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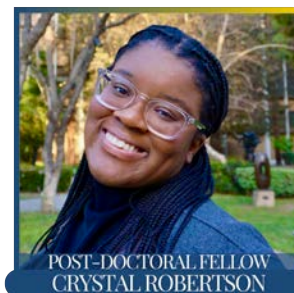
Message From Department Chair:

Welcome to the 2024-25 Academic Year! The UC Irvine Political Science Department is excited to share with you this newsletter, introducing new faces in the hallway, covering recent achievements of our faculty and students, and highlighting upcoming events. This academic year we welcome Assistant Professor Pamela Nwakanma, visiting professors from Israel, Ukraine, and Spain, our second Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow, and two new members of the departmental staff family (Hi Ron and Michelle!). We also have an exciting calendar of speaker series, department talks, conferences, and colloquiums to look forward to.

Please read further for the latest announcements and achievements to celebrate our colleagues and students. I hope everybody has a successful year. — Sara Goodman



## Warm Welcome to Political Science





DEPARTMENT ANALYST  
MICHELLE MEZA



DEPARTMENT ANALYST  
RON ROTHSTAIN



INCOMING VISITING ASSOC PROF  
SERGI GLEBOV



DEPARTMENT CHAIR  
SARA GOODMAN



VISITING PROFESSOR  
MANUEL VILLORIA MENDIETA

**UCI** Department of  
Political Science

# UPCOMING EVENTS

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

10/22

Chris Stout | 5 PM | SBSG 1511

10/30

Election Roundtable | 11:30 AM | SBSG 1517

11/13

Crystal Robertson (UCI PP) | 12:30 PM | SBSG 1511

12/04

LaGina Gauss (UCSD) | 12:30 PM | SBSG 1511

# FACULTY

## ACHIEVEMENTS



SARA GOODMAN

**Book & Grant.** Congratulations to Professor Goodman on her NSF Grant: Award #2341874, “Citizenship, Democracy, and Political Inclusion” (\$320,000) and the release of her new book: *Doing Good Qualitative Research*

[Learn more](#)



MATTHEW BECKMANN

**In The News.** Congratulations to Professor Beckmann for being featured in The Orange County Register, for his take on Project 2025 and on how Trump and Biden turned to California for fundraising during Summer.

[Learn more](#)



SIMONE CHAMBERS

**Grant.** Congratulations to Professor Chambers who has been awarded an NSF grant to host an APSA Presidential Task Force conference at UCI on Democratic Innovation. All are welcome to attend, February 7th and 8th, 2025!



HEIDI HARDT

**Article.** Congratulations to Professor Hardt on publishing “Local Engagement and U.S. Military Attitudes toward gender integration: Evidence from Afghanistan” in the journal “Contemporary Security Policy”

Learn more



JORDIE DAVIES

**Article.** Congratulations to Assistant Professor Davies on publishing her report: "Building and Brokering: Solidarity Processes in Multi-racial Coalitions" in partnership with the P3 Lab at Johns Hopkins University and Houston in Action in February 2024. Additional congratulations for the publication of two articles, "The uses and reuses of Monuments in the Black Lives Matter Era" in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* in May 2024, with Professors Jenn M. Jackson and David J. Knight, and "Limited Scopes of Repair: Black Reparations Strategies and the Constraints of Local Redress Policy" in *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* in June 2024.

Limited Scopes of Repair: Black Reparations Strategies and the Constraints of Local Redress Policy



DANIEL BRUNSTETTER



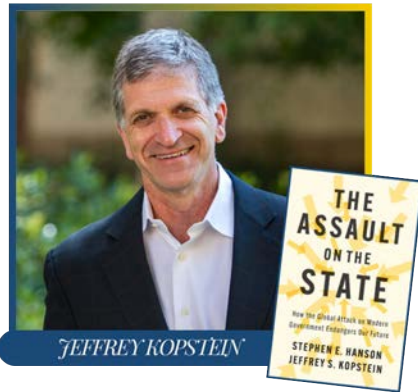
SHAWN ROSENBERG

**Grant.** Congratulations to Professor Brunstetter on his grant from the Albert & Elain Borchard Foundation to pursue research & writing his book: *The Last Letter: Intimate Farewell, Weapon of the French Resistance, Memorial Battleground*. As part of the grant, he will host a conference in Paris, in partnership with the Mont Valérien, Haut lieu de la mémoire nationale on the theme "The



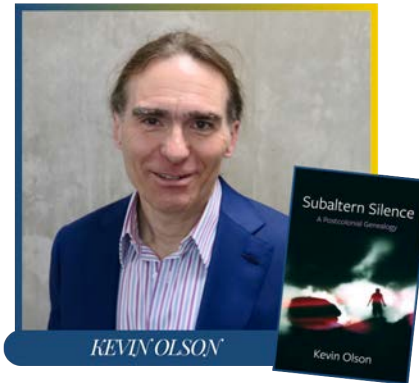
Letter: A Source for History and Memory".

**Book.** Congratulations to Professor Rosenberg on an upcoming book on the Psychology of Populism for a British Psychological Society series. Additional congratulations to Professor Rosenberg for his keynote address at the Workshop on Political Psychology in East Asia held in Hong Kong, an opportunity to work with 80 academics from Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines.



**Book.** In his new book, *The Assault on the State*, coauthored with Stephan Hanson (UC Irvine), Professor Kopstein argues for the defense of modern government against forces intent on its destruction.

[Learn more](#)



**Book.** Congratulations to Professor Olson on the publication of his new book *Subaltern Silence: A Postcolonial Genealogy*, investigating how contemporary societies silence the subaltern.

[Learn more](#)



**Award.** Congratulations to Assistant Professor Lockwood for earning the Dean's Award for Outstanding Teaching Innovation (School of Social Sciences)! Additional congratulations for publishing her Book Chapter: "Death by a thousand clarifications: how the Volcker Rule's inevitable ambiguity makes it easy to erode and hard to defend while leaving the power of banks unchecked" in *Ineffective Policies* (Bristol University

Press) and Textbook Chapter: "The Global Political Economy of Global Inequality" in Global Political Economy, eds. Hannah and Ravenhill (Oxford University Press).



LOUIS DESIPIO

**In The News.** Congratulations to Professor DeSipio for being featured on SkyNews for his commentary on the recent US Vice President debate!

[Learn more](#)



MICHAEL TESLER

**In The News.** Congratulations to Professor Tesler for being featured on NewsWeek as a political science analyst on Trump's presidential campaign.

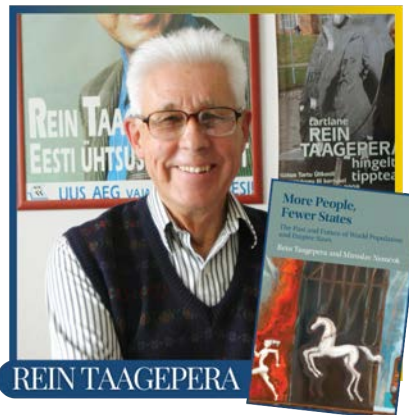
[Learn more](#)



SAMANTHA VORTHEMS

**Article.** Congratulations to Assistant Professor Vorthems on her new article, "Political Risk and Firm Exit: Evidence from the US-China Trade War." Review of International Political Economy

[Learn more](#)



REIN TAAGEPERA

**Book.** Congratulations to Emeritus Professor Rein Taagepera on publishing his new book: *More People, Fewer States: The Past and Future of World Population and Empire Sizes*

[Learn more](#)



DANIELLE THOMSEN

**Award.** Congratulations to Associate Professor Thomsen as co-winner with Ryan Mundy and Savannah Plaskon of a research grant from New Perspectives in Studies of American Governance, American University for their Project: How Disparities in Candidate Wealth Matter for Diversity in Congress. Additional congratulations for being a co-winner with Savannah Plaskon of the 2024 Best Paper on Intersectionality Award from the Women, Gender, and Politics Research Section for their paper: "Self-Rising Candidates: Racial and Gender Disparities in Self-Funding."



HEIDI HARDT

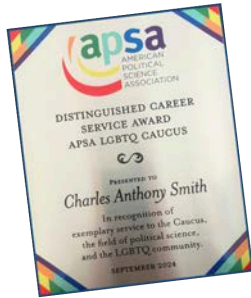
**Article.** Congratulations to Associate Professor Hardt on her forthcoming article: "NATO After the Invasion of Ukraine: How the Shock Changed Alliance Cohesion" in the journal "International Politics".



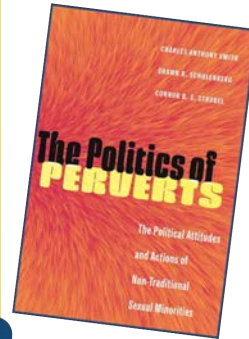
MARY MCTHOMAS  
MICHAEL TESLER

**Article.** Congratulations to our faculty Professor Tesler and Associate Professor McThomas on the publication of their joint article: "The racialization of pit bulls: What dogs can teach us about racial politics." in PLOS one.

[Learn more](#)



TONY SMITH



**Award & Book.** Congratulations to Professor Tony Smith recipient of a Distinguished Career Service Award, APSA's LGBTQ Caucus bestows the Service Award every year to individuals who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment toward the subfield of Sexuality & Politics as well as to supporting LGBTQ+ affiliated issues within the discipline. The Committee recommendation highlighted: "He not only has a wide array of publications within the discipline, but he has also published extensively advocating for increased acceptance of Sexuality & Politics within Political Science". Additional congratulations to Professor Tony Smith for the publication of his new book: *The Politics of Perverts, The Political Attitudes and Actions of Non-Traditional Sexual Minorities!*

The Politics of Perverts, The Political Attitudes and Actions of Non-Traditional Sexual Minorities



ASHLEY DANIELS

**In The News.** Congratulations to our post-doc Ashley Daniels for her quoted analysis of the Harris campaign's engagement with Black women in the 19th article, "One of our own': How Harris is leaning into the power of Black sororities"!

The 19th Article



# GRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



GIOVANNA ITZEL

**Fellowship & Grant.** Congratulations to Giovanna Itzel on becoming a 2024-2025 **Crossing Latinidades Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship** recipient! Itzel was also awarded UCI's 2024-2025 **Consortium for Power and Identity (CPI) grant** to conduct a pilot study focusing on understanding state power, inequality, and possibilities for healing in Black and immigration-impacted Latino communities. Congratulations to Itzel for being awarded the 2024-2025 **VOICE Initiative funding** from the UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement Center to continue co-collaboration with UCI Professor Dr. Laura Enriquez.



KRISTEN AANSTOOS

**Appointment.** Congratulations to Kristen Aanstoos for starting her new job as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the School of Public and International Affairs, University of Cincinnati.



HUNTER HILINSKI

**Fellowship.** Congratulations to Hunter Hilinski for being awarded a DAAD Fellowship for a year of fieldwork & archival research in Frankfurt, Germany for the 2024-2025 academic year.



JACOB SUTHERLAND

**Book.** Congratulations to Jacob Sutherland for his upcoming book (April 2025) *California Politics is Local: Voting Behavior and Special Districts*, co-authored with recent UCI Political Science PhD graduate Brett L. Savage

[Learn more](#)



MARCELO VELOSO MACIEL

**Publication.** Congratulations to Marcelo Maciel for his publication in the *European Journal of Political Economy*: “Was Bolsonaro’s 2018 electoral victory an institutional accident?”

[Learn more](#)



JESSICA SARAH TAGHVAIEE

**Fellowship & Award.** Congratulations to Jessica Sarah Taghvaiee recipient of the Council on Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience (CTLSE), Graduate Division, and DTEI, UCI Most Promising Future Faculty Award - Dissertation Fellowship. Her dissertation studies how the leading undocumented immigrant-led organization, United We Dream (UWD), uses conventional and non-conventional methods, including social media, to organize political activism and respond to the political environment surrounding immigration in the U.S.



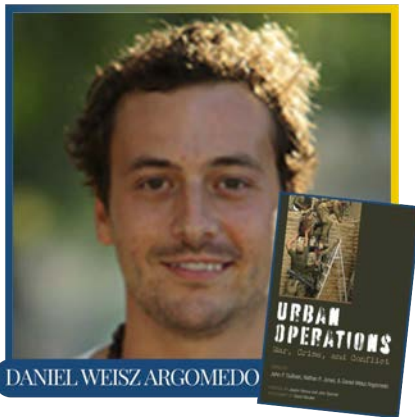
SAVANNAH PLASKON

**Fellowship.** Congratulations to Savannah Plaskon on being an APSA Diversity Fellowship Program (DFP) recipient for their 2024-2025 class!



KATELYN KELLY

**Appointment.** Congratulations to Katelyn Kelly on her tenure-track Assistant Professor of Political Science appointment at Black Hills State University in South Dakota!



DANIEL WEISZ ARGOMEDO

**Book.** Congratulations to Daniel Weisz Argomede, a Political Science 2023 graduate, on the publication of his new book, "Urban Operations: War, Crime, and Conflict".



JACOB SUTHERLAND

**Article.** Congratulations to Jacob Sutherland for his article, "Categories of Political Contestation in Public Libraries," which was published in the State and Local Government Review.

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more](#)



GEIDY MENDEZ



SEYFULLAH OZKURT



ANA SCHUGURENSKY



JENNIFER LOPEZ

The Political Science Department would like to highlight: Geidy Mendez, Seyfullah Ozkurt, Ana Schugurensky, and Jennifer Lopez (Sociology), who became Citizenship

Lab Grad Fellows in Summer 2024. They received training on mentoring strategies and led small research teams over the summer advancing research projects that expand our understanding of citizenship and development.

Citizenship Lab



**UCI** Department of  
Political Science

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