

POLITICAL SCIENCE

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY / March 2014 / ISSUE II

GETTING TO KNOW THE FACULTY: MORGAN HAZELTON

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 **American politics** look at the exercise of power domestically, through American institutions and processes ranging from the 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.

Newsletter

Editors: Kat Carroll
Bryan Melcher

Faculty Editor: Ruth Groff

Morgan Hazelton is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science, and will be an Assistant Professor in the fall. For this issue, we've asked her to tell us a little bit about her interests and work here.

What is your academic background?

I will complete my PhD in Political Science at Washington University in St. Louis in August. In 2001, I earned a law degree from the University of Texas at Austin. My bachelor's degree is in English and German from the University of New Mexico.

What are your research interests?

My research interests encompass American political institutions, judicial politics, and quantitative methods with a focus on litigation and judicial impact and hierarchy.

What courses are you teaching? And how do those courses relate to your research interests?

I teach courses related to constitutional law, judicial politics, and quantitative methods. They directly relate to my research interests, which include studying the influence of legal change on litigant behavior and judicial decision-making in light of such behavior. I also study how the composition and rules governing multi-member courts affect the decisions those courts make. Additionally, my research portfolio includes work on campaign finance in judicial races and the separation of powers.

How do you like teaching at SLU?

I find teaching at SLU to be one of the most rewarding experiences that I have had. The students are bright, thoughtful, and engaged. The smaller class sizes allow me to know my students better, and I am grateful for that.





KEY TO SUCCESS: MENTORING MATTERS

The College of Arts and Sciences launched the Mentoring Matters initiative this semester. The Political Science Department hosted a series of events in February to connect students with their faculty mentors.

“Faculty mentors answer questions you don’t even know you have. The program does great things for our political science community.” --Dr. Ann Wainscott

“Mentoring is one of my favorite parts of being a Political Science major at SLU. I really feel that it helps provide me with a better idea of where I’ll be going and what I’ll be doing for the next few years.” – Kat Carroll



Dr. Adam Meyers, Eric Behna, Dr. Warren and Dr. Gilsinan pictured at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Party.



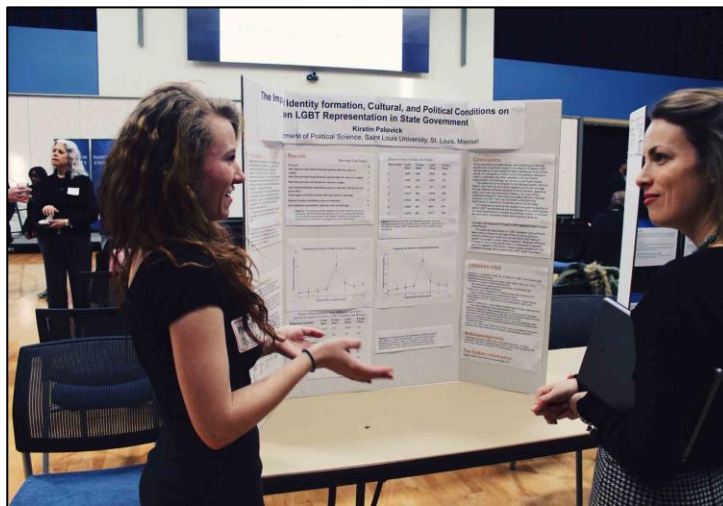
Dr. Hazelton, Kristen Powers, Zara Petkovic, and Dr. Strikwerda connect at a Mentoring Matters event.

At Mentoring Matters events, faculty and students discussed SLU life while fostering educational connections that help students excel in the post-grad world.

The goal of these events was to promote discussion between faculty and students and make sure they know about the resources available to them.

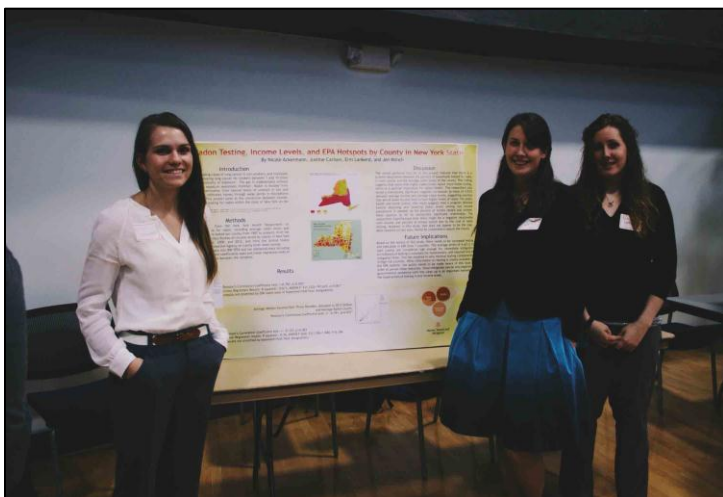
This department is full of dedicated mentors, who always have time for their students.

Local and Global Social Justice Conference A Smashing Success!



The 4th Annual Global and Local Social Justice Conference hosted a series of undergraduate and graduate student sessions concerning global justice.

Left, Kirsten Palovic, senior Political Science major, presents a poster on “Identity Formation, Culture, and Politics: LGBT Representation in State Government.”



The keynote address was given by Dr. Norman White, of the Criminology and Criminal Justice program and followed by a round of paper panels and posters.

“Norm White gave us a powerful call towards realizing justice based on his extensive experience in social action.”

Local and Global Social Justice Conference: A Dazzling Display



For more information about the
Global and Local Social Justice
Minor, contact Robert
Strikwerda at rstrikwe@slu.edu

Local Poster Topics

Voter Registration

- Eric Behna

Heroin Use in Urban St. Louis

- Josephine Fox

Refugee Resettlement

- Beatrice Abraham

Global Poster Topics

HIV Prevention in Malawi

- Jake Gilliland

Microfinance in Africa

- Lizzie Gentile

Democratic Consolidation in
Central America

- Alison Talkers

The Black Panther Party (*Reconsidered*)



The Political Science Department co-sponsored an event with the African-American Studies Department. Full professor of Africana Studies at the University of Cincinnati, Dr. Charles Jones presented “Serving the People Body and Soul: The Revolutionary Essence of the Black Panther Party” and discussed his book, entitled *The Black Panther Party (Reconsidered)*.

ASIAN FORUM

The Asian Forum series, hosted by the Asian Studies Program, provides a setting for the discussion of issues in the Asian Studies field. Dr. Lomperis invites faculty from across the university to come and speak about their interests.

If you are interested in pursuing a minor in Asian Studies, do not hesitate to contact the Program Coordinator, Dr. Timothy Lomperis. Dr. Lomperis can be reached at lomperis@slu.edu.



Asian Forum Topics

Buddhist and Hindu Art in Asia

- Dr. Jack Renard, Theology

The Deportation of Chinese Immigrants as the Origins of Modern Deportability

- Dr. Toriee Hester, History

GETTING TO KNOW THE FACULTY: ADAM MYERS



Adam Meyers is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science. Next year he will be an Assistant Professor at Providence College. We asked him to tell us about his interests:

What is your academic background?

I earned my B.A. from Pomona College and my M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin.

What are your research interests?

My research interests lie primarily in two areas: political geography and American political development. My dissertation examined how America's changing political geography has affected patterns of party conflict in state legislatures. There's a lot of talk these days about how Americans might be sorting themselves into politically homogeneous enclaves – “red places” and “blue places”, so to speak. It's fairly well-established that these differences occur at the sub-state level; in other words, within “red states” there are nearly always some blue communities and within “blue states” there are nearly always some red ones. So, as partisans within states segregate themselves into distinct community types, what happens to the politicians who represent them? Do they become more polarized? If so, on what issues? Those are the sorts of questions that my dissertation addresses.

I also conduct research in American political development, which is basically the study of American political history from a political science perspective. I'm currently working on a project in which I look at American partisan regimes (long periods of time in which one party dominates national politics, both electorally and philosophically). I'm trying to understand how federalism impacts the partisan regime cycle. One of the best examples of a partisan regime is the New Deal Era, during which time the national government was almost completely dominated by Democrats. I'm exploring how state governments (particularly those controlled by Republicans) responded to the New Deal and how this in turn shaped what the New Deal Democrats were able to accomplish from a public policy perspective.

What courses are you teaching? And how do those courses relate to your research interests?

I'm currently teaching an upper-division/graduate course on political parties and another upper-division course in American political development. As should be clear from what I wrote above, both of these courses are very closely related to my research interests. ;)

How do you like teaching at SLU?

Teaching at SLU has been a blast. Students here are very intellectually curious and always step up to the plate when I give them a hard assignment. They're also genuinely nice people!