

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Graduate Student Tom Hanna Receives Two Fellowships



Ph.D. Candidate Tom Hanna recently received two fellowships for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic years. This past year he was awarded the Oskar Morgenstern Fellowship in Quantitative Political Economy, from the Mercatus Center at Mason University. This year, he has been awarded the Adam Smith Fellowship in Political Economy, valued at \$10,000, including a stipend, travel, and lodging for three weekends and one week of colloquia in the D.C. area. This fellowship is a co-sponsored program of the Mercatus Center at Mason University and the Liberty Fund, Inc.

2023 Fund for Latino Scholarship

Congratulations to Sam Chapa, a PhD candidate in the department of political science, for being a recipient of the 2023 Fund for Latino Scholarship.



Mentored Teaching Program a Success

Six PhD students from the University of Houston and Rice University completed the "Mentored Teaching Practicum, a program sponsored by an APSA Centennial Grant. This unique program matched the six students with a mentor from Houston Community College, Cammy Shay, who instructed them on best practices for engaging community college students. The students then taught their own classes at HCC, consulting with their mentors along the way.



Participating student
Eugenia Artabe

PSGSA Professionalization Events

The PSGSA hosted a "meet-and-greet" event for graduate students, giving them all an opportunity to engage in rapid discussion with professors. Faculty and students rotated every 2 minutes in order to facilitate interactions between everyone.



OTHER EVENTS INCLUDED:

- "How to Work with an Advisor," led by Dr. Basinger (18 students in attendance)
- Comprehensive Exam Info Session," led by Drs. Badas and Clark (17 students in attendance)
- "How to Write a Paper," led by Dr. Kistner (14 students in attendance)
- "How to Conference," led by Dr. Raychaudhuri (20 students in attendance)

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



JEFFREY CHURCH
Professor and Chair,
Dept. of Political Science

Thanks to everyone for another successful Fall semester. We had a lot of faculty on leave this Fall doing research, but nevertheless accomplished a great deal, including hiring two new faculty members in International Relations and American Politics (more to come on them in future issues). Our students continue to do innovative and award-winning work, and our faculty is winning grants at impressive levels. I am proud to deliver all this great news to you.

-Jeffrey Church

GRADUATE ALUMNI NEWS



Political Science Ph.D. Alum Wins Seat on Amherst Town Council

Ndifreke "Freke" Ette, Ph.D. (2019) has won his race for the District 1 Seat on the Amherst, Mass. Town Council. Freke has served as the Assistant Director of Engineering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the UMass College of Engineering, and has also volunteered for Amherst's Community Safety and Social Justice Committee.

GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS



Alin Fumurescu & Haimo Li (2023): Rousseau, the American Puritans, and the Founding of the People's Two Bodies. Published in *The European Legacy*.

Alex Badas & Billy Justus (2023): Millionaire Justices and Attitudes Towards the Supreme Court. Published in *Political Behavior*.

Jeronimo Cortina & Shana Hardin (2023): The Geography of Mental Health, Urbanicity, and Affluence. Published in *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.

Lucas Lothamer & Brandon Rottinghaus (2023): What Causes Threats Directed at the President? Published in *Presidential Studies Quarterly*.

Eugenia Artabe & Alex Badas (2023): Measuring the Countermajoritarian Nature of Supreme Court Decisions. Published in *The Journal of Legal Studies*.

Tanya Bagashka, Samantha Chapa, & Lydia Tiede (2023): Influenced by Power or Reasons? The Role of Amicus Curiae Briefs in Constitutional Court Decision-Making. Published in *East European Politics and Societies: and Cultures*.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

UH Political Science Student Receives Fullbright Scholarship

David Hilton, a Political Science Major, Honors College student, and former CICS Global Scholars Fellow, received a 2023-24 Fullbright U.S. Student Award to Uzbekistan. David will represent the U.S. as a cultural ambassador, helping to enhance mutual understanding between Uzbekistan and the U.S.

Records Shattered by NCAA Medalists

Houston track and field junior De'Vion Wilson (POLS major) medaled and broke school records at the NCAA Championships. The Houston men finished the championship with 17.33 points, the most points earned by the Cougars since 2019.



President Khator Mingles with Political Science Students

In the tradition of promoting Coog Spirit, President Khator visited with students in the American and Texas Government core classes. Students showed their support by donning university colors.

Next Generation Leadership Academy Political Science Students

Five undergraduate political science majors were selected by the Hobby School of Public Affairs to join the 2023-24 Cohort of the Next Generation Leadership Academy. The program is designed for undergraduate students seeking careers focused on public service and social impact. The program provides experiential learning opportunities and specialized academic courses to equip candidates for outstanding careers.

- **Miguel Medina Jacquez** (Sophomore, Political Science)
- **Emily Cruz Sariles** (Senior, Political Science and Spanish)
- **Dawn Trevino** (Senior, Political Science)
- **Aryan Trivedi** (Junior, Political Science and Public Policy)
- **Alexander Westerbeck** (Junior, Political Science)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



2022 Leland Fellow and Political Science Major awarded a Congressional Internship

The Leland Fellows program is a paid, full-time internship on Capitol Hill, in Washington, D.C. Andrea, a Political Science Major, was awarded the fellowship in 2022, and served in the office of Congresswoman Veronica Escobar (Texas's 16th Congressional District). She was hired as a Legislative Correspondent to Senator K. Gillibrand (New York) in June 2023, and has been serving in the position since.

Gerrymandering Art Show

In her Legislative Processes class this Fall, Associate Professor Jennifer Clark had students design posters illustrating the shape of recently gerrymandered districts. The students presented their projects at a poster session well-attended by faculty and graduate students.



FACULTY NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

NEW FACULTY



This Fall, we welcomed a new tenure-track faculty member in International Relations, **Michael Soules**. Professor Soules received his PhD in Political Science from Penn State University and was the Donald R. Beall Defense Fellow at the Naval Postgraduate School before joining UH. His research is in international relations with a focus on civil war, terrorism, rebel group recruitment and socialization, ideology and political violence, and gender and political violence.



We also welcomed a post-doctoral fellow, **Asher Lubotzky**, who received his PhD from Indiana University. His research is on Africa-Israel Relations, History of Southern Africa, and Geopolitics in the Middle East and Africa.

Jerry Jackson Retirement

Instructional faculty member Jerry Jackson has retired from teaching. He taught Political Science and Law courses for many years and was much beloved by students. He was our Director of Undergraduate Studies for several years and made a considerable impact on our department. We will miss you Jerry!

VISITING FACULTY

This Fall and Spring, the department is pleased to host several visiting scholars.



Professor Neema Begum, Visiting Scholar from the University of Nottingham, where she is an Assistant Professor in British Politics. While here, she gave a Brownbag talk on her paper, "Immigrants Against Immigration: Why British Ethnic Minorities Voted for the End of Freedom of Movement in the European Union." Professor Begum's research focuses on ethnic minority voting behavior, political participation and representation.



Professor Pablo Balan, Senior Lecturer in the School of Political Science at Tel Aviv University, visited UH in December and January. Balan is a political economist studying developing countries, with a substantive focus on state capacity and social networks, a methodological focus on field experiments, and a regional focus on sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.



Professor Anna Paczesniak, Professor of Social Sciences at the University of Wroclaw in Poland, visits UH starting in January. Her work is on parties and party systems in Poland and Europe, Comparative Politics in Europe, and women in politics.

Joint UHPS-UHPH Poll

In a collaborative poll between the UH Political Science Department, UH Population Health, as well as Houston Public Media and the Houston Chronicle, our faculty analyzed UH Mayoral candidate electability, and found that Senator Whitmire held a leading share of likely voters with 45%, compared to 35% for Congresswoman Jackson Lee and 22% undecided. The poll was subsequently referred to by the New York Times, The Associated Press, and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. You can read the full story here:

John Whitmire leads Sheila Jackson Lee in Houston's mayoral runoff, new poll finds



Professor Brandon Rottinghaus was featured by the Washington Journal and C-SPAN to discuss his study finding that scandals don't have the same impact on politicians as they once did in August of 2023.

DEPARTMENT GRANTS

U.S. Army Grant to University of Houston and University of Georgia

Assistant Professor Zachary Zwald (PI), in collaboration with Dr. Jeffrey Berejikian (co-PI) at the University of Georgia, has secured funding for a research project, entitled "The Battle for Hearts and Minds: An Empirical Framework to Identify the Influence of Information Operations." The grant, funded by the U.S. Army's Data and Analysis Center, was awarded in the amount of \$565,202. The funding will be used to support the creation of an empirically based framework that improves the accuracy of predictive analytics by determining the likelihood that an adversary's information operation will elicit a shift in individuals' support for military action.

U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM) Analysis Center (DAC) Grant

As part of the \$63.5 million U.S. Department of Defense contract with the University of Houston, Dr. Ryan Kennedy and Dr. Zachary Zwald will be receiving up to \$1.599 million over the next five years to analyze human trust in AI generated analysis. This research will explore how trust in AI varies across different settings and tasks, as well as how information can be presented to generate optimal levels of trust in the systems.

The Department of Homeland Security/Customs and Border Patrol

Dr. Ryan Kennedy will be serving as PI on a \$262,000 contract with the Department of Homeland Security to study the effect of de minimus policies implemented during the COVID crisis. He will be exploring the impact of proposed fees on economic activity and economic development in the U.S.

Energy Transition Institute at UH Grant

Associate Professors Boris Short and Jennifer Clark have received \$95,160 in funding from the ETI at UH, for their project in the area of carbon management. This research will involve the creating of an original survey (with embedded experiments) of a size sufficient to derive opinion estimates at the state and district levels, for the purpose of identifying the heterogeneous state level political coalitions that will enable the innovation, introduction, and spread of carbon mitigation policies.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS



Journal Productivity Department Ranking Revealed

A recent publication in PS: Political Science & Politics (Garand, Qi & Magaña 2023), which ranked PhD-granting political science departments' productivity from 1990-2018, placed the University of Houston #29 out of 119 departments in journal publications.

FACULTY NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Professor Ling Zhu was awarded the Erika Fairchild Award by SPSA Women. The award is given biennially based on the criteria of a “strong record of scholarship,” a “strong commitment to students and teaching,” “service to the profession,” and “a collegial spirit.” Congratulations Ling!

Assistant Professor Tanika Raychaudhuri received the 2023 Lucius Barker Award for “best paper on a topic investigating race or ethnicity and politics and honoring the spirit and work of Professor Barker,” an MPSA Research Award, for a paper presented at last year’s conference. The paper, entitled “Race, Diversity, and the Development of Political Attitudes on College Campuses,” was co-authored with Nathan Chan, Assistant Professor at Loyola Marymount University.

Congratulations to Associate Professor Beth Simas. She received the Lupia-Mutz Outstanding Publication Award for her paper “Moral Rhetoric, Extreme Positions, and Perceptions of Candidate Sincerity,” which was published in Political Behavior.



Assistant Professor Michael Hawley was awarded the MPSA Review of Politics Award for best theory paper presented at last year’s MPSA conference. The paper investigates Aristotle’s motivations for composing the Rhetoric. He argues that the true purpose of the work is to reorient amoral rhetoricians towards the benefit – rather than the exploitation – of their audiences, through habituation into better practices.

IN MEMORIAM

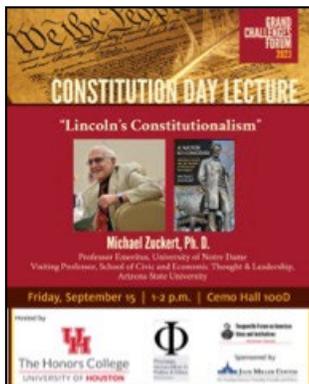


The department mourns the loss of Professor Francisco Cantu, who died in August. Dr. Cantu had been with the department since 2013. You can follow the link to the department’s obituary here:
Prominent UH political scientist Francisco Cantu passes away at 40

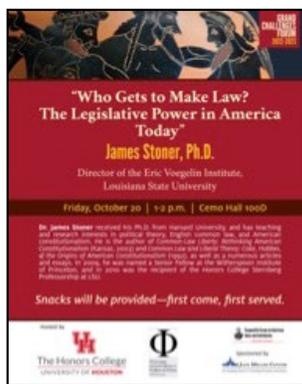


The department honors the memory of Emeritus Joe Nogee, who passed away in July of 2023. You can find a link to his full obituary below:
Joseph Lippman Nogee UH Obituary

DEPARTMENT EVENTS



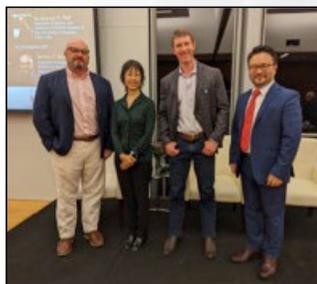
Constitution Day Lecture, “Lincoln’s Constitutionalism,” by Professor Michael Zuckert of Arizona State University’s School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership.



Grand Challenges Forum Lecture, “Who Gets to Make Law? The Legislative Power in America Today” by Professor James Stoner, Director of the Eric Voegelin Institute at Louisiana State University.



Virtual Forum with Former Members of Congress
The department hosted a virtual discussion with former U.S. Congressmen Rodney Davis (R-Illinois) and Robert Carr (D-Michigan). About 750 students registered to attend this event.



Center for International and Comparative Studies – Quadrilateral Security Dialogue Event

Assistant Professor Zachary Zwald moderated a dialogue featuring **Gabriel Collins**, Baker Botts Fellow in Energy and Environmental Regulatory Affairs at the Center for Energy Studies at Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy; **Dr. Songying Fang**, Associate Professor of Political Science at Rice University; and **Dr. Se-Hyoung Yi**, Associate Professor and Director of Political Science at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.



CICS – Dialogue with South Korean Consulate

UH’s Center for International and Comparative Studies co-hosted a campus event with South Korean Consulate on the evening of October 12, 2023. A panel of experts engaged in a roundtable discussion on North Korean human rights abuses and the international political implications. Panelists debated one another and fielded questions from the audience on a range of issues, including how human rights issues affect the potential for North-South Korean reconciliation, regional economic relations, and denuclearization.

Visiting Speakers



The Political Science Department was proud to host the following guest speaker:

October 2^{5th} • Speaker: **Kerim Can Kavakli** (Bocconi University)

Title: State Response and the Spread of Refugee-Native Clashes

WINTER DEPARTMENTAL PARTY

The Political Science Department held its end-of-year party on December 12th in PGH. The department provided lunch and hosted a white elephant gift exchange. Faculty, Graduate Students and Staff attended.

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