

Government Department Newsletter

February 2020

In This Issue:

- A Letter from the Chair
- Faculty News, p.6
- News from the Students, p.10
- Augmentations, p.12
- Holiday party Skit, p.13

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Department of Government
News

<https://gov.harvard.edu/news-and-announcements-categories/department-news>

A Letter from the Chair

The first part of the 2019-2020 academic year has brought with it some exciting, and some sobering, developments in the life of the Department of Government.

New faculty members. We have had an excellent hiring season, with two new faculty members to show for it (and a third, we hope, on the way). I introduce them briefly here; details about them and their scholarship is further below.

[Mashail Malik](#) comes to us from the graduate program in Political Science at Stanford University. She works on ethnic politics, with a regional focus on South Asia. Mashail will be joining us next academic year on a post-doctoral fellowship; she will take up her position as Assistant Professor in the 2021-2022 academic year.

In addition, Mashail Malik's partner, *Carl Gustafson*, will be moving here with her. Carl is a fifth-year graduate student in the Department of Political Science at Stanford University, specializing in American Politics, Formal Theory, and Quantitative Methods. This coming academic year Carl will be finishing his dissertation here; in the next two academic years he will be a post-doctoral fellow here, teaching a course a year.

[Peter Buisseret](#) will leave his position at the Harris School at the University of Chicago to join us. Peter is a formal theorist with a strong interest in political institutions. Peter will be joining us as an Assistant Professor in the coming (2020-2021) academic year.

[Christoph Mikulaschek](#) has been offered a position as an Assistant Professor in the Department. Christoph has been a post-doctoral fellow

Alumni Directory:

Alumni directory is available at community.alumni.harvard.edu

It's also available to students and allows individual alumni to connect to one another and students to connect with alumni. It's accessed with the HarvardKey, an identity verification system implemented to protect your privacy and identity.

Questions or issues in claiming your HarvardKey can be directed to, haa_alumnihelp@harvard.edu.

More about Harvard alumni association can be found here,

<https://gsas.harvard.edu/alumni-association/connect>

here for the past two years, teaching popular courses on international law and international organizations. We are optimistic that he will join us for the coming (2020-2021) academic year.

The Department has more possibilities on the hiring front. There is a campus-wide search for four scholars of Ethnic Politics, with a focus on “themes related to Asian-American, Latinx, and/or Islam in America Studies.” The multi-disciplinary committee working on this has identified a political scientist in whom they are interested (out of 11 total scholars), and whom we have invited for a campus visit. He is *Taeku Lee* (UC Berkeley), who specializes in Asian-Americans in politics. The appointment would be in the Department of Government, and this is an excellent opportunity for us. A campus visit is being arranged.

Developments in the undergraduate program. The Government concentration at the undergraduate level currently has two “tracks,” on Data Science and Tech Science; it is developing two new ones. These tracks are optional routes through the concentration designed to help students develop a coherent plan of study and to build expertise within specific areas of political science.

The *Data Science* track allows students to acquire advanced skills in quantitative methods, and to learn to apply them to questions of social science and public policy. Students on this track can take their command of statistics to the graduate level and can also learn how to work with survey research, geographical information systems, big data both in general and on the internet and social media.

The *Tech Science* track focuses on public interest technology, an emerging field of study at the intersection of Political Science and Computer Science. Students study the consequences of technological change, and ways to resolve conflicts between technology and society. The track helps motivate and train a new generation to apply technological knowledge and skills to public service in civil society, government, and technology companies.

The two tracks currently in development are in Political Economy and Public Policy. The proposed Political Economy track would focus on the intersection of politics and economics, including the study of inequality, development, globalization, and macroeconomic policy. The planned

Public Policy track would encourage students to develop skills in political analysis and ethics, as well as to choose a specific policy focus, such as education or environmental policy. This year we have already added a new undergraduate “Public Policy Practicum” course that combines reading academic research on policymaking with group research projects commissioned by non-profit organizations, state governments, and city governments.

And now, on a less positive and more somber note...

Followup on sexual harassment in the Department of Government. On February 3, 2020, four of the women who first came forward with stories about sexual harassment by Jorge Dominguez spoke on campus about their experiences and their views of Harvard’s response. The four are [Terry Karl](#), a former faculty member; [Suzanna Challen](#), a former graduate student; and [Nienke Grossman](#) and [Charna Sherman](#), former undergraduates; the original story (which quoted the first three) in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* is [here](#).

The event, a video of which can be viewed [here](#), gives a vivid sense of the great and lasting damage done by decades of inappropriate behavior by a member of the Department of Government’s faculty [*Crimson* article [here](#), *Harvard Magazine* article [here](#)]. The fact that this went on for so long, and that so many of the victims suffered in silence because they felt that they could not rely on the Department for support, is an indictment of the atmosphere then prevailing in the Department.

I cannot speak for the University, or for all my colleagues. However, everything I have seen, including the very limited information that the University has made public, leads me to the conclusion that the Department bears some responsibility for the persistence of the problem. As has been reported in previous newsletters, and as I report below, we have tried to address this conclusion with a thorough-going review of the climate in the Department. Nonetheless, this does not take away from the debt I feel the Department owes to the women whose lives and careers were affected, sometimes profoundly, by the sexual harassment they experienced.

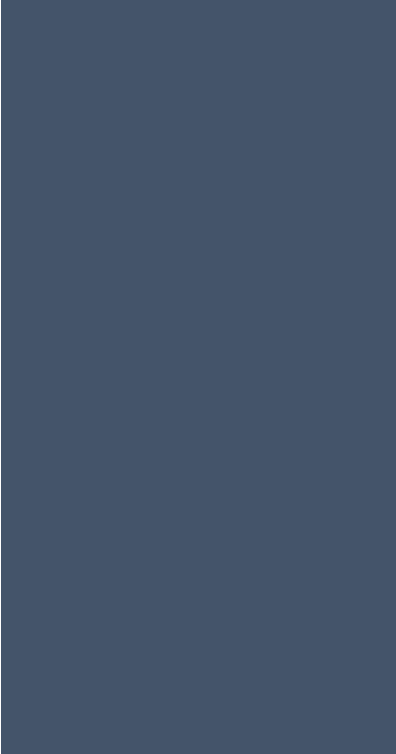
I for one am deeply sorry that so many women were subjected to sexually inappropriate and degrading behavior by one of our colleagues, and that

the Department was unable to provide them with the safe and secure environment necessary for a productive academic experience. I believe that the victims of sexual harassment in the Department of Government deserve our thanks for their courage and persistence in pursuit of justice for themselves and fair treatment for all.

External Review Committee. You may also know that the Department's faculty and graduate students were insistent that the University needed to establish an independent committee to review the circumstances in which the sexual harassment problem was permitted to fester. That committee was established in September 2019 – a *Harvard Magazine* article about it is available [here](#) – and it has met with some faculty, graduate students, and staff. Its report is expected at some point in the coming months. I hope that the report will provide the University community with significant and substantive information and recommendations to address our failings in this area.

Changing the Department's climate. As mentioned above, and as you know, in the aftermath of the revelations concerning sexual harassment by Jorge Dominguez, we went through a year of serious contemplation and consideration of how best to improve the climate in the Department and create a welcoming, safe environment in which all members of the community can realize their full potential. This effort was led by a Climate Change Committee, chaired by Steve Levitsky and staffed by faculty, students, and staff. A survey of the climate in the Department helped inform the Committee's work and is available [here](#). The final report of the Committee is available [here](#) and contains both an analysis of what needs to be changed and recommendations about how to start the changes.

We have spent much of this academic year implementing the recommendations of the Climate Change Committee, all of which were adopted by the Department's faculty. Among these I would mention most prominently the appointment of Iain Johnston as our Title IX Liaison, to serve as “an accessible point of contact to whom students, staff, and faculty may turn for information and advice regarding behavior or practices that affect their ability to pursue excellence in teaching and learning regardless of background.” More information on the Liaison is [here](#). Iain has been extremely active in meeting with students, staff, and faculty, organizing and helping with seminars and workshops, and giving advice to many members of the Department community.



On other fronts, graduate students now serve on all Department committees where this is permitted by University rules (which preclude their having access to confidential letters of recommendation). We have worked to improve and increase our mentoring of junior faculty and graduate students, and now hold regular town hall meetings for the Department community. We are setting up a new Standing Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, to carry forward the effort begun last year on a continuing basis. I have established a Standing Committee on Targets of Opportunity that will, with the assistance of a new Data Fellow, work to ensure that the Department is able to take advantage of hiring possibilities that present themselves.

I wish you all a healthy and happy spring and summer.

Jeff Frieden
Chair, Department of Government

New Faculty Appointments

Peter Buisseret



Peter Buisseret is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. His research is focused on political economy theory and understanding how political institutions—such as legislative process and electoral rules—affect collective decision-making in societies. To date, his work has focused on the relative performance of parliamentary and presidential systems, designing reform strategies when there is uncertainty about who will hold future political power, and the durability of international agreements in the shadow of domestic elections. He studies these questions using game-theoretic models that can produce empirical predictions and concrete policy prescriptions. His work has been published in, or is forthcoming at, *The American Political Science Review*, *The American Journal of Political Science*, *The Journal of Politics* and *Games and Economic Behavior*.

Peter received his BA (Hons) from Oxford University, in the United Kingdom, and his PhD from Princeton University. Previously, he was a member of the economics faculty at the University of Warwick and worked in investment banking for two years before attending graduate school.

Mashail Malik



Mashail will join us as a post-doctoral scholar in the 2020-2021 academic year, beginning her position as Assistant Professor for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Mashail is currently a PhD Candidate in Stanford's Department of Political Science and is a native of Islamabad, Pakistan. Her dissertation project is centered on the politics of ethnicity in Karachi – Pakistan's largest megacity. Her research agenda further includes topics on political violence, state repression, civil-military relations, and the intersection of identity and economic conflict. As an undergraduate at Beloit College, she double-majored in Economics and Philosophy and minored in Political Science. She also holds an MA in International Relations from the University of Chicago.

Faculty News



Danielle Allen

Danielle received a 2019 Governor's Award in the Humanities,
<https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2019/10/28/danielle-allen-governors-award-humanities/>



Ryan Enos

Ryan received the Erik Erikson Early Career Award from the International Society of Political Psychology.



Katrina Forrester

Katrina recently published *In the Shadow of Justice: Postwar Liberalism and the Remaking of Political Philosophy* (Princeton University Press, 2019). An excerpt appeared in Boston Review,
<https://bostonreview.net/philosophy-religion/katrina-forrester-future-political-philosophy>

Also, Katrina discussed the book with Harvard Magazine,
<https://harvardmagazine.com/2019/09/john-rawls-political-philosophy?fbclid=IwAR2iekUu5NeAMytOQO8D7b9c2Th1Kx4xmtQACYOfLU7ANqyv6sRrEQvc7C4>



Harvey Mansfield

Harvey's article "Our Polarized Parties Dimly Seen" appeared in *National Affairs*, Winter 2020, 160-180.



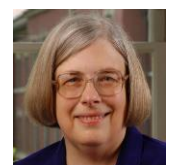
Eric Nelson

Eric published his new book *The Theology of Liberalism* (Harvard University Press, 2019). Eric's book was featured in Harvard Magazine,
<https://harvardmagazine.com/2019/11/eric-nelson-modern-liberalism>



Michael Sandel

Michael was awarded the Gratitude reward of \$1,000 for his research from the Office of Undergraduate Education, Program in General Education



Theda Skocpol

Theda recently received an honorary doctorate degree from Radboud University in the Netherlands. She accepted the degree on October 17, 2019, during an academic ceremony celebrating the 96th anniversary of Radboud's founding.

Event page : <https://www.ru.nl/english/news-agenda/news/vm/2019/october/dies-natalis-radboud-university-2019/>

Theda's acceptance speech is here,
<https://www.ru.nl/english/news-agenda/news/vm/2019/october/dies-natalis-radboud-university-2019/@1238773/theda-skocpol-lessons-active-democratic/>

Dan Smith

Dan published two new research articles in 2019 with collaborators Gary W. Cox and Jon H. Fiva: "Parties, Legislators, and the Origins of Proportional Representation," in *Comparative Political Studies*; and "Measuring the Competitiveness of Elections," in *Political Analysis*.



He is currently working on three new projects: the first is about the descriptive and substantive (mis)representation of voters in democracies; the second examines the historical development of democracy through digitized records of Japanese legislative speeches; and the third investigates the long-term political and socioeconomic consequences of the 1945 Allied firebombing of Tokyo during World War II.

A paperback edition of his first book, *Dynasties and Democracy: The Inherited Incumbency Advantage in Japan* (Stanford University Press 2018), will be published in spring 2020.

In 2019, he also became an uncle to two new nieces (twins), who join five other nieces (two of whom are also twins) and a nephew.

Jim Snyder



Jim, together with Shigeo Hirano from Columbia University, recently published his new book *Primary Elections in the United States* (Cambridge University Press, 2019).

Daniel Ziblatt



The Washington Post's Monkey Cage published a six-article series based on a recent WCFIA conference, with an intro by Daniel and Bart Bonikowski (Associate Professor of Sociology and Resident Faculty at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies) and contributions by Sheri Berman, Lily Mason, Daphne Halikiopoulou, Sofia Vasilopoulou, Tim Bale, and Daniel Kelemen. The series focuses on the broad rise of the radical right. It's been making a splash on Twitter already.

Link to the series here:

<https://twitter.com/bartbonikowski/status/1201508076928585732?s=21>

Direct WaPo link: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/12/02/mainstream-conservative-parties-paved-way-far-right-nationalism/>

Also, Daniel was awarded the Berlin Prize by the American Academy in Berlin in Fall 2019 and was named the Karl Deutsch Visiting Professor at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin for 2019/2020.

News from Academic Affiliates



Leslie Finger, Lecturer on Government and Social Studies

Leslie took an offer to be an assistant professor of political science (in American politics) at the University of North Texas next year.



Viridiana Rios, Visiting Assistant Professor at the Department of Government

Viri became Fellow at the International Women's Forum.

Her paper "Informally Governing Information: How Criminal Rivalry leads to Violence against the Press in Mexico" co-authored with Brad Holland from the Ohio State University received the 2019 Will H. Moore III Prize. The award was "given to the paper published in the journals of the Peace Science Society (International) that most effectively addresses issues directly related to the integrity and respect accorded to individual political rights and freedoms."

Allison Stanger



Allison recently published *Whistleblowers: Honesty in America from Washington to Trump* (Yale University Press, 2019) and the 9/24 publication date coincided with the announcement of the impeachment investigation launched by a whistleblower.

In 2020-21, Allison will be the Cary and Ann Maguire Chair in Ethics and American History at the Library of Congress and a Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences Fellow at Stanford University.

Miscellaneous

The Government Department made a \$1,000 donation to the Theda Skocpol Emerging Scholar Award. The Theda Skocpol Emerging Scholar Award, established by the APSA Organization Section on Comparative Politics, will support and recognize a scholar whose work has made impactful empirical, theoretical, or methodological contributions to the study of comparative politics.

<https://www.apsanet.org/section20>

News from the Students



Reva Dhingra, PhD student

Reva was named one of the 2019-2020 APSA Minority Fellowship Program recipients. Her fields are comparative politics and quantitative methods, with a focus on forced migration, international aid, and the politics of non-state service provision,

<https://www.apsanet.org/Spring-2019-2020#reva>



Naima Green-Riley, PhD student

Naima is a recipient of the USC Center on Public Diplomacy Doctoral Dissertation Grant. In her research she investigates U.S. and Chinese public diplomacy by merging theoretical work from the fields of political science, communications and psychology,

<https://www.uscpublicdiplomacy.org/story/cpd-awards-2019-2020-doctoral-dissertation-grant>



Pamela Nwakanma, PhD student

Pamela has been awarded the 2019 Kauffman Foundation Award from the APSA Section on Class and Inequality for her 2018 APSA paper on “Women, Entrepreneurship and Economic Development in Africa”



Lowry Pressly, PhD student

Lowry won a Bowdoin Prize for Graduate Essay in the English Language for his essay entitled “The Right to Be Forgotten and the Possibility of Being a Stranger”

<https://prizes.fas.harvard.edu/bowdoin-prizes>



Caroline Tervo, '18, Research Coordinator, Department of Government

Caroline graduated from Harvard College in 2018 with a degree in Government, and together with Theda Skocpol (her former thesis advisor) co-edited a forthcoming volume *Upending American Politics* to be published by Oxford University Press in January 2020.

The book features many current and previous Harvard graduate students, and notably, many former Harvard undergraduates. Five recent Harvard senior thesis writers are in it — and four of those chapters are based on Hoopes Prize-winning senior theses from the past two years based on field studies in FL, MI, NC, and PA.

Augmentations

We are happy to announce that Stephen and Sarah Chaudoin have a beautiful new baby daughter...

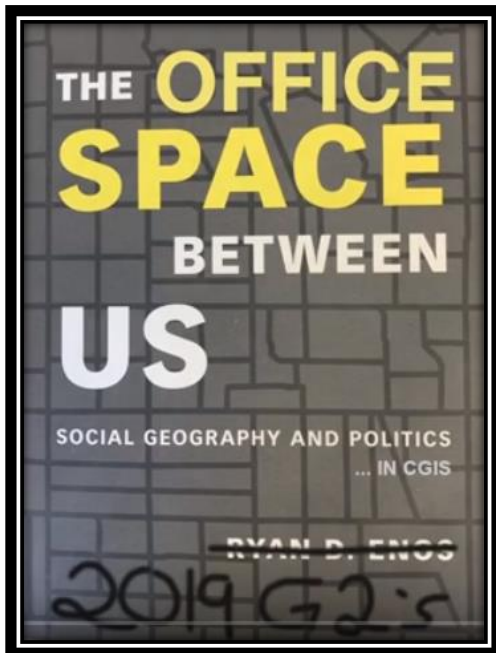
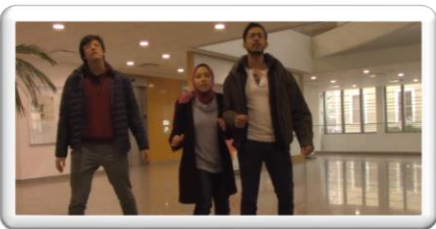
Lydia Grace Chaudoin joined the family at 6:40 a.m. on September 3rd. She was 8lbs 3oz, and 21 inches! Mom and baby are doing fine.

Congratulations to Sarah and Stephen....and welcome Lydia Grace!!



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sarah_hummel@fas.harvard.edu

Holiday Party Skit



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4rzm6ZzT2s>