

Our Mission: To understand the political world and to equip our students and community with the skills for a lifetime of inquiry and engagement.



Political Science
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



Notes from the Chair

Greetings to all alumni, parents, students, faculty, and friends! I'm happy to report that the Political Science Department at CU-Boulder continues to change, adapt, and develop in its mission *to understand the political world and to equip our students and community with the skills for a lifetime of inquiry and engagement*. In fact, one development is that we have a new mission statement that we feel reflects our important strides in education, research, and engagement with the community. I will start with educating our students.

Not satisfied with doing the same thing year after year, we have made some important changes in our curriculum and approach to undergraduate education. In general, we are focused on providing our students with skills, whether that means conducting statistical analysis or learning how to analyze questions, concepts, and theories. Starting this fall we will offer a new one-year sequence of classes within our new Undergraduate Fellows Program. Undergraduate Fellows will be paired with faculty and senior graduate students who conduct active research in Political Science. This is an

introduction to doing research on the questions central to politics, both in this country and abroad. This new initiative, funded in part by a generous gift from the Davidson Family Fund, is specifically designed to help equip our students with skills they will need when they leave Boulder.

Engaging with our community and the world is another key part of our mission. A new partnership with the One Earth Future Foundation (OEF) is an important component of that endeavor. Specifically, the Political Science Department and OEF are collaborating on important problems we face related to good governance at the international level. Faculty in the department meet regularly with the research team at the Foundation, looking for solutions both to the problems faced by nations at the international level and to individuals who struggle to provide basic needs to their families. As part of the collaboration, the OEF has provided a generous fellowship to fund a senior graduate student to conduct research on their dissertation and on various projects central to OEF's mission. Teaming up with organizations outside of the university interested in solving important political problems is a model the department seeks to develop and build on.

We have also developed a new set of initiatives designed to integrate undergraduates with key areas of research that are ongoing in the department. Political Behavior, Women in Political Science and the Working Group on Inequality are all newly-funded initiatives that will bring speakers from outside the university together with undergraduates, graduates, and faculty. The plan is to bring more closely together scholars working on

issues that are central to the department while actively engaging undergraduate students in the process.

The year 2014 marked the retirements of four valued faculty that the department will not be able to replace. Susan Clarke, Anne Costain, Sam Fitch, and Ed Greenberg count among them over 100 years of combined service to the department. I want to express, on behalf of the department, my thanks for their service and guidance to the department over the last several decades. They will be sorely missed. We also will be without the services of Professor Amy Liu who left CU to join the faculty at the University of Texas-Austin. Again, our thanks and well wishes go out to Amy. This fall we will welcome Professor Megan Shannon to Colorado who joins us from Florida State University. Professor Shannon's specialty is international organizations and their impact on curbing violence in all regions of the world.

Finally, I want to express how honored I am to be Chair of such a great department. As I travel and meet alums and friends of the department, I never cease to be impressed by not only the accomplishments but dedication to the department and to CU. Our charge, in my opinion, is to passionately pursue our mission and to have a department that strives every day to serve.

David S. Brown, Chair
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Welcome Megan Shannon



Megan Shannon will join CU in fall 2014. Her research explores how international institutions influence human and interstate security. It builds from the premise that international and civil violence occur because relevant political actors cannot commit to ceasing violent behavior. She shows that international law and organizations help actors overcome commitment problems, forgo the use of violence, and reach peaceful settlements.

While conducting research on the effect of oil extraction on Uganda's environment and security in 2009, she visited [Bright Kids Uganda](#) home for children in Entebbe. "Those few hours touched me profoundly. I met children who had been displaced in Uganda's civil war, whose parents had died of AIDS, or



who had simply been living on the streets. Two boys in particular made an enormous impression on me - twins named Wasswa and Kato. They're typical boys who love soccer and dream of becoming professional footballers. Kato was born with HIV, but Wasswa was not. Even though he is a child, Wasswa's face has a strong, heavy expression of someone much older. I wonder if it's because he feels a burden of being born healthy while caring for his twin. A photo of Wasswa hangs in my home, and it reminds me every day of the strength of the human spirit."

Carew Boulding joined CU in 2007. Her research examines the role of NGOs in local politics in developing democracies, focusing on quantitative evidence from the municipal level in Bolivia. Her research includes attention to the relationship between NGOs, political participation and social movements. She is also interested in the politics of foreign aid, and how foreign aid is used to promote democracy.

In her new book, [NGOs, Political Protest, and Civil Society](#), Boulding argues that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have an important effect on political participation in the developing world.



Contrary to popular belief, they promote moderate political participation through formal mechanisms such as voting only in democracies where institutions are working well.

Faculty Footnotes

Andy Baker has been a member of the CU faculty since 2007. His current research focuses on the Latin American Left, the social and interpersonal causes of voting behavior in Brazil, and public



opinion about foreign aid. In his latest book, Baker explores why some countries are rich and others poor. [Shaping the Developing World](#) explores the different theories that attempt to answer this thorny question. Interdisciplinary in his scope, Baker uses a threefold framework of the West, the South, and the Natural World to understand underdevelopment—from the consequences of colonialism, domestic politics, and gender inequality to the effects of globalization, geography, and environmental degradation.

Michaele Ferguson joined CU in 2003.

Ferguson feels that students are often impatient to know "the answer": what Plato really means by justice, what the right healthcare policy should be, what will be on the final exam. Her goal is to counteract their desire for certainty and their rush to come to judgment by slowing down the pace of their thinking. She encourages students to explore ideas, consider problems thoughtfully, reflect on their own political commitments, and notice details, tensions, and contradictions that do not lend themselves to easy answers and quick judgments.

In [Sharing Democracy](#), Ferguson argues that a preoccupation with commonality misdirects our attention toward what we share and away from how we share in democracy. In the book she offers a radical vision of democracy grounded in political freedom: the capacity of ordinary people to make and remake the world in which they live. This vision of democracy is exemplified in protest marches: cacophonous, unpredictable, and self-authorizing collective enactments of our world-building freedom.



Political yard signs: bottom-up, grass-roots activism

By Clay Evans

Note: This story originally appeared in Colorado Arts & Sciences Magazine, <http://artsandsciences.colorado.edu/magazine>.

Oh, the things a political scientist will do to learn more about the behavior of the American political animal. Take Assistant Professors Anand Sokhey of the University of Colorado Boulder and Todd Makse of Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania. Intrigued by what drives people to put up yard signs during political campaigns, they were willing to drive hundreds of miles in selected precincts of Columbus, Ohio, to find out.

"We actually drove these precincts, street by street and marked houses where there were yard signs on a map. Much the



Yard signs are not just mindless forms of participation, CU researchers say.

same as Google drives the streets, but we were doing it with just two people, a laptop and a lot of coffee," Sokhey says. Then they matched the maps with publicly available data such as voter records and property information, and conducted

Putting up a yard sign may seem a relatively lightweight contribution to political debate among those who eschew such demonstrations. But Sokhey and Makse found that 46 percent of survey respondents believe that yard signs can influence an election.



Assistant Professor Anand Sokhey

surveys with voters who posted yard signs.

While those who don't plant political signs may not understand it, they found that those who do are engaged in real, meaningful political activity.

"Despite the ubiquity of yard signs, little is known about how and why individuals display them," they wrote in

Nearly half of those surveyed believe the grass-roots displays can influence an election

a recent paper in the journal *Political Behavior*. "Our findings suggest that the dissemination of yard signs is not merely a top-down process driven by campaign professionals, but a genuine participatory act ... fueled by individual initiative and social networking."

Some of the findings, Sokhey acknowledges, are not exactly surprising. For example, those with stronger partisan views in any given race are more likely to plant a yard sign. In addition, people living on streets with higher traffic volume are more likely to place a sign. But the researchers also found that individuals are more likely to put up a sign if their neighbors agree with their political sentiments than if they disagree.

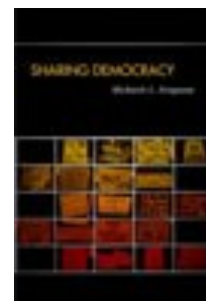
"Some individuals ... such as long-time residents in engaged, homogeneous networks, actively contribute to the escalation of 'sign wars' by distributing signs to others," the researchers write. Putting up a yard sign may seem a relatively lightweight contribution to political debate among those who eschew

such demonstrations. But Sokhey and Makse found that 46 percent of survey respondents believe that yard signs can influence an election.

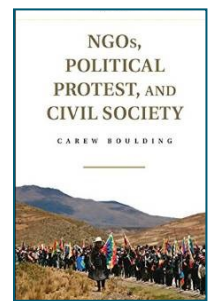
Yard signs are more than a source of political information, the researchers say. They are truly a form of participation through which "individuals shape their political context as much as they are shaped by it."

"We tend to think that a yard sign doesn't matter that much. But we can't think of these as simple or meaningless acts," Sokhey says. "People who take time to do this kind of thing have real reasons that involve everything from letting others know where they stand, to showing pride in their candidate, to catching the eye of passing traffic."

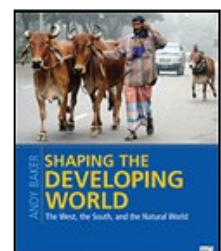
New Books by Faculty



Carew Boulding



Michael Ferguson



Andy Baker



Ph.D. Candidate News

Christopher Cyr has been awarded the One Earth Future Foundation Fellowship for 2014-15.

Raymond Foxworth has received numerous awards from American Indian College Fund, American Indian Graduate Center, and Colorado Indian Education Foundation.

Elise Pizzi received a 2013 Fulbright Fellowship to study how villages manage their water supply and why there is variation in management between villages. She will return from China this fall.

James Pripusich was awarded a fellowship from the Colorado European Union Center for Excellence.

Alan Zarychta has been awarded the Nathaniel Lichfield Award from the Regional Studies Association.

Recent P.D. Graduates Moving Forward

We are pleased to announce that the following 2014 Ph.D. graduates have accepted positions as Assistant Professors beginning Fall 2014.

Burcu Pinar Alakoc
Webster University

Brian Bernhardt
Western State Colorado University

Martin DeNicolo
Davis and Elkins College

Johannes Karreth
University at Albany - SUNY

Joshua Kennedy
Georgia Southern University

Ph.D. Candidate Researching Political Networks in Brazil

Stefan Wojcik, Ph.D. candidate, is doing research on political networks in Brasilia, Brazil, where the Brazilian Congress is located. Brasilia is a planned city that was completed in 1960. According to Stefan, "Brasilia is a bit odd as cities go because each part of the city has a very specific purpose – banking sector, military sector, university sector, health club sector, fun sector (which is just shopping), etc."

His research uses an interactive survey application he developed to collect data on which Brazilian legislators communicate with each other about issues and policy, interact socially, and seek information about legislation. He is administering the survey to chiefs of staff (the head staff member for each legislator), who typically know a great deal about the interactions between legislators. The data collected could be used to understand a number of questions about the causes and consequences of networks among legislators. For example, do women tend to form more and stronger links with legislators than men? Do political outsiders utilize political networks more frequently than political insiders? Do networks affect parties and elections in important ways?

Stefan has been interested in Brazil since taking Portuguese classes in Salvador, Brazil before graduate school. Per Stefan, "It is hard to resist Brazil's food, culture, and music - especially the warm and outgoing people of the tropical northeast."

Stefan's research in Brasilia has been supported by funding from the political science department and by an award from CU's Graduate School.

Note: Stefan Wojcik recently accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the Lazer Lab, a partnership between Northeastern University and Harvard University. He will be doing data analysis and programming with a multi-disciplinary team and affiliations at both universities.



Congratulations Recent Ph.D. Graduates

Burcu Pinar Alakoc

The Fatal Attraction of Suicide Terrorism:
An Empirical Analysis of Suicide
Terrorist Attacks in the
Middle East and South Asia
Aysegul Aydin, Chair

Brian Bernhardt

Beyond the Democratic State: Anti-
Authoritarian Interventions in Democratic
Theory
Steve Vanderheiden, Chair

Martin Anthony DeNicolo

Politics, the Judeo-Christian Tradition
and the Modern West:
Envisioning Political Liberalism
Through an Arendtian Lens
Horst Mewes, Chair

Gülay Uğur Göksel

The Theory of Recognition and the
Integration of Immigrants
Horst Mewes, Chair

Johannes Karreth

Costs and Commitment: The Leverage of
International Institutions in Conflicts
Between States
Jaroslav Tir, Chair

Joshua Benton Kennedy

The Dynamics of Presidential
Control and Agency Compliance
Scott Adler, Chair

Jeffrey Thomas Lyons

How Places Shape Partisanship
Jennifer Wolak, Chair

Jami Nelson -Nuñez

Citizens, Governments and NGOs:
Is There a Crowd?
Carew Boulding, Chair

This newsletter was edited and
produced by Carol Bender.

Getting 'political,' whatever that might mean

By Clay Evans

Definition varies by placement on political spectrum and geographic region, researcher finds

Note: This story originally appeared in Colorado Arts & Sciences Magazine, <http://artsandsciences.colorado.edu/magazine>.

Political scientists, particularly those interested in political behavior, have understandably spent a good deal of time exploring the connection between individuals and the political realm. But where, exactly, do the boundaries of that realm lie?

"Asking people how often they engage in political discussion is a common question in public opinion surveys," says Jennifer Fitzgerald, associate professor of political science at the University of Colorado Boulder. "But it occurred to me that I don't even know what 'political' means to people. I have my working definition, and I imagine other people have a sort of instinct about what it means." The lack of solid information about what the very idea of "political" means to research subjects, Fitzgerald realized, "put into question some of our bigger findings that rested on survey questions."

So she figured she'd do something about it. Armed with a seed grant from Stein Sture, vice chancellor for research at CU-Boulder, Fitzgerald set up a study "to establish whether people have vastly different ideas about what counts as political," the results of which were

published as "What Does Political Mean to You?" in Political Behavior.

To maximize potential differences in nationality, as well as those of gender, age, ideology and other factors, Fitzgerald surveyed 241 people in the communities of Port Huron, Mich., and Sarnia, Ont. — physically conjoined yet separated by the American-Canadian national border. She asked respondents to imagine that they were the editor of a "political magazine," then judge what kind of stories, from a list of 33 topics, belonged in the publication.



Associate Professor Jennifer Fitzgerald

"(C)hoose the ones that are 'political.' This should be your only consideration," the survey directed.

"We just wanted them to use their 'gut,'" Fitzgerald says.

Overall, subjects defined "political" in three broad ways: anything related to government; what government should (or shouldn't) do; and finally, if it's controversial.

"If people are fighting about it," Fitzgerald says, "survey respondents tend to think it's political."

The study ranked all 33 topics according to how many respondents, overall, deemed them political. Nearly 90 percent agreed that tax cuts are political, the top answer, while 95 percent said "diet pills" are not political. A sampling of topics in between, in descending order: nuclear weapons, global warming, terrorism, oil drilling, same-sex marriage, childcare, morality, tourism and museum exhibitions.

The study — which Fitzgerald deems "preliminary, exploratory (and) suggestive" — revealed that generally speaking, conservatives have a narrower perception of what "political" means. That finding, she says, goes to the second

primary prism through which people define the word.

"Conservatives who think political relates to desired government functions think very few things are political. Essentially, they are saying they want less government," she says.

Meanwhile, there is also a divide between Americans and Canadians. Canadians generally found more topics to be political, most notably in "care" categories — childcare, poverty, refugees and other topics. Fitzgerald surmises that this could be related to the fact that Canada's government is more engaged in those areas than is the U.S. government. "It could just be that their government does more things," she says. Education also may be a factor, Fitzgerald says. People with more education are more likely to identify more topics as political. And, she notes, that political scientists themselves tend to think more things are political, perhaps including diet pills; after all, that seemingly banal topic can relate to body image, sexism, medical ethics and even policies at the Food and Drug Administration, which makes regulations and regulates diet pills.

"We are probably making some assumptions when conducting survey research. We need to stop and get the lay of the land every once in a while," she says. Fitzgerald calls the findings "cool" and "fun to look at," but they are also much more than that. After all, if two people are talking about, say, same-sex marriage, and one thinks it's a political discussion and the other doesn't, that has implications for researchers.



Ketchum Building West Door

IN MEMORIAM

Conrad LeGrande McBride

passed away on December 23, 2013.

Professor McBride, who retired in 1992, was the last surviving member of the original CU-Boulder Political Science Department. While he was best

known as an expert on the American presidency, he came to Boulder in 1954 to join the Colorado Municipal League. His seminars on National Resource Policy Administration influenced an emerging generation of environmental policy scholars.



Political Science Alumni in Action

Trey Lyons (B.A. 2000) is a foreign service officer currently serving at the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia, where he leads a unit focused on the country's foreign policy and its conflicts with the Russian-occupied Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions. He also participates in the Geneva International Discussions on Georgia. Lyons served for four years at the U.S.

Department of State, where he was special assistant to the Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security. He also covered political-military issues in



the Office of Pakistan Affairs, and was an international observer for Ukraine's 2010 presidential election. From 2007 to 2009, he served in the Operations Center, where his team monitored breaking events and global crises and facilitated the flow of information to and from the Secretary of State. His team was on duty during Russia's invasion of Georgia in 2008, the beginning of the siege of the Taj Hotel in Mumbai, and North Korea's unsuccessful ballistic missile launch in 2009.

Lyons joined the Foreign Service and served in Saudi Arabia from 2002 to 2004, where he once sang the American national anthem while standing next to Osama bin Laden's brother. After a year of language training, he moved to the U.S. Embassy in Slovakia in 2005, before returning to Washington, D.C., in 2007.

NOTE: Lyons was a panelist at the 2014 Annual CWA.

Pinar Burcu Alakoc (Ph.D. 2014) has

accepted a position as Assistant Professor of International Relations at Webster University starting in the fall. Alakoc studies terrorism, political violence, suicide bombers, counter-terrorism, international security, war, and interstate and intrastate conflicts.



Alakoc uses an interactive teaching approach where students are challenged to think, participate and critically reflect on the material. "I firmly believe that the more engaged the students are with the material being presented, the more knowledge they will gain and retain." Alakoc attended CU's Graduate Teacher Program (GTP) and earned her Certificate in College Teaching. The GTP is a nationally recognized training program offered to teaching assistants and graduate instructors at CU so that they can hone their teaching skills and thrive as professionals after they graduate.

David Doherty (Ph.D. 2008) is an Assistant Professor at Loyola University Chicago. His research examines how citizens make sense of and respond to the political world. In one

line of work, Doherty collaborated with a team of researchers on a series of articles that examine the relationship between core



personality traits and political attitudes and behaviors. In other work, Doherty explores how people want political elites like congressional representatives to make decisions and how they make inferences about politicians' motives.

Doherty has also collaborated on a number of projects that examine how people evaluate politicians caught in political scandals. In a recent article, Doherty and his co-authors find the effects of political scandals depend substantially on considerations such as whether the scandal is "moral" (e.g., a sex scandal) or "financial" (e.g., tax evasion) and whether

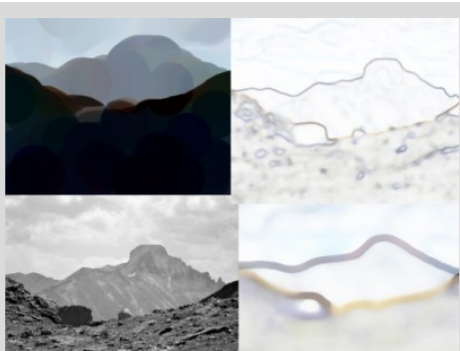
it occurred recently or long ago.

Some of his other work has delved into the realm of campaign strategy to assess how campaign messages affect voters' attitudes and behaviors. For example, in a recent article in *Political Research Quarterly* Doherty and CU professor Scott Adler collaborated with CU Political Science alum Chuck Poplstein (who is currently a campaign consultant) to field an experiment to compare how negative and positive campaign mailers affect voter attitudes. Doherty and Adler are also working on a collaboration with Evan Papel—a CU business school alum.

Doherty teaches courses on American politics and political behavior at Loyola. His dedication to effective teaching is demonstrated by his efforts to develop and share innovative approaches to teaching political science. In 2011 he published an article that described a hands-on module for teaching students how to use experimental methods to answer questions about politics—a module that grew out of a collaboration with CU professor Kenneth Bickers. More recently Doherty collaborated with fellow CU alum Joshua Ryan to publish a paper that presents an innovative way to engage students with the ins and outs of redistricting.

New Initiatives by Faculty—Women in Political Science

WIPS is a new department-funded initiative spearheaded by Megan Shannon, Carew Boulding and Michael Ferguson. The initiative is committed to encouraging more women and minorities to pursue undergraduate degrees in political science and helping graduate students and faculty who are women or minorities succeed in the discipline. Among its goals are to promote and publicize research by women in the discipline, address obstacles that women and minorities face in pursuing careers in political science, and enhance networking opportunities between female faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students.

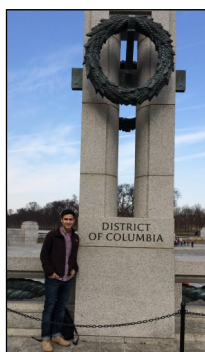


Longs Peak, by Anand Sokhey

Undergraduates Spend Spring Semester in Washington, DC

Political science majors Andrew Trevino and Anna Vallad participated in the CU in DC program this spring, taking classes and interning in the nation's capital.

Andrew Trevino: My experiences in the CU in DC program challenged me to grow as a person, student, and young professional. Balancing a full class load while at the same time working in our nation's capital was both challenging and fulfilling. My job was to work on Education Policy in a U.S. Senate office that included legislative research, attending hearings and briefings, and drafting interoffice memorandums on education policy. Education policy is one of my top interests. I would love to pursue a career in education policy working as an attorney and would someday like to run for elected office on the local or state level. I plan to attend law school after graduation.



Andrew beside the District of Columbia Column of the WWII Memorial

My campus involvement includes working as the Director of Diversity Affairs for CU Student Government and sitting on various Diversity and Inclusion committees for Student Affairs as a student representative.

Anna Vallad interned in the office of a U.S. Representative on Capitol Hill. She reports that living and working in the nation's capital was exciting on many different levels. The history buff was awed by the opportunity to share details about the Capitol Building during tours with constituents. The budding politician was pleased to be able to attend briefings and hearings. The public servant served as a resource, answering questions and honing correspondence skills.

Before she graduates Anna hopes to undertake an honors thesis focusing on some aspect of immigration policy. After graduation she plans to run for political office at the local or state level. Meanwhile, in addition to her academic pursuits, Anna juggles her time working on a state level



Don't forget to save the date for Back to Boulder Homecoming Weekend October 23-26, 2014. A quick check of the Alumni Association website shows plenty of events and tours. On Friday, Oct. 24 at 10 a.m., take an exciting tour of Fiske Planetarium and Science Center. Tour the newly remodeled building and experience a special show in the planetarium (time TBA). See old haunts or discover new buildings on an enjoyable guided stroll through campus Friday at 3 p.m. On Friday evening, experience the CU Stampede as it makes its way down the Pearl Street Mall. Football players will meet with fans before the marching band strikes a chord and leads the crowd down Pearl Street. On Saturday, October 25, grab a seat on University Hill to enjoy the annual Homecoming parade that starts at 9:00 am at The Sink and finishes at the UMC. Then, cheer on the Buffs as they take on UCLA in Folsom Stadium.

YOUR GIFT MATTERS

We are proud to support the innovative efforts of our undergraduate and graduate students and our faculty, including ongoing community outreach activities such as Constitutional Studies for Colorado. To learn more about our faculty, students, and programs, visit our website at polsci.colorado.edu. Please feel free to contact any members of the faculty or to call David S. Brown, Chair, at 303-492-7871.

To talk about how you might support the department, please contact Kimberly Bowman, Director of Development at CU Advancement, College of Arts and Sciences. She can be reached at 303-541-1446, or by email at Kimberly.Bowman@colorado.edu.

Thank you for your support.

political campaign, volunteering in her community, and being active with a campus political group.

Congratulations 2014 Honors Undergraduates

John Adams, *Religiosity and Its Impact on Individual Support for Welfare Spending Over Time* (Jennifer Fitzgerald, Chair)

Adam Barsch, *Europe's Renewable Race – Keys to National Renewable Energy Use In the European Union* (Joseph Jupille, Chair)

Rebecca Conway, *Second Generation Voting Barriers and Electoral Access* (Vanessa Baird, Chair)

Molly Enright, *Legislative Representation, Minority Policies, and Violent Retaliations: The Uyghurs in China 1949-2010* (Amy Liu, Chair)

Jordan Benjamin, *A Dangerous Conflation of Ideologies: the Nexus of Christianity and Neoliberalism* (Steve Vanderheiden, Chair)

Kelly Katz, *Understanding Cross-Pressured Legislative Voting: The ACESA Vote* (Vanessa Baird, Chair)

Alexander Kirkpatrick, *Informal Citizenship: A Theory of Undocumented Activism* (Michael Ferguson, Chair)

John Knobel, *Unexpected Consequences: 9/11 and U.S. - Mexico Relations* (Nancy Billica, Chair)

Ryan McMahon, *White Racial Identity, Party Identification, and Party Affect: An Experiment in Priming* (John Griffin, Chair)

Cory Millsbaugh, *Inward Foreign Direct Investment: Why Congress Blocks Certain Transactions* (Moonhawk Kim, Chair)

Daniel Robert Milman, *Examining the Relationship between Social Network Disagreement, Social Network Sophistication, and Trust in Government* (Anand Sokhey, Chair)

Peter Osnes, *Electoral Results and Legislative Effectiveness among Freshman Representative* (Jeff Harden, Chair)

Steven Solomon, *Protected Area Management and Poverty Alleviation in Costa Rica* (Krister Anderson, Chair)



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