

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS



Jamie Wright and  
Professor Beth Simas

### Congratulations to our PhD graduates!

#### MAY 2023

Henrietta MacPepple  
Myriam Shiran  
Jamie Wright

#### AUGUST 2023

Vivian Kalu  
Rita Naoum



### NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Thanks so much to alumni for all your emails about your comings and goings. It is great to hear from you. I'm delighted, also, to have had the opportunity to reconnect with alumni at our recent end-of-the-year party in the Alumni Center, as well as our Texas Legislative Session

Roundup, both successful events. It is great to share also the many successes of our current undergraduate and graduate students, with whom I am continually impressed. Please continue to stay in touch and let us know what kinds of events and outreach you would be interested in participating in. We are eager to connect!

### National Conference of Black Political Scientists Executive Council Student Nomination

PhD Candidate Naomi Nubin has been appointed to the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS) Executive Council as a Graduate Student Representative. The department applauds Naomi's selection to this noteworthy position!



Naomi Nubin

### APSA Diversity Fellowship Awarded to PhD Student

PhD Student Silky Malik has been awarded an APSA Diversity Fellowship for the Spring 2023 cycle. This fellowship supports students from underrepresented backgrounds in the early stages of their PhD program. Congratulations Silky!



### Grad Lab Remodeling

The Political Science department has continued to improve the facilities available to its students and faculty. At the beginning of the Spring 2023 semester, the Graduate Student Lab and TA

Offices underwent a major renovation. The room now sports individual cubicles, a computer bank, and the university colors.

## GRADUATE ALUMNI NEWS

### Job Placements

**Vasili Kritikos, MA UH 2014,**  
has accepted a job as a full-time lecturer at San Jacinto College.



**Luke Williams, PhD UH 2016,**  
was awarded Best Paper from the 2022 SWPSA Conference for his work entitled "Governing the Commons: How to Fight Oversampling in State Legislative Surveys." Luke currently holds the position of Assistant Professor at Texas Southern University.



**Hui Zhou, PhD UH 2022,**  
has accepted a Visiting Associate Professor position at Saint Louis University for the 2023-2024 academic cycle.



**Myriam Shiran, PhD UH 2023,**  
who defended her dissertation in May, has received a post-doctoral appointment at Purdue University, starting Fall of this year.

### Alumna Testifies Before Senate Committee in Washington, D.C.



Anna Mikulska, PhD UH 2010, gave testimony at a recent hearing of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Prof. Mukulska is currently a fellow in energy studies at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy. For more information on Anna's work, and for the full recording of her testimony, follow this link: [Testimony to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources | Baker Institute](#)



## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

### Undergraduate Student Achievements

#### Undergraduates Chosen for Ralph Bunche Summer Institute

Two UH undergraduate political science students, Niél Jesus Arroyo and Alicia Lartigue, have been invited to attend the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute's (RBSI) 2023 program. RBSI, currently housed at Duke University, brings undergraduate students from underrepresented backgrounds together for a 5 ½ week program intended to simulate the work of a graduate student through hands-on experience with an introduction to political science inquiry, scholarship, and research methodology.



Niél Jesus Arroyo

Niél Jesus Arroyo's commitment to the study of race has led him to pursue Political Science training at the graduate level. His research interests include civil rights, Black and Brown amelioration, and modeling. Niél has served as Vice President of the BIPOC Student Support Group and has distinguished himself as a recipient of awards from the LGBTQ Alumni Association Fund and the Festival of Student Achievement (Rockhurst University).



Alicia Lartigue

Alicia Lartigue's interest in graduate-level Political Science research stems from her concern for how policies that affect women do not include the majority of women, either in their conceptualization or deliberation. She believes her participation in RBSI will assist her in accomplishing her goal of seeing an increase in female minority representation.

#### Student Selected for National Science Foundation-Funded Summer Program



Undergraduate student Amanda Purter was recently accepted to the Summer Program in Accountability, Behavior, and Conflict in Democratic Politics at Vanderbilt University, a Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU), which is supported by funding from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF). The program endeavors to provide students with mentored research experience,

opportunities to develop their interests, and career preparation in the social sciences.

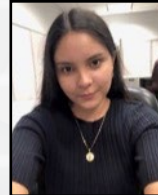
Amanda's broader interests reside in the fields of American Politics and Education. She is particularly interested in studying government at the state and local level and plans to pursue future graduate-level training in Political Science.

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS cont.

### Peek Family Scholarship Winners



The department is proud to recognize its Peek Family Scholarship Winners, Adria Clark and Melany Way. Adria Clark aims to attend graduate school to pursue a master's degree in political science, followed by law school. She plans to spend her career on the issue of privacy, and its relationship with technological advancement, with the goal of ensuring that every American has full confidence in their own privacy.



Melany Way aspires to work as an immigration attorney, towards the reform of the United States immigration system, and as an advocate for undocumented individuals. She hopes to inspire future generations of women and the children of immigrants to overcome all obstacles in the pursuit of their professional dreams.

## FACULTY NEWS



### Faculty Consultation on the Chilean Constitution

In March and May respectively, Associate Professors Eduardo Aleman and Lydia Tiede were asked to testify before the Chilean Subcommission of Experts responsible for drafting a new Chilean Constitution. The subcommission reports directly to an elected Constitutional Council of the Chilean government. Dr. Tiede presented on judiciary and fourth branch institutions, and Dr. Aleman presented on institutional details such as the article concerning the presidential veto and bill-added presidential motions of urgency. In 2022, Dr. Aleman was also asked by the President of the Chilean Senate to participate in an event on the merits of bicameralism.



### WPSA President Appointment

Congratulations to Associate Professor Jason Casellas, who took over as WPSA President for the 2023-2024 Academic Year!

### Faculty Promotions

Congratulations to Associate Professors Lydia Tiede and Ling Zhu, who will be promoted to Full Professor on 9/1/2023

### APSA Manuscript Workshop Support Award



Assistant Professor Tanika Raychaudhuri was selected to have her book manuscript workshopped as part of the APSA Minority-Serving Institution Virtual Book Workshop Project. This is the second round of MSI-oriented workshops hosted by APSA.

### POLS Major Recruitment Through Community Outreach

Lecturer Kenneth Abbott has been participating in student outreach events across east Texas, delivering talks on law and political science to high school students at local public schools.

Dr. Abbott has graciously shared his time with individual students, assisting them with research, offering them advice on how to excel in college, and encouraging students interested in pursuing a major in Political Science to study here at the University of Houston.



## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS



“Testing the Benefits of Public Deliberation”

By William Minozzi, **Ryan Kennedy**, Kevin M. Esterling, Michael A. Neblo, Ryan Jewell

Professor Ryan Kennedy and colleagues examine the benefits of public deliberation, as opposed to individual deliberation or “deliberation within,” through a several hundred participant-strong

field experiment, conducted in partnership with two sitting US Senators. They found that public deliberation yielded more benefits than individual deliberation, and that differences in demographics and other factors do not make individual deliberation more valuable.



“Banklash: How Media Coverage of Bank Scandals Moves Mass Preferences on Financial Regulation”

By Pepper D. Culpepper, **Jae-Hee Jung**, Taeku Lee

Assistant Professor Jae-Hee Jung and colleagues look at the little-discussed political effects of corporate scandal, as it is conveyed through media coverage, and whether or not this has a

significant effect on voter preferences for financial regulation. Using data from a multi-national pool of representative samples, followed by an original survey, they find that exposure to news coverage of scandals increases voter preferences for regulation.

## FACULTY AWARDS

### Teaching Innovation Proposal Awards



Ryan Kennedy

Two faculty members, Professor Ryan Kennedy and Instructional Assistant Professor Zachary Zwald, have won Teaching Innovation Proposal (TIP) awards related to online instruction, totaling \$32,754. Dr. Kennedy’s TIP entitled “Development of a

Deliberation Experience System (DES) for Required Political Science Classes,” was awarded in the amount of \$14,583. Dr. Zwald’s TIP, “Chat GPT as a Learning Tool,” received \$18,171 in funding.



Zachary Zwald

### CLASS Recognition of Political Science Faculty



Eduardo Aleman

Two faculty have been recognized by our college this year. Associate Professor Eduardo Aleman was the recipient of two teaching awards this year. He was awarded the Ross M. Lence Award for Teaching Excellence (CLASS) and the Teaching Excellence Award (Provost’s Office).



*Professor and Chair Jeffrey Church has received the CLASS Distinguished Faculty Award*

## DEPARTMENT EVENTS

### Algorithms in Public Policy Working Group

Sponsored by the Community Responsive Algorithms for Social Accountability (CRASA) project, the University of Houston hosted the Algorithms in Public Policy Working Group Presentation on June 2, 2023. The presentation was delivered by Dr. Baobao Zhang, assistant professor of political science at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

### Mini-Conference on the Politics of Gender, Diversity, and Representation



Nadia Brown

This conference was organized by Professors Tanika Raychaudhuri, Jennifer Clark, and Ling Zhu, and was hosted by the Department of Political Science. The keynote talk was delivered by Nadia E. Brown, professor of Government and the Director of Women's and Gender Studies at Georgetown University.

### Parties in American Legislatures Mini-Conference

Our mini-conference on parties, organized by professors Boris Shor and Michael Kistner, addressed the relationship between partisanship and legislative agenda-setting, party control over candidates, and more.

### Liberal Education Conference

The Department of Political Science and The Honors College co-hosted the "Liberal Education and Citizenship in a Free Society" Conference, organized by professors Dustin Gush, Constantine Vassiliou, and Jeffrey Church. Among many other participants was Keith Whittington (Princeton), who spoke about Academic Freedom.



Keith Whittington

## Visiting Speakers

*As part of the UH Political Science Hour, the department was proud to feature talks from the following guest speakers:*

### FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>

**Speaker:** Gisela Sin (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

**Title:** The Disempowered Executive: Reconsidering the Line-Item Veto in the US States

### MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>

**Speaker:** Marisa Abrajano (UCSD)

**Title:** Understanding Latino Political Engagement and Activity on Social Media

### May 1<sup>ST</sup>

**Speaker:** Diana Mutz (UPenn)

**Title:** The Backlash Against Globalization and the Death of Homo Economicus



Diana Mutz



### Political Science Degree Career Events

Professor Beth Simas hosted a Political Science Career Event for majors this Spring, which was well-attended. She also led our top students through the SWAGS (Summer Workshop for Applying to Graduate School) program this summer.

# DEPARTMENT EVENTS cont.

## End of the Year Departmental Party

The Political Science Department held its end-of-year party on May 9th in the UH Alumi Center. Faculty, Graduate Students, Staff, and Alum were invited to attend. The event was a huge success, featuring a catered dinner, drinks, and a pub-style quiz with prizes.



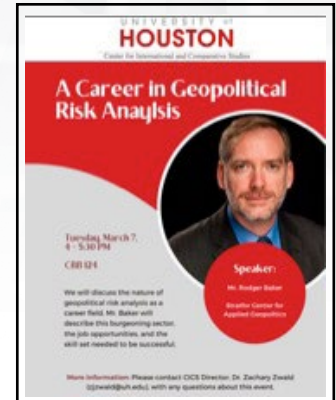
## Texas Legislative Session Roundup, May 31, 2023

Our department hosted a breakfast at the UH Hilton following the end of the Spring semester, where professors Brandon Rottinghaus and Jeronimo Cortina provided expert analysis on the Texas Legislative Session. This event was open to the public and to UH graduate students. Professors Rottinghaus and Cortina co-host Houston Public Media's Party Politics podcast.

## CICS – State Department Info Session



Pathways to Equity and the Dynamics of Change Speaker Series, co-sponsored by Political Science



CICS – Guest Speaker Presentation by Rodger Baker, Stratford Center for Applied Geopolitics

ALUMNI: Please send us updates about notable things in your career and life! We will include them in the newsletter.

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