

FALL 2024 ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings Political Science Alumni-

What an exciting time to be a political scientist. There is an abundance of issues and events at home and abroad for which the theory and methods of political science are well aligned to train future leaders as well as inform the broader public. At home, these include increased levels of polarization and political violence, as well as weakened democratic institutions, as we head into a critical national election. Abroad, we have seen a dramatic increase in armed conflicts, uncertainty surrounding the stability of our alliances, and continued challenges in dealing with global issues such as the climate crisis and human rights.

At Emory, this past year was a busy one for our department. We completed a comprehensive program review that included the preparation of a department self-study and a campus visit from three prominent political scientists who concluded that our department “has a strong reputation, a distinctive and well-regarded brand, and a small but excellent faculty.” Their report and our self-study provide several recommendations that will help the department continue to thrive.

We also hired two new faculty. Luis Martinez, associate professor, comes from the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. Tony Zirui Yang, assistant professor, comes from Washington University St. Louis, where he recently completed his PhD. Dr. Yang is currently serving as a postdoctoral fellow at Oxford University. Both strengthen our offerings in comparative politics and political economy. Our faculty continues to produce outstanding scholarship and their publications continue to appear in the leading disciplinary journals and top university presses. Our graduate program continues to be ranked among the top 20 PhD programs in political science. At the undergraduate level, we continue to be a leader in experiential education and have re-established a political science undergraduate advisory committee.

As noted in this edition of our alumni newsletter, we are very excited about the generous support from our alumni, including the recent gift from Ann 79C 79G and Mike Hankin 79C 79G that established the department’s first endowed distinguished professor chair in political science and a gift from Lane Lamure 96C 96G, which established an endowed fund to support graduate and undergraduate research. We always enjoy hearing from alumni and if you would like to get involved with the department by providing career advice to current students or recent graduates, providing internship opportunities for our students, or making a financial contribution to the department, we welcome your engagement and support.



DR. MICHAEL RICH
DEPARTMENT CHAIR

**WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! YOU CAN KEEP UP WITH US ON TWITTER,
INSTAGRAM (@EMORYPOLISCI) AND AT POLISCI@EMORY.EDU**

POLISCI.EMORY.EDU

UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 HOMECOMING WEEKEND TALK- MIRACLE OR TRAGEDY? ANTICIPATING THE CHALLENGES OF ADMINISTERING THE 2024 ELECTION

The 2020 election highlighted two sides of election administration in the U.S.: the hard work of local election officials to conduct accurate and secure elections on meager budgets, and the intense partisan rancor of how elections should properly be conducted. Join us to learn from Emory experts Dr. Bernard Fraga and Charles Stewart (79C), professor of Political Science at MIT, about how the continued adaptation of election laws and practices, and political pressures, can provide insights on what to expect once the polls close on November 5. **This event will be on October 25, 2024 in the AMUC Harland Cinema from 3:15-4:30. This event is part of Homecoming programming and all are welcome to attend!**

2024 ELECTION NIGHT WATCH PARTY

In November, the department of Political Science will collaborate again with the Emory Votes Initiative to watch the results of the 2024 presidential election with an **election night watch party** featuring expert commentary from our faculty and graduate students and food and fun for all! Students, faculty, and staff will be invited to attend the watch party, a testament to the Emory community's high level of political awareness and engagement. **This event will be on election night, November 5th, in the Harland Cinema from 6-9:30 pm. Atlanta area alumni are welcome to attend.**



STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS

This school year, faculty and staff will be working with the **Student Advisory Council!** This group of Political Science and International Studies students will help the department in planning events, curriculum, and engagement over the course of the academic year. We are so thankful for their hard work and excited to see what they accomplish!



Grace Kessler 24C is the recipient of Emory College's 2024 Lucius Lamar McMullen Award, which recognizes one extraordinary Emory College student. Grace was also a Political Science Honors Student and received the 2023-2024 Levitas award, given annually to one outstanding graduating senior in Political Science.

Daniel Gebrekidian 22C was named a 2023 Thomas Pickering Fellow with the US Department of State. Daniel is currently pursuing a master's degree at the Johns Hopkins University campus in Bologna, Italy.

Alex Gazmarian 19C is a PhD candidate at Princeton University. He recently published *Uncertain Futures: How to Unlock the Climate Impasse* (Cambridge University Press, 2023) which has won 3 awards, including the American Political Science Association's Don K Price Award for the best book on science, technology, and politics published in the last year.

Sabrina Karim 16PhD was recently appointed to associate professor with tenure in the Department of Government at Cornell University.

Kevin DeSean Russell, a current third-year graduate student received an American Political Science Association 2023-2024 Diversity Fellowship.

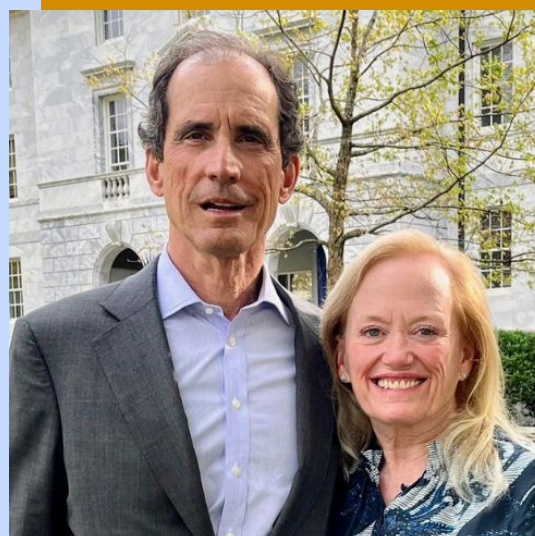
GRADUATION 2024

Congratulations to all our Spring 2024 Graduates! Welcome to the Alumni Family!



RECENT ALUMNI GIFTS

Emory University alumni **Ann 79C 79G** and **Michael Hankin 79C 79G** have established the first endowed distinguished professorship in the university's Department of Political Science. The Ann and Michael Hankin Distinguished Professorship in Political Science celebrates Emory professors who work closely with and mentor their students. For the couple, "taking it to the next level" includes ensuring that the Department of Political Science has the resources it needs to grow in both size and reputation. [Read the full story here.](#)



Lane LaMure 96C 96G has created and endowed a \$100,000 fund to support undergraduate and graduate student research and experiential learning. The fund will support the costs of conducting research including presenting scholarship at professional conferences. The fund will also be used to offset the costs of international research and study abroad experience for undergraduates.

Alumni contributions help make it possible for us to support students. Please consider making a contribution to one of our two funds.

Gifts to the **Political Science Department Fund** support graduate research.

Gifts to the **Political Science ECAS Endowment** provide essential support to a variety of undergraduate activities such as conferences, research, and more.

Gifts can be made by clicking [here](#).

FACULTY NEWS

Bernard Fraga has been named the inaugural Ann and Michael Hankin Distinguished Professor. The designation of distinguished professor is one of the highest honors that Emory bestows upon a member of the faculty. Dr. Fraga has also been selected as the 2024 Andrew Carnegie Fellow. The fellowship will allow Professor Fraga to devote significant time to researching and writing a new book that will build upon his first book, *The Turnout Gap*, which identified and discussed why racial and ethnic disparities in voter turnout persist. Bernard also directs Emory's Imagining Democracy Lab and is the faculty coordinator for Emory's Latinx Studies initiative.

Alex Bolton received the 2023 Richard E. Neustadt Award for the Best Book on Executive Politics for his book *Checks in the Balance: Legislative Capacity and the Dynamics of Executive Power*.

Natalia Bueno received the 2024 Best Comparative Policy Paper Award for Best paper "Benefits by Luck: A Study of Lotteries as a Selection Method for Government Programs"

Kiela Crabtree was recognized as an 2023-2024 Early Career Fellow by the American Political Science Association.

Danielle Jung is serving as the program cochair for the 2024 annual meeting of the Peace Science Society.

Pablo Montagnes is serving as president of the Emory College Senate during the 2024-2025 term. The College Senate is the representative body of College Faculty.

Michael Leo Owens received the 2023 Emory Williams Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award in recognition of excellence in teaching.

Jack Paine's recent book, *Colonial Origins of Democracy and Dictatorship* was published in July 2024 by Cambridge University Press.

Elizabeth Maggie Penn continues to serve as the co-PI for the grant supporting the Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models summer program. The 2024 EITM summer institute was hosted at Emory and was the most diverse institute in its 20 year history in terms of students and faculty participants, and the institutions they came from.

FACULTY NEWS

Beth Reingold received the 2023 Mac Jewell Enduring Contribution Book Award from the American Political Science Association for her 2000 book *Representing Women: Sex, Gender, and Legislative Behavior in Arizona and California*.

Dan Reiter's textbook, *Understanding War and Peace* was published in 2023 and his forthcoming book *Hands Untied: How States Avoid the Wrong War* is in production.

Renard Sexton received a \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense for his "Empirical Study of Deterrence in the Context of Great Power Competition" research project.

Hubert Tworzecki is spending the 2024-2025 academic year as a Faculty Fellow at Emory's Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry. He plans to complete a book manuscript focusing on the competing forces of authoritarianism and democracy, particularly in Poland.

FACULTY AND ALUMNI REUNION AT APSA

In early September, some of our faculty and graduate students traveled to the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA! At the conference, PhD alumnae Maggie Macdonald, Anna Gunderson, Kirsten Widner, and Laura Huber organized an Emory Women's Lunch for Emory faculty, current graduate students, and alumni! They hope to make this an annual meeting.

