

FALL QUARTER 2024

NEWSLETTER

Department of Political Science

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome to the latest installment of our department newsletter! I am in the first months of my term as department chair, and I am still trying to get my bearings. Fortunately, my predecessor Jenn Merolla excelled as chair and has left the department in great shape. We are all deeply grateful for Jenn's service over the past three years.

We have so many exciting things happening in the department that I would like to share with you.

We are thrilled to welcome two new faculty members to the department: Dr. Andrea Silva and Dr. Diego Esparza. Andrea and Diego are going to join the department in July 2025 as associate professors of teaching. Andrea works on immigration policy and Latino politics, and Diego specializes in civil-military relations with an emphasis on Latin America. We are excited these exceptionally strong scholars will be joining us, and doubly excited since this will be a homecoming for them: they both received their PhDs from our department many years ago, and we are eager to welcome them back!

As you will see in this newsletter, our faculty and graduate students have been very productive over the past year, publishing award-winning books and peer-reviewed journal articles that speak to important contemporary political issues. Our faculty and students have also won a number of prestigious awards and grants.

This past July, the department co-hosted the 41st annual meeting of the Society for Political Methodology, which is the premier international conference for statistical methods and machine learning for political science. Over the past year we also hosted local conferences, continued our department speaker series, and held undergraduate career workshops. We continue to feature programs for undergraduates, including the NSF-funded Minority Serving Institution Research Academy (MSIRA) and the Moot Court competition program, along with our local Pi Sigma Alpha chapter. We look forward to hosting speakers and conferences again this year.

We love hearing from alumni and students about their accomplishments, so please be in touch via our department's social media ([@UCRPoliSci](https://twitter.com/UCRPoliSci)).

Finally, I want to thank the Communications Committee (Indridi Indridason, Christina Gnuschke, Steven Liao, and Nicholas Napolio) for putting this newsletter together.

Sincerely,
Kevin Esterling

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FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

- Authment, Jacob, Michelangelo Landgrave, & Nicholas **Weller**. Do Public Housing Agencies Discriminate Against Latinos? A Large-Scale Replication Study to Assess Discrimination. *Journal of Behavioral Public Administration*.
- **Bishin**, Benjamin G. & **Muttram**, Harry G. When are Identities Politically Consequential? Identifying Conditions of Descriptive, Substantive, and Allied Group Identity. *The Forum*.
- **Bowler**, S., & Johns, R. (2024). Does being 'left behind' corrode government legitimacy? Tax morale and economic stress. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*.
- **Bowler**, S., & Donovan, T. (2024). Confidence in US Elections After the Big Lie. *Political Research Quarterly*.
- **Bowler**, S., **Freebourn**, J., **Teten**, P., Donovan, T., & Vowles, J. (2023). Preferences for single-party versus multi-party governments. *Party Politics*.
- **Brookes**, Marissa. (2024). "Concentric circles of class struggle: from the workplace to the world" In *The Handbook of Labour Unions*, edited by Gregor Gall. Agenda Publishing.
- Cantú, Francisco & Miguel **Carreras**. Presidential Debates and Electoral Preferences in Weakly Institutionalised Democracies: Evidence From 32 Latin American Elections. *Journal of Politics in Latin America*.
- **Carreras**, M., Vera, S., & Visconti, G. (2024). Gender stereotypes and petty corruption among street-level bureaucrats: Evidence from a conjoint experiment. *Research & Politics*.
- Darmofal, Darmofal, Charles J. Finocchiaro, & Indridi H. **Indridason**. Forthcoming. Roll-Call Voting Under Random Seating Assignment. *Political Science Research & Methods*.
- DeMora, S.L., **Merolla**, J.L., **Newman**, B. et al. Jesus was a Refugee: Religious Values Framing can Increase Support for Refugees Among White Evangelical Republicans. *Political Behavior*.
- **Esterling**, Kevin M. and Ju Yeon Park. (2024) Flexible Estimation of Policy Preferences for Witnesses in Committee Hearings. *Political Analysis*.
- **Ferrari**, D. (2024). Does Informing Partisans About Partisan Bias Reduce Partisan Bias? *Journal of Politics*.
- **Ferrari**, Diogo. "The effect of combining a populist rhetoric into right-wing positions on candidates' electoral support." *Electoral Studies*.
- **Ferrari**, Diogo, & Arretche, M. The Effect of Information About Local Demand for Redistribution on Support for Territorial Transfers Among Affluent Groups. *Political Studies*.
- **Ferrari**, Diogo. hdpGLM: An R Package to Estimate Heterogeneous Effects in Generalized Linear Models Using Hierarchical Dirichlet Process. *Journal of Statistical Software*.
- Lee, Ahlam, Eun-A. **Park**, & HyunJung Jo. Social Comparison Concerns and Competitive Attitudes of North Korean Refugees and South Koreans: Measurement Invariance and Latent Mean Differences. *Japanese Psychological Research*.

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- **Liao**, Steven. The Effect of Firm Lobbying on High-Skilled Visa Adjudication. *The Journal of Politics*.
- McCabe, Stefan D., Diogo **Ferrari**, Jon Green, David M.J. Lazer & Kevin M. **Esterling**. Post-January 6th deplatforming reduced the reach of misinformation on Twitter. *Nature*.
- **Napolio** NG. 2024. Executive coalition building. *Journal of Public Policy*.
- **Onursal**, Deren, Adam **Hobbs** & Catherine **Wells**. Violence, what is it good for? Waves of riotous-violent protest and democracy. *Democratization*.
- Tyler T Reny, Benjamin J **Newman**, John B Holbein, Hans J G Hassell, Public mass shootings cause large surges in Americans' engagement with gun policy, *PNAS Nexus*.
- **Weller**, Nicholas & Thomas Jamieson. Correcting Myopia: Effect of Information Provision on Support for Preparedness Policy. *Political Research Quarterly*.

NEWS

- Professors Benjamin Bishin and Nicholas Weller were awarded the Bailey Award for best paper on LGBT politics presented at the 2022 APSA meeting.
- Catherine Wells was chosen as a graduate fellow for the Health Humanities and Disability Justice Lab for the 2024-2025 academic year. Her graduate fellowship will support the collection of the oral histories of mutual aid groups in the Inland Empire.
- Professor Nick Weller, along with colleagues at University of Southern California, University of Texas and Georgetown University, was awarded a \$1.059 million grant from Arnold Ventures to study policing in Los Angeles using bodyworn camera footage and administrative data. The grant will support the development of machine learning tools to extract relevant information from body-worn video footage of traffic stops. They will then use both reported police behavior from administrative data and the observed police behavior from body-worn video to study officer-driver interactions and stop outcomes, including searches and contraband recovery, from before and after the policy went into force. The researchers will also examine how these interactions and outcomes vary across different neighborhoods and by the race, gender, and other characteristics of stopped motorists.
- *Professor Jana Grittersova spent the Academic Year 2023-24 as a visiting professor at the Paris School of Economics, Paris, France (at the invitation of Professor Eric Monnet). Prof. Grittersova has joined the Steering Committee of the Political Economy section of the Rimini Centre for Economic Analysis (RCEA) and co-organized the 2024 RCEA International Conference in Economics, Econometrics, and Finance, which took place at Brunel University London from May 20 to 22, 2024.*
- Professor Jana Grittersova has been awarded a Visiting Senior Fellowship at the AxPo Observatory of Market Society Polarization at Sciences Po Paris, Paris, France for the Spring of 2026 to undertake the project titled "Political Polarization, Institutional Trust, and Voter Perceptions of Inflation."
- The University of California, Riverside's Sigma Phi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honors Society, was awarded a Best Chapter Award for 2023-2024. These

awards are intended to recognize local chapters that are particularly active in their institutions and communities and embody our society's mission to stimulate scholarship and intellectual interest in political science. Dr. David Pion-Berlin and Ms. Donna Perez serve as advisors to the chapter and were recognized for their extraordinary leadership and dedication to the students who are members of the chapter. The Sigma Phi chapter will be awarded along with five other chapters from institutions similar in size, out of over 850 Pi Sigma Alpha chapters. Pi Sigma Alpha noted that it had been impressed with the chapter's achievements in developing activities supporting student civic engagement, especially given the significant challenges students around the country continue to face.

- Professor Marissa Brookes, along with Ellen Reese, Michael Bates, and Richard Rodriguez, has been awarded a \$600,000 grant from The James Irvine Foundation to support the UCR Inland Empire Labor and Community Center's capacity to address critical issues facing workers in the region, to be spent over 24 months. Prof Brookes has also been awarded a \$200,000 grant (as PI) from the Inland Empire Community Foundation to lead a team of UCR IELCC and CSI researchers to produce a Labor Market Analysis focused on the Inland Empire for the state of California via the Community and Economic Resilience Fund program.
- Professor Noel Pereyra-Johnston was awarded the 2023-2024 Outstanding Disability Ally faculty award by UCR's Student Disability Resource Center in recognition of his exemplary support. The award announcements notes that Prof Pereyra Johnston has been "recognized and appreciated for the assistance and consistent advocacy you provided for students with disabilities to ensure they receive accommodations, services and are treated equitably, with dignity and respect."
- Minhye Joo was awarded an APSA Dissertation Research Improvement Grant. Her dissertation is entitled "How Does Contact with Street-Level Bureaucrats Impact Immigrant Incorporation?"
- Ayse Busra Topal was awarded two grants in support of her dissertation research: APSA Centennial Spring Grant and APSA Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant. In her dissertation project, she investigates how sources of Islamophobia shape emotions with consequences of different types and levels of political engagement. She uses mixed methods, including interviews, surveys, and experiments in her research. Muslims in the US are the target population of this dissertation project.
- Felicity Turkmen won two awards in support of her dissertation research. First, she was awarded a IGCC Dissertation Fellowship and will be an IGCC Dissertation Fellow AY 24-25. Second, she won the Princeton Dissertation Scholars Award. For her doctoral dissertation, Felicity explores how emigrants from illiberal regimes politically engage with their home countries, focusing on the cases of emigrants from Turkey and Zimbabwe. Building on Hirschman's exit, voice, loyalty model, Felicity argues that authoritarian diaspora engagement could be strategically designed not only to foster loyalty but also to suppress dissent (voice) and manipulate political disengagement (exit) among diaspora communities. She hypothesizes that negative diaspora engagement outreach and policies (DEPs) will lead to increased opposition, covert resistance, or disengagement. In contrast, positive DEPs will encourage political engagement, indicating loyalty to the regime in the homeland. After conducting fieldwork in the United Kingdom for a year, she plans to extend her multi-sited field research into Germany and the United States and to collect individual-level data through a survey of emigrants.
- The Loveridge Sacramento Summer Fellowship Program began in 2015 and has placed over 100 political science majors in internships. This year nearly 40 students applied. Ten Fellows were

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selected by the Department's Undergraduate Committee. They each received a \$3,000 stipend. The Fellows worked full-time for ten weeks, typically the last week in June through the last week in August. A Fellow reception was held on August 28th in Sacramento at the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies. In 2024, 14 Fellows participated. They were placed in key agencies, offices, and groups: Carter Anderson (State Senator Richard Roth); Emmanuel Aguilar (Assembly member Corey Jackson); Hien Bui (Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technology); Scott Denarola (Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis); Jasmine Esmail (League of California Cities); Killian De Rego (Governor's GO-Biz Office); Benjamin Garza (League of California Cities); Ariana Gutierrez (Assembly member of Eloise Gomez Reyes); Siman Kohli (California State Association of Counties); Raiyan Kalam (California Chamber of Commerce); Adrianni Silvano (Assembly member Sabrina Cervantes); Ashley Tsai (California Lung Association); Queen Udeh (California Councils of Government); and Daniel Williams (California Air Resources Board)

- The California Capital Fellows Program is the most competitive and prestigious legislative internship program in the country. This year (2023/24) there were three UCR Fellows: Mufida Assaf (Senate Fellow), Meenatchi Odaiyappan (Executive Fellow) and Tricia Sarmiento (Assembly Fellow). Next year (2024/25), Ricardo Gonzalez will be a Senate Fellow. All are political science majors, and all are past Loveridge Summer Fellows. .
- The Political Science Outstanding Student award is given annually to one or more rising seniors who have strong scholastic records and who have made outstanding contributions in community service and/or in department and campus organizations. The winners of this year's Outstanding Student Awards are Avanti Abhyankar, Allison Wang, and Michelle Wang. The committee also voted to award two "Honorable Mentions" to students with strong scholastic and service records: Connor Creach and Adelina Hernandez.
- Pay It Forward First Generation University Student Awards are given based on merit to students who will be juniors or seniors who are studying political science and who are in the first generation of their family to pursue a university-level education. The committee chose four winners of the Pay It Forward award: Antriana Bigiazian, Liliana Moreno-Angel, Jared Roman, and Mark Valenzuela. We also voted to designate Pay it Forward "Honorable Mentions": Eva Luna, Mildred Olivares, Bryanna Hall, and Adelina Hernandez.
- The Judge Ernest M. Lopez Memorial Grant(s) are awarded to one or more rising seniors who are disadvantaged by social or economic hardship and who will be applying to law school. The grants are to help cover the costs of preparing for and applying to law school. This year's recipients were Michelle Wang, Adelina Hernandez, and Mildred Olivares.

TWO NEW FACULTY JOIN THE DEPARTMENT



Diego Esparza comes to UCR from the Political Science Department at the University of North Texas in Denton. His research focuses on police, public security reform, and civil-military relations in Latin America. His work has been published in the *Journal of Politics in Latin America*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Democracy and Security*, and *Comparative Political Studies*. He is regularly invited to do presentations for the Department of the Navy and Department of Homeland Security in the areas of intelligence, civil-military relations, national security, and Latin American politics. He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California Riverside, and his B.A. at the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.



Andrea Silva arrives at UCR from the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. She studies race and ethnic politics and Latino and Immigration politics in the U.S. Dr. Silva's research focuses on how institutions shape political participation among marginalized groups, particularly immigrants and people of color. She challenges oversimplified views on immigration policy by examining state-level dynamics and their impact on immigrant and minority communities on topics such as licensing, education, and, most recently, food insecurity. Her forthcoming book investigates how direct democracy mechanisms influence state immigration policies, arguing for their significant role in shaping legislative outcomes and state-level political behaviors. She earned her Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of California, Riverside, an M.A. at Illinois State University, and her B.A. at Loyola Marymount University.

INCOMING PH.D. COHORT

The Political Science Department has another excellent cohort of PhD students entering this year. The ten new students span the subfields of the discipline and come from around the US and the world. They are the first group admitted since the department implemented two important changes to our funding model and admission process. For the first time, we are able to offer admitted students five years of funding. This will provide students the confidence that they will be funded through the five years that is generally considered timely completion of the PhD. We have also adopted a new admissions process. We have adopted a holistic approach to admissions, which has included dropping the requirement of the GRE exam. Applications are now evaluated by a panel of five faculty members using a standardized rubric. We believe that this process will yield a more reliable and equitable way of identifying the most promising candidates for graduate study.

Our PhD students constitute a central component of the department's mission and play an important role in the intellectual life of the department, contributing to our research and publications as well as to our substantial undergraduate teaching program. They continue to be placed in excellent positions from Southern California to all corners of the world.

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DEPARTMENT WORKSHOPS AND TALKS

The department maintains an active workshop and speaker series. Last academic year we hosted the SoCal Political Institutions & Political Economy Conference and Polmeth 41.

We have been pleased to host the following speakers in the past academic year:

- Allison Hartnett (USC) “The Glorious Revolution that Wasn’t: Rural Elite Conflict and Demand for Democratization”
- Andy Baker (Purdue) “Does Trade Boost Soft Power? Experimental Evidence for the Gentle Commerce Hypothesis from Mexico and the US”
- Wendy Wong (University of British Columbia) “We, The Data: Human Rights in the Digital Age”
- Benjamin Bishin (UC Riverside) “Elite-led Mobilization & Gay Rights: Dispelling the Myth of Mass Opinion Backlash”
- Susan Webb Yackee (University of Wisconsin-Madison) “Malleable Partisanship? Political Dynamics in Bureaucratic Elites’ Partisan Identification.”
- Tye Rush (UCSD) “What Motivates State Legislators’ Behavior on Restrictive Voter Identification Bills.”
- Margaret Peters (UCLA) “Restraining the Huddled Masses: How Authoritarian Leaders Use Emigration Policy to Bolster Their Rule.”
- Farah Godrej (UC Riverside) “Freedom Inside? Yoga and Meditation in the Carceral State”
- Chad Hazlett (UCLA) “Sensitivity to confounding in a world of imperfect identification.”

POLMETH 2024 @ UC RIVERSIDE

The department co-hosted the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology, which was held July 18-20, 2024, at the Mission Inn, in Riverside. “Polmeth” is the premier meeting in political science for research advancing applied statistics and machine learning methods. The meeting provided an opportunity for leading faculty and advanced PhD students to showcase and receive feedback on recent work in the field of political methodology as well as empirical applications of quantitative methods to substantive questions in political science and beyond.

There were over 240 participants, roughly half graduate students and half faculty, who traveled to Riverside from universities across the globe. The conference included panel paper presentations and poster sessions for faculty members and graduate students and provided ample opportunity for rich interaction and scholarly interchange. You can read more about this year’s Polmeth at the conference website, <https://polmeth.ucr.edu/>



MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTION RESEARCH ACADEMY

The Minority Serving Institution Research Academy (MSIRA) offers opportunities to undergraduate students to get hands-on training in how to do research. College students majoring in Political Science from minority-serving institutions (MSIs) in southern California are eligible to apply to become MSIRA fellows. MSIRA fellows will receive formal training in research methods via a ten-week course and then complete a 10-week research apprenticeship. MSIRA fellows will support a public engagement research study, and selected MSIRA fellows will be matched to a scholar of political science at a southern California MSI who will serve as their mentor. During their apprenticeship, MSIRA fellows will provide research support to their mentors and have opportunities to learn more about applying to graduate school.

MSIRA is part of a broader project that examines the impact of “publicly engaged political science” and contributes to diversifying the academic community. Through a grant awarded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to UC Riverside political scientists Marissa Brookes, Kim Yi Dionne, and Jennifer Merolla, the research project will measure the social and research impact of public engagement, or scholars communicating beyond academic audiences and sharing their expertise with a broader, more general audience. The research project will advance knowledge by contributing rigorous evidence to the small but growing academic literature that shows scholarship that is publicly engaged can have greater academic and societal reach.

We offered the class every quarter over this past academic year. Sixty students successfully completed the course. For the fall and winter cohorts, 36 of the 40 students successfully completed the apprenticeship, while the apprenticeships for the spring cohort are still in progress. We are proud of the accomplishments of our fellows so far, including Cookie Kim, who has been accepted to UCLA's PhD program, and Sarah Mascarenhas and Debanhi Rojas, who completed NSF Summer REUs (Research Experience for Undergraduates).

Recently, the PIs initiated analyses to measure MSIRA's impact. So far, they have analyzed panel survey data of the 25 students in MSIRA's first cohort and have analyzed focus groups that we conducted with this cohort. Although these analyses are ongoing, we see in the survey data an uptick in plans to continue education beyond the undergraduate degree, rising confidence in the next steps to take toward one's future career, and growing confidence in one's ability to conduct research. Here are a few quotes from the focus groups we conducted:

“I think [MSIRA] also was really cool for me to experience . . . and it definitely opened my eyes up to like wanting to do potential research, like maybe pursuing a PhD, things like that. . . . I feel like being a part of this program definitely really showed me like, oh, I could really just kind of find something that I really am interested in within the field of political science and just really understand it. . . . I think being a part of this like it definitely opened my eyes . . . , like I could definitely see myself doing research as well.” (CP, A231004B_transcript)

“At first, I was like very not confident in what I was doing, essentially. But now I feel like . . . it was very, very good introduction to how research goes and how it works . . . So definitely left me more confident with wanting to dive more into research.” (KDLCR, A231004B_transcript)

LIFTED



This fall, UCR joins the 1 percent of U.S. colleges and universities offering a bachelor's degree program within the confines of a prison. Co-directed by Prof. Farah Godrej in Political Science, along with Prof. Amos Lee in the School of Education, UCR's prison BA program, now known as LIFTED (Leveraging Inspiring Futures Through Educational Degrees) is on track to replicate the success of UC Irvine's LIFTED prison program, which launched in Fall 2022 and recently graduated their first cohort of incarcerated students with a UC bachelor's degree in June of 2024.

UCR's first cohort of approximately 25 incarcerated transfer students were admitted through the regular Admissions review process, and are soon to begin classes this fall quarter at California Rehabilitation Center (CRC), a prison located approximately twenty-five miles from campus. Admitted students have all earned an associate's degree (or equivalent) offered inside the prison by Norco College, one of three community colleges operated by the Riverside Community College District. With 2 years of college courses already under their belts, the students will graduate with a UCR Bachelor's degree in two years. Classes will be taught by faculty from the School of Education as well as a variety of departments within the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, including Political Science; Sociology; Psychology; Theater, Film and Digital Production; Society, Environment and Health Equity; and Liberal Studies. Faculty will receive specialized training and support for their participation. The courses offered will be part of UCR's already-approved curriculum for a major in Education, Society and Human Development through the School of Education (SoE) and will be taught a by faculty members from the SoE and CHASS.

LIFTED is a logical and prescient expansion of UCR's mission to bring a world-class college education to students of color and/or those who come from underserved backgrounds and communities. UCR LIFTED actively welcomes faculty from all departments across campus who wish to teach in our program at the CRC campus. For further information, or to get involved, please contact Prof. Farah Godrej, Co-Director of LIFTED, at godrej@ucr.edu.

RECENT GRADUATES

- Igor Acácio (Ph.D. 2022) has joined CSU Fullerton as an Assistant Professor.
- Stephanie L. DeMora (Ph.D. 2022) has joined SUNY Stony Brook as an Assistant Professor.
- Andrew Flores (Ph.D. 2015) has been promoted to Associate Professor at American University.
- Deren Onursal (Ph.D. exp 2024,) has accepted a lecturer position at University of Amsterdam
- Alexander Ross (Ph.D. 2024) is joining the University Laval, Quebec as a postdoctoral fellow

STUDENTS ON THE MARKET



Eric Benjamin Mackey (Ph.D. exp. 2025) is a political theorist and Ph.D. candidate in the political science department at UC Riverside. He holds an MA in Political Science from UC Riverside, and an MA in Liberal Studies from Valparaiso University. Eric specializes in contemporary democratic theory, focusing on analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of various models attempts to grapple with the problems of elite philanthropy, neoliberalism, and ideology. His dissertation argues that deliberative democratic theory offers valuable insights into how elite philanthropy exacerbates political inequalities by examining discourse and ideology. His work advances existing critiques that emphasize how wealthy donors have unequal influence over democratic institutions by illustrating the ideological effects of such behavior on political institutions. His other current research explores how deliberative democratic theory engages with the concepts of ideology and ideology critique, seeks to broaden how elite philanthropy is understood in democratic theory, and analyzes how using philanthropy to replace welfare state functions can weaken democratic norms.



Nicholas T. Willis (Ph.D. 2022) is a political scientist whose research interests include populism, voting behavior, and political parties, with a substantive focus on Western Europe. His work uses quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods. His recent work has focused on the sources of motivation behind voting for populist parties on both the left and right. Other recent projects focus on the effects of party behavior on vote-switching in two-round electoral systems.



Minhye Joo is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science at UC Riverside. Her research addresses questions in American politics and the politics of race, ethnicity, and immigration with a focus on immigrant incorporation in the U.S. Her dissertation examines how interactions with street-level bureaucrats impact immigrants' political attitudes and behaviors in the host country. Using a mixed-method approach, she highlights the role of public services provided by street-level bureaucrats in immigrant political incorporation. Minhye's research has been supported by multiple prestigious research grants and fellowships, including the APSA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG), the Russell Sage Foundation's Dissertation Research Grant, and the UCR Graduate Dean's Dissertation Research Grant. She holds a master's degree in political science from Seoul National University.

NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS



Professor Jana Grittersova has undertaken a new multi-part research project titled “Political Polarization, Institutional Trust, and Voter Perceptions of Inflation” in collaboration with the Centre for Political Research at Sciences Po, Paris, and its Director, Kevin Arceneaux, Professor of Political Science. The research project explores voters' perceptions of inflation and how these perceptions are influenced by their political affiliation. In particular, it aims to shed light on how supporters of anti-establishment parties differ in their inflation expectations compared to mainstream party supporters. The research will consist of two sub-projects. The first involves a national survey conducted in France both before and after the 2024

European Parliament elections, which examines how inflation perceptions differ across political affiliations, comparing the inflation aversion of voters aligned with traditional left-right parties to those supporting anti-establishment groups, including radical-left, far-right, populist, and Eurosceptic parties. Additionally, the study investigates how inflation expectations relate to trust in national and European institutions (e.g., governments, parliaments, and central banks). The second project is a cross-national study that will analyze regional voting data to assess the influence of inflation on election outcomes and institutional trust across multiple European countries, including France, Germany, Austria, Spain, Portugal, and Italy. It aims to explore how rising inflation impacts electoral results by using regional voting data and regional inflation shocks. It also seeks to determine whether inflationary pressures lead to a decline in trust toward institutions. A novelty of this research is its emphasis on the inflation perceptions of populist party supporters, in contrast to the existing body of work that primarily focuses on partisan biases along the traditional left-right political spectrum. This project advances the study of the political economy of populism by clarifying the connections between inflation, political trust, and populist party support. Ultimately, the research aims to shed light on the complex relationship between political polarization, voter attitudes toward inflation, and their broader implications for democratic processes in Europe, especially against the backdrop of increasing voter discontent over the cost of living and the energy crisis. Historically, significant political upheavals have often occurred alongside periods of high inflation, from the French Revolution to the rise of Nazism.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Professor Indridi H. Indridason published an article titled “Pieces of the puzzle? Coalition formation and tangential preferences ” co-authored with Patrick Dumont, Albert Falcó-Gimeno, and Daniel Bischof. In the article, they tackle a 40-year-old claim about coalition formation that had become the received wisdom in the literature. The claim is that when it comes to forming government coalitions, parties that care about different issues will find it easier to reach an agreement and to form a coalition. They put the claim, which never has been tested systematically, to a test. They demonstrate, using data on coalitions formations in the post-WWII period in Western Europe, that there is little to suggest that parties that attach different salience to different issues are more likely to form coalitions

together. They offer an alternative perspective and find is that parties that care about similar issues are more likely to form coalitions together. The logic is that governments face budget constraints. Satisfying the fiscal demands of parties that care about different issues is not feasible and, therefore, coalitions are more likely to form coalitions based on agreement about issue salience and policy positions.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Kevin D. Pham, (PhD 2020), Assistant Professor at the University of Amsterdam

Kevin is a political theorist. His work explores the history of political thought and gives attention to how ideas of freedom, rights, and democracy are interpreted by non-Western political thinkers, especially those living under colonialism.

His first book, *The Architects of Dignity: Vietnamese Visions of Decolonization*, will be published on September 24, 2024 with Oxford University Press. Vietnam has long been a crossroads of empires and thus a site of rich cross-cultural intellectual exchange. In *The Architects of Dignity*, Kevin is the first political theorist to introduce Vietnamese political thought to debates in political theory, showing how Vietnamese thinkers challenge Western conventional wisdom. Drawing on Vietnamese and French language material, Kevin traces an intergenerational debate among six influential Vietnamese intellectuals and political leaders who had competing visions for how the Vietnamese should strengthen themselves to stand up to French colonial domination. As theorists from a peripheral nation, they struggled to identify a national cultural heritage to be proud of or take guidance from. Rather than despair, they harnessed feelings of shame for their anti-colonial and nation-building projects.

His articles have been published in journals such as *Theory & Event*, *Polity*, *Review of Politics*, *European Journal of Political Theory*, and elsewhere.

After graduating from UCR, Kevin was an Assistant Professor at Gettysburg College. In 2023, he moved to the University of Amsterdam (where he earned his master's degree in Conflict Resolution in 2012 and where, as a student, he wrote in his diary that it would be a dream to be a professor there one day).

Outside of academia, Kevin co-hosts a podcast about Vietnamese intellectual history called Nam Phong Dialogues. He also leads educational trips for university students to regions in the world affected by conflict, such as Vietnam and Northern Ireland, through the Center for International Experiential Learning.

Kevin has fond memories of UCR and thanks the faculty in the UCR political science department for their care and mentorship.

For more information, here is his website: www.kevindoanpham.com

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Igor Acácio (*PhD 2022*), Assistant Professor at California State University, Fullerton

Dr. Igor Acácio is an Assistant Professor of Political Science in the Division of Politics, Administration & Justice at California State University, Fullerton, where he teaches classes on Comparative Politics, International Relations and Latin American Politics.

Prior to joining Cal State Fullerton in July 2024, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Tulane University's Center for Inter-American Policy and Research (CIPR) and a Hans J. Morgenthau Fellow at the Notre Dame International Security Center (NDSIC). His research has been supported by the Fulbright Program, the University of California's Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC), and the Getúlio Vargas Foundation.

Dr. Acácio earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Riverside in 2022, under the supervision of Dr. David Pion-Berlin, with Drs. Miguel Carreras and Nick Weller serving as committee members. His research focuses on civil-military relations, democracy, military missions, and broader security and defense issues, with a regional emphasis on Latin America. Using both quantitative and qualitative methods, Dr. Acácio investigates the causes and consequences of the involvement of the military in public security and other governmental tasks, and their impact on democratic governance, human rights, and security. In addition, he is interested in the causes and consequences of police militarization in Latin America. His work has been published in journals such as **Comparative Politics**, **Democratization**, **Journal of Democracy**, **Armed Forces and Society**, and **Public Opinion Quarterly**.

His most recent project is a book manuscript titled *Presidentialism and Civil-Military Relations: Brazil in Comparative Perspective*, co-authored with Octavio Amorim Neto, which is under final revisions with Palgrave Macmillan. The book investigates the relationship between presidents and the military, focusing on how this dynamic shapes cabinet militarization and its broader impact on national politics and defense policy. Other ongoing co-authored projects analyze the creation of alternative security forces in Latin America and the responses militaries pursue when populist presidents seek to co-opt and politicize them.

Other ongoing projects, co-authored with fellow UC Riverside alumnus Dr. Andrew Ivey (PhD 2022), analyze the creation of alternative security forces in Latin America and the responses pursued by militaries when populist presidents attempt to co-opt and politicize them.

Finally, Dr. Igor Acácio is currently working on a solo project to convert his dissertation into a book manuscript. This project builds on his doctoral research, which explores the politics of military deployment for public security and its implications for democratic governance and civil-military relations, particularly in Latin America.