

POLITICAL SCIENCE

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY / APRIL 2012 / ISSUE 6

What is Political Science?

-Specialists in **comparative politics** analyze power dynamics in communities, states, and regions throughout the world.

-Specialists in **international relations** focus on the power relationships between countries and between citizens and organizations of different countries.

-Specialists in **American politics** look at the exercise of power domestically, through American institutions and processes ranging from the state to social movements.

-**Political theorists** address fundamental normative and explanatory assumptions, such as the nature and purpose of the state; who should have power and why; and what would constitute a good society.

Newsletter

Editor: Erika Brown

Faculty Editor: Ruth Groff

GENDER INEQUALITY & POLITICS

Jason Windett writes and teaches courses in the area of American politics. His focus is on how gender inequality affects state politics. As he describes it, "I study the impact of gender on the behavior of women running for public office in the American states."



Windett believes that it is important to teach students to think about these issues, even though it is sometimes challenging for them. "It is always an eye-opening experience for students to really think about gender in a political context," he says. "It can be difficult to teach these issues. Many students are resistant to confronting the difficult topic of gender stereotypes and structural gender inequality in our country. Often times my course will be the first time they've thought about gender and the impact it has on our political culture."

But once the semester is underway, students take what they are learning seriously. "It is always about a month or so into class when the students have the 'Ah-ha' moment and start to really evaluate the theories and topics we are discussing. Once I can get students to think about gender roles and living in a patriarchy, they start seeing the larger impact of gender on our society."

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Dr. Windett's recent publications:

- "Differing Paths to the Top: Gender, Ambition, and Running for Governor," *The Journal of Women, Politics and Policy*, forthcoming.
- "The Contextual Effects of Race and Racial Representation on Voter Behavior in Statewide Races," co-authored with Tom Carsey, *The National Political Science Review*, forthcoming.

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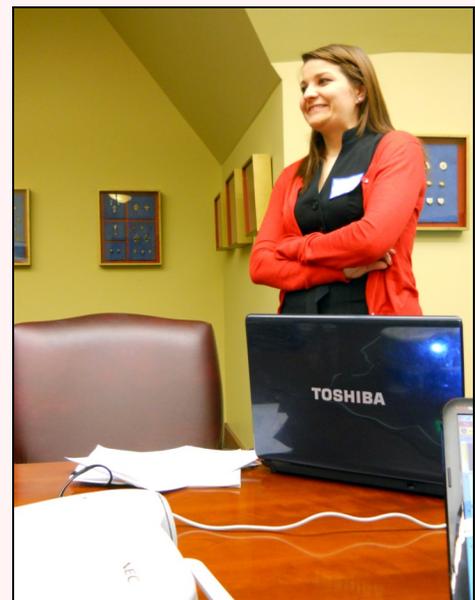
Second Annual

Global and Local Social Justice Conference

February 16 & 17, 2012



The Second Global and Local Social Justice Conference on February 16th and 17th was most successful. Political Science students were plentiful on the program. It was expanded to include a Thursday evening session to allow more graduate students to present, and that went off swimmingly. On Friday our own Father Richard Quirk gave an inspiring account of his work and experience working for social justice here in the St. Louis area.



If you are interested in getting involved with the Global and Local Social Justice Program, contact **Dr. Robert Strikwerda** at rstrikwe@slu.edu

Conference Presenters

Graduate

Laura Bresnahan
Pooja Chandiramani
Julie Gary
Lauren Ho
Satish Munigala
Mallory Schwarz
Manan Shroff
Chad Williams

Undergraduate

Marc Alexander Ault
Eric Behna
Erika Brown
Will Clark
Eric Collier
Andreas Gambarello
Nipun Gupta
Michelle Hogenmiller
Christina LaFon
Joyce LaFontain
Danielle Meier
Laura Tiffin
Jasmina Vajzovic
Zach Zipperer





Model United Nations SLUMUN



Midwest Model Un 52: The team won the Outstanding Position Paper award for overall delegation position papers. Out of nearly 500 students in attendance, we had the best position papers! The conference was held Feb. 15 th-18th and everyone involved had a blast. The crisis simulation began when President Assad was assassinated and the Security Council voted to arm the rebel insurgents within Syria; many delegates believed this to be the beginning of WWIII. In addition, the Sec. General of the conference accepted Palestinian statehood recognition by the U.N., creating some heated debate. Overall, the conference was able to pass several substantive resolutions.

Recruitment: We are always looking for new members to join our team!! Schedules and itineraries will be available for the next year soon, e-mail for more information!

Contact: Kellen Gracey—kgracey@slu.edu



Political Science Club:

Meetings are every Thursday in McGannon 144, unless otherwise stated!

- April 27—Club Bowling Night at Moolah
- September 2012—Neglected Issue Debate focused on the upcoming presidential election

Come join us for fun, food and friendship!

Thoughts from an ... *International Relationist*

by Dr. Timothy Lomperis

In the opening decade of the Twenty-First Century, it is understandable that America's attention has been riveted to the Middle East: 9/11 and a possible Israeli strike on potential Iranian nuclear weapons facilities has ensured that. But President Obama has also unrolled a National Security Strategy that has announced a pivot of military resources and strategy to Asia. At one level, this shift simply recognizes that the center of the global economy is now in Asia. The countries of Asia now out produce the combined output of all members of the European Union, and more U.S. trade now crosses the Pacific Ocean than the Atlantic.

All of this explosive economic growth in Asia masks a very delicate and dangerous set of political dynamics. Northeast Asia, for example, is the focal point of two-thirds of the world's military forces, with the multi-million person militaries of China and North Korea facing the globe's most technologically sophisticated forces in those of Japan and the United States. It is a vortex of a potential Korean War redux. In the center of this continent swirls a second such vortex, as the twin nuclear powers of India and Pakistan seethe under the long restive dispute over Kashmir.

Adding to this volatility is the war in Afghanistan that will, however it is handed off by the United States, inevitably flow into and enlarge these already building Kashmiri tensions.

In both of these scenarios, it is arguably the presence of the United States that deflects the local Asian parties away from conflict. As Japan views rising Chinese power with national alarm, it is the continuation of its alliance with the United States that keeps the pots of ancient histories of conflict from boiling over. In the Indian subcontinent, it is the partnership that both India and Pakistan share with the United States that keeps radicals in both countries under wraps even as Washington provides both Islamabad and New Delhi enough assurances to permit some level of trust to develop in the subcontinent so that diplomatic alternatives to conflict can be considered.

If the world expects this explosive prosperity of Asia to continue, arguably lifting the economy of the entire planet with it, it can only continue under the influence of the American strategic pivot to Asia.

GENDER INEQUALITY & POLITICS

Cont. from p. 1

Windett says that he loves teaching political science. “My purpose is to show students that gender matters. I want them to be able to evaluate the way that they view politics, society and culture, keeping the role of gender as an important consideration.”

Jason Windett

Recent publications, cont.:

“Diffusion of Innovation and State Political Cultures: The Case of Women State Supreme Court Justices,” co-authored with Sally Kenney. Presented at the 2012 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA and at the 2012 State Politics and Policy Conference in Houston, TX.

The SLU Department of Political Science is hosting an...

OPEN HOUSE

...for prospective students interested in enrolling or learning more about our **graduate program!**

Find out what the Political Science Dept can offer you in our 4 comprehensive program tracks: International Affairs, American Politics, Gender & Politics, and Political Thought! **Pizza, snacks, and drinks provided!**

THURSDAY, MARCH 8TH AT 6PM

Location: Conference Room in McGannon Hall, Floor 1, Rm 144
PLEASE RSVP TO: forchepe@slu.edu by March 5th

HOSTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE | [HTTP://WWW.SLU.EDU/X18824.XML](http://www.slu.edu/x18824.xml) | 314.977.3035



SUCCESSFUL OPEN HOUSE

Over twenty students and faculty gathered together to discuss their interests in the MA program in Political Science.

CONTACT: Dr. Chris Witko for more information about the MA Program at cwitko@slu.edu

Mark Your Calendars!

Gender and Politics Conference

Friday, May 4th

Busch Student Center

FREE luncheon and keynote address from Secretary of State Robin Carnahan. Register @ genderpolitics.slu.edu. Email Dr. Jason Windett for further information and any questions at jwindett@slu.edu!