At the Forefront of the Election

Catch up with the PoliSci Department after a tumultuous election season:

Our professors examine outrageous political speech in current election cycle -- Tufts Daily

Deborah Schildkraut, Chair of the Political Science Department, Jeffrey Berry, and Consuelo Cruz discussed outrageous political speech with the Tufts Daily. "Outrage is not new," Berry said. "If you have a free media, people are going to say what they feel — and what they feel is not always nice."

"Social networking allows people to comment on the news in a way that [wasn't possible before]," Schildkraut said. "One of the charges that you hear sometimes is the declining civility in the comments that people attach when they are forwarding a news story or a link to a news story."

"Everybody is taking on a theatrical persona, and what drives the drama is the idea that they can give voice to the anger, the anxiety, the fear that people are feeling," Cruz said. "The political system therefore becomes a kind of echo chamber for outrage."

Click the hyperlinks for articles & sources

See what you and your fellow alumni have accomplished

Check out what events the PoliSci Department has sponsored
Mapping Politics with PS118-24
Helping Students Understand the Relationship Between “Politics” and “Place” Beyond Tufts

In a new course that was offered this fall, Professor Natalie Masuoka posed to her students the question of “how do we observe political activity in the communities around us?” PS118-24: Mapping Politics: Neighborhood Engagement in the 2016 Presidential Election is the first Political Science course to address this question by utilizing Geographic Information System, GIS, mapping technology and student directed GPS data recording. By having her students create a smartphone app, using a program called Survey123 that drops GPS pin locations of specific recorded data, Professor Masuoka provided her students with the opportunity to expand their understanding of their surrounding communities.

Taking advantage of this being a hotly contended election season, Professor Masuoka empowered her students to map their choice of political signage, bumper stickers, graffiti, clothing, displays of the American flag, and indicators of partisan divide and civic engagement and/or protest. The students went out in pairs to do fieldwork in local neighborhoods, business districts and public spaces across the Greater Boston area, and even into New Hampshire for students who had access to a car. They collected the preselected data they input into ArcGIS, the online app builder for Survey123, creating a map of new information to use in relation with the wealth of GIS census information available to them. These students were given the skills, through this course, to be able to overlay their collected data with demographic maps using ArcGIS online, to find correlations between political/civic activity indicators and demographic trends in the neighborhoods they interact with.

Professor Masuoka, as an immigration and race scholar, recognizes the importance of understanding politics as influenced by factors of where people live and studying how spatial demographics and social environments impact individual politics. With the introduction of GIS to the university campus through Tisch Library’s Data Lab, professors and students can use the technology available to them to assist in spatial and social analyses. Professor Masuoka hopes to help her students, and the Tufts community, broaden their understanding of the relationship between “politics” and “place” through fieldwork and spatial analysis, culminating with the students of her class presenting to Tufts their own research paper and GIS findings that test their hypotheses on how neighborhood citizen activity corresponds with racial, class and geographic diversity and the consequences of these relationships on democratic outcomes.

Professor Masuoka and her Mapping Politics course will be featured in an upcoming article in:

Check out their current features online >>

Fall 2016

DAVID GREGORY: THE RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE IN THE MODERN MEDIA ENVIRONMENT

Veteran journalist David Gregory reflects on his career in journalism as Moderator of Meet the Press, campaign reporter, and White House Correspondent as he guides his students through learning by relying on his experience and their curiosity. Assisted by Tufts Professor Julie Dobrow, the course was rounded out by a series of guest speakers, such as NBC Today Show’s Savannah Guthrie, David Axlerod, Mike Feldman, and Snapchat’s Head of News Peter Hamby, who have helped his students navigate the 2016 Election and put it in context.

David Gregory’s course taught Tufts students about the mechanics of a modern presidential bid – from data and polling, to advertising, campaigning and use of social media in a presidential election where, as he states, “everything has changed. Technology has changed campaigning, voter outreach and reporting significantly. A rapidly shrinking news cycle has also affected judgment in the newsroom and the campaign war room. Above all, Campaign 2016 reflects the public’s growing disdain for political and journalistic institutions, leaving many voters feeling that no one understands or reflects their concerns.”

Tufts’ student, Allison Aaronson, believes that “classes like Race to the White House are the reason we come to Tufts. Coming to class every week meant that we did not have the option of disengaging with politics. Instead, we remained committed to creating meaning and action out of political events. I am coming out of the class with a more sophisticated understanding of the modern media environment, invaluable connections, and a heightened sense of responsibility for my civic life.”

This course was co-sponsored by the Tisch College of Civic Life and the Film & Media Studies Program.
Graduate Showcase

Kumar Ramanathan

- 2016 Belfer and Elliott Award winner, and winner of the Howard Penniman Graduate Scholarship from Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society

In retrospect, my time at Tufts can look quite haphazard—I switched majors several times, and early on found myself more invested in journalism and activism than in my academic work. People who only knew me as a freshman are sometimes surprised to find out that I'm now in a PhD program, driving headfirst towards a life in academia. I owe my career path and academic success to my faculty mentors, who saw my potential and connected all of my different interests and activities as part of my intellectual development. In the political science department, I first found my academic voice in Professor Cruz's Political Culture course, and continued to find mentorship and inspiration while doing research for Professors Masuoka and Remick. In all of these spaces, instead of pointing me down a set path, they allowed me to bring in my experiences, identity, and non-academic skills into academia. Importantly, they both encouraged my passion and instructed me in pragmatism. Tufts can be a very isolating place, and it often was for me, but I was fortunate to find kinder and more rigorous mentorship here than I could have envisioned.

I'm currently a graduate student at Northwestern University's political science PhD program, where I study the politics of race and immigration. I take the lessons I learned from my professors with me in graduate school now, and I hope to pay it forward as a teacher and researcher myself down the line.

Sophie Laing

- 2016 Belfer Award winner, for the Best Political Science Thesis of the academic year, and runner-up for the 2016 Best Undergraduate Honors Thesis Award from Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society

My thesis, "Flip-Flopping Politicians: How Voters Punish and Reward Changing Opinion," was made up of three parts: a literature review, and then a qualitative section and quantitative section. The qualitative section was four case studies of politicians flip-flopping (I focused on John Kerry in 2004, Kristen Gillibrand, Mitt Romney in 2012, and Hillary Clinton going into 2016), and the quantitative section had the results of an experimental survey I designed to see how we, as voters, feel about politicians who flip-flop, and how gender and rationale for flip-flopping may effect those reactions. Having both sections to my thesis was a really valuable combination; each part helped me understand the other part better and made me ask better questions.

Professor Schildkraut was such a huge part of the process - she initially suggested doing a thesis after a final paper I wrote during my sophomore year for her seminar, PS114: Political Representation in the US, and then worked with me during summer scholars and the following year. Along the way, the PoliSci/IR thesis class and thesis exchange were really great places to get direction and motivation. I liked writing a thesis because it was great to get to spend so much time on one topic and really understand it, rather than diving into something for a couple weeks and then never coming back to it. And I like how many layers and reactions there are to the question of flip-flopping. The issue reveals what sort of representation we think/act like we value from our representatives, and can reveal how important certain attributes (gender, explanations for voting behavior, character traits) are to us when it comes to evaluating politicians. So, while flip-flopping is a catchy term, and an insult that's always thrown around at opposing candidates, I think it actually has a lot of nuanced, complicated and interesting implications for understanding political behavior and voting.

I am currently working part time at a bakery and part time as a Research Assistant with the Access to Justice Lab that a Professor at Harvard Law started a couple months ago, doing rigorous evaluation of legal services programs, to figure out what's working and how to best improve access to justice in the legal system. Since I'm thinking about law school, but also research in general, it's kind of the perfect place for me to be right now!
Graduate Showcase Cont.

Will Freeman

• 2016 Belfer and 2016 Elliott Award winner, for the Best Paper written for a Political Science assignment in the academic year, and runner up for the 2016 Best Paper Award from Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society.

• Summing up what made me study politics at Tufts and what I got out of it is a bit tough, but at least I can easily identify a starting place: taking Western Political Thought I with Professor Evrigenis during my first semester at Tufts. I recall that pretty early on in the semester we read Plato's Republic and I was struck by the analogy Plato creates between the just order of the political community and the just order of the soul. I think that as a freshman, maybe in part as a result of growing up in American culture and the way college is marketed, I had always been under the impression college was a place where you freely "explore" to "find yourself." So the idea Plato presented—that you impose discipline over your drives in order to create a better self—struck me as absolutely foreign and very compelling. There was a more personal side to my motivation as well. My grandfather, who I unfortunately never got to meet, was a legal theorist who engaged a lot with political theory in his writing. I became intent on studying theory both because it allowed me to engage in a sort of conversation with great thinkers throughout history, but also because it allowed me to gain the background necessary to converse with my grandfather through reading his books. I am proud of having the chance to work as a writing fellow during my senior year for a freshman seminar on The Republic, taught by Professor Evrigenis, because my exposure to political thought started with Plato. It was rewarding to come full circle and help first year students gain a grasp over his ideas and improve on formulating their thoughts in writing.

• During my senior year I completed an independent study in comparative politics with Professor Cruz, titled "Explaining the Emergence of Populism: Political Parties, the State, and the Crises of Representation in Venezuela and Chile," focused on explaining the divergent paths of political development Venezuela and Chile took during the 1980s and '90s. I wanted to account for how Hugo Chávez and his brand of populist politics did away with liberal democracy in Venezuela, while a similar style of politics failed to capture much support and pose a serious threat to liberal democratic institutions in Chile, despite the two countries sharing a number of similarities. More broadly, the IS allowed me to gain a better understanding of populist politics, which seem to me to be on the rise in almost every part of the world.

• I am currently on a Fulbright fellowship to Hungary for the year. I teach English and academic writing classes and help Hungarians apply for study and research opportunities in the U.S., but I am also taking courses in political theory at Central European University, a social sciences grad school here in Budapest. I wanted to spend time in Hungary because, after studying Latin American leftist populism, I wanted to see what similarities I could identify in right wing populist governments like the one that currently rules Hungary. Similarities are present, but mostly of the unsettling variety. It’s a good reminder not to take American political institutions and the freedoms they afford us for granted, and also a good opportunity to talk to supporters of the government here and gain a better sense of why people reject liberalism and pluralism in favor of other alternatives. In the future, I plan to pursue a PhD in political science with a focus on theory.

• Finally, I just want to give a big thanks to my professors for teaching me so much.

Poli Sci Achieves Trifecta

Tufts students were recognized in all three categories of National Political Science Honor Society awards.

(Clockwise from top)

Kumar Ramanathan: Awarded the Howard Penniman Graduate Scholarship towards his Ph.D. program.
Will Freeman: Awarded runner-up for Pi Sigma Alpha’s Best Paper.
Sophie Laing: Awarded runner-up for Pi Sigma Alpha’s Best Undergraduate Thesis.
Professors in the Media

Jeff Berry

- On Donald Trump and the Presidential Race
  
  **Wallet Hub**, "Other than respecting tradition, there's no reason for Iowa to always go first in the nomination process. Tradition can be dangerous in politics as events & voting trends can easily race past our formal processes."

  **The Guardian**, "It's part of the presentation of self – that he wants it to appear that he is his own person telling it like it is with no advisers coralling him to do this or that."

  **DW Global**, "He truly believes he will be a great president."

- On Governor Charlie Baker
  
  **WBUR**, *Boston's NPR News Station*, "I think what happens though is he doesn't have a lot of concrete accomplishments. He's been very focused on controlling the budget and making sure that the state management system operates well. Those aren't things that really score a lot of points with voters,' Berry said."

  **Boston Globe**, "He's much different than he was in 2010. He was biting and dismissive of Democrats and very critical of the incumbent governor... He has distanced himself [from the national Republican party] with a deftness that is impressive, and he's getting away with it."

  **Boston Globe**, "Even though there's not a well-articulated agenda, I think the public is convinced that he is a do-something governor rather than a do-nothing governor ... I think there's an appreciation that he's trying to solve problems."

Richard Eichenberg

- Gender Difference in Foreign Policy Opinions: Implications for 2016 -- **The Chicago Council**, Blogs
  
  "Contrary to much popular discussion, the issues of terrorism and immigration do not lead women to favor a more forceful policy response, despite the fact that women express higher concern about many threats. Indeed, where gender difference is present, it is always because women are less likely to favor forceful policies."

- Policy Activity in the Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues -- **Council on Foreign Relations**, Blogs
  
  "The priority of women's rights in American foreign policy has indeed grown... Although there was a decline after 2012 in the volume of policy activity, in 2015 the number of actions was nonetheless higher than in any year prior to the Obama administration."

- NATO summit: Despite high public support for defense spending in Europe, discord over burden sharing emerges -- **The Conversation**
  
  "Perhaps not surprisingly, NATO governments have already acted on this increased level of support by announcing plans to increase defense spending."

Kelly M. Greenhill

- Demographic Bombing: People as Weapons in Syria and Beyond -- **Foreign Affairs**
  
  "This strategy of seizure and appropriation through forced migration, too, has a long and rather sordid history. But the weaponization of displaced people is not limited to conflict zones; migrants and refugees may also be used for influence far from the battlefield."

- Europe Must Deal with the Breeding of Terrorism Within Its Borders -- **NYT Opinion Pages: Room for Debate**
  
  "Barring the door to refugees would be akin to sticking a finger in a leaking dike while water threatens to pour over the top."

Dennis Rasmussen

- The Problem With Inequality, According to Adam Smith -- **The Atlantic**
  
  "The allure of extreme wealth can contort human sympathies, causing the public to admire the wealthy and shun the poor."

  "Adam Smith, the purported founding father of laissez-faire capitalism... What has received little attention, even by those who approach Smith's thought from the contemporary left, is that he also identified some deep problems with economic inequality."

Deborah Schildkraut

- The Tricky Task of Teaching About Trump -- **The Chronical of Higher Education**
  
  "Commenting Cautiously: Over all, 'the notion that we should abandon objectivity is definitely not pervasive,' says Deborah J. Schildkraut, a professor of political science at Tufts University, in Massachusetts."
Professor Publications

**Berry**
- *Anger is a Business* - Vox
- *The Impact of Local Environmental Advocacy Groups on City Sustainability Policies and Programs* - Policy Studies Journal 44

**Eichenberg**
- *Public Opinion on Foreign Policy Issues* - Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics

**Greenhill**

**Mufti**
- *Neo-Ottomanists and Neoconservatives: A Strange Alignment in the 1990s* - Insight Turkey 18:1
- *Democratizing Potential of the ‘Arab Spring’: Some Early Observations* - Government and Opposition 50:3

**Rasmussen**
- *Adam Smith on What Is Wrong with Economic Inequality* - American Political Science Review 110:2

**Sullivan**
- *Spectacles and Sociability: Rousseau’s Response in His Letter to d’Alembert to Montesquieu’s Treatment of the Theatre and of French and English Society* - History of European Ideas 51:3

**Schildkraut**
- *Latino Attitudes About Surrogate Representation in the United States* - Social Science Quarterly 97:3
- *White attitudes about descriptive representation in the US: the roles of identity, discrimination, and linked fate* - Politics, Groups, and Identities

Keep an eye out for:
- *Multiracial Identification and Racial Politics in the United States* - Spring 2017
New Course Offerings

- **Massachusetts State Government: Learning While Doing**
  - **Ben Downing**
  - Students will be placed in one of a dozen State House offices—a legislator, committee, in the governor’s office, or an executive branch agency—to serve in a policy-focused internship. These experiences will be supplemented with a class built around discussion of shared experiences, as well as on the interplay between policy and politics. The primary goal is for students to develop real-world skills and a deeper understanding of how politics and policy intersect to create law, regulatory programs, and social change.

- **How Campaigns, Communications, and Organizing Can Impact Our World**
  - **Doug Rubin**

- **Seminar in American Racial Politics**
  - **Natalie Masuoka**

- **Islam and Democracy in the Modern Middle East**
  - **Andrew March**
  - Looking at the development of both theocratic and democratic ideals in modern Islamic political thought, this course looks at the origins of the problem of state sovereignty, religious vs. positive law and the relationship between Islam and constitutionalism in 19th century state modernization processes in the Ottoman Empire (including partially independent territories like Egypt and Tunisia) and Iran.

- **Policing in the US & Europe**
  - **David Art**

- **Origins of Modern Republicanism**
  - **Vickie Sullivan**

- **Cybersecurity and Cyberwar**
  - **Jeff Taliaferro and Ming Chow (CompSci)**
  - This course is an interdisciplinary analysis of cybersecurity in the United States and other countries, intended to introduce engineering students to policymaking and intelligence aspects of cybersecurity and liberal arts students to the technical constraints of computer networks and software. Hands-on activities including packet analysis, exploiting a vulnerable system, password cracking, social engineering, reconnaissance, and malware analysis. Examination of state and non-state actors engaged in cyberespionage, counterintelligence, deterrence, and offensive cyber operations. Guest speakers from private sector, civil liberties groups, and intelligence community will join the course throughout the semester.

Professor Publications Cont.

**Michael Beckley**

**The Myth of Entangling Alliances**

*Reassessing the Security Risks of U.S. Defense Pacts*

Alliances don’t drag the United States into wars. In fact, allies help keep U.S. troops at home by bearing some of the burden for U.S. military operations and by encouraging the United States to stay out of wars altogether. This study was voted honorable mention for the 2016 Outstanding Article in International History and Politics by the American Political Science Association. It has been featured in The Washington Post, Vox, the Week, MIT Press Podcasts, War on the Rocks, The American Conservative, and H-Diplo.

**Pearl Robinson**

**Mama Kyota**

Professor Robinson wrote, produced and directed *Mama Kyota*, a documentary about a Tijaniyya Sufi Muslim women’s Projects movement in Niger. The film examines the life and work of Saida Oumul Khairy Niassse (Mama Kiota), the founding president of the Jamiyat Nassirat Dinea, a Muslim women’s association with nearly 100 chapters in Niger and branches in eight West African countries.

The film was released in 2016 and is narrated in Hausa. This past summer, Robinson organized a one-month, three country movie tour in Niger, Nigeria and Ghana to, as quoted from a Tufts A&S article, “influence the perception of African Muslim women in African popular culture, Islamic popular culture, and global feminist discourses” through her film.
Departmental Changes

**IOANNIS EVRIGENIS**
2015
Promoted from Associate to Full Professor
Political Theory
Chair of the Classics Department

**NATALIE MASUOKA**
2014
Promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor
American Politics, Political Behavior and Public Opinion, Race and Ethnic Politics
> Received Tenure

**DENNIS RASMUSSEN**
2014
Promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor
Political Theory
> Received Tenure

SAYING GOODBYE TO TONY SMITH

Tony Smith did his undergraduate work at the University of Texas, received a Masters from the Fletcher School, and a doctorate in government from Harvard University. He started teaching Political Science at Tufts in 1970 with a focus on the thinking behind human rights and democracy promotion in U.S. foreign policy. His research then turned to explore the origins of American thinking about democracy promotion abroad in the 17th and 18th centuries, and the impact this had on Woodrow Wilson and, through him, on American presidents still today.

While at Tufts, Tony published books on ethnic groups and American foreign policy, British, American, and French imperialism, and communist theories of state legitimacy in the Soviet Union, China, and Cuba. He taught graduate courses at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, became a core member of the International Relations program since 1979, and led as the Department Chair from 1996-1999.

The Political Science Department wishes Tony Smith all the best on all his future endeavors.

Check out his 2017 publication:
*Why Wilson Matters*
Calendar of PoliSci Events

9.26
PRE-SEASON Debate Watch PARTY

“Debate Watch Party draws full house,” as reported on by Tufts Daily, with students and staff alike piling into Cohen Auditorium once the doors opened, after grabbing a slice of pizza on the patio outside, to hear the pre-debate panel featuring Jim Glaser (PS), Jeff Berry (PS), Sarah Sobieraj (Sociology) and former “Meet the Press” host David Gregory. Moderated by Deborah Schildkraut.

As quoted by the Daily, one Tufts sophomore remarked:

“I think it’s great for students to come together and watch the debate ... because it provides a feeling of community, that there are other people who are also interested in the issues being talked about,” she said. “I really enjoyed that we all got to feel that community last night.”

9.19 In Honor of Constitution Day -

THE PERPETUAL CRISIS OF AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION: COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND THE “REAL WORLD” OF AMERICAN POLITICAL HISTORY //

A lecture by Professor Virginia Sapiro, Boston University

10.10 Indigenous People’s Day

In recognition of indigenous people, Tufts invited Natick Algonquin: Nettukkusq Singer and a child troupe of traditional Mayan dancers: La Piñata

10.17 TISCH COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES 2016

A Year Like No Other: Politics & The Press in 2016 - With Panelists: Patrick Healy from the NYT, Asma Khalid from NPR, & Jake Horowitz from Mic. Moderated by David Gregory

11.04 Pre-Election

Vice-Presidential Debate Watch PARTY

A full Hotung Café listened and engaged with panelists: Natalie Mausoka (PS), Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg (Tisch/CIRCLE), and Richard Eichenberg (PS), with Deborah Schildkraut moderating, before turning their attention to a live broadcast of the VP Debate


10.27 Question 2 Forum – a ballot initiative to raise the cap on the number of charter schools allowed in the state. Featuring panelists: State Senator Pat Jehlen, MA State Director for Families for Excellent Schools: Keri Lorenzo, and MA State Director for Democrats for Education Reform: Liam Kerr

11.2 Building A Wall or Digging a Hole? Donald Trump and the Latinx Electorate

A lecture by Dr. Tony Affigne, Providence College

11.8 Election Night EXTRAVAGANZA – A packed Campus Center brought students & faculty together to converse late into the night as they waited to see who was elected President

11.21 Post-Election

What Do I Even Say to Them? How to engage with friends and loved ones who voted for a different candidate – A hands-on conflict management workshop run by Libby Mahaffy to help students engage in difficult dialogues about the election

11.14 The State of Democracy: What It Means to Be an Independent Journalist in Russia

A lecture by Tikhon Dzyadko, News Anchor & Analyst for RTVi and former Deputy Editor for DozhdTV (RainTV)

Click here for recent events and here for the archive of all events
Giving to Tufts

We know that there are many worthy causes competing for your giving, and appreciate your support to keep Tufts on the forefront of teaching, research, and public service.

To make a donation the School of Arts & Sciences’ Department of Political Science, You can use these resources:

Online Giving Website
Mail-in Form
or Call 617-627-4705

Thank you for your gift!

Also, we at the Political Science Department would love to hear from you! Where has life taken you and what have you achieved since graduating from Tufts?

Feel free to send us news, both past and present, about yourself and your fellow alumni, so that it can be included in future Alumni Newsletters.

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