

POLITICAL SCIENCE

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY/DECEMBER 2011/ISSUE 5

WE'RE POLITICAL SCIENCE!

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

The department was featured in a exhibit in Pius Library, which lasted most of the semester.



The exhibit was created by Claudia Duvall.



The Disputed Question

Dr. Ruth Groff gave the Magisterial Response at the SLU Philosophy Club's annual Disputed Question event. The Disputed Question is a traditional Jesuit practice. This year's question was "Is voting a Responsibility?" Four students argued in the affirmative, four in the negative. As the Magisterial Respondent, Dr. Groff then offered a synthesis of the students' insights, and posed a new, revised version of the question for further reflection.



Faculty Accomplishments

JD Bowen

published three journal articles: "Ecuador's 2008-2009 Electoral Cycle," *Electoral Studies* 29, 1 (2010): 186-189; "The Right in 'New Left' Latin America," *Journal of Politics in Latin America* 3, 1 (April 2011): 99-124; "Multiculturalism, Markets, and Democracy: Elites and Indigenous Movements in Contemporary Ecuador," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 43, 3 (August 2011): 451-483. He was also awarded a grant from the President's Research Fund to study sustainable development in Latin America. He will work with Candy Martinez from the John Cook School of Business.

Nadia Brown

won Mellon and Beaumont grants to pursue her research on black women legislators. She spent the summer doing fieldwork in Baltimore.

Eloise Buker (Emerita)

gave the keynote address at the 20th anniversary celebration of Women and Gender Studies at Gonzaga University. She was one of the founding faculty members of the program.

Ellen Carnaghan

published "The difficulty of measuring support for democracy in a changing society: evidence from Russia," *Democratization* 18, 3 (June 2011): 682-706. She was awarded a Mellon grant to pursue her research in Russia during June 2011.

Ruth Groff

published "Getting Past Hume in the Philosophy of Social Science" in *Causality in the Sciences* (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Matthew Hall

published *The Nature of Supreme Court Power* (Cambridge University Press, 2011). He also published two articles: "Randomness Reconsidered: Modeling Random Judicial Assignment in the U.S. Courts of Appeals," *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies* 7, no. 3 (2010): 574-89; "Bringing Down *Brown*: Super Precedents, Myths of Rediscovery, and the Retroactive Canonization of *Brown v. Board of Education*," *Journal of Law and Policy* 18, no. 2 (2010): 655-700.

Wynne Moskop

published "Justice As Friendship: An Aristotelian Perspective on Global and Local Justice," in *Spatial Justice and Injustice*, Vol. I (Presses Universitaires de Paris Ouest, 2010), and "Prudence as a Paradigm for Political Leaders," in *Political Leadership*, ed. David S. Bell (London: Sage Publications, 2011), pp. 199-222.

Tim Lomperis

published *The Vietnam War from the Rear Echelon* (Kansas University Press, 2011). He was invited to deliver the convocation address at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois.

Thoughts from a ... *Theorist and a Comparativist*

by Dr. Ruth Groff and Dr. J.D. Bowen

For a political theorist, Occupy Wall Street goes to the heart of debates over democracy. The words *demos* and *kratos* come from Ancient Greece. We usually think of democracy as meaning “rule by the people.” But what it literally means is “rule by the *demos*.” And here’s what’s interesting: the word *demos* isn’t supposed to apply to everyone. The *demos* are the poor and working people -- the riff-raff, some might say.

Rule by the *demos* (the male portion) was briefly enacted in Athens. It was a radical alternative to rule by the comfortably well-off, rule by those with plenty. Rule, we might say today, by millionaires and billionaires. Athenian democracy didn’t last too long, but it set a striking example. Most of the thinkers in the history of Western thought have been opposed to it ever since, ranging from Aristotle to John Locke to some of our own “Founding Fathers.”

Aristotle, one of the first serious political scientists, set out the problem with democracy very clearly. The *demos*, he observed, are the numerical majority in any society. And yet they are also those who have the least economic resources. If they are allowed to have access to political power, they are likely to try to create more egalitarian conditions. This will be destabilizing, because the rich minority won’t like it. Locke proposed a form of government that would have, as its purpose, guaranteeing that such a thing couldn’t happen. That’s the form of government sanctioned by God, Locke claimed. (Though Locke was also opposed to letting the *demos* vote.)

In our time, the *demos* are legally allowed to vote. But also, in our time, much of the real power is exercised in the private sector, by Boards of Directors. If we were going to have rule by the *demos* in our time - or even just an effort by the *demos* to get their elected officials to secure jobs, food, schools, roads, health care, libraries, etc. for the many, and not just for the few, as Aristotle would put it – then the *demos* would probably have to try to direct attention to where the power is, and to what’s being done with it.

They might do something like Occupy Wall Street.

If we look beyond the US, we find that OWS-style movements are not new. In fact, the US is at least a decade behind the curve. As countries (and their economies) have become integrated into a global, market-driven economy, citizens have resisted. In developing countries, the focus has been on large multinational corporations and international financial institutions. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been a common target. To oversimplify, the IMF provides loans to countries in economic distress, but forces countries receiving these loans to adopt a variety of pro-market economic reforms. These reforms have often resulted in cuts to government services that poor and middle class people depend upon.

During the 1990s there were many cases of “IMF protests” in Latin American countries (and in other parts of the developing world), where people rose up against pro-market reforms that gutted the ability of states to protect their citizens (even if the states didn’t often exercise that ability). Efforts to privatize public services such as water, electricity, and health care, as well as natural resources (like oil, copper, and natural gas), were frequently met with protests. Protests were particularly strong where privatization resulted in the transfer of resources and public services to foreign companies whose primary goal was profit rather than the provision of public services to the entire population. For societies who remember their history of colonialism as a time when massive resources were transferred from colonized countries to colonizing superpowers, the transfer of natural resources and public services to foreign owners was a particularly bitter pill to swallow.

Given that the pressure for such reforms was often driven from overseas, the IMF was a relevant target. Just as we hear frequent complaints today that US politicians are “owned” by large corporations and other “special interests,” politicians in countries receiving IMF funds seemed more beholden to “the market” than to the *demos*. In such a situation, direct action is part of a centuries-old debate about how we hold our economic (and not just political) leaders accountable.

POLITICAL SCIENCE PUBLIC TALKS

DR. TIMOTHY LOMPERIS

Reception and lecture for
his new book, *The Vietnam
Memoir, 1972-1973*

SEPTEMBER 22



DR. NADIA BROWN

“The Politics of Hair &
Black Women’s
Legislative Experiences”

NOVEMBER 15



DR. JEFFREY GILL

Washington University

“The Variable Effect of War on
Long-Term Childhood Mental
Health Outcomes”

SEPTEMBER 9

**DR. MATTHEW HALL, DR. NADIA BROWN and
DR. JASON WINDETT**
“What’s Fair? Affirmative Action and College Admissions”

SEPTEMBER 16

Brown Bag Series

- **Dr. Matthew Hall**
"Is Judicial Review Countermajoritarian? The Invalidation of Federal Statutes by the U.S. Supreme Court"
- **Dr. Emmanuel Uwalaka**
"The Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Torture in a Failed State: The Case of Somalia"
- **Dr. Christopher Witko**
"Publishing in Top-Tier Political Science Journals"



Faculty Accomplishments, cont.

Michelle Lorenzini

published "Beyond Civic Engagement to Informed Advocacy." In *Teaching Matters: Strategy and Tactics to Engage Students in the Study of American Politics*, edited by Dan Shea (Pearson Longman, 2010).

Robert Strikwerda

presented a paper on "Fatherhood and Foucault: An Exercise in Feminist Application," at the American Men's Studies Association conference.

Emmanuel Uwalaka

won an Innovative Teaching Fellowship from the SLU Center for Teaching Excellence to prepare him to teach International Relations of Africa in the Learning Studio.

Jason Windett

published "State Effects and the Emergence and Success of Female Gubernatorial Candidates" in *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 11, no. 4 (2011). He also was awarded a travel grant from the American Political Science Association to present his research at the 2011 annual meeting.

Christopher Witko

published "Campaign Contributions, Access and Government Contracting" in *The Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 21, no. 4 (2011): 761-78, and "Professional Associations (From Attorneys to Zoologists)," in *CQ's Guide to Interest Groups and Lobbying*, Peter L. Francia, Burdette Loomis and Dara Strolovitch, eds. (Congressional Quarterly, 2011).

WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION

Heather Brocksmith, Junior

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri

I spent the summer summarizing cases and placing cases with local lawyers interested in *pro bono* work, as well as gaining some great experience observing court proceedings and visiting law firms.

Sarah Ramrup, Junior

Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis

My internship primarily involved organizing databases to enable more efficient information retrieval for the attorneys. I also worked on several projects so Waller could begin to implement a paperless system, with all of the cases and documents for a particular client on a disk instead of having huge files.

Manpreet Teji, Senior

the Sikh Coalition
I planned a community hearing allowed community members from the MASSA community (Muslim, Arab, Sikh, and South Asian) to share how 9/11 affected them and how it is still affecting them 10 years later. I also secured and followed through on two important meetings with Senator McCaskill's office (MO) and Congressman Peter Roskam's office (IL) in Washington DC.

Joyce Lafontaine, Senior

American Civil Liberties Union

As a Complaint Counselor, it was my job to take complaints from the public. From that point, I would determine whether the ACLU could provide legal assistance to remedy the situation. Complaints spanned a wide range of scenarios, from police misconduct to gender discrimination to prison abuse.

Karla Hunt, Junior

Semester at Sea

I took 12 credit hours. I went to the Bahamas, Spain, Italy, Croatia, Montenegro, Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey, Morocco and then returned to the U.S., in Boston. The classes I took were Women & Development; Political Theory; Religion, War & Peacemaking and Global studies.

GRADUATION RECEPTION 2011

