



## GRADUATE STUDENTS



**JASON CASELLAS**  
Professor and Chair,  
Dept. of Political Science

### NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

I am delighted to begin my service as chair of the department. I look forward to working with faculty, students, and alumni to continue our tradition of excellence in scholarship, teaching and service. Please reach out if you have any ideas or suggestions about department events and activities. Go Coogs!

Jason Casellas

### GRADUATE STUDENT LUCIA LOPEZ RECEIVES RUSSELL SAGE FOUNDATION DOCTORAL DISSERTATION GRANT



Lucia Lopez

PhD student Lucia Lopez was awarded the RSF Doctoral Dissertation Grant, which supported her research on welfare policy. She was also awarded the 2025-26 Early Career Fellowship from the APSA Experimental Research Section. Congratulations!

### GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate students Kyle Martin and Aparajita Datta have graduated this semester, earning their Ph.D's in political science as of December 2025. Congratulations!



### GRADUATE STUDENT VICENTE MANDUJANO AWARDED LYDIA MENDOZA FELLOWSHIP



Vicente Mandujano

Ph.D. Student Vicente Mandujano was awarded a Lydia Mendoza Fellowship through the Center for Mexican American and Latino/a Studies (CMALS) in August 2024. His fellowship includes mentorship from Professor and Chair Casellas as well as professionalization and development sessions from CMALS. Congratulations, Vicente!

## GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

### Current Graduate students and Ph.D. Alumni:

Avdan, Nazli, Shelby Davis, and Michael J. Soules. 2025. "Magical Practices and the Recruitment of Women into Rebel Groups." Forthcoming at International Studies Quarterly.

Kistner, Michael R., Michael Heseltine, Robert Alvarez, Lucas Lothamer, Maya Fitch, Beth Simas. "Measuring Partisanship and Representation in Online Congressional Communication". Forthcoming at the American Political Science Review

## GRADUATE RESEARCH SERIES

- Sept. 3rd Presenter: Songeun Emily Lee  
*Heterogeneous Treatment Effects in Voter Preferences for Female Candidates*
- Oct. 1st Presenter: JeongKyu Suh  
*When Partisan Affect Spills Over: The Conditional Spillover of Affective Polarization into Racial Attitudes*
- Nov. 5th Presenter: Bonhoon Koo  
*Uneven Victories, Uneven Unrest: Incumbent Performance and Post-Election Protest in Electoral Autocracies*
- Dec. 3rd Presenter: EunHye Grace Cho  
*Making the Large*

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS



### POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS ATTEND MODEL UN IN WASHINGTON, DC

Students form the UH Model UN class recently returned from a three-day conference in Washington, DC. Led by lecturer Avery Spranger, the student delegation won an honorable mention for their delegation. Congratulations!

## POLITICAL SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION HOSTED VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

September 16, 2025 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Come join PSUA, Au Fick LUNAR, Texas Rising, and the Harris County Clerk's Office this Tuesday!

### VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

COME LEARN ABOUT THE VOTING PROCESS WITH THE HARRIS COUNTY CLERKS OFFICE!

PSUA is honored to welcome Billy Nguyen from the Harris County Clerk's office to discuss the impact of local elections with student-focused presentations, GSA, and the History of Voter Registration Day.

COME GET REGISTERED TO VOTE!

Attending students will receive the opportunity to speak with Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrars (VDVRs) from our multiple partner clubs to assist with registering themselves or others to vote. They will also help students who are interested in becoming a VDVR or supporting future voter initiatives.



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

WHERE TO GO?  
**SEPTEMBER 16TH, 4PM-6PM**  
CLASSROOM BUSINESS BUILDING (CBB) ROOM 124

JOIN US NOW!  
@VOTERSUA

## FACULTY NEWS

Welcome to our new faculty! We were delighted to welcome FIVE new faculty to our department this past academic year.



### MAX ALLAMONG JOINS US AS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN AMERICAN POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

He received his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Duke University before joining the faculty this past fall. He has already published work in the top political science journals exploring public opinion, political polarization and discontent with parties and the political system.



### CHARLES NATHAN IS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL THEORY

He received his Ph.D. from Duke University in 2023 and his research examines the politics of nostalgia, populism, and the urban/rural divide in the history of political thought and contemporary politics.

Special thanks to the search committees for their hard work in bringing these talented individuals to join our department. We are excited that they are here and look forward to their contributions!



### ROYCE CARROLL JOINS US AS PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

He received his Ph.D. from University of California, San Diego, and taught at Rice University and the University of Essex in the United Kingdom before returning home to Houston this past Fall. His research focuses on comparative political institutions and behavior, including work on democratic representation, parties, polarization, legislatures, ideology and measurement.

### DR. JOSHUA FREED SPEAKS AT NOVEMBER BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

Assistant Professor Freed spoke to the UH Board of Regents in November 2025 as a UH success story at the invitation of Provost Diane Chase. In his remarks, Freed spoke about his experience as an undergraduate at UH and the importance of civic education in the life of the university.

Congratulations, Dr. Freed!



### HAYLEY COHEN IS AN INCOMING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN AMERICAN POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

She received her Ph.D. from Columbia University and is a postdoctoral fellow this year at the Taubman Center for American Politics and Policy within the Watson School at Brown University. She focuses on experimental methodology and primary elections.



### JOSHUA FREED JOINS US AS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL THEORY

He received his undergraduate degree from UH and his Ph.D. from University of California, Berkeley. After a postdoctoral fellowship at Oxford University, Freed teaches and research in American political thought, ancient and medieval political theory, and the legal history of democratic ideas and institutions.

### POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY WELL REPRESENTED AT CHANCELLOR'S HOLIDAY PARTY



## BORDERS AND MIGRATION WORKSHOP 2025

The Borders and Migration Workshop was a two-day event in October bringing together scholars sharing new research on immigration, borders, and related topics. Co-sponsored with the Hobby School of Public Affairs and the Bush School at Texas A&M University, the workshop featured research by Associate Professor Tobias Heinrich and Ph.D. Alum Samantha Chapa as well as participation by faculty and graduate students.

## PROFESSOR AURELIAN CRAIUTU FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY GIVES MEMORIAL LECTURE IN HONOR OF OUR LATE COLLEAGUE ALIN FUMURESCU

Dr. Craiutu delivered an emotional lecture in honor of our late colleague Alin Fumurescu, who passed away last May. The lecture, entitled *Moderation and Compromise: A Reevaluation*, drew considerable interest even from the empirical side of our department! Thanks to Professor Dan Engster of the Hobby School of Public Affairs for organizing the planning of the event, which drew an impressive crowd. We were glad that Fumurescu's widow, Anca, was able to join us for this event.

### IN MEMORIAM



**ALIN FUMURESCU**

The Department mourns the loss of our late colleague Alin Fumurescu who passed away in May 2025 at the age of 57. Fumurescu joined the department in 2014 as an assistant professor after visiting professorships at Tulane and Yale Universities. He received his Ph.D. from Indiana University under the mentorship of Aurelian Craiutu, who came back to campus this past semester to give a lecture in his honor. After receiving tenure in 2020, Fumurescu continued his passion for teaching and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students in our department. He is survived by his wife Anca, three children and one grandchild. May his memory be a blessing.

**ALUMNI: Please send us updates about notable things in your career and life! We will include them in the newsletter.**



Political Science  
College of Liberal Arts  
and Social Sciences

### SUPPORT US

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