FALL QUARTER 2023

NEWSLETTER

Department of Political Science

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

I am delighted to introduce you to our inaugural department newsletter! We have so many exciting things happening in the department that we thought it was time to share the good news with students, alumni, and friends.

We are thrilled to welcome four new members to the department: Dr. Laura Evans, Dr. Desireé Melonas, Dr. David Miller, and Dr. Nicholas Napolio!

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.

Last year was the first year that felt more like pre-pandemic times as we hosted local conferences, launched our department speaker series, and held undergraduate career workshops. We also started new programs for undergraduates, including the Minority Serving Institution Research Academy (MSIRA) and the Moot Court competition program, and rebooted Pi Sigma Alpha. 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).

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

Sincerely,

Jenn Merolla

UC
RIVERSIDE

RECENT FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

- Banks, Antoine J, Heather M. Hicks, and **Jennifer L. Merolla**. 2022. Emotionally Coping with Terrorism. *Public Opinion Quarterly* 86(4): 812-836.

- **Bowler, Shaun, Miguel Carreras**, and **Jennifer L. Merolla**. 2023. Trump Tweets and Democratic Attitudes: Evidence from a Survey Experiment. *Political Research Quarterly* 76(3): 1325-1339.

- Darmofal, Darmofal, Charles J. Finocchiaro, & **Indridi H. Indridason**. Forthcoming. Roll-Call Voting Under Random Seating Assignment. *Political Science Research & Methods*.

- **DeMora, S. L., Lindke, C., Long, S., Merolla, J. L., & Osorio, M. A.** 2023. The Effect of the Political Environment on White Women's Political Ambition. *Political Research Quarterly*.

- **Duarte, Fernando Márquez,** and Victor Alejandro Espinoza Valle, editors. 2022. *Decolonizing Politics and Theories from the Abya Yala.* E-International Relations.

- Dumont, Patrick, Albert Falcó-Gimeno, **Indridi H. Indridason**, and Daniel Bischof. Forthcoming. Pieces of the Puzzle? Coalition Formation and Tangential Preferences. *West European Politics.*

- **Farah, Godrej**. 2022. *Freedom Inside? Yoga and Meditation in the Carceral State*. Oxford University Press.

- **Ferrari, Diogo**. 2022. The Effect of Party Identification and Party Cues on Populist Attitudes. *Research & Politics* 9(4): 1-10.

- **Liao, Steven**, and Daniel McDowell. 2022. Closing Time: Reputational Constraints on Capital Account Policy in Emerging Markets. *The Review of International Organizations* 17: 543-568.

- **Liao, Steven**. 2023. The Effect of Firm Lobbying on High-Skilled Visa Adjudication. *The Journal of Politics* 85(4): 1416-1429.

- **Merolla, Jennifer**, Zoe Nemerever, Mackenzie Lockhart, Thad Kousser, Mindy Romero, and Seth Hill. 2023. Emotional Reactions to COVID-19 Projections and Consequences for Protective Policies and Personal Behavior. *Political Psychology* 44: 1053-1076.

- **Newman, Benjamin J.,** Tyler T. Reny, and **Bea-Sim Ooi**. 2022. The Color of Disparity: Racialized Income Inequality and Support for Liberal Economic Policies. *Journal of Politics* 84(3): 1818-1822.

- **Newman, B.J.**, Reny, T.T. & **Merolla, J.L.** 2023. Race, Prejudice and Support for Racial Justice Countermovements: The Case of "Blue Lives Matter" *Political Behavior.*

- VanSickle-Ward, Rachel, Adrian Pantoja, **Morrey Liedke**, and Dana Nothnagel. 2023. Abortion, Attitudes, and Appointments: How Gender and Reproductive Rights Shaped Views on Amy Coney Barrett and Voter Turnout in 2020. *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy* 44(1): 40-55.

- Velásquez, Zabdi R., Jasmine Esmail, Harry Stoltz, **Fulya Felicity Turkmen**, Owura Kuffuor, **John Burnett**, Naia Pizarr, Kimberly Aguilar, Allison Wang, Alex Kozak, **Eun-A Park**, and **Kim Yi Dionne**. 2023. "Undergraduates and Political Science Research: Insights from Research Assistants in a Minority-Serving Institution Lab." *PS: Political Science & Politics*.

- **Wang, D., Merolla, J.,** & Manganiello, A. 2023. The Effect of Counterstereotypic Gender Strategies on Candidate Evaluations in American Elections. *Politics & Gender,* 1-24.

FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

- Marissa Brookes, Kim Yi Dionne, and Jennifer Merolla, all faculty in the Department of Political Science at UC Riverside received a **National Science Foundation** grant for their project, "Assessing the Effects of a Publicly Engaged Political Science using the MSI Research Academy." The funding is part of the NSF's Build and Broaden 3.0 initiative, which supports research, training and research infrastructure at Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs).

- Farah Godrej was awarded the **Charles Taylor Book Award** and the honorable mention of the **PROSE Award** for Scholarly Excellence.

- Ph.D. student Fernando Márquez Duarte was awarded a grant from The Center's Valuing Open and Inclusive Conversation and Engagement (<u>VOICE</u>) for the organization of the Decolonial Praxis Conference.

- Ph.D. candidate Minhye Joo was awarded a doctoral research grant from the **Russell Sage Foundation**. Minhye Joo will explore how immigrants 'experiences with street-level bureaucrats shape their political attitudes and political participation. She will conduct focus groups, interviews, an observational survey, and survey experiments for her study.

- David R. Miller won the 2023 Jewell-Loewenberg Award for the best American Politics article in Legislative Studies Quarterly for "On Whose Door to Knock? Organized Interests' Strategic Pursuit of Access to Members of Congress."

- Nicholas G. Napolio won the **Kenneth J. Meier award** for the best paper on bureaucratic politics, public administration, or public policy for "**Executive Coalition Building.**"

- Political science major Lorelei Van Daele was awarded the Jenkin Outstanding Paper Award for "Gold, Glory and Gaming the System: Explaining Russian Ideologies and Foreign Policy Behaviors through Russia's State-Sponsored Doping Program."

- The Loveridge Sacramento Summer Fellowship Program began in 2015 and has placed nearly 100 political science majors in internships. This year nearly 40 students applied. Ten Fellows are selected by the Department's Undergraduate Committee. They each receive a $3,000 stipend. The Fellows work full-time for ten weeks, typically the last week in June through the last week in August. In 2023, 13 Fellows participated. They were placed in key agencies, offices, and groups: Assembly members Cervantes, Garcia, Jackson, and Reyes; State Senator Roth; California Air Resources Board; California Council of Governments; California Forward; California Lung Association; California Solar and Storage Association; California State Association of Counties; Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies; Governor's GO-Biz Office; and League of California Cities.

- Three political science majors were selected for **The Capital Fellow Program** in Sacramento. The Capital Fellow Program is the most prestigious, and competitive, state legislative intern program in the country. Tricia Sarmiento will be an Assembly Fellow, Mufida Assaf a Senate Fellow, and Meenatchi Odaiyappan an Executive Fellow.

FOUR NEW FACULTY JOIN THE DEPARTMENT

Laura E. Evans arrives to UCR from the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Washington, Seattle. She studies race and politics, Native American politics, federalism, and political institutions in the U.S. Dr. Evans' work addresses both historic and continuing obstacles to Native American tribal governments' exercise of sovereignty and self-determination. She documents how tribes respond to their context in order to dismantle barriers and expand opportunities to self-govern. Her scholarship has addressed topics such as tribes' relations with federal, state, and local governments; tribes' responses to climate change and COVID-19; and Native American political attitudes. She earned her Ph.D. in Political Science and M.P.P in Public Policy at the University of Michigan, and her B.A. at the University of California at Berkeley.

Dr. Desireé Melonas was an Assistant Professor of Political Theory and Coordinator for and founder of the Distinction of Black Studies program at BSC prior to joining UCR. She was recently awarded and completed a one-year, Woodrow Career Enhancement Fellowship through the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation (now named The Institute for Citizens and Scholars). During that time, she worked on her current book project, Place in Black: Moving Racial Geographies, which is an examination into the layered relationship between place and the Black subject. Her work has appeared in *Theory & Event, Meridans, Women Studies Quarterly (WSQ)*, *National Review of Black Politics*, *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy*, and *Philosophy and Global Affairs*. Desireé is looking forward to teaching classes that, among other things, center on questions of Black geographies. When she is not teaching and researching, Desireé enjoys hiking, practicing yoga, and attempting to learn piano.

David Miller is a scholar of American political institutions with a focus on the presidency, organized interests, and legislative politics. David's research has appeared in academic journals such as *American Political Science Review*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, and *Political Research Quarterly*, and he is currently working on a book project, All the President's Organized Interests, which examines how presidents engage with organized interests to pursue their electoral and policy goals. He is also a founding co-organizer of the Junior Americanist Workshop Series (JAWS), a virtual research seminar for early-career American politics scholars founded during the COVID-19 pandemic. David joins UCR from East Tennessee State University, where he was an assistant professor. David received his PhD from Washington University in St. Louis in May 2020 and served as a postdoctoral research scholar at Vanderbilt University during the 2020-21 academic year.

Nicholas G. Napolio is an incoming assistant professor of political science. His research examines whether and how bureaucrats achieve their preferred policy outcomes despite presidential or congressional opposition, and how formal and informal institutions within American legislatures shape policy outcomes in both the short and long term. His work uses modern tools of social scientific research – including causal inference and computational social science – on a range of contemporary and historical data. His research has been published in the *American Political Science Review*; *American Politics Research*; *Journal of Policy History*; *Journal of Historical Political Economy*; *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy*; *Party Politics*; *Politics, Groups, and Identities*; *Political Science Research and Methods*; *Presidential Studies Quarterly*; and *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*. He received his PhD from the University of Southern California.

DEPARTMENT WORKSHOPS AND TALKS

The department has maintained an active workshop and speaker series over the past year. Last academic year we hosted a meeting of The Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium, a Gender & Political Psychology Conference, and the Southern California Political Behavior Conference. Upcoming conferences include the SoCal Political Institutions and Political Economy Conference on October 27, 2023 and Polmeth 41 on July 18-20, 2024.

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

- Roselyn Hsueh (Temple) "Micro-Institutional Foundations of Capitalism: Sectoral Pathways to Globalization in China, India, And Russia"

- Justine Davis (University of Michigan) "Parochial Altruism in Civil Society Leaders: Legacies of Contested Governance"

- Christine Slaughter (Princeton University) "Ain't No Stopping Us Now: African Americans, Political Engagement, and Resilience"

- Paul Gutierrez (University of Florida) "The Settler Colonial and Revolutionary Origins of the American Corporation"

- Anais Passos (Federal University of Catarina, Brazil) "Democracies at War Against Drugs in Brazil and Mexico"

- Mark Copelovitch (University of Wisconsin-Madison) "The Information Economy: Media Consumption, Political Networks, and Public Attitudes Toward Inflation"

- Hanna Kleider (King's College London) "Partisanship, Regressive Taxation, and Welfare States"

- Paul Apostolidis (LSE) "Marx and Microwork: Night Work and Social Reproduction in the Factory and on the Platform"

- Jesse Driscoll (UCSD) "Ukraine's Unnamed War!"

- Andrea Headley (Georgetown University) "Body-Worn Cameras, Police Arrests, and Racial Disparities: Evidence from a Large-Scale Staggered Difference-in-Differences Analysis"

- Alisa Bierria (UCLA) "Structural Racism Within Reason"

POLMETH 2024 @ UC RIVERSIDE

The University of California Riverside is hosting the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology, which will be held July 18-20, 2024, at the Mission Inn, in Riverside, CA. "Polmeth" is the premier meeting in political science for research advancing applied statistics and machine learning methods. The meeting provides 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. The call for paper and poster submissions will be in late January 2024. Stay tuned for details!

UNDERGRADUATE CAREER WORKSHOPS

The Undergraduate Committee, with the assistance of the department GSR, organized six career workshops in the Fall and Spring quarters of 2022-23. The aim of these workshops was to introduce different career pathways for our Political Science majors. Each workshop included 4-5 speakers, several of whom were UCR alumni. All the meetings were of hybrid nature and well attended by our majors. We provided food and drinks for those who attended in person.

After a general overview session where possible careers for political science graduates were introduced, there were sessions on 1) state and local government jobs, 2) international careers, 3) graduate school, 4) jobs in the private/non-profit sector, and 5) law school. Speakers introduced the careers and the different ways to work in their fields, explained what "a day in the life" of someone in their career looked like, and advised students on how to develop the necessary skills for that career.

In 2023-24, the Undergraduate Committee plans to continue these workshops in the Fall and Winter quarters. The main goal is to institutionalize these workshops, to ensure that students are aware of various career options, and to foster exchanges between UCR political science alumni and undergraduates.

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 each MSIRA fellow 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.

RECENT GRADUATES

- Stefan Kehlenback (Ph.D. 2022) has accepted an Assistant Professor position in the Department of Politics at SUNY Albany. Kehlenback was previously a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto.

- Heba Hodaly (Ph.D. 2022) has accepted an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Saddleback College.

- Nicholas Jenkins (Ph.D. 2023), Data Scientist, General Motors

- Stephanie L. DeMora (Ph.D. 2022) Post-doctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania

- Maricruz Osorio (Ph.D. 2022), Assistant Professor, Bentley University

- Igor Acácio (Ph.D. 2022) Post-doctoral Fellow, Tulane University

- Andrew Ivey (Ph.D. 2022) Assistant Professor, University of Houston-Downtown

- Sean Long (Ph.D. 2023) Postdoctoral Fellow, George Washington University

STUDENTS ON THE MARKET

Igor Acácio (Ph.D. 2022, igoracacio.com) is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Tulane University's Center for Inter-American Policy and Research (CIPR) and recently concluded a Hans J. Morgenthau Fellowship at Notre Dame University's International Security Center (NDISC). His research focuses on democracy and civil-military relations, and defense and security issues, with a geographical focus on Latin America. To answer these research questions, he draws on both quantitative and qualitative approaches to inquiry. His recent work has been published in *Comparative Politics, Democratization, Journal of Democracy, Armed Forces and Society, and Public Opinion Quarterly*. 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.

Stephanie L. DeMora (Ph.D. 2022, www.stephaniedemora.com) is the Arlin M. and Neysa Adams Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center. She specializes in American politics and mass political behavior. Her research investigates the psychological drivers of political engagement and behavior of underrepresented groups. Her work is published in top journals such as the *British Journal of Political Science, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Policy and Politics, and Public Opinion Quarterly,* among others. DeMora is also co-author of *Motivating Black Turnout with Celebrations of Community* (New York University Press, under contract), and contributor to *The Cambridge Handbook of Political Psychology* (Cambridge University Press, 2022).

Justin Freebourn (Ph.D. 2023, justinfreebourn.com) is a recent graduate of the political science doctoral program. His areas of concentration are American politics and mass behavior, with an emphasis on public opinion and policy preferences. In his dissertation, Justin builds on recent work in the study of fiscal policy preferences to demonstrate a preference for fiscal spending policies perceived that treat people equally (e.g., universal basic income). In his broader research, Justin examines the development of American political ideology, tracing the evolution of republican political thought from its imperial roots to corporate form today. This research was funded in part with a Collaborate Grant from the Blum Initiative on Global & Regional Poverty. His work has been published in *Political Parties*, *Political Research Quarterly*, and *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.

Sean Long (Ph.D. 2023, seandlong.com) is a Postdoctoral Associate at George Washington University. He is primarily interested in studying political behavior and racial politics within the United States. Specifically, his research explores the relationship between extremist activity and broader dynamics within mainstream public opinion, employing a combination of text analysis, machine learning, and qualitative field work. He received his PhD in Political Science from the University of California, Riverside, as well as an MA in American Government from Georgetown University and a BA in Philosophy from Reed College. His research has been published in *Politics, Groups, and Identities, Urban Affairs Review,* and *Political Research Quarterly,* and he is currently finishing a manuscript set to be reviewed by Oxford University Press. Sean is also an experienced teacher and has taught classes at UC Riverside, Chapman University, the University of Oregon, and the University of Redlands.

Lewis Luartz (Ph.D. 2022, lewisluartz.com) is an Instructional Assistant Professor at Chapman University. Lewis's research interests span the different dimensions of electoral politics and voting behavior in Europe, Asia, and the United States. Lewis has published in journals such as the *Swiss Political Science Review, Politics of the Low Countries*, the *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, and the *Journal of the National Medical Association.* Lewis's research has been featured in both *Smithsonian Magazine* and *DeFacto* in multiple languages.

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.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Andrew R Flores, (PhD 2015), Assistant Professor at American University

Dr. Flores primarily researches LGBTQ+ politics and policy that focuses on public opinion and the wellbeing of LGBTQ populations. Recently, he began using the National Crime Victimization Survey to examine patterns of violence toward LGBTQ people, which resulted in publications in _Science Advances_, the _American Journal of Public Health_, and two in _PLOS One_. In December 2022, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform held a hearing on the rise of anti-LGTQI+ extremism and violence, where this research was presented by Flores' co-author Ilan Meyer. Dr. Flores is continuing this area of research by examining the School Crime Supplement for disparities in LGBTQ youth victimization at school, and he is gaining access to restricted data files to examine contextual factors (e.g., state laws and social attitudes) that may relate to violence.

Dr. Flores has also recently taken interest in the Narrative Policy Framework understanding of the policy process. His recent publication in _Policy Studies Journal_ examines how storytelling might ground some aspects of transgender rights for public opinion. Importantly, Dr. Flores and his co-investigators found that those who felt more transported by the narrative – that is, feeling more lost in the story – were more persuaded. Dr. Flores and his co-authors are now examining the theory in the context of library book bans.

In addition, Dr. Flores will be publishing a policy report on democratic backsliding and its relationship to LGTBQI+ acceptance abroad. He also has a paper under revise and resubmit that examines the voting experiences of transgender adults in the United States.

Andrea Silva, (PhD 2016), Associate Professor at University of North Texas

The central strand connecting her work is exploring how institutions shape the political participation of marginalized groups, particularly immigrants and people of color. Most of her work has centered around state immigration policy and immigrants of color, complicating immigration issues that have shaped the United States. The immigration policy has been oversimplified by emphasizing federal decisions, economics, demographics, and artificial binary concepts like permissive or restrictive immigration policy. Her work problematizes these conventional views through an interdisciplinary lens and a multiple method approach. Further, her current research agenda uses this same approach to investigate food access policies at the state level. she examines the influence of state and federal policy on immigrant and minority food insecurity at the state and local levels. She also explores how public policy helps immigrant grocers fill the gap in food availability in food deserts.

Her book project, titled _Direct Democracy Rules: How Initiatives and Referendums Affect State Immigration Policy_, investigates the passage of state immigration legislation over time. This work

addresses a gap in the immigration federalism literature by arguing for the importance of state actors, direct democracy institutions, and contexts in understanding when states make immigration policies and how those policies are written. She argues that federalism increases the policymaking arena to more participants and direct democracy mechanisms (DDMs), like referendums and propositions, change the incentives and behaviors of state actors. The book's main contribution is not just showing a correlation between DDMs and the passage of state immigration legislation but also explaining how these institutions affect the behavior of legislators and state activists. She grounds the research in two comparative dyads of California-Oregon and Minnesota-Wisconsin, where she conducted interviews and archival research. Her book is under contract at NYU Press.

Currently, her academic focus lies in the effect of state-level decisions on the levels of food insecurity. Her National Science Foundation (NSF) funded research analyzes the impact of state policies on local and individual food system quality using two novel datasets that control for state policies and political indicators like state legislative representation, state presidential vote share, and demographic indicators like the percentage on majority-nonwhite communities and the percentage of foreign-born state residents. This work seeks to identify the mechanisms under which these policies are created by interviewing state politicians and bureaucrats and then examine the outcomes of these policies by interviewing county bureaucrats and food assistance recipients.

PI SIGMA ALPHA RE-ESTABLISHED AT UCR

A chapter of the national political science honors society, Pi Sigma Alpha, has been re-established at UCR, after an 8-year absence. With over 840 chapters nationwide Pi Sigma Alpha has inducted some 300,000 members since its founding in 1919, including dozens of Congresspeople, three Supreme Court justices, and one President.

This year, under the leadership of its President, Donald Zarate (class of 2023), our UCR chapter, named Sigma Phi, has inducted 25 new members. Recently, it held an Emerging Scholars Symposium, where our undergraduate members presented research papers, and new members were inducted. Professors Pion-Berlin and Loveridge delivered comments and a keynote, respectively. Enclosed are a couple of photos, as well as the agenda for that meeting. Our hope is that the momentum created this academic year can sustain itself into the next, so that Sigma Phi will be an ongoing component of Political Science at UCR.