

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, it 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 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 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.

The presence of an increasingly competitive environment in the field of political science has led the department to begin a strategic planning process intended to help guide its actions—in hiring, education, and research—over the next several years. The meetings that were held during the spring semester focused on identifying the strengths and opportunities that face the various components of the department. These meetings will continue into the next school year, with the intention of producing a full strategic plan by the end of Independent Activities Period (IAP) 2009.

Educational Initiatives

An important responsibility of the department's faculty members is to provide an excellent 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 (MISTI) and the MIT Washington Internship Program.

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 further broaden its international and global education efforts.

The Institute is currently undergoing a significant rethinking of its general education at the undergraduate level. Department head Charles Stewart III is cochairing the Subcommittee on the Educational Commons, which is charged by the Committee on the Undergraduate Program with reporting to the faculty next year the set of precise changes to the General Institute Requirements consistent with the recent report of the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons. In addition, the department is aware that the likely changes to the curriculum will have significant implications for the involvement of political science in the curriculum. There are particular opportunities for the Department of Political Science to be involved in the development of “Big Idea” Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences subjects and to help lead the undergraduate educational components of new initiatives in global education.

Four years ago, the department altered its PhD curriculum. It is the judgment of the faculty that most of the changes have improved the educational experience for our graduate students, but two developments led us to make further changes to the requirements this year. In the future, PhD students will be required to sit for written exams in two fields, rather than the current single field. In addition, the expectation that a full academic load consists of four subjects each semester during the first two years in the program will be reinforced through advising.

During AY2008, department faculty developed and taught five new subjects. Professor David Singer developed a new undergraduate subject, The Politics of Global Financial Relations (17.125); Professor Adam Berinsky developed a joint graduate/undergraduate subject on Public Opinion and Foreign Policy (17.281 and 17.282); Professor Singer developed a graduate subject, Global Governance (17.440); Professor Orit Kedar developed and taught 17.515, Comparative Electoral Politics, an undergraduate subject; and Elting Morrison professor Stephen Ansolabehere developed 17.804, Quantitative Methods III, which is a graduate subject. In addition, Hayes Career Development professor Andrea Campbell offered 17.315, Health Policy, a very popular and successful subject that had not been taught for many years. Kenan Sahin distinguished professor Charles Stewart III developed 17.202, Graduate Seminar in American Politics II, which will be offered next year.

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 2008, representing all of the schools at the Institute. They were placed in the Brookings Institution, the Massachusetts Washington office, the New American Foundation, the Senate Finance Committee, the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the Department of the Treasury, the Institute of Medicine, the Office of Naval Research, the Urban Institute, and the World Bank.

Student Recruitment, Placement, and Enrollment

The department received and reviewed 308 applications for the PhD program and accepted 26 applicants, of whom nine will enroll in the fall of 2008. 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, George Washington University, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Montclair State University, the Naval War College, and the University of Pittsburgh. Students received postdoctoral fellowships at the Kennedy School and at Williams College.

Undergraduate enrollments continued to be comparable to past years. We had 18 majors, 102 concentrators, 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 on the ongoing war in Iraq, giving 17 public lectures this past year and making seven significant media appearances. Ford International professor Richard J. Samuels is similarly in great demand, delivering numerous public lectures and making numerous media appearances, particularly addressing issues of East Asian defense and security.

Particular awards and recognition given to faculty members during the 2007–2008 academic year include the following:

- Raphael Dorman and Helen Starbuck professor Suzanne Berger gave a series of Department of State lectures in Japan on her globalization research; lectures to trade union confederations (Denmark and France) on globalization research; and lectures on research at Georgia Tech, the University of Lyon, the University of Nantes (Audencia), and the University of Milan. She also lectured at the French Institute of International Relations) and at the meetings of the following trade associations: Association of Financial Professionals, Society for Human Resource Management, EDANA and the Forum Systematic (French Electronics).
- Professor Berinsky received the 2007 Emerging Scholar Award from the Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior section of the American Political Science Association. This award is presented to the top scholar in the field within 10 years of his or her doctorate.

- Professor Posen was the 2008 recipient of the new “Noble Patron of Armor” award from the U.S. Armor Association.
- Professor Singer was named a visiting scholar at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and was awarded the 2008 Kellogg Award for Best Paper in Comparative Politics presented at the Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting in 2007 (with Mark Copelovitch).
- Arthur and Ruth Sloan professor James Snyder was named a 2008 visiting research associate at the Suntory and Toyota International Centres for Economics and Related Disciplines, London School of Economics, and was the recipient of the Jewell-Loewenberg Award for the best article published in *Legislative Studies Quarterly* during 2007: “Do Multimember Districts Lead to Free-Riding?”

We are also happy to report that in the past year Professor Campbell was promoted to associate professor with tenure, and professors M. Taylor Fravel, Orit Kedar, and Lily Tsai were promoted to associate professor without tenure.

The department ran four junior searches and recruited one new assistant professor, Fotini Christia, who will join the faculty in fall 2008. Searches in international relations, methods, and political theory were unsuccessful owing to the heavy competition for talent at the junior level. Next year we would like to search again at the junior level in methods and international relations. In addition, we will continue to explore senior opportunities in fields of comparative political economy and security studies.

Increasing the presence of minority representatives and women in the department remains a major concern. All committees formed for 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

As mentioned, Fotini Christia was hired this past year in a junior search and will join the department in 2008 as an assistant professor of political science. Dr. Christia is a student of civil wars who has recently finished her PhD at Harvard. Her dissertation examines alliance formation among rebel factions in Afghanistan and Bosnia. Dr. Christia has an extraordinary number of methodological arrows in her research quiver. She has working knowledge of eight languages, including those of the regions in which she does her fieldwork. In addition, her background is in economics and operations research, and thus she is well versed in and comfortable with the formal methods that are central to much of the contemporary literature on armed conflict.

Professor Ansolabehere announced his intention of joining the faculty of the Government Department at Harvard for the 2008–2009 school year. He will remain on the MIT faculty next year, on leave.

Due to a combination of reasons—sabbaticals, unpaid leaves, maternity leaves, and family leaves—four faculty members were away for at least part of AY2008. Those on

leave for at least half of the year were professors Chappell Lawson, Roger Petersen, James Snyder, and Lily Tsai.

Dr. Lawrence McCary, which teaches in science, technology, and public policy, continues as a visitor in the department. This year professors Uday Mehta (Amherst College) and Charles Sabel (Columbia Law School) taught classes in the department on a visiting basis. Next year we anticipate several visitors for at least part of the year, including professors Nahum Karlinsky (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), Ben Ross Schneider (Northwestern), and Kathleen Thelen (Northwestern) and Drs. Michal Ben-Josef-Hirsch, Helene Landemore, and Marc Meredith.

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. (Some of the grants were administered by the Department, while others were administered by the Center for International Studies.)

- Professor Ansolabehere received a \$124,000 grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts/JEHT Foundation for "Assessment of the Quality of Voter Registration Lists in the US: Pilot Study."
- Professor Fravel received three new grants: a \$60,000 Junior Faculty Research Grant from the Smith Richardson Foundation's International Security and Foreign Policy Program, a \$54,000 grant from the United States Institute of Peace through the Unsolicited Grant Initiative, and an \$8,000 grant from the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation.
- Professor Petersen received two grants to assist PhD students with their dissertations: \$12,000 from the National Science Foundation for "Doctoral Dissertation: Achieving Post-War Peace: The Internal Politics of Colombia's Demilitarizing Rebel and Paramilitary Groups" (Sarah Zukerman) and \$7,500 from the Smith Richardson Foundation for "Explaining Cohesion Fragmentation & Control in Armed Political Groups" (Paul Staniland).
- Professor Posen received four new grants: a \$700,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation for support of the Security Studies Program, \$60,000 from the Ploughshare Fund, \$35,000 from Lincoln Laboratory for support of the Security Studies Program, and \$36,000 from the Carnegie Corporation for "Biological Weapons and International Security."
- Professor Samuels received a \$7,500 grant from the Smith Richardson Foundation to assist one of his PhD students, Llewellyn Hughes, with his dissertation: "Market Structure & Strategic Government Intervention in Petroleum Markets in Japan, US & France." In addition, he received \$10,000 from the United States-Japan Foundation for "Meeting and Rising China" and \$20,000 from the Max Kade Foundation for the MIT-German IAP immersion course.

- Professor Stewart received a \$328,000 grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts/JEHT Foundation for “The 2008 Survey of the Performance of American Elections.” Also, the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project, which he codirects, received \$321,000 in new funds from the Knight Foundation.

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

- Professor Ansolabehere’s publications included *The End of Inequality* (W.W. Norton) and the following articles: “Using Multiple Measures to Estimate the Effects of Issues on Elections” in the *American Political Science Review*, “Vote Fraud in the Eye of the Beholder” in the *Harvard Law Review*, “Access Versus Integrity in the Debate Over Voter Identification” in the *NYU Annual Review of American Law*, and “Voting Technology and Election Law” in *America Votes!* (Benjamin E. Griffith, ed.; American Bar Association).
- Professor Berger published “Mastering or Missing Opportunities” in *L’Economia et la politica* (G. Dosi and M.C. Marcuzzo, eds.; Il Mulino).
- Professor Berinsky submitted *America at War: Public Opinion during Wartime, from World War II to Iraq* to the University of Chicago Press for publication and published “Assuming the Costs of War: Events, Elites, and American Public Support for Military Conflict” in the *Journal of Politics*.
- Professor Campbell will publish “The New Macropolitics of Aging? The Case of the USA, Older Voters, and AARP” in the forthcoming *Altern, Familie, Zivilgesellschaft und Politik* (Juergen Kocka, Martin Kohli, and Wolfgang Streeck, eds.; Nova Acta Leopoldina) and “What Americans Think of Taxes” in the forthcoming *Comparative and Historical Approaches to Fiscal Sociology: Taxation in Perspective* (Monica Prasad, Isaac Martin, and Ajay Mehrotra, eds.; Cambridge University Press). She also published “Universalism, Targeting, and Participation” in *Remaking America: Democracy and Public Policy in an Age of Inequality* (Joe Soss, Jacob S. Hacker, and Suzanne Mettler, eds.; Russell Sage Foundation) and “Parties, Electoral Participation, and Shifting Voting Blocs” in *The Transformation of the American Polity* (Paul Pierson and Theda Skocpol, eds.; Princeton University Press).
- Professor Nazli Choucri coedited and authored several chapters in *Mapping Sustainability: Knowledge e-Networking and the Value Chain* (Springer-Verlag).
- Professor Fravel published “China’s Search for Military Power” in *The Washington Quarterly*, “Power Shifts and Escalation: Explaining China’s Use of Force in Territorial Disputes” in *International Security*, and “Securing Borders: China’s Doctrine and Force Structure for Frontier Defense” in the *Journal of Strategic Studies*.
- Professor Lawson published “Effects of Interviewer Gender in In-Person Interviews” in the *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* (with Francisco Flores-Macías). His book *Consolidating Mexico’s Democracy: The 2006 Election in Comparative Perspective*, coedited with Jorge I. Domínguez and Alejandro Moreno, will be published by Johns Hopkins University Press early in the next school year.

- Professor Gabriel Lenz published “Reassessing the Role of Anxiety in Vote Choice” in *Political Psychology* (with Jonathan Ladd).
- Professor Melissa Nobles published *The Politics of Official Apologies* (Cambridge University Press).
- Professor Posen published “The Case for Restraint” and “Restraining Order” in *The American Interest* and “Stability and Change in U.S. Grand Strategy” in *Orbis*.
- Professor Samuels published “Prosperity’s Children: Generational Change and Japan’s Future Leadership” in *Asia Policy* (with J. Patrick Boyd), “Japan’s Alliance Discourse” in *The National Interest*, and “New Fighting Power!: Japan’s Growing Maritime Capabilities and East Asian Security” in *International Security*.
- Professor Singer published *Regulating Capital: Setting Standards for the International Financial System* (Cornell University Press); “Monetary Institutions, Partisanship, and Inflation Targeting” in *International Organization* (with Bumba Mukherjee); “Taking Stock Seriously: Equity Market Performance, Government Policy, and Financial Globalization” in *International Studies Quarterly* (with Layna Mosley); and “Financial Regulation, Monetary Policy, and Inflation in the Industrialized World” in the *Journal of Politics* (with Mark Copelovitch).
- Professor Snyder published *The End of Inequality: One Person, One Vote and the Reshaping of American Politics* (with Stephen Ansolabehere; W.W. Norton); “Measurement Error and Issue Preferences” in the *American Political Science Review* (with Stephen Ansolabehere and Jonathan Rodden); “Public Goods and the Law of 1/n” in the *Journal of Politics* (with David Primo); “Interest Groups and the Electoral Control of Politicians” in the *Journal of Public Economics* (with Michael Ting); “Do Multimember Districts Lead to Free-Riding?” in *Legislative Studies Quarterly* (with Michiko Ueda); and “The Incumbency Advantages in U.S. Primary Elections” in *Electoral Studies* (with Stephen Ansolabehere, John Mark Hansen, and Shigeo Hirano). Also, he will publish “The Media’s Influence on Public Policy Decisions” (with David Stromberg) and “I’m News, Are You? Newspaper Coverage of Elected vs. Appointed Officials” (with Riccardo Puglisi) in *Fact Finder, Fact Filter: How Media Reporting Affects Public Policy* (Roumeen Islam, ed.; World Bank Publications) and “State Legislative Elections, 1967–2003: Announcing the Completion of a Cleaned and Updated Data Set” in the *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* (with Thomas M. Carsey, Richard G. Niemi, William D. Berry, and Lynda W. Powell).
- Professor Edward Steinfeld published “China’s Real Energy Crisis” in the *Harvard Asia Pacific Review* (with Richard Lester), “The Capitalist Embrace: China Ten Years After the Asian Financial Crisis” in *Crisis as Catalyst: Asia’s Dynamic Political Economy* (Andrew MacIntyre, T.J. Pempel, and John Ravenhill, eds.; Cornell University Press), and “The Rogue that Plays by the Rules” in the *Washington Post*.
- Professor Stewart published “Function follows Form: Voting Technology in the Law” in *America Votes!* (Benjamin E. Griffith, ed.; American Bar Association), “Improving the Measurement of Election System Performance in the United States” in *Mobilizing Democracy: A Comparative Perspective on Institutional Barriers*

and Political Obstacles (Margaret Levi, James Johnson, Jack Knight, and Susan Stokes, eds.; Russell Sage Foundation), "Voting Technology" in the *Annual Review of Political Science*, and "Roll Calls" in the *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences* (William A. Darity, Jr., ed.; Macmillan Reference USA).

- Professor Tsai published *Accountability without Democracy: Solidary Groups and Public Goods Provision in Rural China* (Cambridge University Press).

Institute Service

An important aspect of academic life is contributing to the educational commons through service to the Institute. Members of the Department of Political Science have historically been significant contributors to these efforts across the Institute. The following is a sample of the contributions that Political Science faculty made to Institute enterprises in 2007–2008:

- Professor Ansolabehere served on the MIT Energy Initiative Steering Committee, was a member of the organizing committee for the Senior Congressional and Executive Staff Seminar, and participated in the MIT Nuclear Study.
- Professor Berger serves as the director of the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI), is the director of MIT France, is a member of the International Advisory Council, organized a workshop on globalization at the Industrial Performance Center, and made a presentation at the MIT Boston Alumni Gala.
- Professor Berinsky is a member of the Subject Evaluation Advisory Group and gave a talk to the Atlanta MIT alumni group, his ninth alumni talk since 2004.
- Professor Choucri was associate director of the Technology and Development Program, a major Institute international program in collaborative research focusing on the challenges of development and technological transformation. In addition, she was a member of the editorial committee of the *MIT Faculty Newsletter*, editor of the MIT Press Series on Global Environmental Accord, and head of the Middle East Program at MIT.
- Professor Lawson served on the Faculty Policy Committee, the Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement, and the Committee on the Use of Human Experimental Subjects.
- Professor Lenz served on the Stellar Faculty Advisory Board.
- Professor Nobles served as Associate Chair of the Faculty.
- Professor Kenneth Oye served on the executive committee of the MIT Council on the Environment, the educational task force of the MIT Energy Initiative, the executive committee of the MIT Seminar XXI program, and the executive committee of the MIT Technology and Culture Forum.
- Professor Posen was director of the MIT Security and Arms Control Program, a member of the Lincoln Laboratory Campus Interaction Committee, and on the executive committee of the MIT Seminar XXI Program.

- Professor Samuels was director of the Center for International Studies and the keynote speaker at this year's MIT Freshman Convocation.
- Professor Singer was associate housemaster of MacGregor House and a member of the Truman Scholarship Selection Committee.
- Professor Steinfeld was a member of the MIT China Strategy Group, a member of the Dean's Search Committee for the MIT Sloan School of Management, faculty director of the MISTI-China Program, and director of the China Politics Working Group of the Center for International Studies.
- Professor Stewart was housemaster of McCormick Hall, cochair of the Subcommittee on the Educational Commons, a member of the MIT Congressional and Executive Staff Seminar Program, and faculty director of the MIT Washington Summer Internship Program.

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