

politics

spring/summer 2023



Ryan Balot

Chair, UTSG

This past semester at UTSG has been full of intellectual excitement, with dedicated mentorship of our students, and a widespread recognition of our accomplishments. In a world where global democracy is in retreat, and where authoritarians continue to amass power, the Department has decided to undertake a “liberal democracy initiative,” powered in part by a substantial donation, establishing the St. George Speaker Series on Liberal Democracy. This initiative will also be carried forward in the fall by faculty searches in the areas of Canadian Democracy and Liberal Democratic Theory and Its Critics. Our ranks have been strengthened by new hires this year in Canadian Politics (Semra Sevi), European Politics (Tom Pavone), and International Relations (Mark Nie-man). Our existing faculty have enjoyed great success along all dimensions of academic life: witness the teaching awards won by Uahikea Maile and Philip Lipsky, the Vivek Goel Citizenship Award won by Dickson Eyoh, and the Northrop Frye Award, which honors the curriculum reform committee of 2019. Our students have benefited immensely from these dedicated teachers and scholars, as well as from a redesigned curriculum that modernizes and deepens their understanding of politics. Altogether, we are humming at a fast clip.



Steven Bernstein

Interim Chair, UTM

It's been an exciting time at UTM with new student initiatives and faculty accomplishments. In January, a student-hosted podcast, “Over the Podium,” now available on Spotify, Apple and Anchor.fm, went live. It brings to life foundational questions that underlie contemporary politics through conversation with several faculty and researchers in political science. It's been an impressive year for faculty research accomplishments. In just a couple of highlights, Andrea Olive was a co-winner of the Canadian Historical Association's 2022 Indigenous History Best Article Prize for an article in *Canadian Historical Review* that highlights the growing resistance to northern development by Indigenous communities. Alison Smith's book *Multiple Barriers: The Multilevel Governance of Homelessness in Canada*, was shortlisted for the 2023 Canadian Political Science Association's Donald Smiley Prize, awarded annually to the best book in Canadian politics. The American Political Science Association's flagship journal, *American Political Science Review*, published Geoff Dancy's article on what Google searches can tell us about the global human rights movement. Finally, we congratulate two colleagues – Randy Besco and Alison Smith – who have been granted tenure.



Christopher Cochrane

Interim Chair, UTSC

This spring, we hosted a reception to honor the student finalists for the department's ‘Excellence Awards,’ in the areas of Leadership, Impact, Citizenship, and Scholarship, alongside essay prizes. Led by Aisha Ahmad, Associate Chair of undergraduate studies, the awards recognized the perseverance and accomplishments of students, both academically and in community-building at UTSC. Recent faculty research accomplishments included a workshop on Elizabeth Acorn's latest book project which focuses on how countries implemented the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention. Phil Triadafilopoulos' article, “Whiteness and the Politics of Middle-Class Nation-Building in Canada,” was published in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. Lucan Way's co-authored article, “Censorship and the Impact of Repression on Dissent” was published in the *American Journal of Political Science*, while his book, “Revolution and Dictatorship” was shortlisted for the Gelber Book Prize. On a sadder note, we mourned the loss of our friend and colleague David Onley, who passed away suddenly on January 14th. David, a proud UTSC graduate, was a champion of disability rights both during and after his seven year stint as Ontario's 28th lieutenant-governor.



Theresa Enright

Graduate Director &
Associate Graduate
Chair, UTSG

Margaret Kohn

Tri-Campus
Graduate Chair

We are thrilled to see a resurgence in our intellectual community as students and faculty return to campus. Attendance at workshops, reading groups, and talks continues to increase. This past year, fourteen students successfully defended their dissertations while our alumni continue to be successful on the academic job market. Among them are Kevin Luo, who is taking up the position of Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota; Catherine Ouellet, Assistant Professor at the University of Montreal; and Danny Hutton-Ferris, Lecturer at the University of Newcastle, UK. Our students have also been recognized for their accomplishments as Teaching Assistants and Course Instructors. Two of our graduate students were chosen as finalists for the U of T Teaching Assistants' Training Program (TATP) awards: Justinas Stankus (TA) and Zachariah Black (Course Instructor). Kavita Reddy was awarded the 2023 BIPOC Teaching Excellence Award. We are excited to welcome an incoming cohort of 21 PhD and 42 MA students in the fall. Among these are one OGS winner (provincial), one Inclusive Excellence Admission award (UofT - FAS & SGS) three Recognition of Excellence award recipients (UofT - FAS & SGS) and two Connaught International Scholarship recipients (UofT - SGS).

Meet Our Students

Updates from our scholars



Olivia MacDonald

undergraduate student

Why did you decide to study Political Science and American Studies?

I grew up in a very political and socially progressive family, so I have always gravitated toward political issues. Academically, my passion for politics and governance was realized in the International Baccalaureate program, where I fell in love with my Global Politics course. Since then, I knew that Political Science was the avenue I wanted to pursue, and I thought it would be the perfect stepping stone into law school. As I had lived abroad for many years before returning to Canada, I was very excited about the opportunity to learn more about Canadian and American political systems and processes.

What have been the most rewarding and challenging experiences during University thus far?

One of the biggest challenges I faced has been to put myself out there and try to find a community. The transition from high school to university was difficult, and the pandemic and online schooling exacerbated that problem. Adapting to mandated participation and seminar classes was also difficult. At the same time, the most rewarding part of being at university has been witnessing my own growth as both an individual and a student. Learning to immerse myself in campus life has really helped me discover who I am and what my passions are. Working alongside the PEARS (Prevention, Empowerment, Advocacy, Response, for Survivors) project and leading a feminist group have ignited my passion for advocacy work in feminist spheres. Studying at U of T has also made me more confident in myself as a student; I've become proud of my academic abilities and achievements and am confident that I can achieve my future goals.

What did you learn at University that you did not expect to?

I wasn't expecting the plethora of courses that would be offered in the Political Science department. I have had the privilege of taking specialized courses on topics that were completely new to me, such as Indigenous, Feminist, and Queer theory. I feel that I'm leaving U of T with such a breadth of knowledge on topics that up to now, I hadn't really been exposed to, but that I thoroughly enjoyed taking.

What do you plan to do after graduation?

I have been accepted to U of T's Faculty of Law to pursue a JD so I'm very excited to continue my education and work towards making a difference in the community. After graduation, I hope to be able to continue my work with some of the advocacy groups that I've worked with over the course of my undergraduate degree, both on and off campus.

"I'm leaving U of T with such a breadth of knowledge on topics that up to now, I hadn't been exposed to."



Semuhi Sinanoglu

graduate student

Please explain your research and its main findings thus far.

I'm interested in exploring why some autocratic regimes remain resilient in the face of dwindling resources. Despite factors such as increasing economic pressure through sanctions, declining oil prices, currency shocks, or overall economic mismanagement, these regimes can still politically control critical social groups, especially the business elite. One would expect the business elite – with its corporate funds, social capital, and human resources – to defect from the regime and politically mobilize against it during economic crises. Nevertheless, the available statistical data suggest otherwise. I investigate this puzzle using quantitative and experimental methods. My main explanation is that autocrats employ polarization in tandem with repression to tap into anti-business public sentiment. That's how they politically control the business elite. On the one hand, because the politically connected business elite are often perceived as corrupt by the masses, autocrats exploit polarized environments to quickly stigmatize and blame them for pressing economic problems. On the other hand, they use repression of the business elite outside the ruling coalition to reap economic rent, consolidate their core electoral support base, and boost the autocrat's popularity. In other words, polarization serves as a tool of political technology; it provides maneuvering room for the autocrat to calibrate the existing ruling coalition and justifies expropriation and economic coercion.

Why did you decide to research this particular area, and what intrigues you the most about it? What impact do you hope your research will have? Any surprising findings?

I am from Turkey, a country that experienced autocratization, and the business elite actively participated in that regime transformation. I also think this puzzle matters in the general scheme of things. First, we still know very little about why some oligarchs do not abandon their patron autocrats under economic hardships and why some do. Some sanctions imposed on the Russian oligarchs following the war in Ukraine are designed for elite defection. However, it is still unclear whether they will be effective because not all financial crises and sanctions lead to such an outcome. My research sheds light on how autocrats use polarized environments to get away with repression and take advantage of it to shape public support.

What has been the most challenging aspect of this project?

Ethics protocol approval! It took longer than expected and required significant effort to convince the committee that my research was not high-risk. Additionally, there is a pervasive institutional bias towards individual work over academic collaborations, which can be isolating for PhD students. This is especially true at the job market stage, where research collaborations are not always rewarded in the same way as individual work. However, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to join several research clusters in my department, including the POSTCOR Lab, which provided me with a supportive community of colleagues to collaborate with.

Future plans post PhD?

I will apply for academic positions, but luck is a fickle friend in the academic job market. I already serve as a political risk consultant in the industry so I may pursue that career path.

Prized Students


The David Rayside scholarship is awarded annually to students who demonstrate a deep commitment to co-curricular activities that promote a greater public understanding of social and cultural diversity, with an enhanced focus on historically marginalized populations such as racialized minorities, women, Indigenous communities, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities and sexual minorities. Two of our undergraduate students, both deeply committed to advocacy work, tell us what receiving the David Rayside award means to them.



Jolie Gan:

Jolie has founded three non-profit organizations with a primary focus on distributing menstrual and sanitation products to Indigenous women in Southeast Asia. She has spoken several times at the UN, has been awarded both the prestigious Diana Award and the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. "Receiving the David Rayside award is an enormous honour. Apart from the financial support, winning this award in the name of diversity, inclusion, and equity makes the award significantly more meaningful to me. As someone who comes from a diverse background, most proudly as the child of immigrants, being able to continue a legacy of paying it forward for those who have been historically marginalized is especially important to me.

Following graduation, I hope to pursue a career in innovation, strategy, and product development in either the healthcare or modern agriculture fields. I also hope to advance equitable access to healthcare, particularly through nutrition, by developing tools, innovations, and products that encourage and support people to live healthier lives."



Catherine Dumé:

Catherine is the co-founder and former President of U of T's Accessibility Awareness Club (U-TAAC), the Accessibility correspondent at *The Varsity*, and the student Co-Chair for the Accessibility Services Advisory Committee. She is also a member of the Innis College Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility committee, the Black Student Experience committee, and the Student Life Advisory Council. "As a person with a disability, being a recipient of the David Rayside Scholarship means a lot to me. It is not uncommon to be told that you will not succeed because of your disability, an outlook that I have continued to prove wrong. Despite this, I found it difficult to find scholarships that acknowledge not only my background, but also the amount of work I do for the disability community. When I learned of this scholarship, I made sure to apply, even though I wasn't sure if I would succeed considering how big our student body is. I'm so grateful to the donors and the scholarship committee for this opportunity to be recognized for my work, as well as assisting me with the financial support to continue my studies, exploring accessibility policy."

The Methods Lab



Peer tutors Brad Wood-MacLean, James Jiang & Bronwyn Moon-Craney of the Methods Lab

A pilot project that offers Quantitative Analysis support to students

to offer a space where struggling undergraduate students can seek expert guidance.

As a group of peer tutors who specialize in quantitative data analysis, and who have each completed both mandatory introductory quantitative methods courses, **Brad Wood-MacLean**, **Bronwyn Moon-Craney**, and **James Jiang** held regular office hours to meet with students with queries. The Lab also offered peer advice to students taking advanced courses in quantitative methods and to those writing a senior thesis using quantitative methods.

In the same feedback survey, approximately one third of students indicated that they visited the Methods Lab, and virtually every student who visited the Lab indicated that the peer tutors' advice was helpful and improved their understanding of the theory and practice of quantitative data analysis. Three quarters of the students attended in-person, with the remaining visiting via Zoom or sending in queries by email. The range of queries were quite diverse, ranging from how to use statistical software, clarification of basic concepts, and research topic ideas.

Tutor Brad Wood-MacLean became involved when a couple of professors encouraged him to sign-up. "I saw it as an opportunity to really make a difference and use my skills to help my fellow students in a very tangible way. Working in the Methods Lab has been a profoundly rewarding experience. Not only have I been able to help fellow peers, but I've met a lot of extremely bright students along the way. With every session, I was impressed by the devotion, determination, and passion students exhibit to improve their work."

Lab supervisor Professor Kenichi Ariga hopes more students will utilize the peer advice available at the Methods Lab and that it will become a community hub for undergraduate political science data analysts when it returns in the Fall. He says: "The Methods Lab is a convenient and welcoming place for students with any quantitative analysis related questions, no matter how simple, as there is no such thing as a dumb question!"

Learning to Teach, Teaching to Learn:

Two TOP participants discuss why they applied to the Teaching Opportunity Program, the original courses they'll be teaching this summer, and their teaching role models.



Tanya Bandula-Irwin

I applied to the Teaching Opportunity Program because it's a great opportunity to teach a course I designed myself. Until now, I've only been a Teaching Assistant and the opportunity to design a course from scratch really appealed to me.

POL487: Civil War and Insurgency is a seminar-style course that provides an advanced introduction to the study of civil wars. The course is divided into three parts: examining civil war on-

set, the dynamics of civil war, like rebel governance and insurgent strategies, and post-conflict outcomes including interventions, peace negotiations and long-term peace durability. We will also examine the approaches and methodologies that are commonly used in civil war research. My hope is that the course will prepare students for graduate studies on civil wars or to work in fields related to peace and conflict.

This is my first time teaching a course as an instructor. I'm hoping students develop their research method skill-sets, their theoretical understanding of civil wars, and broaden their empirical knowledge about historical and current civil wars. I'm excited to be in the classroom with students again and to be engaging and sharing ideas in person.

I've had many incredible teachers that have inspired me. I took an excellent civil war course with Professor Noel Anderson in my second year of the PhD program. I can only hope this course will be as interesting, and that I can teach with as much passion and compassion as he does.



Jasmine Chorley-Foster

I applied to the TOP to grow as both a lecturer and a pedagogue. I'm hoping to learn how to create a learning environment that motivates students to develop the confidence to develop their own ideas. *POL380: Internationalism and Imperialism* explores two foundational themes in the study of international politics. I'm particularly excited to share with students how working class and colonized people experience international "high politics," organize to intervene in it, and make meaning out of it. We'll cover the World Wars from this perspective, the Paris Commune of 1871 and the Boer War.

We'll also consider how the labour movement tried to challenge capitalism through different tactics for international solidarity, and how war and oppression affects the mind. One of the goals of my work is to diversify the canon of Political Theory. I'm particularly excited to broaden our understanding of who counts as a political thinker, with an emphasis the Global South, the Black radical tradition, and working-class political cultures.

While I have previously facilitated workshops and reading groups and have worked as a lead TA, I have not yet had the chance to teach a class I've designed myself. Questions of empires, capitalism, international organizations, slavery, and revolutions are politically significant in world history and endure as political and theoretical problems today, all against the backdrop of both the rise of a new fascist international, a major war in Europe, and climate change, rooted in the ceaseless exploitation of people and resources. I'm hoping for interesting discussions and that we might all come away from it understanding our world a little better.

I've recently been inspired by Professor Torrey Shanks. She makes complex texts and bodies of work not only digestible to students at different learning levels but interesting and exciting! The mentorship of my dissertation supervisor Professor Emily Nacol has been a huge source of inspiration throughout my graduate studies. I hope to emulate her support and prioritization of student learning in my own teaching.

Best Books

Professors Kate Neville (L) and Lynette Ong discuss their recent book awards



Kate Neville:

"My academic work has long been motivated by a deep love of—and concern for—the wild world around us, that entangled web of human and non-human spaces and lives. Part of what sustains and propels me in this work is literature: poetry and prose that carries imaginative force, empathetic power, and emotional response. I turn to writers whose creative and metaphorical use of language can evoke something about these relationships between us and the world around us that are hard to articulate and analyze, or to pin down in scholarly language and form. The Sowell Family Collection at Texas Tech University is a place that gathers and uplifts such writing on nature, culture, and place. *Terrain.org* is an independent magazine that publishes work with a focus on place, climate, and justice. I was stunned and thrilled to have my manuscript chosen for their inaugural **Sowell Emerging Writers Prize**, which comes with the opportunity to work with literary editors at Texas Tech University Press and *Terrain.org* to develop and sharpen my writing. This prize is unusual: it is not awarded to recognize finished work, but instead to nurture potential or possibility. It signals a belief in writing as a craft—that is, as a practice and not just a product—and in the need for writers to be supported in the process of bringing their stories into being. The creation of this prize underscores the shared commitment of this community to the power of writing in shaping our ideas, values, and actions.

As I explore creative forms of writing, it is a gift to have support from writers and editors whose own work asks us to think widely about others and our place on the planet."

Lynette Ong:

"I'm really honoured to have won the **ISA Human Rights Section Best Book Award**. *Outsourcing Repression* addresses strategies established by the Chinese state to seize farmland and demolish houses when its actions lack legitimacy. Authorities in China have figured out that by hiring street hoodlums and patron-trusted local influencers, they can get the job done expeditiously. Thus, it is a study about how to feasibly repress, while minimizing the costs of backlash and resistance. I used China's ambitious urbanization scheme as a window of observation. I demonstrate the ways outsourcing repression redraws the boundaries between state and society and the topography of state power, surpassing state repression or even social control, animating a new creature of the state. I have recently published several articles in *Foreign Policy* and *Foreign Affairs*, to illustrate the external validity of my arguments by applying them to the Zero-Covid Policy and protests. Much of the writing for the book was done during the COVID-19 lockdown. Weaving together the stories my interlocutors shared over the course of the research provided much comfort and moderately ameliorated the toll taken by the extended lockdown in Toronto. I'm most grateful for the trust my interviewees and interlocutors placed in me by allowing me to tell their stories. This book is dedicated to "all those who received the short end of the stick in the state's ambitious scheme."



Remembering Nathan Alexander Sears (1987-2023)

It is with enormous sadness that we write about the devastating loss of Nathan Sears in the recent Airbnb fire in Montreal, where he was attending the International Studies Association's annual meeting. The morning before the fire, Nathan had delivered his paper, "Great Power Rivalry and Human Survival: Why States Fail to 'Securitize' Existential Threats to Humanity," presenting on research that had been his passion.

Nathan was the epitome of a committed scholar. He defended his PhD dissertation in October 2022, but already had made an impact as a leading young voice among a new generation of scholars on global existential threats to humanity. His list of accomplishments and impact belie a career cut tragically short. After receiving his MA from Carleton University, he began a position as a professor teaching International Relations at Universidad de las Américas in Ecuador, from 2012 to 2016. Among Nathan's many talents was his ability to teach and publish bilingually, an impressive achievement for any multilingual academic, let alone a non-native Spanish speaker.

Nathan returned to Canada in 2016 to pursue his PhD. Despite his love of intellectual sparring and grand IR theory, Nathan was also an engaged policy practitioner who worked to ensure his research and writing were relevant and accessible to wider audiences. In 2018, he was among the winners of Global Affairs Canada (GAC)'s International Policy Ideas Challenge and from 2019-2020 was the Government of Canada's Cadieux-Léger fellow, awarded to one exceptional doctoral student annually. The fellowship took him to Ottawa to work for the Foreign Policy Research and Foresight Division of GAC while he completed his dissertation. In a statement, GAC called Nathan "a friend to all, bringing to his work an intellectual curiosity, an ability to build strong relationships and an openness to sharing his knowledge and ideas." Nathan continued to work for the Canadian government after defending his dissertation, though his passion was academia. He was waiting to hear the outcomes of several academic job interviews when he died.

His publications, including influential articles in *Journal of Global Security Studies* and *Global Policy*, introduced a new security framework for understanding global existential threats and failures of macrosecuritization. He was fearless in tackling the big questions of our time, specifically on great powers' inability to collectively address human-induced civilizational threats, from nuclear war to the risk of bioengineered pathogens or 'unaligned' artificial intelligence.

As Haydn Belfield, Academic Project Manager at the University of Cambridge's Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, told us, Nathan "was already making novel, important and conversation-provoking contributions at the intersection of IR and global risk [and] people from across the world deeply respected Nathan and would like to honour him." We and other colleagues are already working to ensure his ideas reach a wide audience.

Those who studied alongside Nathan knew him as a passionate researcher. He was the consummate scholar, fully embracing the life of the mind, and relishing in intellectual debate. Nathan brought deep historical knowledge, theoretical acumen, and ethical commitment to every conversation. His unflagging enthusiasm for ideas was palpable. He also remained charmingly humble despite his great intelligence. He gave his time generously and genuinely celebrated others' achievements as his own. For all the seriousness of his work, he was a compassionate person, an animal lover and enthusiastic dog-dad with a great sense of humour.

Nathan left an indelible mark on all he encountered as kind, passionate, intellectually courageous, and deeply committed to making the world a better and safer place. Our hearts go out to his family and all those in our community who are mourning him, and the loss of such enormous potential.

If you would like to leave a note of condolence or share a memory of Nathan, you can do so here: <https://www.remembr.com/nathan.alexander.sears>. A GoFundMe has also been set up to benefit Nathan's widow: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/nathan-alexander-sears>.

- Steven Bernstein, Emma Lecavalier, and Ryder McKeown

Lawrence LeDuc: What retirement means to me

"Retirement" has different meanings for different people. For me, it has so far been a continuation of my academic life and research interests but with a reduced pace, allowing more time for other activities and interests. I typically teach one course, generally a fourth year/graduate seminar, in the fall term. This allows for some travel in the winter term and summers at our cottage in Gananoque. It was a good plan until it was disrupted by the pandemic over the last couple of years. On the positive side, I did learn a bit along the way about teaching on-line!



I also remain active in research, choosing my projects more selectively. I now work mainly with Canadian electoral data, but as a consumer of such data rather than a producer. The high quality and timely release of the last three Canadian Election Studies has made it easier to continue my work in this area, leading to the publication of a new edition of *Absent Mandate: Strategies and Choices in Canadian Elections* (University of Toronto Press, 2019). More recently, I presented a paper with Jon Pammett on the prospects for populist political movements in Canada at a conference at Texas A & M University. I still greatly enjoy collaborative research, but the recent passing of my longtime friend and collaborator, Harold Clarke, will constrain my future work in this area. However, a possible third edition of *Dynasties and Interludes: Past and Present in Canadian Electoral Politics* (Dundurn Press, 2016), is in my thoughts if the next federal election takes place as expected in October 2025. We'll see!

Enough about academic work. Before COVID-19 hit, not having to teach in the winter term opened up some new travel possibilities and trips to South America including Colombia, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay, as well as Australia and Vietnam. With travel restrictions diminishing, the opportunity to escape at least part of another Canadian winter will again beckon. But for now, with summer approaching, leisure time is more likely to be spent in the garden than on a plane. And there is more time to play bridge, which always fits nicely into any retirement plan.

The Judge and the Journalist

Two of our alumni discuss the careers they feel privileged to have



Faizal Mirza

Judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario
BA, 1997 / MA, 1998

Having completed both a BA and an MA in political science, why did you pick this discipline to study and how has it benefited your choice of career?

During my academic years, monumental socio-political events transpired that changed the world. I was inspired to study North America's response to foreign conflict, national security and systemic racism. The study of political science provided a clear path to develop an expertise in the intersection between politics and human rights.

How important was attending graduate school in arming you with the right tools?

At graduate school I honed my writing skills under the mentorship of outstanding faculty. I acquired an in-depth knowledge of the legal sources of racial inequality, an area that I pursued further in law school and addressed as a constitutional and criminal lawyer. The opportunity to teach at graduate school strengthened my communication skills, a critical foundation for my oral advocacy as a lawyer. I'm especially grateful for the mentorship of Professors Richard Iton and Graham White.

What advice would you give a student considering a career in law?

Focus on developing your analytical, writing, and communication skills. Take advantage of the diverse course options and study the areas that you are passionate about, to enhance your prospects of high academic achievement. Express your ideas in class. Your peers and professors will benefit from hearing your perspective. Volunteer or work on issues that will improve our society.

Having recently been appointed a Judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario in Brampton, how does this role differ from your previous one, what are you hoping to achieve and what do you enjoy most and least about your job?

My duty as a lawyer was to be a strong advocate for a client or public interest group to advance their interests and the law. That is no longer my role.

I spend my time in court listening to arguments and making difficult decisions every day. We deal with a high volume of cases. My focus is determining the correct legal outcome. I strive to instill confidence in individuals and lawyers that appear before me that they will receive a fair hearing and soundly reasoned decision. A judge has tremendous responsibility and pressure, a role I am privileged to have.

My long-term goal is to strengthen the justice system by contributing helpful decisions, scholarship and education.



Catherine Tsalikis

Journalist
BA, 2009

Why did you decide to study political science and how has it benefited your career?

When I was applying to university, I wasn't sure what kind of career I'd eventually like to pursue, but I was interested in learning more about how governments function and how they interact with each other on the world stage. I ended up doing a double major in political science and international relations, which was perfect preparation for my career as a journalist who covers politics and foreign policy. I credit all those political science essays with fine-tuning my writing skills!

Few professions have been impacted by technology and social media more than journalism. How do you manage to stay up to date, engaged and inspired?

It's not too difficult — I feel exceptionally lucky to do this for a living, and it's easy to feel engaged when I'm constantly covering new stories and interviewing all kinds of interesting people such as cabinet ministers, diplomats, activists and academics. It's helpful to be able to keep up with the latest technological trends, but at the end of the day what's most important is having a solid understanding of what makes good journalism — accuracy, fairness, the ability to tell a compelling story.

Jobs in journalism are continuously on the decline. What advice would you give a new graduate considering becoming a journalist?

It's a profession worth pursuing, but be ready to hustle! You will probably not land your dream job immediately, but any opportunity that provides you with a chance to gain experience is a valuable one. Be willing to learn from any colleague who is kind enough to offer guidance, and network, network, network. Reach out to journalists who are doing the kind of work you're interested in and see if you can buy them a coffee. Also, as my career shows, a degree in journalism is not a prerequisite.

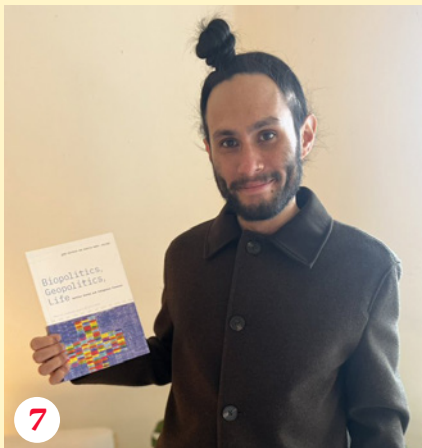
What do you enjoy most and least about your job?

There are many things I love about journalism: working with bright and passionate colleagues, learning something new every day, travelling to far-flung places, and hopefully expanding readers' understanding of political and international issues. What I love least is definitely the uncertainty. Journalists in Canada are constantly facing the threat of layoffs and are having to make do with shrinking resources, which is hard on morale.

You are currently working on your first book, a natural progression for a journalist. Can you tell us about it?

I'm currently working on a book about Chrystia Freeland, Canada's deputy prime minister and finance minister. I've always been interested in Chrystia — the most powerful woman in Canadian politics — and wanted to know more about her background, how she got to where she is, and what kind of future national leader she might make. I put together a proposal, and with the help of my co-agents shopped it around. I ended up receiving a contract from House of Anansi Press, Canada's biggest independent publisher, and my manuscript is due later this year.

Events



1. Caroline Shenaz Hossein at the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa, where she was invited to share her research.
2. Political Science students (L-R) Jian Peng Wang, Karen Reyes Henriquez, Giuliana Bertoia-Agredo, and Alicia Abbott joined The Honourable Ranj Pillai (centre), Premier of the Yukon, at a recent Canadian Club conference in Toronto.
3. Joseph Wong discussed his new book *From Development to Democracy: The Transformations of Modern Asia* with students in London, England, co-hosted by Kings College and SOAS.
4. Ronald Beiner and Rebecca Kingston at the book launch of her latest book *Plutarch's Prism: Classical Reception and Public Humanism in France and England, 1500-1800*.
5. Robert Vipond was joined by Steve Paikin for a *Campus to Careers* lunch where he gave students career advice and discussed his latest book on former PM John Turner.
6. Madison Schramm joined Stéfanie von Hlatky to discuss her new book *Deploying Feminism* at an event organized by NATO Canada.
7. Uahikea Maile with his copy of *Biopolitics, Geopolitics, Life: Settler States and Indigenous Presence*, to which he contributed.
8. Victor Falkenheim catches up with students including one of our alumnae, Yi-Chun Chien (bottom left), during a recent trip to Taiwan.

Reports: Undergraduate, Graduate and PhD Job Placements



APSS/ Association of Political Science Students

Ciara McGarry, President

The Association of Political Science Students (APSS) has had an incredibly successful semester. In February, we organized an academic panel on the repercussions of the zero-Covid protests in China, featuring Professors Victor Falkenheim and Lynette Ong. We also hosted a career panel on private sector career paths, featuring political science alumni Ashley Challinor, Senior Manager of Government & Public Sector at Ernst and Young, and Jake Brockman, Senior Manager of Public Policy at Uber. In February, we held our second international politics-themed trivia night with the International Relations Society, as well as an end-of-year pub night in March. We also launched a four-part study session series and concluded our mentorship program with a tour of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. We are proud to have published the eighth and ninth editions of *POLIS: The Undergraduate Journal of Political Science* and are very grateful to the Department for providing printing funding. The APSS is also delighted to have hosted its annual Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference at Hart House. We are grateful to PhD Candidate Cheng Xu who attended and provided insightful feedback to our six undergraduate presenters. Congratulations to the current Associate Vice-President Grace Yang, who will be serving as the President of the APSS in 2023-2024. For more information about events, initiatives, and opportunities, please check out our website: <https://utapss.wixsite.com/apss>.



GASPS/ Graduate Association of Students in Political Science

Hayley Russell, Chair

As another term comes to an end, GASPS was happy to witness and play a role in the continual revitalization of academic and social life on campus. We thank the graduate student body for their resilience and continual willingness to contribute to, and participate in, GASPS events. This term, we held a variety of successful social events, including an evening of ice skating, games night, and a variety of collegial Fridays. GASPS was also able to provide support to several continuing and new research clusters, such as the Contemporary Theory Reading Group and Health Policy Research Cluster, providing avenues for colleagues with similar research interests to meet and discuss their work. We look forward to another exciting year ahead and remain committed to working alongside the department to represent and support the interests of our graduate student body. We hope everyone enjoys the end of the term and has a safe and restful summer! We anticipate seeing everyone again in the fall! For more info, visit <https://politics.utoronto.ca/graduate/gasps/> or reach out directly to: hayley.russell@mail.utoronto.ca



Report/ from our PhD Job Placement Co-Directors

Andrew Sabl and Randy Besco

As placement directors, our role is to help our PhD students prepare for the job market. This includes holding information sessions, reviewing application materials, and organizing mock job talks. We've also compiled an excellent collection of sample applications, which we are grateful to our alumni and recent hires for. Although the academic job market is always challenging, our graduates continue to do well. Some have recently accepted positions as assistant professors, including Catherine Ouellet at the Université de Montréal, Kevin Wei Luo at the University of Minnesota, and Reut Marciano at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Other recent and soon-to-be graduates hold fellowships of various kinds, such as Mary Jo MacDonald at the University of Jyväskylä (Finland), Daniel Sherwin and Travis Southin, who both hold postdoctoral fellowships at Carleton University, and Eve Bourgeois at the L'École Nationale d'Administration Publique. Finally, some of our graduates have found excellent non-academic positions, including Jason VandenBeukel, now Director of Communications for Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Anibal Nicolás Saldías who works as a policy analyst at the Economist Intelligence Unit. For up-to-date placement listings, visit: <https://politics.utoronto.ca/graduate/phd-program/job-placement/>

Contributors: Ryan Balot, Tanya Bandula-Irwin, Steven Bernstein, Randy Besco, Debra Burrowes, Jasmine Chorley-Foster, Christopher Cochrane, Catherine Dumé, Theresa Enright, Shatila Fairouz, Jolie Gan, James Jiang, Margaret Kohn, Emma Lecavalier, Lawrence LeDuc, Olivia MacDonald, Elizabeth McCallion, Ciara McGarry, Ryder McKeown, Faizal Mirza, Bronwyn Moon-Craney, Kate Neville, Lynette Ong, Tommaso Pavone, Hayley Russell, Andrew Sabl, Semra Sevi, Semuhi Sinanoglu, Wajid Tahir, Olga Talal, Catherine Tsalikis, Brad Wood-Maclean.

POLITICS

Editors: Jennifer O'Reilly, Julie Guzzo, Elizabeth Jagdeo
Design and front cover: Katie Lee

Books & Bites

All the latest faculty and student news, awards, accolades and publications



BOOKS: 1. *Beyond Racial Capitalism: Co-operatives in the African Diaspora* - Edited by **Caroline Shenaz Hossein**, Sharon D. Wright Austin, and Kevin Edmonds - *Oxford University Press* 2. *Biopolitics, Geopolitics, Life: Settler States and Indigenous Presence* - Edited by René Dietrich and Kerstin Knopf - *Duke University Press* 3. *Plutarch's Prism: Classical Reception and Public Humanism in France and England, 1500–1800* - **Rebecca Kingston** - *Cambridge University Press* 4. *1950s Canada: Politics and Public Affairs* - **Nelson Wiseman** - *University of Toronto Press* 5. *Infrastructuring Urban Futures: The Politics of Remaking Cities* - Edited by Alan Wiig, Kevin Ward, **Theresa Enright**, Mike Hodson, Hamil Pearsall and Jonathan Silver - *Bristol University Press*

Faculty

Sylvia Bashevkin received an honorary degree from Memorial University. Her article, "Second-Wave Women's Movements as Foreign Policy Actors: Assessing Canadian Feminist Interventions before 1995," was shortlisted for the Best Article in Gender & Politics from the Canadian Journal of Political Science (CJPS). Finally, her paper "Explaining Reproductive Health Access: Provincial Abortion Policies in the Wake of Decriminalization, 1988-2018" was shortlisted for the CPSA 2023 Jill Vickers prize.

Steven Bernstein was appointed Chair, UTM for a four-and-a-half-year term beginning July 1.

Randy Besco was granted tenure.

Olga Chyzh was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure (July 1).

Ronald Deibert was made an officer of the Order of Canada.

Dickson Eyoh was honoured with the Vivek Goel Faculty Citizenship Award.

Maria Méndez Gutiérrez's project 'Embroidering Absence' was selected for inclusion in the Jackman Humanities Institute's Program for the Arts 2023-2024.

Caroline Shenaz Hossein was appointed Interim-Director of the Institute for Inclusive Economies and Sustainable Livelihoods at U of T.

Phillip Lipsy was awarded an Outstanding Teaching Award.

Uahikea Maile received a 2022-23 Early Career Teaching Award.

Mark Nieman was appointed Assistant Professor (July 1).

Andrea Olive was a co-winner of the Canadian Historical Association's Indigenous History Best Paper Award for an article in *Canadian Historical Review*.

Lynette Ong's book *Outsourcing Repression* received the Best Book Award from the International Studies Association.

Ato Onoma was promoted to Professor (July 1).

Ito Peng received the President's Impact Academy Laureate and the 2023 Carolyn Tuohy Impact on Public Policy Award.

Sari Sherman received the A&S Dean's Distinguished Long Service Award.

Alison Smith's book *Multiple Barriers: The Multilevel Governance of Homelessness in Canada* was shortlisted for the CPSA 2023 Donald Smiley Prize. She was also granted tenure.

Lucan Way's book *Revolution and Dictatorship* was shortlisted for the Gelber Book Prize.

Nicole Wu was appointed a 2023 CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar.

Jonathan Craft, Dickson Eyoh, Lilach Gilady, Antoinette Handley, Ruth Marshall, Kanta Murali, Robert Vipond and **Melissa Williams** were named this year's recipients of the Northrop Frye Award (Faculty Team Category).

We wish all the best to **Rodney Haddow** and **Robert Vipond** as they retire this summer!

Students

New PhD's: Meaghan Williams, Zachariah Black, Milan Ilhnyckyj, Nathan Sears, Daniel Sherwin, Erfan Xia.

Undergraduate Awards & Scholarships 2021-2022: Adams Aghimien, Zaiboon Azhar, Khrystyna Borysenko, Ziyang Cai, Joseph Choi, Daniel Crosner, Mohamed Aiyub Dasu, Catherine Dumé, Daniel Elgez, Jack Stefan Fafinski, Jolie Gan, Petek Gordusys, Beth Nadia Gouda, Samantha Guevara, Anastasia Marie Hendricks, Yu Huan Jiang, Shane Joy, Evan Dylon Kanter, Lawrence Vincent King, Taylor Ko, Vuyo Kwakweni, Abdul Latif, Fabiola Astrid Cruz Li, Jia Jun Li, Olivia Elizabeth MacDonald, Ciara Rose McGarry, Ana Ferreira Meletti, Darya Rahbar, Ciaran Kai Selmes, Angelina Mireille Shandro, Andrei Uzumtoma, Jack Albert Govert Van Oord, Daniel Wang.

U of T Student Leadership Award Recipients 2023: Giuliana Bertoia-Agredo, Tung Kwan Nathan Ching, Evangeline Cowie, Eric Andrew Cameron Jackson, Tourang Movahedi, Alyssa Gabrielle Nurse, Sophia Anna Poulimenakos, Eunice Alliah Castillejo Ramirez.

U of T Excellence Awards: Yu Huan Jiang, Yi-Shu Tseng, Tierrai Eileen Natalie Tull.

Undergraduate student Fabiola Astrid Cruz Li was awarded the John H. Moss Scholarship.

New Faces



Debra Burrowes joins UTM as the Assistant to the Chair. She comes with a wealth of experience in providing high-level administrative support in various capacities within the University of Toronto. In her new role, Debra will be responsible for managing various tasks including acting as EA to the Chair, Academic HR, and event planning.



Shatila Fairouz joins UTSG as departmental receptionist. She is currently a third-year undergraduate student majoring in Health Studies with minors in Psychology and International Development at UTSC. Her interests include fashion, food and felines.



Elizabeth McCallion (PhD, Queen's University) joins UTSG as a contractually limited term Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream. A SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholar, she was recently the Canadian Study of Parliament Group's doctoral fellow. With a specialization in Canadian politics and government, Elizabeth's research and teaching interests include political institutions, institutional reform, representation, and legislative behaviour. Her work examines parliament through gendered and intersectional lenses.



Tommaso Pavone (PhD, Princeton University) joins UTSG as Assistant Professor. His research traces how interactions between lawyers, courts, and policymakers shape political development, social change, and the rule of law, with a regional focus on Europe and the EU. His new book, *The Ghostwriters: Lawyers and the Politics Behind the Judicial Construction of Europe*, has won several awards and his research has been published in several peer-reviewed journals. He was previously Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona and a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Oslo.



Semra Sevi (PhD, Université de Montréal) joins UTSG as Assistant Professor, following her Banting postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Political Science at Columbia University. Her research interests include voting behaviour, political representation, public opinion, legislative politics, women & politics, partisanship, and political methodology. Her work has been published in journals including the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, *Electoral Studies*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, and *Political Science Research and Methods*.



Wajid Tahir (PhD, Philipps University) joins UTSG as postdoctoral fellow working with Randall Hansen. He has previously worked as a postdoctoral researcher at University College Dublin, Ireland, and Philipps University, Germany, in collaboration with Ca' Foscari University, Italy, and Gothenburg University, Sweden. His research focuses on the gender politics of employment policy and legislation, public policy analysis of migration and integration policies, migration and masculinity, and computational social sciences. He has authored two books and several research papers in peer reviewed journals.



Olga Talal (PhD, Queen's University) joins the department as a postdoctoral research fellow working with Edward Schatz. Her research examines how states regulate ethnic diversity and provide public goods to ethnic minorities. She integrates comparative nationalism studies and public administration approaches to investigate Israel's complex relationship with the Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel, situating this research in a comparative perspective.



Following a two-year hiatus, the department was delighted to return to hosting our undergraduate awards in-person in January to celebrate our students' outstanding scholarly talent, dedication, and commitment. Pictured (L-R): Professor Clifford Orwin & Chair Ryan Balot with award winning students.



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