

Department of Political Science

The MIT Department of Political Science is dedicated to research, teaching, and public service at the highest level of excellence. Although it is the smallest major political science department in the nation, the department supports a full curriculum of undergraduate and graduate instruction, its graduates go on to accept distinguished positions in teaching and public service, and its faculty members provide influential advice in many important areas of public policy.

The presence of the department in the larger world of political science was reflected at year's end by awards received by department members at the 2007 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. Four of these awards stand out. Two of our recently graduated PhD students received awards for the best dissertations in their specialties (Vanda Felbab-Brown in policy studies, and Boaz Atzili in security studies); Professor Lily Tsai won the award for the best paper presented at the previous conference in the field of comparative politics; and Professor Adam Berinsky received recognition as the top young scholar of public opinion.

The key to the department's success lies in recruiting, nurturing, and retaining an outstanding faculty devoted to both research and teaching. Half of the department faculty has been at MIT for a decade or less, reflecting the fact that the department is rebuilding itself following the retirement of its founding generation. Our challenge now is to maintain the department's strength by retaining our excellent and prominent newer faculty members. This challenge, coupled with a rising intensity over the recruitment of the best young people for PhD study, represents our biggest current concern.

Educational Initiatives

An important responsibility of the department's faculty members is to provide a world-class educational experience for graduate and undergraduate students within the unique environment of MIT. The department is a pioneer in engaging science and engineering students with policymakers and international laboratories and industries through innovative research and internship programs, such as the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives and the MIT Washington Internship Program. In addition, significant effort was expended in developing methods of using new Internet surveying technologies to explore public opinion on such issues as science and defense policy.

The Minor in Applied International Studies (AIS) continues to make important contributions to MIT's efforts to deepen the international and global education of its students. The AIS minor is overseen by the department and administered by the Center for International Studies. It prepares undergraduate students for a future in an increasingly global economy and international research environment. The minor is based on three key principles that guide a rigorous model of international education: (1) the ability to speak the language of a foreign country and to be familiar with its cultural dimensions; (2) awareness of fundamental international, economic, political, cultural, and historical patterns; and (3) hands-on experience in another culture combined with theoretical learning. AIS is already the second-largest minor at the Institute and is a model for how MIT might broaden its international and global education efforts further.

Elting R. Morison Professor Stephen Ansolabehere continues to lead the Public Opinion Research and Training Lab (PORTL), which is an innovative approach to teaching graduate and undergraduate students the science of public opinion surveying. The centerpiece of the lab is the annual PORTL survey. Designed, implemented, and analyzed in the context of the PORTL research seminar, this survey is conducted each fall in the Department of Political Science, covering a wide range of current political science research questions and important national problems. Seminar participants developed the questionnaire, which was administered by a professional survey research firm to a national sample of adults. Seminar participants then used the survey results to learn data analysis methods firsthand and write original research papers. The lab also distributes survey data assembled by MIT political scientists and allied researchers, including the MIT Energy and Environment Surveys. Data derived from the lab's projects was used in four 2006–2007 student theses, illustrating the lab's value in advancing knowledge.

Three years ago, the departmental altered its PhD curriculum. The most important changes were the creation of a comprehensive first-year seminar required of all PhD students, a more structured second-year research paper, and a reduction in the number of fields satisfied by examination rather than by taking classes. Next year the department will need to engage in a comprehensive review of this curriculum, but some results are already in. The goal of accelerating student progress toward completing their PhDs appears to have been met—they are moving through the pre-dissertation phases more quickly. The first-year seminar also is fulfilling its intended purpose of helping to provide students with a broad overview of the discipline and creating greater cohesion. However, two related issues have arisen. First, there is a reduction in the number of advanced seminars that students take in their first two years in the program. Second, the fact that the first-year seminar lasts for two semesters may dampen the enthusiasm for particular intellectual questions that brought students to MIT in the first place. On the whole, therefore, the reforms have been a success, but they will need some fine tuning.

During AY2007, department faculty developed and taught seven new subjects. Professors Berinsky, Campbell, and Ansolabehere developed a graduate/undergraduate sequence in public opinion (17.265 and 17.276); Professor Piore developed 17.314J/14.665J Labor Market Regulation and Career Mobility, Professor Posen developed 17.478 Great Power Military Intervention, and Professor Tsai developed 17.517 Participation in Public Life, 17.522 Politics and Religion, and 17.530 The State.

The MIT Washington Summer Internship Program allows MIT's technically oriented students to experience how institutions vital to their later success operate, and gives the federal government and other policymakers early access to the best young scientists and engineers in America. Fourteen undergraduates participated in the summer of 2006, representing all of the Schools at the Institute. They were placed in the Aerospace Corporation, the Brookings Institution, Representative Pete Stark's office, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, NERA Economic Consulting, Oxfam, The Urban Institute, Systems Planning and Analysis, Inc., Senator Kennedy's office, the National Institutes of Health, the Climate Institute, the Institute of Medicine, and the World Bank.

Student Recruitment, Placement, and Enrollment

The department received and reviewed 300 applications for the PhD program, accepting 21 applicants, of which eight enrolled. This number was slightly below our targeted enrollment, but within normal variation. One note of concern this year is that many admitted PhD students were weighing offers from other graduate programs that guaranteed summer support for some or all of their graduate careers. The department cannot resist such pressure for long if it is to remain competitive. In addition, our applicant pool is tending most heavily toward security studies. This is due to the strong faculty presence in this field and the excellent reputation of the program for graduate training. Although other specialties within the department are just as strong, they have younger and less established faculty members. We are confident that in time these younger faculty members will begin attracting more graduate student applications, but the department may need to be more active in recruiting students to areas such as comparative and American politics.

Our graduating doctoral students continue to garner some of the most rewarding and prestigious appointments in academics and industry. Faculty appointments received by our PhD graduates this year included American University, Georgetown, McGill, Missouri, the Naval War College, Queens University, University of Washington, and Yale. Postdoctoral appointments were received at Harvard, Williams, and Yale.

Undergraduate enrollment continues to be comparable to past years. We had 18 majors, 102 concentrations, and 103 minors overall, 31 in political science, 7 in public policy, and 65 in applied international studies.

Faculty and Personnel

The MIT political science faculty has a high profile in the profession and is often sought after for commentary and advice about current affairs. Ford Foundation International professor Barry Posen continues to be highly visible as a commentator concerning the continuing war in Iraq. Kenan Sahin distinguished professor Charles Stewart III served as an expert witness in a high-profile case in Florida concerning the functioning of electronic voting machines.

Particular awards and recognition given to faculty members during the 2006–07 academic year include the following:

- Raphael Dorman and Helen Starbuck professor Suzanne Berger gave the distinguished inaugural lecture in January 2007 at *Sciences Po* (Paris, France), on “Choice and Constraint: France at the End of a Political Regime.” In addition, she was awarded the Rossi Prize by the *Académie Française*.
- Associate professor Adam Berinsky received the emerging scholar award from the Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior section of the American Political Science Association.
- Alfred Henry and Jean Morrison Hayes Career Development associate professor Andrea Campbell received the emerging scholar award from the Political Organizations and Parties Section of the American Political Science Association.

- Assistant professor M. Taylor Fravel was a visiting scholar at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a fellow at the Princeton-Harvard China & the World Program.
- Ford International professor Jonathan Rodden's book *Hamilton's Paradox* won the award from the American Political Science Association as the best book in comparative politics published last year.
- Arthur and Ruth Sloan professor James M. Snyder, Jr. was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- Assistant professor Lily Tsai received the Sage Paper Award for the best paper presented in the field of comparative politics at the 2006 meeting of the American Political Science Association.

We are also happy to report that in the past year Professor Adam Berinsky was promoted to associate professor with tenure, and that Professor Sarah Song was promoted to associate professor without tenure.

The department conducted one faculty search during the year, attempting to fill a position that was in the field of security studies, broadly conceived. We regret that we were unsuccessful in recruiting our chosen candidate. For AY2008, we intend to continue this search along with junior searches in political theory and political methodology. In addition, as opportunities arise, we will continue to pursue senior scholars who would help to add to our existing strengths.

Increasing the presence of minority representatives and women in the department remains a major concern. All committees formed for the next year's faculty searches will make special efforts to identify outstanding women and minority candidates. In addition, the department's personnel committee functions as a diversity committee to ensure that the department's diversity goals are aggressively pursued.

Faculty Leaves, Departures, and Visitors

We are saddened to report that Professor Stephen M. Meyer died on December 10, 2006, following a long and heroic struggle with colon cancer. Professor Meyer joined our faculty in 1980, first focusing on nuclear proliferation and then on Soviet military strategy. After the Cold War, he shifted focus, turning his considerable creativity and intelligence to environmental politics. Professor Meyer's last book, *The End of the Wild*, published shortly before his death, argues that the earth has passed a tipping point at which incremental forces, such as sexual selection, no longer serve as the driving force behind species selection and evolution. The driving force is now us, human beings. This has led to a rapid proliferation of weedy species and a crash in species diversity overall. In response to this sobering state of affairs, Steve laid out a cogent argument for why— from the broad perspective of the biosphere and the narrow perspective of human survival— human beings must manage even more intensely the biodiversity that remains. He was a captivating teacher, engaged community member, and valued contributor to the department and to the wider Institute.

In addition, two members of our faculty departed for the West Coast. Professor Rodden left to take a position at Stanford University while Professor Song took a position at the law school of the University of California at Berkeley. Professor Cohen, who has accepted a position at Stanford University, retired from MIT at the end of the 2006–2007 academic year.

Due to a combination of reasons—sabbaticals, unpaid leaves, maternity leaves, and family leaves—a total of eight faculty members were away for at least part of AY2007. Those on leave for at least half the year were professors Campbell, Cohen, Fravel, Kedar, Locke, Rodden, Song, and Van Evera.

Our intellectual community was enriched this year by several year-long visitors, each of whom was a visitor last year as well. These include Malick Ghachem, who taught undergraduate subjects on the US Constitution and civil rights; Flynt Leverett, who taught graduate and undergraduate subjects on Middle Eastern politics; Lawrence McCray, who taught in science, technology, and public policy; and Riccardo Puglisi, who taught classes on statistical methods and game theory. For AY2008, Dr. McCray will continue to visit, and be joined by Professors Uday Mehta (Amherst College) and Charles Sabel (Columbia Law School).

Faculty Research and Publications

The faculty of the Department of Political Science is prolific in its publication activity across a variety of topics. The faculty's research is funded through a combination of outside grants and internal Institute funds.

The following are new outside research grants received by members of the department this past year:

- Professor Andrea Campbell received grants from the National Science Foundation (with Kimberly J. Morgan) for “Do Policies Shape Mass Politics? The Impact of Medicare Reform on Senior Citizens’ Attitudes and Political Participation,” and from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (also with Kimberly J. Morgan) for “The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003: Ideologies, Interests, and Policy Feedbacks in the Contemporary Politics of Medicare.”
- Professor Richard Locke received a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to provide seed money for the “New Institutions for a Global Economy” project.
- Professor Kenneth Oye received a grant from the NSF/Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for the SynBERC Module on Intellectual Property and Risk Assessment.
- Professor Roger Petersen was the recipient of a Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation Grant.

The following is a representative sampling of faculty publications over the past year:

- W.W. Norton & Company will soon publish *The End of Inequality*, by professors Stephen Ansolabehere and James Snyder. Professor Ansolabehere also published “Television and the Incumbency Advantage” (with Erik C. Snowberg and

- James Snyder) in *Legislative Studies Quarterly* and “The Political Orientation of Newspaper Endorsements” (with Rebecca Lessem and James Snyder) in *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*.
- Professor Adam Berinsky published “Assuming the Costs of War: Events, Elites, and American Public Support for Military Conflict” in *The Journal of Politics*; “Public Opinion Research, Presidential Rhetoric, and Support for the Iraq War” in *Public Opinion Quarterly* (with James Druckman); “An Estimate of Risk Aversion in the U.S. Electorate” in *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* (with Jeffrey Lewis); “Public Opinion in the 1930s and 1940s: The Analysis of Quota Controlled Sample Survey Data” in *Public Opinion Quarterly*; “Making Sense of Issues through Media Frames: Understanding the Kosovo Crisis” in *Journal of Politics* (with Donald Kinder); and “‘Don’t Knows’ and Public Opinion Towards Economic Reform: Evidence from Russia” In *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* (with Joshua Tucker).
 - Professor Andrea Campbell published “‘Racial Threat,’ Partisan Climate, and Direct Democracy: Contextual Effects in Three California Initiatives” (with Cara Wong and Jack Citrin) in *Political Behavior*.
 - Professor Nazli Choucri published “CyberPolitics and Sustainability: Knowledge e-Networking in International Relations” (MIT Press).
 - Professor M. Taylor Fravel published “Securing the Borders: China’s Doctrine and Force Structure for Frontier Defense” in *Journal of Strategic Studies*, and “The Structural Sources of China’s Compromises” in *International Security*.
 - Professor Orit Kedar published “How Voters Work around Institutions: Policy Balancing in Staggered Elections” in *Electoral Studies* and “Kadima—Forward in a Dealigned Party System.” (with Michal Shamir, Raphael Ventura, and Asher Arian) in *Elections in Israel-2006*, (Asher Arian and Michal Shamir, eds., Transactions Publications).
 - Professor Chappel Lawson published “El Estudio Panel México 2006: midiendo el cambio de opiniones durante la campaña presidencial” in *Politica y gobierno* (with Alejandro Moreno); “How Did We Get Here? Mexican Democracy after the 2006 Elections” in *PS: Political Science and Politics*; and “Election Coverage in Mexico: Crony Capitalism and its Contradictions” in Lynda Lee Kaid and Jesper Strömbäck, eds., *Handbook of Election News Coverage around the World*.
 - Professor Richard Locke published “How to Improve the Global Workplace” in the *MIT Sloan Management Review*.
 - Professor Michael Piore published “Trading Up: An embryonic model for easing the human costs of free markets” (with Andrew Schrank) in *Boston Review*; “Changing Regimes of Workplace Governance, Shifting Axes of Social Mobilization and the Challenge to Industrial Relations Theory” (with Sean Safford) in *Industrial Relations*; “Qualitative Research: Does it fit in economics?” in *European Management Review*; and “En busca de un sistema de regulación laboral flexible en Latinoamérica y Estados Unidos” in *Revista de Trabajo*.
 - Professor Barry Posen published “European Union Security and Defense Policy: Response to Unipolarity?” in *Security Studies*.

- Professor Richard Samuels published *Securing Japan* (Cornell University Press), which was also released in Japanese translation.
- Professor David Singer published *Regulating Capital: Setting Standards for the International Financial System* (Cornell University Press) and “Monetary Institutions, Partisanship, and Inflation Targeting” (with Bumba Mukherjee) in *International Organization*.
- Professor James Snyder published “Party Control of State Government and the Distribution of Public Expenditures” (with Stephen Ansolabehere) in *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*; “The Decline of Third Party Voting in the United States” (with Shigeo Hirano) in *Journal of Politics*; “Television and the Incumbency Advantage” (with Stephen Ansolabehere and Erik Snowberg) in *Legislative Studies Quarterly*; “The Orientation of Newspaper Endorsements in U.S. Elections, 1940-2002” (with Stephen Ansolabehere and Rebecca Lessem) in *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*; and “Legislative Effectiveness and Legislative Careers” (with Gerard Padró i Miquel) in *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.
- Professor Charles Stewart III published “Architect or Tactician? Henry Clay and the Institutional Development of the U.S. House of Representatives” in *Process, Party, and Policy Making: New Advances in the Study of the History of Congress* (David W. Brady and Mathew D. McCubbins, eds.); “Improving the Measurement of Election System Performance in the United States” in *Institutionalizing Barriers to Mobilizing Democracy* (Margaret Levi, James D. Johnson, Jack Knight, Susan Stokes, eds.); and “Residual Vote in the 2004 Election” in *Election Law Journal*.
- Professor Lily Tsai published *Accountability Without Democracy: Solidarity Groups and Public Goods Provision in Rural China* (Cambridge University Press); “Understanding the Falsification of Village Income Statistics” in *The China Quarterly*; “Solidary Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China” in *The American Political Science Review*; and “The Struggle for Public Goods Provision: Informal Institutions of Accountability in Rural China” in *Grassroots Political Reform in China* (Merle Goldman and Elizabeth J. Perry, eds., Harvard University Press).
- Professor Stephen Van Evera published “How to Make America Safe: New Policies for National Security” (Tobin Project, 2006)

Charles Stewart III

Department Head

Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Political Science

More information about the Department of Political Science can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/polisci/>.