

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS



### Two Ph.D. Students Win APSA Diversity Fellowship

PhD students Lucia Lopez-Hisijos and Robert Alvarez have been selected as American Political Science Diversity Fellows. This is a major honor for Ph.D. students from our discipline's main organization. Lopez-Hisijos works on Public

Policy and Public Law and is interested in using the fellowship to discover the causes of legislative gridlock. Alvarez works on Political Communications and is interested in studying how media narratives inform political participation and trust.

### PhD Student Shiran Awarded Dissertation Completion Fellowship



PhD Student Myriam Shiran has been awarded the very competitive Dissertation Completion Fellowship by CLASS at UH. There were 13 strong applicants, with only 3 winners for this award. Ms. Shiran is studying conservative

backlash against women politicians following the implementation of electoral gender quotas in Sub-Saharan African countries.

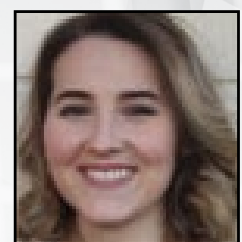


**JEFFREY CHURCH**  
Professor and Chair,  
Dept. of Political Science

### NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

I recently had coffee with Alleanne Anderson, an alumna from our undergraduate program in Fall 2019, who will be attending the Chicago-Kent School of Law on a full scholarship. She is a talented student academically, but also is very driven by a moral calling inspired by her recent work with a non-profit for homeless children and students. Alleanne referred

to the legal work that she'd like to pursue as her "occupation." That neologism struck me as a great term to refer to what a lot of our students, both at the graduate and undergraduate levels, are pursuing, the fuel that drives so many of them to success. The students featured in this newsletter exhibit such passion quite clearly. As a teacher and administrator, I hope that I can help students find or realize their "occupations." I invite alumni to reach out to me to share your experiences with finding your own callings, and how Political Science has been (or still could be!) involved in inspiring you on your path.



### Graduate Students Taking Part in Selective Institute

PhD students Naomi Nubin and Samantha Chapa were recently selected for a highly competitive summer fellowship through the American Political Science Association's Institute for Civically Engaged Research (ICER). Nubin's research focuses on welfare policy in the US, and she plans to use this fellowship to promote accessibility and to bridge the gap between research and advocacy. Chapa's research interests include race, ethnicity, immigration, and politics. Through this opportunity, she hopes to create research that improves the lives of diverse groups, such as migrants.

## GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**Wright, Jamie M.** 2022. Forthcoming. "Racially-Conditioned Partisans: How Racial Attitudes Influence Presidential Approval, Issue Competencies, and Vote Choice." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*.

**Ozer, Adam L. and Jamie M. Wright.** 2022. Forthcoming. "Partisan news versus party cues: The effect of cross-cutting party and partisan network cues on selective exposure and persuasion." *Research and Politics*.

**Scarrow, Susan, Jamie M. Wright, and Anika Gauja.** 2022. Forthcoming. "Party Statutes and Party Institutionalization." *Party Politics*.

**Yu-Ceng Liao,** 2022. "Party Leadership, Electoral Reform, and Mandate-Divide." *Japanese Journal of Political Science*.

## GRADUATE ALUMNI NEWS

**Doug Murdoch PhD UH 2022**, Doug Murdoch will be Assistant Professor of Political Science at Southern Utah University



Bruce Hunt

**Kasia Hinkson, PhD UH 2021**, after serving as a Statistical Support Analyst with Harris County Public Health, began her position as an Applied Data Engineer (I) with Civis Analytics in November, 2021.

**Bruce Hunt, PhD UH 2016**, assistant professor at Angelo State University since 2016, has received tenure.

**Anna Marisa Schoen, PhD UH 2021**, will begin a post-doc at Duke University in Fall 2022.

**Adam Ozer, PhD UH 2020**, will be transitioning out of academia to work for Deliveroo as a data scientist. Deliveroo is a London-based food delivery service. Founded in 2013, the company has grown to partner with 160,000 restaurants and grocers across 11 markets, globally.

**Philip Waggoner, PhD UH 2018**, a research scholar with the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy at Columbia University, and the Director of Data Science at YouGov America, was appointed in 2022 to be an adjunct professor of Data Science at both Northwestern University and at the University of Virginia.

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Cai Wilson



Ola Dafaalla

### Two UH Political Science Students Awarded Major Scholarship

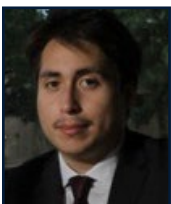
Cai Wilson and Ola Dafaalla, both Texas residents, were each awarded \$30,000 scholarships to the University of Houston by The Sumners Foundation of Irving, Texas. The foundation considers a student's academic excellence, civic engagement, and capacity for leadership when determining awards. Cai and Ola were two of 43 students nationwide to receive this scholarship in 2022. Ola is grateful for preparing her for this opportunity by teaching her to think critically and to write effectively, and Cai singles out the "deep discussions" she has had in her classes for giving her "a true and thoughtful understanding of my surrounding political environment."

### Center for International and Comparative Studies CICS Global Scholars Program Success

Instructional Assistant Professor Zachary Zwald led four undergraduate students in research organized through the Center for International and Comparative Studies (CICS) Global Scholars program studying the conceptualization of "information" in disinformation operations.

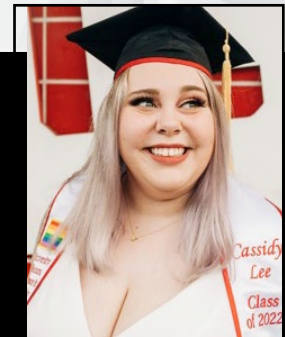
Undergraduate fellows included: Tia Huffstetler, Maya Hadiputro, David Paul Hilton, and Nimra Shahzad.

### Student Wins Raja Gaddipati Fellowship



Eduardo Moeller

POLS major Eduardo Moeller is a recipient of the Raja Gaddipati Fellowship. Over the summer, Eduardo will begin interning with the law firm DLA Piper law to gain experience in legal filing and writing, and will have the opportunity to provide in-court assistance to the attorneys. Eduardo intends to pursue a career in constitutional law with an emphasis on civil liberties and civil rights, and this internship will provide him with valuable private sector experience, connections, and day-to-day insight into the legal system. Eduardo is grateful for Professor Littlepage's constitutional law, judicial processes, and international law classes, and the knowledge he gained, particularly on argumentation and procedure.



### POLS Major Wins Honors Thesis Award

POLS and Spanish dual major and recent grad, Cassidy Lee, was awarded one of the 2022 Honors Thesis Awards for her thesis, "The Queer Immigrant in the United States: From Immigration to Integration." Cassidy was touched by the academic training and personal support she received through her POLS classes, in particular, Dr. Michelle Belco's "U.S. Immigration Policy and Practice," Dr. Elizabeth Simas's "Politics in Television and Film," and Dr. Brandon Rottinghaus's "Political Campaign Management" courses. Cassidy will begin her Master's of Global Policy Studies in the DC Concentration at the LBJ School of Public Affairs starting in Fall 2022, for which she has also received a fellowship to attend in the amount of \$17,500. Cassidy is also honored to have been accepted into the third cohort of the LBJ Women's Campaign School, which began in April 2022. Through her work, Cassidy hopes to research and implement international policy that protects the queer community and other marginalized groups.



## UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI NEWS



Alleanne Anderson

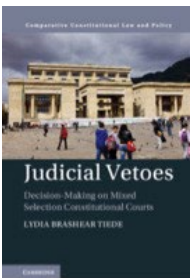
Alleanne Anderson, a POLS major alumna (Fall 2019), will be attending the Chicago-Kent School of Law where she has been admitted as an honors scholar, receiving a full-ride scholarship. Alleanne had the opportunity to select from a wide range of acceptance offers from some impressive programs,

including UC Hastings, Boston College, UH, and Penn State. Since graduation, she has worked as a Policy Outreach Associate and currently serves as the Policy and Advocacy Program Manager at SchoolHouse Connection, a nonprofit advocacy group based in Washington, DC, serving homeless communities

nationwide. Regarding her experience as a POLS undergraduate, Alleanne expressed that the opportunities afforded her, her interaction with her peers and professors, played an undeniably significant role in shaping her professional trajectory.

## FACULTY NEWS

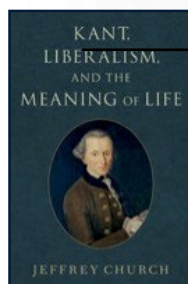
### MAJOR PUBLICATIONS



“Judicial Vetoes: Decision-making on Mixed Selection Constitutional Courts”

By Lydia Tiede

Using empirical evidence from the constitutional courts of Chile and Colombia, Associate Professor Tiede argues for a new approach to understanding judicial selection in constitutional courts, and develops a framework for understanding the factors, external and internal to courts, which lead individual judges, as well as the courts in which they work, to veto a law.



“Kant, Liberalism, and the Meaning of Life”

By Jeffrey Church

Focusing on Immanuel Kant’s largely neglected early lectures on anthropology from the 1760s and 1770s, Church argues that Kant’s work can serve as a basis for a more meaningful liberalism, one that conceives of freedom and equality for all as a moral vocation of citizens and institutions, and that this view can provide a counterweight to the recent rise of illiberal nationalist or religious forms of community that seem attractive to liberal citizens hungering for meaning in a disenchanted world.



“The Political Effects of Opioid Addiction Frames”

By Tanika Raychaudhuri, Tali Mendelberg, and Anne McDonough

To better understand the effects of media coverage on drug epidemics, Assistant Professor Tanika Raychaudhuri and her co-authors show that sympathetic frames of White and Black users both increases White support for treatment, but that the former has larger effects, highlighting the importance of racially selective sympathy as a distinct concept from racial antipathy.

The department congratulates the following POLS faculty members who will be promoted, effective September 1st, 2022:

**Tyson Chatagnier**, from assistant professor to associate professor.

**Niki Marinov**, from associate professor to professor.

**Ryan Kennedy**, from associate professor to professor.

**Zachary Zwald**, from instructional assistant professor to instructional associate professor.

## FACULTY AWARDS

### INTERNAL AWARDS

**Associate Dean and Professor Susan Sorrow** has been awarded the CLASS Distinguished Faculty Award.

**Associate Professor Elizabeth Simas** won the CLASS Ross Lence Teaching Excellence Award.



**Ryan Kennedy** has received the Excellence in Scholarship and Research Award at the level of Associate Professor at the University of Houston.



**Professor and Chair Jeffrey Church**, and **Associate Professor Lydia Tiede**, received a grant from the Cougar Initiative to Engage (CITE) in the amount of \$16,000, to support the participation of 12 undergraduate students during the 2022-2023 academic year in legal internships with non-profit organizations.

## FACULTY AWARDS

### EXTERNAL AWARDS



Elizabeth Simas

Associate Dean Susan Scarrow, Professor and Chair Jeffrey Church, and Faculty Division Chair Cammy Shay, of Houston Community College, have been awarded a 2022 APSA Special Projects Fund grant in the amount of \$20,820, allowing advanced graduate students the opportunity to gain teaching experience in the field of American Government at Community Colleges in the Houston area.



Alin Fumurescu

Associate Professor Alin Fumurescu has been awarded a year-long faculty fellowship at the Murphy Institute at Tulane University.



Elizabeth Simas



Alex Badas

Associate Professor Elizabeth Simas and Assistant Professor Alex Badas have been awarded Best Law and Courts Journal Article for their joint publication, "The Supreme Court as an Electoral Issue: Evidence from Three Studies," which appeared in *Political Science Research and Methods* (2021): 1-19.



Michael Kistner

Assistant Professor Michael Kistner has been awarded the Christopher Z. Mooney Best Dissertation Prize for his dissertation, "Fundraising for the Caucus: Money, Party Politics, and Policymaking in American Legislatures," in the category of best PhD dissertation in American state politics and policy in 2021.

## DEPARTMENT EVENTS




### POLS Department celebrates the retirement of Kent Tedin

On May 9th, POLS faculty, alumni, and friends gathered to celebrate Kent Tedin's career. Professor Tedin has had a profound impact on our department over his 48 years here. He was one of the founding faculty members of our PhD program, and then proceeded to serve on 25 PhD committees. His research has been prolific, including 50 articles in journals or edited volumes, and he has been cited nearly 5000 times. Professor Tedin served as chair from 1985-2002, and during this time, the department thrived. In the 1995 National Research Council evaluation of Ph.D. granting departments, the UH political science department was ranked 34th of 99 departments. Tedin is a model scholar, teacher, and leader to this department, so thank you, Kent, for all you have contributed.

Organized by Associate Professors Boris Shor and Ling Zhu, the 2022 John P. McGovern Endowed Lecture in Family, Health, and Human Values was held on March 31st, 2022, and featured a keynote presentation by Dr. Mollyann Brodie, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer of the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), and the Executive Director of KFF's Public Opinion and Survey Research Program. Her lecture was entitled, "Whither the ACA and the Public Today? Insights from Twelve Years of Polling."

2022



**John P. McGovern Endowed Lecture in Family, Health, and Human Values**

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022  
4:00 p.m. CST  
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion (Livestream Available)

**Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D.**  
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF)  
Executive Director, KFF's Public Opinion and Survey Research Program

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES



## DEPARTMENT EVENTS

# RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE

**Why is Russia at war with Ukraine?** Is this a turning point in the global order and international security? What happens next? Join us for a panel discussion with experts in international security, Russia, and Eastern Europe.

**PANELISTS**

**DR. ZACHARY ZWALD**  
*Political Science*

**DR. ALEXEY GOLUBEV**  
*History*

**DR. DAVID RAINBOW**  
*Honors College*

**AMBASSADOR MICHAEL PELLETIER**  
*Institute for Global Engagement*

**WHEN**  
Thursday, March 10, 2022  
at 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**WHERE**  
M.D. Anderson Library,  
The Honors College,  
Honors Commons (Rm 212)

**RSVP:** [bit.ly/uh-russia-ukraine](https://bit.ly/uh-russia-ukraine)

Sponsored by:  
Institute for Global Engagement  
The Honors College  
The Center for International and Comparative Studies

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

Instructional Assistant Professor Zachary Zwald participated in a panel on the Russian War in Ukraine on March 10th, 2022.



Christopher Tyler Burks, American University

On May 6, Associate Professors Jason Casellas and Ling Zhu hosted a conference on Gentrification and Political Representation. They invited scholars from the Houston area and nationally.



Above: Some of the group pauses for a photo after the event  
Inset: Department family members sort food

Alongside other volunteers, faculty, graduate students, and their family members, participated in food sorting (over 9,000 lbs.!) at the Houston Food Bank on March 26th, 2022.



**DATA CLEANING IN THE TIDYVERSE**  
WITH DR. MICHAEL KISTNER  
MAY 16TH | 1 - 4 P.M. | PGH 200

Topics will include:  
- Project and data organization  
- Data transformation  
- Merging datasets  
- Exploratory visualization (as well as working with dates & times)

SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED!

Questions? Email [llopezhi@cougarnet.uh.edu](mailto:llopezhi@cougarnet.uh.edu)

Above: Dr. Kistner instructs students

Organized by doctoral student Lucia Lopez-Hisjos, and led by Assistant Professor Michael Kistner, ten graduate students participated in an RStudio/Tidyverse basics workshop in May 2022.

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