choices since March. They currently have downloaded over 1,250 laws and executive orders and identified nearly 200 different categories of policies, including regulations related to beaches, daycare centers, driving exams, funerals, notaries, and state parks.

Publications

Boehmke, Frederick J., Douglas Dion, and Charles R. Shipan. 2020. “A Duration Estimator for a Continuous Time War of Attrition Game.” *Political Science Research and Methods*, July, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1017/psrm.2020.29>.

Boehmke, Frederick J., and Richard C. Witmer. 2020. “Representation and Lobbying by Indian Nations in California: Is Tribal Lobbying All about Gaming?” *Interest Groups & Advocacy*, February. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41309-019-00078-5>.

Smith, Marianne, **Bryce Jensen Dietrich,** Er-wei Bai, and Henry Jeremy Bockholt. 2019. “Vocal Pattern Detection of Depression among Older Adults.” *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing* 29 (3): 440–49. <https://doi.org/10.1111/inm.12678>.

Hagle, Timothy M. 2020. “Prelaw Advisor: Questions and Answers for Those Considering Law School.” Independently published.

Hagle, Timothy M. 2020. “Riding the Caucus Rollercoaster 2020: The Democrats’ Race to Win the Iowa Caucuses.” Independently published.

Kim, Yooneui, and **Elizabeth J. Menninga.** 2020. “Competition, Aid, and Violence against Civilians.” *International Interactions*, June, 1–28. Published online: <https://doi.org/10.1080/03050629.2020.1777114>.

Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin, and **Elise Pizzi.** 2020. “Natural Disasters, Forced Migration, and Conflict: The Importance of Government Policy Responses.” *International Studies Review*, August. <https://doi.org/10.1093/isr/viaa058>.

Dion, Michelle L., **Sara McLaughlin Mitchell,** and Jane L. Sumner. 2020. “Gender, Seniority, and Self-Citation Practices in Political Science.” *Scientometrics*, July. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-020-03615-1>.

Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin. 2020. “Clashes at Sea: Explaining the Onset, Militarization, and Resolution of Diplomatic Maritime Claims.” *Security Studies* 29, no. 4, 637–70. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09636412.2020.1811458>.

Nelson, John S. “Horror, Crisis, and Control: Tales of Facing Evils,” *The Politics of Horror*, Damien K. Picariello, ed., New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020, pp. 17–31.

Nelson, John S. “To Go Green, Go Dark? Environmentalist Turns to Postwestern Politics.” *VoegelinView*, August 17, 2020, <https://voegelinview.com/to-go-green-go-dark-environmentalist-turns-to-postwestern-politics>.

Zaloznaya, Marina and **William M. Reisinger,** 2020. “Mechanisms of Decoupling from Global Regimes: The Case of Anti-Corruption Reforms in Russia and Ukraine,” *Demokratizatsiya*, 28 #1 (Winter), 77–112.

Reisinger, William M., Marina Zaloznaya, and **Vicki L. Hesli Claypool.** 2020. “Popular Legal Attitudes and the Political Order: Comparative Evidence from Georgia, Russia and Ukraine.” *Europe-Asia Studies*, September, 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2020.1807469>.

Ritter, Michael, and **Caroline J Tolbert.** 2020. *Accessible Elections: How the States Can Help Americans Vote.* New York: Oxford Univ. Press.

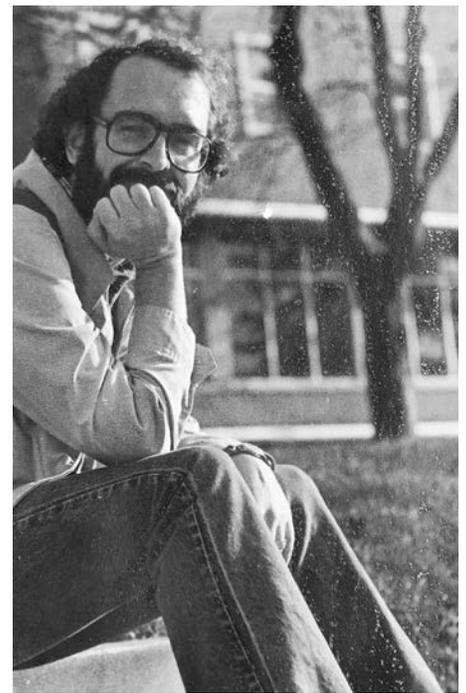
Cary Covington Retires

Cary Covington began his career at the University of Iowa in the fall of 1982. Since that time, he has taught thousands of students, advised and mentored undergraduate and graduate students, helped to build and maintain the research reputation of the department, and provided an expert voice on the U.S. presidency and elections. Cary's signature class, The Presidency, has been a fixture in our annual course offerings and the most popular class over the last decade. Cary's expert knowledge of the subject and his dedication to teaching have enriched the university experience for countless students.

As part of his efforts to provide unique and high-quality educational experiences, Cary led a class of students to the 2000 Republican National Convention and 2008 Democratic National Convention. This opportunity allowed students to see and experience a major political



event with the guidance of Cary's in-depth knowledge of the political process. Cary has also been a publicly engaged scholar. He has spoken to domestic and international audiences about a host of topics including the Iowa caucuses, U.S. elections, and the presidency. Finally, Cary is an incredible colleague. He has always been willing to help the department in any capacity. He has provided leadership and important insight into numerous decisions during his time at Iowa. We wish Cary all the best as he retires after the fall 2020 semester.



Creating the Institute for Civic Engagement

In 2013, Cary worked with the provost's office, College of Education, and the Hoover Presidential Foundation to set up the Institute for Civic Engagement. This program brought high school educators to the University of Iowa and Hoover Presidential Library and Museum to help generate ideas and plans for how to teach and promote civic engagement in their classrooms. Interest in the program grew each year and, in the seven years since its beginning, many Iowa educators have taken what they have learned back to their schools. Cary has been deeply committed to this endeavor and his passion for promoting civic engagement was clear to all the participants and is one of the primary reasons for its success. The Institute for Civic Engagement is one example of the many contributions that Cary has made to the university, our communities, and the state of Iowa.



A look back to 1982. Faculty gathered in the previous Bose Library. Pictured standing in the back L-R: Russell Ross, Doug Madsen, Bob Boynton, John Nelson, Ben Most, Bill (William) Panning, Michael Lewis-Beck. Seated in middle row L-R: Hugh Kelso, Chong Lim Kim, Cary Covington, Joel Barkan, Pat Patterson, Dick Jankowski, Jim (James) Murray. In the front row L-R: Jerry (Gerhard) Loewenberg, Lane Davis, Peter Snow, Misty Gerner, Vernon VanDyke, Greg Caldeira.

Department News

Lindsey Allemang, Cody Schmidt, and Rachel Torres received 2020 Outstanding TA awards from the University of Iowa Council of Teaching.

Fred Boehmke was selected as a 2020 co-recipient of the prestigious Excellence in Mentoring Award by the Society of Political Methodology and received an NSF RAPID Collaborative Research Grant (\$37,528) for "The Diffusion of State Policy Responses to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus."

Joseph Coll received a Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship for spring 2021.

Kelly Kadera and Sara Mitchell received a Special Projects Grant from the American Political Science Association (\$20,000) for "Journeys in World Politics."

Sara Mitchell received an ICRU Research Fellowship (\$2500) from the University of Iowa and was awarded as the 2019-2020 Best Reviewer by *Political Science Research and Methods*. She also received the 2020 Frank J. Klingberg Award for Best Paper Presented by a Faculty Member (along with Bomi Lee and Cody Schmidt) from International Studies Association and was named as Member of the Month (December 2019) by the American Political Science Association.

Martha Kirby was named president of the Midwest Association of Pre-law for a two-year term.

Elizabeth Menninga and Alyssa Prorok have received a grant from Army Research Office and the Folke Bernadotte Academy to fund their exploration of how cooperation during conflict shapes battlefield dynamics and opportunities for resolution.

Solomon Fenton-Miller left his position as graduate coordinator in the fall to pursue a PhD in Higher Education at Iowa.



The Palace of Westminster undergoing renovation. Photo taken by Prof. Osborn.

Tracy Osborn served as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Global Institute for Women's Leadership, King's College, London, UK, in spring 2020.

Julie Pacheco was selected as associate editor for *Public Opinion Quarterly*.

Caroline Tolbert was awarded a Distinguished Professorship from the University of Iowa Office of the Provost.

Tracee Saunders received a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship to fund three years of research on state variation in Medicaid accessibility.



Gerhard (Jerry) Loewenberg

1928 - 2019

Jerry Loewenberg joined the Department of Political Science in 1970, served as department chair from 1982 to 1984, and then Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 1984 to 1992. He mentored dozens of graduate students until his retirement in 2003. Jerry was known for his personal integrity, kindness, and optimism that inspired many colleagues and students.

PhD Placements

- **Jielu Yao**, PhD 2020
Doctoral Thesis: "Gender, Race, and the Politics of Crime Rhetoric"
Placement: Wesleyan University
- **Aubree Herrin**, PhD 2020
Doctoral Thesis: "Understanding Status of Forces Agreements: What Shapes Jurisdictional Control"
Placement: Thiel College
- **Courtney Juelich**, PhD 2020
Doctoral Thesis: "Millennials Rising: A New Resource Model for Youth Political Participation"
Placement: University of Wisconsin-Stout
- **Scott LaCombe**, PhD 2020
Doctoral Thesis: "Institutional Design and the Politics of U.S. States"
Placement: Smith College
- **Ki Eun Ryu**, PhD 2020
Doctoral Thesis: "Dynamics of International Treaty Diffusion"
Placement: Jeju Peace Institute
- **Josh Tschantret**, PhD 2020
Doctoral Thesis: "Essays on Categorical Violence"
Placement: Emory University

Alumni News

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Christopher Clark ('10 PhD)

Christopher is an associate professor of political science at UNC-Chapel Hill and teaches courses on state politics, minority representation, and conducts research in those areas. He is the author of *Gaining Voice: The Causes and Consequences of Black Representation in the American States*, published in March 2019.



Mackenzie Borders ('16)

Mackenzie is a staffing specialist at Google in Austin, TX. Mackenzie supports strategic recruiting initiatives, leads Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts across her organization, and investigates hiring innovations through partnerships with Google engineers. Prior to Google, Mackenzie was an intelligence analyst at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines.



Jennifer B. Chavez-Rivera ('17)

Jennifer B. Chavez-Rivera has joined Whitfield & Eddy, P.L.C. in Des Moines. As an associate attorney in the firm's business and banking group, Ms. Chavez-Rivera works with financial institutions and lenders on commercial lending transactions and is involved with real estate, wills, trusts, and estate matters.



Matthew Lathrop ('94)

Matthew Lathrop has worked in government and government relations for the last 25 years and is currently director of federal government relations at Yum Brands, Inc. in Washington, D.C. He resides in northern Virginia, with his family and two wonderful dogs.

2020-21 Alumni Advisory Board

The Alumni Advisory Board met virtually for the 2020 spring annual meeting and elected three new officers. The board thanks outgoing president, Joe Gaylord, for his years of dedicated leadership. Current projects include proposals to attract new students to the major, increase fundraising, and boost the department's social media presence. We look forward to planning the next alumni event once it is safe to host in-person gatherings.

New Officers



Joe Rubenstein
President



Tom Ewing
Vice President



Tim Ryan
Vice President

New Members



Andrea Woodard
Board Member



Seung-Min Kim
Board Member

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

Have an update to share?

Connect with us on LinkedIn or email polisci@uiowa.edu.

Poligram

Fall 2020

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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.

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