POLITICAL SCIENCE

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY / SPRING 2019 / ISSUE 23

What is Political Science?

Specialists in **Comparative Politics** analyze power dynamics in communities, states and regions throughout the world.

Specialists in International **Relations** focus on the power relationships between countries and between citizens and organizations of different countries.

Specialists in **Public Policy** analyze the processes, structures and outcomes of government policies and policy-making.

Specialists in **American Politics** look at the exercise of power domestically, through American institutions and processes ranging from state to social movements.

Political Theorists address fundamental normative and explanatory assumptions, such as the nature and purpose of the state; who should have power and why; and what would constitute a good society.

Editor: Sequoyah Lopez

Dr. Matthew Nanes Joins the Dept.

Last fall the Political Science Department welcomed a new professor, Dr. Matthew Nanes. Before the Atlanta native joined the SLU community, he completed his postdoc work at Stanford University's Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law. The core of Dr. Nanes' work focuses on the Middle East, researching topics like sectarian conflict, policing and public safety, and counterterrorism. He has also co-authored work in the Philippines on community policing.

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"The thing that really stood out to me about SLU is how committed the political science faculty are to translating the expertise they've acquired through their research into their teaching. I think there's a real appreciation here for the fact that students are one of the main audiences for our research, and a desire draw on our specialized knowledge to prepare students to make a positive impact on their communities after graduation."

ELECTION NIGHT Party

In a balance between what could be an Introduction to Political Science class and a Friday night football game, the Political Science Department's Election Watch Party for the 2018 midterm elections was a success made possible by department teamwork and excited student crowds. The event, held at the Center for Global Citizenship on November 6, invited students and the rest of the SLU community to join a night of political entertainment. The goal of the night, as described by organizer and assistant professor of Political Science, Steven Rogers, was to promote student engagement in politics in a more relaxed atmosphere. "Like sports," Rogers said, "it's an avenue to bring people together" --and just as any game night requires, food was flying off the table, with free pizza, cookies, chips, and soda for attendees to enjoy as they watched poll results projected on the screen of the Huh Auditorium.

Over four-hundred students joined in on the actions on the cold fall night, a number that impressed Rogers, whose goal had been set at just half of that. Overall, the event aimed to promote student engagement in politics. The night included a charismatic lecture by Rogers about the surge and decline of midterm election turnout and a brief preview of general courses offered by the department. Student organizations were highlighted with the opportunity to introduce themselves and interact with current and potential members of the audience. These groups included, UNA , Middle Eastern Student Association, Rainbow Alliance, SLU Amnesty, Green Billiken, Black Student Alliance. The night came to an end, but not before three names were drawn for the "Apple" Prize drawing, where a few lucky students went home with either a bag of apples, an apple pie, or an Apple watch.

As captured by the University News, students found the watch party to be a night of entertainment and discussion. "There was a wonderful blend of beliefs and ideologies there and I thought that was awesome," noted Brenna Salen, a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences. Jake Shaw, a senior studying political science acknowledged the positive the event does for inviting political discussion instead of debate: "So often, because elections get bogged down by partisanship, to have professor Rogers on stage explaining the process and analysis was very useful to talk about what could happen going forward."

The University News was not the only organization to cover the event. In fact, a journalist for the Swedish National Public Radio, Palmira Koukkari Mbenga, was in St. Louis to cover the midterms. A correspondent reporting on global youth, she interviewed and live reported on SLU students for the Swedish radio audience and social media.

The Election Watch Party was made possible by the combined effort of multiple excel spreadsheets, collaboration with the Center for Service and Community Engagement, the dean, faculty, and staff of the SLU Political Science Department, civic-minded students, several dozen yard sale signs, the Pizza Hut delivery man, and of course, Dr. Rogers's direction.

Look out for the next Iowa Caucus watch party in next February!

Reflections with Rogers

Which races were most significant?

"The Texas senate was a significant race because although Beto lost, his run was an impressive ordeal given his state's red standing. And of course, at the forefront of many of Saint Louis U student's minds was the race for the senate seat between Claire McCaskill and Josh Hawley. I was surprised that McCaskill, albeit an outspoken Obama supporter in a red state, lost by such a big margin in a year where women candidates were so successful."

Okay, very important question. How many pizzas did you order?

"100."

FACTS

When considering pizza options, Dr. Rogers calculated out the lowest price of pizza per square inch. He concluded that between Papa Johns, Dominoes and Pizza Hut, the latter came in best (cheapest) at just 4.4 cents per square inch!

WHAT'S YOUR PROFESSOR UP TO?

Dr. Cate found out in January that a co-authored article on criminal justice reforms in the state of Oregon received the "best article of the year" award from Theoretical Criminology. At present, she continues to work [aimlessly toil away] on her book project The Politics of Prison Reform.

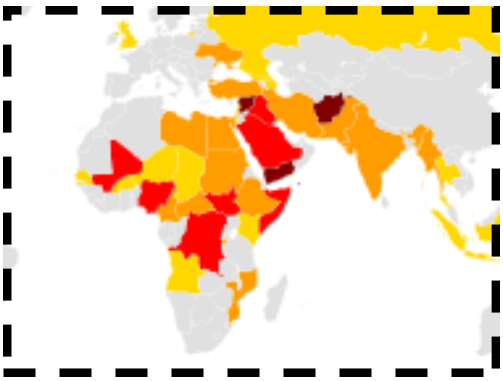
Dr. Moskop recently completed her book manuscript, Jane Addams on Inequality and Political Friendship. Now she is working on a paper coauthored with Dr. Penny Weiss, "Gendered Spaces and Feminist Epistemologies in Glaspell's 'A Jury of Her Peers.'

Dr. Warren recently finished his administrative law book, Administrative Law in the Political System: Law, Politics, and Regulatory Policy, 6th edition. It is in production now and is scheduled to come out this spring for fall adoptions. Upcoming, he is headed to China to guest lecture for a week at Xiamen University in June.

Dr. Groff recently finished a long article about how deep philosophical assumptions shape our thinking about social and political phenomena. She has also been working on her third book. In the fall, she taught a new senior seminar called "Theories of the Capitalist State," and hosted the 2nd annual meeting of the Critical Social Ontology Workshop, an international scholarly association that she coordinates."

Dr. McCormick is conducting research on the political thought of Pope Francis. He will be returning to Rome this summer to conduct further research, where he was last fall for a worldwide meeting of bishops.

Dr. Uwalaka is working on his research project of interest, "Key Elements in Expert Witness Testimony in Conflict Torn Regions of Africa."



Steven Rogers*

Department of Political Science
Saint Louis University

June 26, 2015

Abstract

Drawing upon analyses of voter turnout, I employ a new identification strategy to investigate the "surge and decline" account of midterm loss in congressional elections. I show that as the costs of voting increases – due to rainfall on Election Day – the strength of the relationship between presidential and congressional voting weakens. This result suggests certain types of voters "surge" to the polls when there are greater net benefits to voting but "decline" to turn out otherwise.

Word Count: 2962

*Assistant Professor, Saint Louis University smrogers@slu.edu. I thank Joshua Clinton, Larry Bart l Jason Windett for their feedback on this project. I am additionally grateful to Carl Klarner for shar nty-level congressional vote data.

Dr. Rogers finished his manuscript "Coattails, Raincoats, and Congressional Election Outcomes," which will appear in PS: Political Science and Politics in 2019. Rogers also recently presented a portion of his book project "Accountability in American Legislatures" at Stanford University.

Dr. Hazelton has an article coming out in The Journal of Law and Courts and is working on a book project regarding information and the Supreme Court.

Dr Katagiri published his latest article "A Critical Assessment of the Asia Rebalance" in the Chinese Journal of International Politics and is working hard as the new coordinator of the international studies program at SLU.

Dr. Nanes is working on a book about religious minorities in the police in the Middle East, along with preparing his class about Middle East Politics for the Fall.

Dr. Royer is working on several papers exploring the effects of criminal tribunals, truth commissions, and amnesties on levels of peace, democracy, and development in post-conflict societies. He is also planning a research project for a trip to the DR Congo in 2020.

Dr. Carnaghan is finishing an edited volume on SLU's 2013 no confidence movement and working on a book on how opposition movements survive even in infertile circumstances, especially in Putin's Russia.

Dr. Nanes Joins the Department

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The 2003 invasion of Iraq left a significant impression on teenage Dr. Nanes. No doubt, the urgency of headlines, soundbites, and media discourse on international and domestic affairs made it "hard not to care." As such, he saw his undergraduate years at Rice University as an opportunity to explore those questions formed by the mediascape of his youth. His curiosity has led him all around the world, encouraged him to study language (including some French, Spanish, and Arabic) and culture, and the way in which political science can provide informed, scientific conclusions on political situations.

This semester, Dr. Nanes is teaching a graduate level POLS 5020 research methods course. Next year he will be offering two undergraduate courses: Intro to International Relations and Intro to Middle Eastern Politics. The former will be an overview of what is known about the ways in which the government, international organizations, NGO's, and MNC's interact with each other in an anarchic state. This course will work to understand the means of how cooperation and problem solving attempt, fail, or succeed to prevent conflict and war. Dr. Nanes' Middle Eastern Politics course will take a look at the contemporary state of affairs in the region. This includes the level of democracy, elections, pressing social and political problems, the life of the citizenry, and the role of culture. Dr. Nanes is no stranger to his area of study, as he has literally explored a vast number of the countries his class will likely study. These include, Egypt, Morocco, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, UAE, and Turkey. Dr. Nanes is sure to incorporate personal photos and stories into his lessons and encourages all students to take the class, as it is an introductory course that can be taken without prerequisite knowledge of the regions and topics discussed.

What are your thoughts on the city of St. Louis?

"Although I spent the last six years in California, coming to St. Louis feels a bit like coming home. I grew up in Atlanta, and St. Louis has a similar vibe. I'm enjoying the Midwestern friendliness and the great balance of the city having everything I need without being too big. Even though I've only been here for a couple of months, I've already squeezed in a couple of Cardinals games and a Blues game."

"The summer before my senior year of college I rode a bicycle across the US, from Rhode Island to Washington. We covered more than 4,000 miles and crossed through 14 states!"

A Word from the Political Science Club

Jamie VandenOever, ***President***

Looking for an organization on campus to join if you are a major, minor, or just a friend of political science?

Political Science Club is the organization for you! Political Science Club hosts panels, voter education and registration drives, debates, discussions, trivia nights, and other events to educate as much as they entertain.

As a club we have hosted SLU alumni to talk about jobs beyond college, held trivia nights that test your knowledge of political scandals in history, discussed with experts if ethics has a place in politics, and so much more. Our members are known for being incredibly motivated students, regardless of their major. That's right, Political Science Club welcomes all students and does not have any requirements of its members. Even if you get your news from The Weekend Update on SNL, you'll find a place here!

We meet on a monthly basis for events, and we hold meetings for our general body to discuss current events, provide words of wisdom on classes, and build a better relationship between SLU students and the Political Science Department professors. We are currently expanding our group as well, so there are always leadership positions available to those who want to get involved beyond basic membership.

Political Science Club cannot wait to be your favorite group on campus and we hope to see you soon! If you have any questions about the club or events, please email Political Science Club president, Jamie VandenOever, at jamie.vandenoever@slu.edu.

Check out these featured courses for Fall 2019!

POLS 1540
Blood and Money: Ethnic War
Dr. Ellen Carnaghan
This course investigates conflicts within existing states, especially conflicts that appear to be based in the primary collective identity and cultural and personal features of individuals. It examines conflicts in Yugoslavia, Northern Ireland, and South Africa. Fulfills the A&S core Cultural Diversity requirement.

POLS 2590
Politics of the Middle East & North Africa
Dr. Matt Nanes
This course examines the modern politics of the Middle East and North Africa, emphasizing the years 1960 to 2010.

POLS 3630
International Organization
Dr. Ali Fisunoglu
This courses focuses on the international legal system and how that system copes with major issues. Some topics include state territory; nationality; jurisdiction; international agreements; state responsibility; international claims.

POLS 4930/5930
Facism
Dr. Ruth Groff
This is an upper-level political theory course designed to enable students to recognize the features of fascist states and fascist politics.

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The Department of Political Science is home to outstanding faculty members and engaged and thoughtful students who are eager to serve in solidarity with others to address sources of injustice in our community and the world. The discipline of political science provides analytical tools to better understand the structures of power that produce inequality and oppression and also the knowledge to build systems more likely to heighten liberty. Through graduate and undergraduate programs in political science and international studies, the department trains students to meet the challenges of public service, to take active roles as citizens, and to address critical challenges in the world today. Faculty research examines questions of citizenship, representation, law, urban and international development, national security, democratization and other topics vital to communities and countries around the world.

My experience in the political science department allowed me to explore various topics, subjects, and areas within the field, helping me to narrow down what I wanted to do in law school and beyond.

I realized a political science major is really what you make of it and SLU's Political Science Department equipped me with the proper tools to be a part of advocacy organizations, political campaigns, and assist with professors research work during my undergraduate career.

The SLU Political Science department opened doors so many doors during undergrad and also continue to support my law school endeavors and my dreams of being a part of impactful U.S. immigration reform efforts.

Stephen Wald,
SLU Pol Sci Graduate, Dec. 2018