

POLITICAL SCIENCE

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Public Policy Faculty Joins Political Science

What is Political Science?

-Specialists in **comparative politics** analyze power dynamics in communities, states, and regions throughout the world.

-Specialists in **international relations** focus on the power relationships between countries and between citizens and organizations of different countries.

-Specialists in **American politics** look at the exercise of power domestically, through American institutions and processes ranging from the state to social movements.

-**Political theorists** address fundamental normative and explanatory assumptions, such as the nature and purpose of the state; who should have power and why; and what would constitute a good society.

Newsletter

Editor: Bryan Melcher

Faculty Editor: Ruth Groff



Note from the Chair, Dr. Ellen Carnaghan

The Political Science department – like the University as a whole – has entered a period of change. One of the biggest changes for the department is the retirement of Dr. Jean-Robert Leguey-Feilleux after 45 years at SLU. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Leguey-Feilleux has been awarded emeritus status and will maintain a connection to the department. He is particularly excited about continuing his contributions to Atlas week.

Last year, three faculty members decided to take jobs at other schools. Dr. Matthew Hall moved to Notre Dame; Dr. Nadia Brown went to Purdue; and Dr. Christopher Witko will direct the M.P.A. program at the University of South Carolina. While we miss these excellent colleagues, we wish them well in their new endeavors. The department conducted three successful searches for permanent replacements during the Fall semester, and we will soon share information with you about the new faculty. I am confident that the department has found excellent teachers and committed researchers who will help us re-build an outstanding department.

In addition to this faculty turnover, we are excited to welcome two new faculty members—Dr. James Gilsinan and Dr. Robert Cropf—who have joined the department from the Public Policy Studies department, which has been dissolved. Dr. Gilsinan, the E. Desmond Lee Professor in Collaborative Regional Education, was a long-serving dean of the College of Public Service. His research focuses on criminal justice and education and includes recent work on the role of private sector organizations in the control and policing of serious financial crime. Dr. Cropf has published on finance, public administration, public finance, and e-governance. Along with Drs. Gilsinan and Cropf, the department regained the M.P.A. degree, formerly offered through the College of Education and Public Service.

Second Annual Gender and Politics Conference April 26, 2013

The Second Annual Gender and Politics Conference was organized by Professors Nadia Brown and Jason Windett.

This year's Keynote Speaker was Catherine Hanaway, former U.S. Attorney for Eastern District of Missouri. She also served as the Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives.

In addition to the keynote address, the event included an undergraduate roundtable on women and lawmaking, and four different panel sessions:



Panels

- Campaigns & Elections
- Gender, Culture, & Society
- Women & Executive Power
- Women in American State Politics
- Sexuality, Politics, & Religion
- Gender & International Politics
- Undergraduate Presentations

Constitution Day Challenge

By Ms. Morgan Hazelton

The purpose of Constitution Day is to consider and celebrate the Constitution of the United States. In addition to being the primary legal text for our country it also contains many innovative features that deserve serious study. Additionally, it is oldest written Constitution in the world that is still in use and has helped shaped many constitutions throughout the world.

The Constitution Day Trivia event involved teams of undergraduate and graduate students from multiple departments showing off their knowledge of the Constitution and competing for small prizes. The questions touched on many different areas of knowledge regarding the Constitution, including: the content and interpretation of the text of the Constitution and amendments; biographical information regarding the framers; scientific knowledge regarding the preservation of the original document; and, attributes of the Constitution in a comparative context. It was a spirited competition that came down to a tie-breaking round.

The first place team consisted of Luke Sapa, Mike Hermes, and Peter Orth. The second place team consisted of Tony Bright, Cassidy Re, Kevin Mueller, and Matt Profumo.



Welcome Back Picnic!

The event took place on Friday, September 6th from 12-2pm behind McGannon Hall.



Thoughts from a ... *Comparativist*

By Dr. J.D. Bowen

There is a lot of talk about the rising US government debt. While the debt is a concern (we really do have to pay it back at some point), there are some unique features of the role of the US within the global economy that make it *somewhat* less of a problem than it might seem to be.

- **The US dollar is the world's reserve currency.** This means that when other countries save money or do business with each other, they very often use the US dollar. This reduces the threat of a rapid decline in the value of the dollar because it isn't really in anyone's interest to cause that. Yes, China could sell off all its dollars and US debt, and the US economy would suffer terribly. But China would probably suffer just as badly, if not worse, and so is very unlikely to do this.
- **Related to #1, when the US borrows money we borrow our own currency (US dollars).** This is a HUGE advantage. Consider a contrast. When Brazil borrows money, it has two choices: borrow in US dollars (at low interest rates, but in a currency they can't control) or borrow its own currency (at higher rates, but with a currency that they print). We don't have to make that trade-off. Theoretically we could pay off 100% of our debt tomorrow simply by printing more money. This would obviously stoke massive inflation, but the point is that we mostly control the value of the currency that we must repay.
- **US debt is the ultimate "safe" investment, which means that even in times of US-induced crisis, people and governments will loan us money at close to (or less than) 0% interest.** Even though many of the global economic problems of the past 5 years could reasonably be laid at the US's doorstep, we still borrow at rates far lower than almost any other country on Earth.
- **As a corollary to #3, US debt is the cornerstone of global economic stability.** In the late 1990s (the last time US debt was *declining*), the argument was that a world without US debt would be very unstable because savers would be pushed into riskier assets (like the stock market). Again, there is a limit to how much debt any country can and should amass, but the point here is that the world will give the US immense leeway in reducing our debt over a long period of time.
- **Debt has to be sustainable over the long haul, but a debt-free US, or a US with a balanced budget, would actually present real problems for the global economy.** A "safe" deficit is generally considered to be one that is smaller than GDP growth (e.g., if GDP growth is 3%, running a budget deficit that is 2% of GDP is not a problem).

So while debt is a problem, the US government has some very important advantages when compared to other countries in the world. While the lessons of highly-indebted countries like Greece and Spain are important, we must be careful in comparing the US situation to conditions in countries that don't enjoy the global advantages that we enjoy.

We've Been Busy: Recent Faculty Achievements

Awards, Grants and Recognition

- **Dr. J.D. Bowen** received a SLU Faculty Research Leave. He plans to travel to Colombia in Spring 2014 to continue a research project on sustainable development.
- **Dr. Robert Cropf** was appointed Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Civic Engagement and Social Change*.
- **Dr. Ruth Groff** has been awarded the Cheryl Frank Memorial Prize for 2012 for her book, *Ontology Revisited: Metaphysics in Social and Political Philosophy*. Dr. Groff gave a keynote address to the International Association for MacIntyrean Inquiry, a scholarly organization based on the work of the Catholic philosopher Alasdair MacIntyre. Dr. Groff was one of two theorists of causation who were invited to attend a Templeton-sponsored symposium of sociologists, and she has been invited to co-teach a follow-up workshop at Yale. Dr. Groff gave invited papers to conferences in Norway and in Austria, and was invited to join the Finnish Association for Metaphysics.
- **Dr. Jason Windett** received the Christopher Z. Mooney Dissertation Award from the State Politics section of the American Political Science Association for his dissertation, "Understanding Female Candidates and Campaigns for Governor." Drs. Jason Windett and Matthew Hall were awarded a \$5000 research grant for their project, "Estimating Gubernatorial Common Space Scores in the 50 States." Drs. Windett, Hall, and Witko, along with Michael Wolff from SLU's law school, were awarded a Presidential Research Fund grant totaling \$49,636 and have been able to employ students to help with their research this year.

Articles

J. D. Bowen

- "The Clean Development Mechanism in the Solid Waste Management Sector: Sustainable for Whom?" *Ecological Economics*, Vol. 82 (with Candace Martinez).
- "Ecuador," in Freedom House, ed. 2012. in *Countries at the Crossroads: An Analysis of Democratic Governance*. New York: Freedom House.
- "The Ethical Challenges of the UN's Clean Development Mechanism in the Solid Waste Management Sector," *Journal of Business Ethics*, 2013 (with Candace Martinez).
- "The Right and Non-party Forms of Representation and Participation: Bolivia and Ecuador Compared" Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser and Juan Pablo Luna, eds. in *The Right and Democracy in Contemporary Latin America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press (forthcoming).

Ellen Carnaghan

- "Popular Support for Democracy and Autocracy in Russia," *Russian Analytical Digest* 117, September 2012.

Robert Cropf

- "Searching for Talent in a Web 2.0 World—Succession Planning Offers Adaptability," *PA Times*, 2013.

Ruth Groff

- "Aristotelian Marxism/Marxist Aristotelianism: Marx, Aristotle and the Analysis of Abstraction," *Philosophy & Social Criticism* 38; October 2012.

Amber Knight

- “Disability and Vulnerability: Redistributing Precariousness in Egalitarian Ways,” will appear in the *Journal of Politics* 76, no. 1, in January 2014.

Tim Lomperis

- “The ‘First’ Surge: The Repulse of the Easter Invasion in South Vietnam, 1972 – Implications for Iraq and Afghanistan,” has been accepted for publication in *Small Wars and Insurgencies* and will appear sometime in 2014.

Michelle Lorenzini

- The American Political Science Association's new book on Teaching Civic Engagement contains a chapter by Dr. Michelle Lorenzini. Dr. Lorenzini's chapter describes her experiences helping students move from service to civic and political engagement through her Structure of Poverty course.
- “From Global Knowledge to Global Civic Engagement,” was published in the *Journal of Political Science Education* 9, no. 4, in November 2013.

Wynne Moskop

- “The Balcony and the Street: Gender, Virtue and Politics in George Caleb Bingham’s Antebellum America,” *American Quarterly*, June 2013.

Emmanuel Uwalaka

- “Attitude toward immigrants: Test of protestant work ethic, egalitarianism, social contract, and ethnic origin.” *International Journal for the Social Science* (with H. Matsuo, L. Willoughby, and K. McIntyre).

Ken Warren

- “Regulators Throughout American History Have Been Reluctant to Regulate and the FDA Still is Today, But Why?” forthcoming in the *Pittsburg Journal of Environmental and Public Health Law*.

Jason Windett

- “The Contextual Effects of Race and Racial Representation on Voter Behavior in Statewide Races.” co-authored with Tom Carsey. Forthcoming at *The National Political Science Review*.
- “Differing Paths to the Top: Gender, Ambition, and Running for Governor.” *The Journal of Women, Politics and Policy*.
- “Expanding the State Supreme Court Data Project.” *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, December 2013, with Matt Hall.
- “Gendered Campaign Strategies in U.S. Elections.” Forthcoming at American Politics Research.
- “Racial Stereotypes, Racial Context, and the 2008 Presidential Election.” *Politics, Groups, and Identities*. September 2013, with Kevin K. Banda, and Thomas M. Carsey.
- “State Effects and the Emergence and Success of Female Gubernatorial Candidates.” 2011, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, 11(4).

Books

Ruth Groff

- *A Critical Introduction to Causal Powers and Dispositions* (Bloomsbury, under contract).
- *Subject and Object: Frankfurt School Writings of Epistemology, Ontology, and Method* (Bloomsbury, 2014).
- *Ontology Revisited: Metaphysics in Social and Political Philosophy* (Routledge, 2012).
- *Powers and Capacities in Philosophy: The New Aristotelianism* (Routledge, 2012), Co-edited with John Greco.

MPA Merges with Political Science

Dr. Robert Cropf Interviewed

What is your background? Where did you do your undergrad work? Post grad?

I did my undergrad work at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY in the beautiful Finger Lakes region of New York. I did my MPA and Ph.D. at New York University in NYC.

How does the political Science department differ from the Masters in Public Administration program?

One good way of thinking about the MPA is that it is an applied masters degree designed for people who want to be public service professionals. In other words, if you want to work for a local government, manage a non-profit agency, be a city administrator or work for the state or federal government, it often helps to have the MPA on your resume. So the focus of the coursework in the MPA is on developing or enhancing practical skill sets such as budgeting, human resource administration, organizational decision-making, grant-writing, and the like.

What has the transition period been like for you?

It's been great! I've worked with Drs. Moskop, Carnaghan and Warren for many years so it really wasn't like going to a totally new department. The only major change was I had to go from a larger office to a smaller one so I had to get rid of a lot of stuff, which I needed to do anyway.

Are there any courses/ pet-projects that you would love to teach?

I would like to teach a course where we would read some of the classics of public policy in light of contemporary issues. I would like to include some of the Federalist Papers, Tocqueville's Democracy in America, Woodrow Wilson (founder of American public administration), Max Weber and other recognized important figures/texts in public administration/policy. But I would also like to add more recent theorists and texts as well. One thing I'd like to stress in the course is the continuity in public administration thinking from the birth of the republic to the present day as well as the adaptation to changing circumstances that characterizes public administration and policy as a pragmatic branch of political theory. Stay tuned the



Dr. James Gilsian Interviewed

What is your background? Where did you do your undergrad work? Post grad?

I started with a B.S. in Sociology from Loyola Chicago. I stayed on at Loyola for a MA in Sociology. I did my Doctoral work in Sociology at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

How does the political Science department differ from the Masters in Public Administration program?

My interests have shifted since the beginning of my career. I started out studying criminology and law enforcement. That eventually expanded into the management of public sector organizations, which was perfect for the MPA program. So when the department moved back to the political Science department, it made sense to move with it.

What has the transition period been like for you?

As the E. Desmond Lee Professor in Collaborative Regional Education, I spend about half of my time teaching, and the other half in the community. The graduate course I am teaching this semester "Organizational Theory and Behavior" is the same that I have been teaching for years. I have also been at the University since 1976, so I have known most of my colleagues for a while now. It has been a good and welcoming transition. I think that this will definitely strengthen both the M.A. in Political Science and MPA for the future.

Are there any courses/ pet-projects that you would love to teach?

I would like the department to offer a course in public service ethics, or maybe a course in human resource management. I do not think that I would teach those. I generally want to keep the courses that I have worked on, because it's a new set of courses for political science folks.