

Department of Political Science

Fall 2025 Newsletter

Written and designed by Katie Upchurch



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Political Science is more than a field of study—it's a lens through which we better understand the institutions, ideologies, movements, and decisions shaping our nation and the world. Events of the past year that include two ongoing major international conflicts as well as significant disruptions in our nation's political and institutional landscape emphasize that your curiosity, critical thinking, and commitment to civic engagement matter more than ever.

This year, we are excited to offer a wide range of courses, seminars, and events that examine the dynamics and diversity of political life—locally and globally. Our department remains committed to academic excellence, inclusive dialogue, and meaningful public engagement through our foundational courses, as well as our upper-level and experiential learning courses that tackle contemporary issues like human rights, climate change governance, political violence, international conflicts, authoritarian politics and democratic backsliding, and pathways towards civil discourse in policy debates, among others.

We are proud of the paths alumni have taken and grateful for your continued connection with the department. Your achievements inspire current students and remind us of the impact a Political Science education can have. We invite you to **stay involved**—through mentorship, guest lectures, networking events, and more.

Let us continue to build a community rooted in curiosity, dialogue, and purpose. Here's to a year of discovery, connection, and impact.

DR. MICHAEL J. RICH, DEPARTMENT CHAIR



GRADUATION 2025

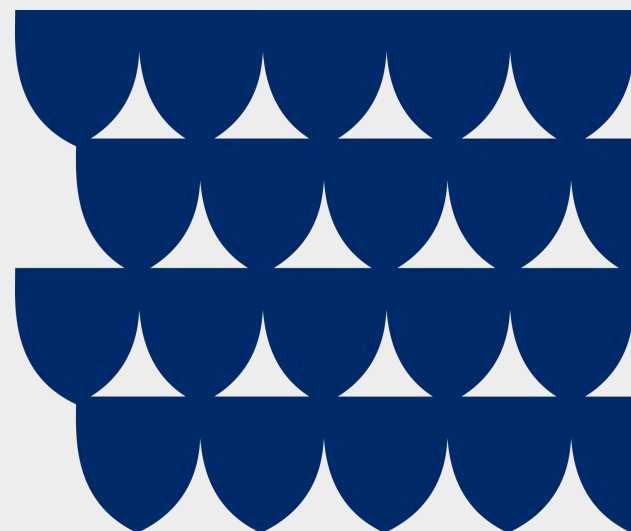
Congratulations to the Class of 2025 and welcome to the alumni family!



The Class of 2025 is off to do big things: from full-time jobs to graduate school, our new alumni are working on Capitol Hill, doing research, attending law school, pursuing PhDs, and more.



Pictured (left), Dr. David Davis with the 2024-2025 Department Honors student cohort.



UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Political Science Student Chosen as Bobby Jones Scholar



Congratulations to recent Political Science graduate, David Lee, for receiving Emory College's 2025 Robert T. Jones Jr Scholarship. David, along with 3 other outstanding 2025 graduates, is currently studying at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. David plans on conducting a comparative analysis of harm reduction policies in Scottish and American law enforcement in pursuit of a master's degree in global social and political thought. David plans to attend law school after his year in Scotland, looking toward a career with the U.S. Department of Justice's civil rights department.

Department Seniors Receive 100 Senior Honorary Recognition

For 20 years, Emory University has recognized the success of outstanding seniors who are emerging alumni leaders through the **100 Senior Honorary**. These students are selected for their leadership, academic excellence, and impact on the Emory community. Among the Class of 2025 honorees are 12 exceptional students from the Political Science Department who studied Political Science or International Studies.

Congratulations to: Jordan Antwi, Noelle Barile, Jahnavi Chamarthi, Nyla Demps, Emilyn Hazelbrook, Sarah Kim, Alexander Moss, Dani Parra Del Riego Valencia, Jean Qian, Ananya Singh, Matthew Veerasammy, and Miranda Wilson.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Recent Undergraduate Events



King of Pops visited Tull Plaza for all students and faculty



Visit from Belgian Ambassador Frédéric Bernard, coordinated by Emory Political Science Professor Dr. Bernard Fraga



GRADUATE NEWS

Graduate Program Named 18th Best in the United States

U.S. News and World Report has named our Political Science Graduate PhD program as the 18th best Political Science Graduate Program in the United States. Thank you to all of our amazing faculty and graduate students who made this ranking possible.

New Students

This fall, we welcomed 8 new PhD candidates to our graduate program.

Graduate Alumni News

Recent graduate **Eddy Yeung 25PhD** has been appointed to an Assistant Professor role Texas A&M University.

Recent graduate **Jenny Kim 25PhD** has been appointed to an Assistant Professor role at Purdue University.

Amanda Murdie 09PhD is the new Dean of the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at the Georgia Institute of Technology, beginning June 2025.

Anna Gunderson 19PhD received the APSA State Politics and Policy section Emerging Scholars Award. She is currently an associate professor at the University of Texas.

Laura Huber 19PhD joins the Department of Political Science at the University of Kentucky beginning Fall 2025 as an assistant professor.

Jian Xu 21PhD joins the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin as an Assistant Professor, beginning Fall 2025.

Don Grasse 22PhD begins a multi-year appointment as lecturer at the University of Chicago in Fall 2025.



ALUMNI GIFTS

Events Supported by the Ann and Michael Hankin Fund during Academic Year 2024-2025

Through a generous gift from Emory alums Ann and Michael Hankin 79C 79G, several events were held this past year that enriched the intellectual environment of the department for our faculty and students.

Speaker Series on Local Politics and Policy: During the 2024-2025 academic year, the department hosted a speaker series focused on local politics and public policy. The series included leading scholars in American and Comparative Politics working on local politics and policy and also provided an opportunity for our undergraduate and graduate students to engage with world-class researchers, build connections, and learn how the skills they are developing at Emory can be used to address real-world policy problems. Lead faculty who organized this series included Natalia Bueno, Kiela Crabtree, Danielle Jung, Zachary Peskowitz, and Michael Leo Owens.

Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science: SOWEPS is an annual workshop that brings together scholars in the Southeastern region who use rigorous, creative empirical methods to study important topics in political science. The meeting originated at Emory in Fall 2019 and has since been hosted by Duke, Rice, the University of Georgia, Florida State University, and Vanderbilt. In Fall 2024, Emory again hosted the workshop, bringing together PhD students and faculty from dozens of institutions around the South. Emory faculty Renard Sexton and Natalia Bueno organized the workshop.

Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting: The departments of Political Science and Quantitative Theory and Methods co-hosted the 2025 annual meeting of the Society for Political Methodology. This is the premier research event for scholars of political methodology. More than 230 faculty and graduate students (in addition to a small number of undergraduates) from leading research universities around the world attended the July 2025 conference. Emory faculty who assisted in organizing the event included Nahomi Ichino, Adam Glynn, Pablo Montagnes, Zachary Peskowitz, and Cliff Carrubba.



Lane Lamure 96C 96G Gift Funds Southeastern Rights Network Workshop

This year, a gift from alumni **Lane Lamure 96C 96G** funded the The Southeastern Rights Network (SERN) Workshop at Emory. SERN is an organization aimed at connecting scholars who do human rights-related research and are based at institutions and organizations in the southeastern United States. SERN workshops give human rights scholars in the region the opportunity to present their work and get feedback in a friendly, constructive environment.

STAY CONNECTED

We would love to hear from you via [email](#). You can keep up with us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or visiting our [department website](#). Learn more about [getting involved](#).

Come Home To Emory This Month

All members of the Emory College and Goizueta/BBA classes of 1985, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2015, and 2020 are invited to return to campus **Friday, October 24** for an [ultimate Emory party](#)—open to all alumni—that includes designated areas other groups like Greek Life, Athletics, academic departments, and more. Plus, the celebration continues with Homecoming festivities all weekend - check out the [full schedule of events](#) to plan your visit back to campus and register today.

Apply For the Emory Entrepreneur Awards

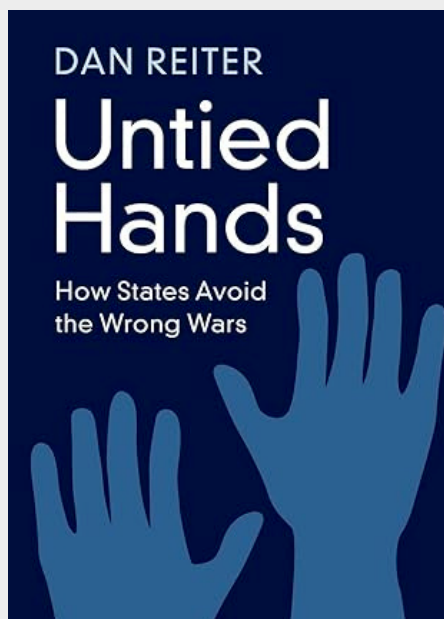
The **Emory Entrepreneur Awards** celebrate alumni founders, operators, and innovators who are driving change across industries and communities. Whether you are building a startup, leading innovation inside an organization, or transforming your community, we invite you to share your story. Celebrate and spotlight Emory's boldest innovators — [apply or nominate a peer](#) today.

Applications close Friday, October 31.

Faculty News

New Books

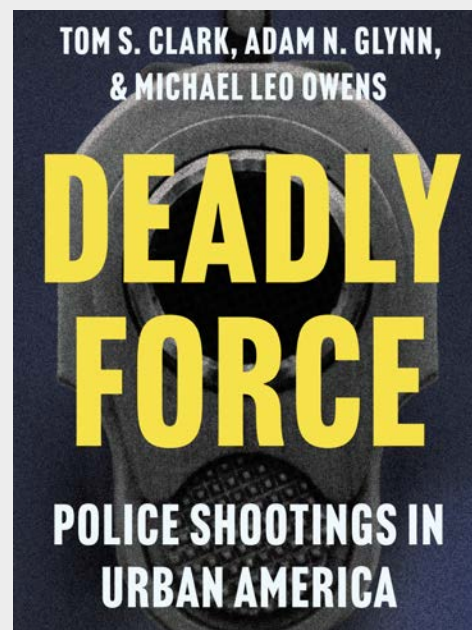
Dr. Dan Reiter



In his new book *Untied Hands*, Professor Reiter explores how states advance their national security interests. Conventional wisdom holds that states must court the risk of catastrophic war by 'tying their hands' to credibly protect their interests. Dan Reiter overturns this perspective with the compelling argument that states craft flexible foreign policies to avoid unwanted wars. Through a comprehensive analysis of key international crises, including the Berlin, Taiwan Straits, and Cuban Missile Crises, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars, Reiter provides new perspectives on the causes of wars, the role of international alliances, foreign troop deployments, leader madness, and the impact of AI on international relations. *Untied Hands* is essential reading for anyone interested in understanding how states can effectively manage international crises while avoiding the wrong wars.

Dr. Adam Glynn and Dr. Michael Owens

Professors Adam Glynn and Michael Leo Owens, with former Political Science professor Tom Clark (Stanford University), co-authored the new book *Deadly Force: Police Shootings in Urban America* (Princeton University Press, 2025). The book is based on a [multiyear project](#) funded by The National Science Foundation to collect original data on and understand patterns in police shootings across approximately 300 mid-to-large cities.



Faculty News

New Hires

Dr. Tony Yang Joins the Department

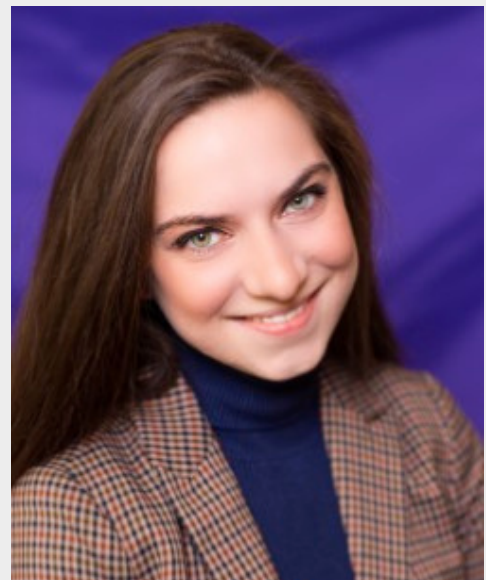


Dr. Tony Yang is the newest member of our core faculty. He received his PhD in Political Science from Washington University in St. Louis (2024) and his LL.B., Law, from Renmin University of China (2018). Professor Yang's research examines authoritarian politics, political communication, public opinion, and political methodology, with a regional focus on China and Southeast Asia. In particular, he studies how authoritarian regimes use

censorship and propaganda to shape domestic and international information environments while avoiding public backlash against these tools. Beyond his primary research agenda, he also investigates prejudice toward LGBTQ individuals and the political consequences of their growing visibility and representation. This semester, he is teaching POLS 375: Contemporary Chinese Politics and POLS 385: China in the World.

Dr. Miruna Barnoschi Joins Department as Visiting Professor

Dr. Miruna Barnoschi will spend the year as a visiting assistant professor of comparative politics and international relations. Dr. Barnoschi received her PhD in Political Science from Northwestern University in 2023. She spent the past year as a visiting assistant professor at Tulane University. At Emory, Dr. Barnoschi will teach courses on political violence, U.S. National Security Policy, terrorism, Western European Politics, and foreign policy of major powers.



Faculty News

Promotions

Natalia Bueno has been promoted to Associate Professor of Political Science with tenure.

Danielle Jung has been promoted to full professor.

Zachary Peskowitz has been promoted to full professor.

Awards

Natalia Bueno is the recipient of the best research article published in the Journal of Experimental Political Science in 2024, given by the APSA's Experimental Research Section.

John Patty and Maggie Penn have been appointed Visiting Scholars at the Russell Sage Foundation for academic year 2025-2026.

Jessica Sun has been appointed as a Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, during academic year 2025-2026.

Staff News



Pictured: Department staff and work study students

Debbie Allen has retired from her role as Graduate Program Coordinator after 30 years at Emory. The Department celebrated her service in May.

Forest Oliver has joined the Department as the new Graduate Program Coordinator.

The department's Assistant Program Director **Kathy Malanoski** has completed 40 years of service at Emory and was recognized by the College at a ceremony in August.