
North Hall News

For Alumni and Friends of the Department of Political Science

Spring 2024



The End, for Now

Another academic year comes to a close

Dear Friends of UW-Madison Political Science,

Greetings from North Hall! We just ended a wonderful spring semester with a sunny graduation in Camp Randall and a lovely Department ceremony with our graduates and families (and our awesome coffee cups!). As you will see in our newsletter it has been a wonderful year in the Department. Our faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate majors (all supported by our wonderful staff) have all had outstanding years.

Our undergraduate program continues to grow. We have over 1100 majors, course demand is high, and we are offering a record number of courses this coming fall. We had 15 students studying in Washington DC this spring and 20 traveling there this summer. Our undergraduate certificate program has over 50 students after launching less than two years ago. All our student-led clubs, ranging from the Political Science Student Association to Mock Trial to Model UN were busy with events this spring. Pranav Krishnan, a Political Science major, was chosen as a Truman Scholar this spring.

Our faculty had a great year. Professor Erica Simmons received the David Collier Mid-Career Achievement Award from the Qualitative Methods section of the American Political Science Association. Professor Adeline Lo received a research grant from the American Family Funding Initiative through the Data Science Institute. Professor Nadav Shelef received a Vilas Mid-Career Achievement Award from the University. Incoming Professor Genevieve Bates has received

the Mary Herman Rubinstein Award from the College of Letters and Sciences. Professor Dan Kapust will be the new director of the University Honors Program. Professor Mark Copelovitch received the prestigious Berlin Prize from the American Academy in Berlin. Finally, Emeritus Professor Howard Schweber received the Alliant Energy James R. Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Award in the fall.

Two new Professors joined the Department in the fall. Professor Marty Davidson (PhD Michigan) teaches in American Politics and Political Methodology. Professor Genevieve Bates (PhD Chicago) works in International Relations. We also hired two new Professors this year that will be joining us next fall. Professor Soeren Henn (PhD Harvard) research and teaches in Comparative Politics (Africa) and Political Methodology. Professor Andres Uribe (PhD Chicago) works in Comparative Politics (Latin America). We are excited to have these two outstanding scholars join us next year. And sadly, we are losing the knowledge and wisdom of Professor Kenneth Mayer who will retire this spring. We wish Professor Mayer all the best – he will be missed!

Our graduate program continues to thrive. We have an incoming class of 20 students join our PhD program next fall. We experienced great success in placing our doctoral students this year and last. Our students received offers of faculty positions at top research universities (Harvard, Michigan, Ohio State, North Carolina, and Iowa) and liberal arts schools (Denison University and Hope College). This year we have students on several prestigious post-docs including Stanford,



Georgetown, Duke, and Princeton.

Our Department continues to create a vibrant intellectual space to promote the sifting and winnowing our university is known for. Nearly every week of the semester we host a half-dozen workshops for faculty and students, guest speakers for courses, networking events, or public lectures. This May, as a part of the Roger and Michelle Mansukhani Family Lecture we hosted former Ambassador and retired General Karl Eikenberry in the Department to discuss the war in Ukraine and rising competition between China and the United States.

Thank you for reading and for supporting Political Science. Another way to keep up with events in the Department is to tune into our podcast, 1050 Bascom, which you can find on the department website!

On, Wisconsin!

Jon C.W. Pevehouse

Chair, Department of Political Science

Varieties of Power

A look at Marwa Shalaby's latest research



Marwa Shalaby is an assistant professor in the political science department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an affiliated faculty member with the Gender and Women's Studies Department. Over the past years, Shalaby has conducted original data collection and extensive fieldwork across the Middle East and North Africa region. She administered public opinion surveys and survey experiments in Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco. Moreover, Shalaby is the PI for the Governance and Elections in the Middle East Project (GEMEP)—the most comprehensive and only dataset that offers invaluable insights into the micro-dynamics of MENA's electoral institutions.

Growing up in the Middle East has greatly influenced my work and the questions I study. I witnessed firsthand gendered patterns of power imbalance, which were difficult for me to explain then. Thus, I became particularly keen to understand the challenges women face in accessing political office and translating this access to actual power and influence.

My current work investigates how female politicians access political power and how they represent their communities and/or constituents under autocratic political structures. I am also interested in exploring the public perceptions toward female politicians across different levels of governance in non-democratic contexts. Finally, I have several ongoing projects focusing on the outcomes of MENA's legislative assemblies, a research area often ignored in comparative politics research.

—Marwa Shalaby

Marwa's latest work, "Varieties of Power," in abstract:

The introduction of gender quotas worldwide has transformed the political landscape for women. Since the mid-1990s, women's representation in national politics has exponentially increased in both democracies and autocracies. Women's numerical presence in national legislatures has risen substantially since implementing gender quotas in the 21st century in many dictatorships, including the MENA region.

The incremental increase in women's descriptive representation over the past decades in autocracies raises two important puzzles. The first puzzle relates to whether the increased number of women in authoritarian legislatures has given them more power and influence: How do the politics of authoritarianism shape women's political influence? How does autocratic regimes' restriction of political competition, such as banning or weakening political parties to constrain the opposition, affect women's legislative behavior and priorities?

The second puzzle of this book relates to the role of political parties in conditioning women's legislative behavior and political power. Work investigating the effect of parties on shaping women's political representation and legislative behavior has flourished in established and new democracies. However, our knowledge remains limited in autocratic settings where wide variations relating to political parties' presence and strength exist. This shortcoming has significant theoretical and practical implications.

My book manuscript, *Varieties of Power*, aims to address these puzzles and answer questions that other work has left unanswered. It relies on a decade of fieldwork and original data collection across the MENA region. I focus on three Arab monarchies with varying levels of party strength and quota implementation; I argue and show empirical evidence that the degree of party strength plays a significant role in conditioning women's political power under authoritarianism.

Entering the Simulation

One teacher's approach to active learning



Scott Mobley explores the cultural, political, and technological influences that shape America's past and present. A retired naval officer and warship captain, he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy. Scott subsequently earned an M.A. in national security affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School and a Ph.D. in history from UW–Madison. In addition to his award-winning book, *Progressives in Navy Bule, 1873-1898*, Scott's work has appeared in academic and professional journals, an edited volume, and influential online platforms. As a member of the Political Science Department teaching faculty, his courses examine international security and civil-military relations.

Scott Mobley likes to approach learning as a three-step process. Step one is the absorption of information and ideas. Second, comes the application of the learned information. The third step is to reflect on the material and its application to deepen one's understanding.

"I think in the classic education system we grew up in, we're really good at the first step, [but we're] not so good at the third step."

Scott's solution to this for the past several years has been to build simulations and games based around his course material to help students further apply and reflect on what they've learned.

"What I've discovered is these types of simulations and games lend themselves naturally to that approach."

Using this method, Step one of the learning process is the coursework and lectures, step two is the game itself, and step three is what Scott calls the "debrief," where students look at what happened, and talk about the different aspects of the experience and their takeaways from it.

The basic structure of the simulations is that students are put in teams that can represent anything from a country, a



government entity, or a segment of the population, depending on what the particular game calls for. The teams are then presented with a problem that they have to solve to the best of their ability from their team's perspective.

Scott likes to build these games based on "something like a real-world scenario," in order to give the game an amount of historical context, which serves as a point of comparison that the students can learn from during the reflection period, or can serve as a guide if needed.

Last year in PS 343: Theories of International Security, Scott put together a simulation on the 2014 conflict between Ukraine and Russia. This semester, he is working on a simulation based on conflicts in the South China Sea.

"You want to put people in the driver's seat and try to understand what the decision makers understood and how hard it is to figure out the right thing to do in a dynamic situation with incomplete information. From a historical

perspective, that helps you understand people, and understand why people did the things they did much better than you can if you read a book or listen to a lecture."

However, it's not just for looking at history where these simulations have value. In PS 338: The Civil-Military Paradox in U.S. Politics and Society, Scott created a game that he uses as a Capstone called "Guns and Butter," where teams representing the Government, the Military, and the People all participate in a fictitious society. The teams are presented with limited resources and must work together with the other teams to achieve their own ends while doing their best not to prevent the other teams from achieving theirs. To add some consequence to the events of the game, the setting contains multiple countries; one of which is described as "belligerent." Therefore, if not enough resources are allocated to national security, for instance, the society as a whole could suffer. "It's a hard, cruel world out there and not everybody is your friend, and so they have to be careful."

While he may be employing games in his curriculum, it's not all just for fun. From what he can tell, it's working. "I noticed that... the students seemed very engaged on the days where we would play," and the students seem to agree as well:

"I think [the game] made it very clear how difficult communication amongst nations can be. It underscored how institutions like the United Nations can be incredibly helpful when regulating international resolutions and mitigating

international conflict via proper discourse."

"I learned that geopolitics are extremely important when it comes to international security and I also learned that there are many underlying aspects in geopolitics. The game showed how many actors there are in geopolitical conflicts and the varying interests. These lessons are important in better understanding international security and relations."

"I LOVE the capstone. My favorite thing we've done in this class and my favorite part of all the classes I'm taking now combined. Having to work around what we've learned and trying to balance the military with the government has been so beneficial to see how this plays out. I wish we had more time for it!! I think the phases are perfect for planning and executing."

On the merits of the games, Scott elaborates, "We could do the

same thing in a lecture. I could talk through a slide, and it will be 3 or 4 minutes and we're done, but I've taken that slide, flipped it around on the students and posed it as questions, and all of a sudden it becomes a 20-30 minute activity where they're coming up with the answers. Then we go through what they come up with, and at the end, I throw the slide up. Usually, they will have done everything on the slide already, and they tend to think about many more things than I did. So we actually end up with more learning than we would have had if I had just spent three minutes on that slide."

Through practice and with his students' testimony, Scott believes this method to be very valuable in the classroom, and eventually hopes to commission research on the long term effects of active learning via conflict simulation compared to learning exclusively via lecture.



Students engage in a resource allocation game called "Guns and Butter," where groups representing the Government, the Military, and Civilian sectors must work together to achieve their goals.

Learning Through Doing

Ethan vanderWilden is a 4th year PhD candidate in the field of Comparative Politics, whose topics of interest include Public opinion, social norms, and party competition. His research most generally focuses on how narratives of history and one's in-group (however defined) can shape modern political attitudes and behaviors. Below, he speaks on his research, projects, and lessons learned along the way.

Dissertation

My dissertation explores how previously stigmatized political ideas and parties move from the fringe to the mainstream (or fail to do so) over time. Specifically, I ground this question in the issue of historical memory, investigating how authoritarian regimes of the past are re-conceptualized over time, and how this is both a product and explanation of the success of more radical parties. My dissertation primarily focuses on Spain as a case study of the normalization of authoritarian history in modern democracies. It also draws on lessons from the United States, Italy, and other countries around the world. My research relies on evidence from survey experiments, large observational (quantitative) studies, and interviews.

Projects

Beyond his dissertation, Ethan is also working on a number of side projects that in some way connect issues of memory and in-group narratives to public opinion. He is currently working with co-authors at UW Madison on two projects that explore how narratives of historical collective victimhood shape public attitudes towards conflict and intergroup relations.



Education:

MA Political Science - UW Madison 2022

BA Government, Astrophysics - Colby College 2020

Favorite Local Food

Estacion Inka - Campus

Mint Mark - Atwood neighborhood

Favorite Books:

The Shining - Steven King

Sirens of Titan - Kurt Vonnegut

Recent TV Highlights

The Bear (Hulu)

Beef (Netflix)

In one project, we explore this question in Israel, which led to a somewhat surprising finding that increasing the salience of victimhood narratives does little to change these downstream conflict-related attitudes. In the second project, we perform a meta-analysis of all academic literature connecting collective victimhood and such attitudes, highlighting general patterns in the literature and pointing out questions that remain inadequately answered.

In a second stream of projects, I have been working with several co-authors outside of UW Madison on projects related to transitional justice, authoritarian history (the Franco regime), and radical right parties in Spain. These projects have included gathering original data and running survey experiments to test how phenomena such as transitional justice mechanisms (for example, removing statues in honor of the former regime), controversial statements by radical parties celebrating aspects of the past, or the treatment of radical parties by mainstream actors can alter an individual's party preferences and voting behavior.

Lessons Learned from Teaching

Thus far, I have served as a Teaching Assistant for two classes in the Political Science Department (Research Methods - Fall 2021; The European Union - Spring 2022) and have been a lecturer/lead instructor for one course (Introduction to Survey Research - Fall 2023). The latter certainly had the biggest impact on me, as it was my first time leading a class.

Introduction to Survey Research is a lecture class mainly filled with Juniors and Seniors. It covers both theoretical, methodological, ethical, and practical considerations of conducting survey research. One particularly exciting part of the class is that all students design, program, execute, and present their own survey research projects. In other words, students actually run their own surveys and produce original research.

In structuring the class this way (which has been done by other professors who have taught the class in the past, too), I really saw the benefit of practical applications and 'learning through doing.' I found that students were more engaged and excited about the class (which can be challenging, at times, with methodology courses, as they are not specifically about a political issue that students are interested in and are often taken to satisfy major requirements) when concepts were framed with specific reference to their own projects. Furthermore, by adjusting the normal paradigm of the classroom in which students are typically considered consumers of academic research, I found that students responded positively to forming identities centered around being actual researchers, or people who produce work and knowledge that is not yet out in the world. In future classes that I teach, I plan to emphasize students' capacity to be producers of knowledge and design activities and projects that allow students to engage with concepts and other materials in more active manners.

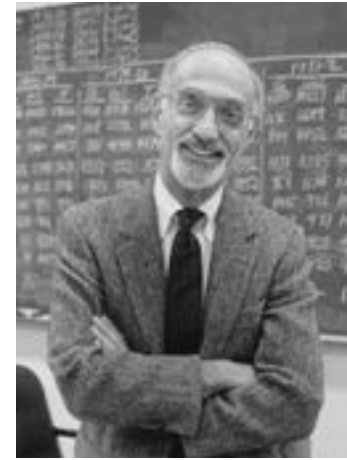
-Ethan vanderWilden

In Memoriam

At the beginning of the new year, we said goodbye to three beloved Emeriti. They will be sorely missed.

Bernard C. Cohen, 1926-2024

Former UW Chancellor and Professor Emeritus Bernie Cohen passed away on January 9, 2024 at age 97. Filling many roles during his time at the university, he remarked in 2018, "I enjoyed my career because it was a mix. I was always doing something different, either as a political scientist or as an administrator."



Read his obituary here:

<https://news.wisc.edu/political-scientist-and-former-uw-madison-chancellor-bernard-cohen-dies-at-97/>



Robert Booth Fowler, 1940-2024

Professor Emeritus Robert Booth Fowler passed away on January 13, 2024. In Crawford Young's Centennial History of the Department, Booth is described as "one of the best and most beloved teachers in the department. He was warm and friendly with individuals, dramatic and often spellbinding in the classroom." (Young, 2004)

Read his obituary here:

<https://polisci.wisc.edu/robert-booth-fowler-1940-2024/>

Charles O. Jones, 1931-2024

Professor Emeritus Chuck Jones passed away on January 3, 2024 at the age of 92. He held the Hawkins chair from 1988 until his retirement in 1997. He is remembered by colleagues as the picture of open-mindedness, unfailingly kind and generous, and eager to encourage those starting their careers, all tied together with a characteristic dry wit.



Read his obituary in the Washington Post here:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2024/01/09/charles-o-jones-political-science-dead>

Retirements

Three professors recently closed out their careers, and look now to new beginnings

Kenneth Mayer

Professor Ken Mayer will be retiring in May, after a 34 years with the University. Ken joined the Department in 1989 as a specialist in Congress and national security studies, but has since changed focus to the presidency, voting, campaign finance, and election administration. What he will miss most are "the students, [his] brilliant colleagues, and talking about ideas all the time." Despite his retirement, he doesn't intend for his his work to end. He has a few research ideas he'd like to pursue, and looks forward to travel, reading during the day for fun, and "auditing courses that [he] never got to while [he] was an undergrad half a century ago."



Howard Schweber

Professor Howard Schweber joined the department in 1999 and retired in May 2023. From teaching topics like constitutional law and political thought, to even performing student marriages, Howard played a very important role in his students' lives. Since his retirement, he has moved to California, where he claims there is no shortage of quality dairy like he may have expected, but laments that good hard cheeses like cheddar and swiss are hard to find. Howard will return to the UW in an online format this summer to teach PS 470: The First Amendment.



David Canon

Professor David Canon retired in May 2023 after a 32 year career at UW. He joined the faculty in 1991, thanks largely to the recruiting efforts of the late Chuck Jones. He served as Associate Chair from 1999-2001, and Department Chair from 2014-2017. In an episode of 1050 Bascom on his career, he remarked that he looks forward to spending more time with family (especially his new granddaughter), continuing his education by sitting in on classes relating to topics he hasn't explored before, and attending as much Badger Volleyball as he can.



1050 Bascom



1050 Bascom is the official podcast of the Political Science Department. Each episode, the student hosts bring in experts who specialize in everything from politics, to climate, to particular regions across the world, and dig deep into the political and human implications of what is happening around the world.

[In a recent episode](#), Ambassador Karl Eikenberry joins the host to discuss U.S. - China security Competition, his time as U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, and lessons he's learned throughout his distinguished career of national service.

Recent Publications and Features

Lisa Martin

- "Global Governance Confronts the Onslaught of Disinformation." Perspectives on Politics.

Marwa Shalaby

- "Who Supports Gender Quotas in Transitioning and Authoritarian States in the Middle East and North Africa?" (with Yuree Noh) Comparative Political Studies

Valeria Umanets

- "Repurposing Tradition to Justify the War in Ukraine (2024)." PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo No.878. With Marat Iliysov, Aleksandra Garmazhapova, and Yasin Hakim.

- "Proportional representation and party fragmentation in electoral autocracies." Democratization

Phillip Pinell

- "Does Artificial Intelligence Speak Our Language?: A Gadamerian Assessment of Generative Language Models," Political Research Quarterly

Kathy Cramer

- "Many Americans Believe the Economy is Rigged," The New York Times

Aili Tripp

- "Women's Rights and Authoritarian Regimes," The Oxford Handbook of Authoritarian Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- "Political Violence Against Women: A Form of Misogyny?" Logos: A Journal of Modern Society and Culture

with Scott Straus

- "Ethnicity, the State, and Gender in Africa: The Intellectual Legacies of M. Crawford Young," University of Wisconsin Press

with Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso

- "Research on Gender, Women and Politics in Africa: Contributions and Innovations," Liisa Laakso and Siphamandla Zondi, Eds. Political Science in Africa: Freedom, Relevance, Impact. London and Oxford: Bloomsbury, 2024.

[The University of Wisconsin Political Science Department](#) is one of the nation's oldest and most respected programs. Our Department is highly ranked in national surveys, and our award-winning faculty are known for innovative research on the discipline's most current and important questions. Our dedication to teaching is also apparent: we are one of the largest majors on campus, with a commitment to excellence in undergraduate instruction.

Our sincere thanks to the many alumni and friends who have generously supported the University of Wisconsin's Political Science Department. Private gifts are increasingly critical to ensure that the Department maintains its stature as one of the nation's premier political science programs. Your donations help us to assist promising undergraduate majors and provide them with a range of extracurricular and leadership opportunities, host a stimulating series of talks and other scholarly activities, and attract and support the research and teaching of top faculty and graduate students. Gifts of any size are most welcome and gratefully received.

<https://www.supportuw.org/giveto/polisci>