Welcome Yu Wang, Ph.D.

The Department of Political Science is proud to welcome its newest faculty member, Professor Yu Wang. Wang received his Ph.D. from New York University in 2009. Since graduating, he has worked as an assistant professor of political science at the Chinese University of Hong Kong from 2009-2015 and at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China from 2015-2019. Wang’s research areas include comparative politics and international relations. His work has been published in Oxford Development Studies, Constitutional Political Economy, and Representation. This semester Dr. Wang is teaching Intro to Comparative Politics, Designing Political Research, Chinese Politics and Society, and Problems of International Politics.

Welcome New Grads!

We welcomed six new students to the graduate program this fall with each bringing in an extraordinary list of accomplishments. All graduate students were celebrated at our annual welcome reception, held on August 17, 2018 at the Hilton Garten Inn in Iowa City.

Seasonal Message from the Chair

Welcome to the fall issue of the Political Science Newsletter. The Department is facing a challenging and uncertain new academic year with the ongoing search for a new Provost at the University and a new Dean in CLAS. Under the University’s new budget model, CLAS has cut 40% of our DCE revenue. This is in addition to the 35% cut of the same revenue two years ago. We will work to make up the budget crunch by negotiating an increase of the College’s share of our budget and by setting up our own endowment funds to protect us from future financial uncertainties. On the upside, our faculty continue to be hard working and productive in offering new courses, increasing enrollment, participating in conferences, publishing research papers, receiving internal and external grants and awards, and serving editorial positions in top academic journals. As a result, the Department continues to garner a strong reputation nationally and internationally, even under the drastically reduced fiscal support from the College.

Wenfang Tang
Department Chair
Stanley Hua Hsia Professor
FLACSO in Quito
Sara Mitchell

Sara Mitchell and Elise Pizzi traveled to Quito, Ecuador in July to attend a conference sponsored by FLACSO (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales) and ISA (International Studies Association). They presented a new co-authored paper titled “Environmental Shocks, Migration Patterns, and Civil Conflict.” In addition to reviewing the literature on natural disasters, environmental migration, and civil wars, Sara and Elise created a typology of government policy responses to environmental shocks drawing upon case studies and quantitative analyses of multiple cases such as Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, and Nepal. They had fun exploring the sites in Quito and beyond including one of the most ornate gold churches in the world (La Compañía), El Panecillo (a statue with a great view of the city), the equator, and a train tour of several volcanoes. Elise was brave enough to try the guinea pig appetizer, one of the popular local dishes. Sara stuck to more traditional fare such as the empanadas.

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
Cassandra Tai

This summer I attended the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research program in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The two courses I took were Multilevel Modelling and Casual Inference. Both courses are advanced, and I learned that our department truly cares about students understanding the course materials. Ann Arbor is a larger-scale version of Iowa City, nice and peaceful. I met a lot of students from different programs. A girl I met said her undergraduate advisor majored in political science (at Iowa) and knows a lot about our department. She said students in our department are so lucky to take courses taught by our excellent faculty. I want to thank the Department for giving me this great experience.

RECENTLY AWARDED
Congratulations!

Sojeong Lee
Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship 2018

Christine Bricker
Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship 2018

Yue Hu
Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship 2018

Ruoxi Du
Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship 2018

Tracee Saunders
Iowa Recruitment Fellowship, 2018

Yooneui Kim
Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award 2018

Dong “Erico” Yu
Post-Comprehensive Research & Graduate College Summer & Fellowship, 2018

2018-2019 Collab Assistants
Saera Lee & Christopher Junk
The collab assistants provide assistance with tech and schedule use of the 334 SH collab.
Off to China
Bill Reisinger

In late May, Wenfang and I spent two weeks in China along with Marina Zaloznya of UI Sociology to prepare for surveys in China and Russia. While in Beijing, the Associate Director, Dr. Yan Jie hosted us and other staff of Peking University’s Research Center for Contemporary China. The surveys that we were planning during our several days of meetings were funded by a grant that the three of us received from the Minerva Initiative. We studied “Informal Economies and Societal Stability in China and Russia.” The surveys are currently in the field, and we are hoping to begin analyzing the resulting data later this fall. In addition to visiting Beijing, we made stops in Changchun and Dalian in China.

2018 APSA Special Projects Fund

Congratulations to Professor Caroline Tolbert for being selected as a recipient of the 2018 APSA Special Projects Fund. Tolbert received $25,000 to support her proposed “2019 Vision in Methodology Conference. The Visions in Methodology group is a mentoring organization for women faculty and grad students doing intensive data analysis or teaching statistics. The APSA award was only given to 10 out of 58 applications based on the quality of their proposals.

Special Announcement!

Congratulations to grad student, Christopher Junk and wife, Emma, who are expecting a baby boy to arrive at the end of October. They will name him Ezra Thomas Junk.

Democracy Fellow
Scott LaCombe

This summer, I was able to participate as a Democracy Fellow through the Social Science Research Council at the University of Bamberg in Germany. In Bamberg, I worked with graduate students and faculty throughout Germany. I also went to a conference on inequality outside of Milan, Italy at a resort (the irony was not lost on the group), and I used my time to travel in Italy, Germany, and France.

Send us your content for the next quarterly newsletter at polisci@uiowa.edu
Critical Language Scholarship Recipients

Eli Bratsch-Prince, a University of Iowa Political Science major has been awarded with a 2018 U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship. This past summer he traveled to Amman, Jordan to study in an Arabic language program. Bratsch-Prince plans to attend graduate school to study the politics of the Middle East and North Africa.

International Relations major, Alex Bare, received a 2018 U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship. He traveled to Ibi, Oman this past summer to study Modern Standard Arabic in addition to focusing on a regional Arabic dialect. Bare aspires to be an international journalist.

Publications

BOOKS
Tim Hagle
Supreme Court Agenda Setting: The Vinson Court 1946-1952

Richard Nadeu, Éric Belanger, Michael S. Lewis-Beck, Mathieu Turgeon, and François Gélineau
Latin American Elections: Choice and Change

PAPERS
Dion, Michelle L., Jane L. Sumner, and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. 2018. “Gendered Citation Patterns Across Political Science and Social Science Methodology Fields.” Political Analysis 26(3): 312-327.


Fall Lilacs
by Michael Lewis-Beck

Digging potatoes I look up.

At the top
of the near lilac bush
a burst of new blooms
lavender and blush.

High up.
Leaves all round turning, burnt.
No sense,
no scent.

Nature’s accident.