

UCI Department of Political Science

Winter 2022 Newsletter

The UC Irvine Department of Political Science is excited to announce the launch of its quarterly newsletter! Read below for our latest achievements and announcements.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR WINTER QUARTER

Wednesday

2/16 Department Faculty Meeting

Friday

2/18 Pamela Ban (UCSD):
American Politics Colloquium

Friday

3/4 Lynn Vavreck (UCLA):
American Politics Colloquium

Friday

3/4 Graduate Visiting Day

Friday

3/11 Jeremy Wallace (Cornell):
Comparative Politics
Colloquium

Friday

3/18 Dan Thompson (UCLA):
American Politics Colloquium

Check out our upcoming Winter Events!

Faculty News



Samatha Vortherms (left); Jiakun Jack Zhang (right)

Professor Samatha Vortherms had some recent media coverages:

- coauthored a piece with Jiakun Jack Zhang on the impact of the US-China trade war on foreign firms in China in a [Monkey Cage](#) article.
- interviewed for a [Sinica podcast](#) episode
- research was covered by the [South China Morning Post](#) and the [Global Times](#).

Additionally, Professor Vortherms has the following publications in the works with a 2022 publication date:

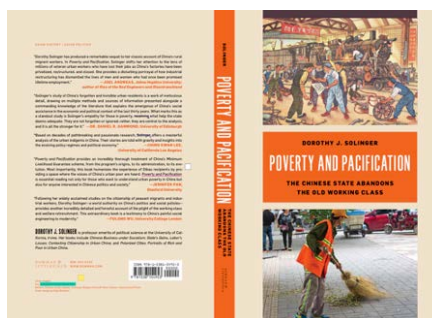
- “*Hukou* as Benefits: Demand for *hukou* and wages in China.” With Gordon G. Liu. *Urban Studies*. Forthcoming 2022.
 - “*Hukou* as a Case of Multi-level Citizenship.” in Zhonghua Guo edited *The Routledge Handbook of Chinese Citizenship*. Routledge. 132-142. DOI: 10.4324/9781003225843-12. 2021.
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Professor Heidi Hardt recently obtained her security clearance and will officially start working for the U.S. State Department on February 15th as part of her 2021-2022 fellowship with the Council on Foreign Relations!



Congratulations to Professor Daniel Brunstetter for his recently published book “*Just and Unjust Uses of Limited Force: A Moral Argument with Contemporary Illustrations*” (Oxford University Press). Can’t wait to read it!



Congratulations to Professor Emerita, Dorothy Solinger, on her forthcoming book (out this month!) with Rowman & Littlefield titled: “*Poverty and Pacification: The Chinese State Abandons the Old Working Class* (2022).” We can’t wait to read it!



Professor Jeffrey Kopstein was awarded the 2021-2022 Ina Levine Invitational Fellowship to continue his research on social scientific approaches to the Holocaust at the U.S Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C.



This past fall quarter (2021), Professor Keith Topper and Professor Victoria Silver (Department of English) received a Faculty Collaborative Conference Grant from the UCI Humanities Center to sponsor a three-day virtual conference, "*Leviathan Unbound: Hobbes Across the Disciplines.*"

Taking place on December 9-11, 2021, there were multiple paper presentations with a number of leading Hobbes scholars participating from around the globe!

A graduate student conference took place on the third day with some of our own grad students in attendance (special thanks to Holly Weaver, grad student organizer).

To watch the presentations, please click [here](#).



Professor Etel Solingen received the Richard C. Holbrooke Berlin Prize from the American Academy in Berlin! The award is named after the academy's founder as a tribute to his lifelong commitment to diplomacy and statecraft. The Prize entails residence in Berlin where Solingen will convene activities related to geopolitics, global supply chains and diplomacy. To learn more, click [here](#).

Professor Solingen's recent activities include:

Heading UCI's module on global supply chains as part of a broader project on superpower competition funded by the University of California, Office of the President.

Publications such as:

- Etel Solingen (ed.), *Geopolitics, Supply Chains, and International Relations of East Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2021)
- Etel Solingen, Bo Meng, and Ankai Xu, "Rising Risks to Global Value Chains" (November 2021:134-178).

Venues where related work was presented recently include: Brookings Institution, Asian Development Bank, Villa Mondragone International Economic Seminar (Rome, Italy), Stockholm University, National Bureau of Asian Research, and a US government sponsored academic workshop.



Professor Sara Goodman has recently become the Chair of the European Union Studies Association!



Professor and Chair, Simone Chambers, has been elected as Editor-and-Chief of the journal *Constellations*.



Professor Cecelia Lynch received the 2021 Religion and IR section of the International Studies Association's Best Book award for her recent book, *Wrestling with God: Ethical Precarity in Christianity and International Relations* (Cambridge, 2020). To read and listen to Professor Lynch talk about her new book, click [here](#) and [here](#).

Professor Lynch was recently invited to:

Participate in an interview regarding her previous book, *Interpreting International Politics* (2014). Click [here](#) to listen.

Join the Working Group on the Peaceful Resolution of International Disputes and Rethinking the International Peace and Security Governance Architecture (organized by the Global Governance Forum). Click [here](#) to learn more.

Join the Comité Scientifique/ Scientific Committee of the journal, *Global Africa* (a new journal supported by the African Studies Association of Africa). The launch of the journal will be in March 2022 at Gaston Berger University in St. Louis, Senegal.



Professor Kamal Sadiq has been re-elected to the editorial board of the journal, *Citizenship Studies*, and has been recently elected to the Advisory Board of the journal, *Migration Politics*.

Additionally, Professor Sadiq has recently co-edited the following work:

- "The Postcolonial Migration State," *European Journal of International Relations*, vol. 27, no. 3, Sept. 2021.
- *Interpreting Politics: Situated Knowledge, India, and the Rudolph Legacy* (Oxford University Press, 2020). He co-authored 3 chapters in the volume.

Graduate Student Achievements



Graduate student Kristen Aanstoos wrote an article called “*Hidden Economic Costs of Geopolitical Disputes for Supply Chains in East Asia*” which is published within the book, *In Geopolitics, Supply Chains, and International Relations in East Asia* (Cambridge Press). Some of Kristen’s other achievements include:

- Recipient of UCI Department of Political Science Summer Research Grant’21
 - Recipient of a Kugelman Research Fellowship from the Center for Citizen Peacebuilding
 - Participated in a virtual talk: Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies (GPACS) Lunch Talk, Fall Quarter
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Phoebe W. Moon and Tauhid Bin Kashem have been awarded the prestigious 2021-2022 Herbert York Dissertation Fellowship from the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC).

Phoebe’s proposal is titled, “When the Target Fights Back: Economic Coercion and Interstate Conflict in the Era of Global Value Chains.”

Tauhid’s proposal is titled, “Unlikely Refuge: International Regime Complexity and Refugee Protection.”

We wish them the best of luck in their data collection! To learn more, click [here](#).

Additionally, Phoebe just accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at Mercer University in Georgia! Congratulations on your next steps!



Graduate student Sara Burke received the UCI Social Science Communications Fellowship in grant writing this past fall.



Graduate student Nathan Chan formally accepted an offer for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at Loyola Marymount University, effective July 1. Congratulations Nathan, we're happy to hear you'll be close to Eater Nation!

Additionally, Nathan co-authored two publications that came out in the Fall:

- *COVID-19 and Asian Americans: How Elite Messaging and Social Exclusion Shape Partisan Attitudes* (Cambridge, 2021)
- *From Inter-Racial Solidarity to Action: Minority Linked Fate and African American, Latina/o, and Asian American Political Participation* (2021)



Graduate student Misbah Hyder received the 2021 Best Paper Award from the ISA Religion and IR section, for "*The Pen is Mightier than the Sword: How Ahmadi's Resist their Exclusion.*"

Some of Misbah's other recent achievements include:

- Recipient of the Department of Teaching Excellence and Innovation (DTEI) Pedagogical Fellowship (2021-2022)
 - Publication: "Oppositional Intentionality in *Sabr*: How the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community 'Preaches with Love.'" *Contending Modernities*.
[To learn more, click here.](#)
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Graduate student Ben Raynor received the ISA 2021 Best Graduate Student Paper Award for International Political Economy.

Ben has also been offered a part-time Lecturer position at Loyola Marymount University this year. Congrats Ben!



Graduate student Daniel Weisz Argomedo recently published an article, "*Climate Change, Drug Traffickers and La Sierra Tarahumara*" in the Journal of Strategic Security. [Click here to read Daniel's article.](#)

Alumni News



Lev Nachman, Ph.D., graduated in summer 2021. His dissertation title is called "*Movement Parties in Contested States: The Case of Taiwan's Post-Sunflower Movement Parties.*" Lev is now on a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard University's Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies.



Elham Kazemi, Ph.D. (not pictured), graduated in summer 2021. Elham defended her dissertation "*Narratives of 'Terror' and Transitional Justice: The Politics of Exclusion.*" Additionally, Elham published an article, "*Transitional Justice in Tunisia and Colonial Legacy*" in *Transitional Justice in Tunisia: Innovations, Continuities, Challenges.*



Shauna Gillooly, Ph.D., graduated in summer 2021. Shauna defended her dissertation, *"Incomplete Peace and Strategies of Resilience in Columbia."* Some of her accomplishments include: recipient of the American Council on Learned Societies Postdoc Fellowship and a forthcoming article called *"Legacies of Political Violence and Voter Behavior in Colombia"* in the journal of Peacebuilding and Development.



James Nguyen, Ph.D, defended his dissertation in Fall 2021. The title of his dissertation is called *"Cosmopolitan Intergenerational Justice and Climate Change."*



Brian Kaiser, Ph.D, defended his dissertation in Spring 2021. The title of his dissertation is called *"The strategic Politics of Formula 1 Racing: Insights from Game Theory and Social Choice."*



Chungjae Lee, Ph.D, defended his dissertation in Spring 2021. His dissertation is called *"The discourse of Democratic Transformation in Early 20th Century Imperial Japan and Colonial Korea."*



Francisco Jasso, Ph.D, defended his dissertation in Spring 2021. His dissertation is called *"Anti-Immigrant Sentiment as Anti-Latino: Perceptions of Racialization and Latina/o Political Behavior."*



Vahid Niayesh, Ph.D, defended his dissertation in Summer 2021. The title of his dissertation is named "*Political Inclusion and the Odds of Contentious Collective Actions in Authoritarian Societies: A study of Contentious Political Mobilizations in Iran Within a Comparative Context.*"



Former Ph.D. student, Alex Chang Lee (2019), was awarded the prestigious 2021-2022 Postdoctoral Fellowship in Technology and International Security at the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC), following his Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellowship at MIT. In addition, Alex just received, and accepted, a position with the Department of Defense as Analyst in the East Asia branch.



Former Ph.D. student, John Emery (2019), started a tenure track job at University of Oklahoma. Congrats, John!



Rosalie Chen was a visiting graduate student in the department in 2016-2018. After defending her Ph.D. at the National Taiwan University (with Professor Shawn Rosenberg as her committee member), she received a two-year visiting assistant professorship at Colgate University.

Rosalie is currently on the market and has received offers from the University of South Carolina and the Dominican University in San Francisco. She's now awaiting one more possibility and will decide soon!

In Memoriam of Michael Spitz

*Beloved member of our department's 2018
Ph.D. cohort*



“Stay positive, pursue joy, and push your limits.”

**Michael Spitz
1987-2022**

We recently learned of the sad passing of a Political Science graduate student who was on leave from his studies at UC Irvine, but still a valued friend and colleague to many. Michael Spitz, who joined the department in 2018, passed away in a rock climbing accident in Joshua Tree National Park on January 16, 2022.

Michael’s research included an area specialization in Mexico, public policy, labor movements, and resistance. He exemplified what it meant to be a scholar-activist, as he worked and served in the communities he dedicated himself to within the academy. Even while on leave from the department, he devoted himself to academics as a teacher at Santa Fe Christian School in Solana Beach, where he taught Spanish, AP courses, and was the surf team coach.

Michael was an avid outdoorsman, spending every spare moment climbing, surfing, backpacking, and skydiving. He encouraged his cohort and all around him to get outside, enjoy nature, and balance their work-life by pursuing their passions.

Michael leaves behind a legacy of intellectual generosity and community building that will live on in this department by those who knew him. His loved ones honored his life at a memorial on January 25, 2022. Information on donating to a fund in his honor is forthcoming and will be emailed separately.



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