

## Department of Political Science

The [MIT Political Science Department](#) remains one of the country's leading departments. It continues to attract top-quality graduate students and junior faculty and serves as the home of several important educational and research activities.

Over the last seven years, the Political Science Department has experienced a very exciting (and at times intense) process of rebuilding. The goal has been to make the department one of the country's top political science departments and, in the process, help transform the discipline by showing that analytical and theoretical rigor is compatible with policy relevance and that the field of political science can make significant contributions toward solving the world's great challenges while also advancing the frontiers of knowledge. To achieve these goals, we built on existing strengths within the department, developed stronger ties to other departments and research initiatives at MIT, and invested new resources into the department, both in the short and medium term. Our rise in the rankings, our success in recruiting new PhD students, and the increasingly prominent placements of our PhD graduates indicate that we are well on our way toward achieving our goals.

This past year, the department focused on:

- Maintaining and strengthening our finances so that we can support a healthy (and competitive) PhD program and hire to fill all open faculty slots.
- Reviewing and upgrading our graduate and undergraduate programs so that we offer our students the very best possible education in politics, policy, and the underlying methods required to understand and evaluate competing political positions/policy options.
- Increasing the quantity and quality of scholarly activities occurring within and sponsored by the department in order to enhance both our visibility (within MIT, the discipline, and the world) and our intellectual community.
- Fostering the norms and culture of the department so that we can maintain a rich and nurturing intellectual community.
- Building stronger ties to other departments and research centers at MIT by both playing a greater role in various policy-related debates on campus and promoting collaborative projects and joint courses with faculty from other units at the Institute. Strengthening our ties and identification with MIT is key to our return to prominence.

Although we still have much work to do, we have made significant progress on each of these tasks.

### Fundraising

We must continue to make progress on raising funds for our graduate program in order to reach our goal of admitting 13–15 students every year. Although permanent fellowship funds from external donors (Andronico Luksic, Jon Borschow, Nike Inc.)

have gone a long way toward establishing three endowed graduate fellowships, we still have a major gap. We are working hard to close this gap.

### **Faculty Searches and Diversity Initiatives**

In 2015–2016, we undertook junior searches in American politics and comparative politics. We invited three candidates to give job talks in American politics. Ariel White was offered the position and accepted it. We invited four candidates to give job talks in comparative politics. The preferred candidate withdrew before a job offer could be made, and no hire was made in comparative politics.

Along with efforts to attract qualified underrepresented minority candidates to the department through the regular search process, we promote a unique race and diversity predoctoral fellowship within the department. In 2015–2016, Amber Spry, a doctoral candidate from Columbia University, visited the department. We made an offer to Julian Wamble, a PhD candidate at the University of Maryland at College Park, for AY2017, and he accepted. We look forward to having him in the department in fall 2016. In addition, for the first time the department hosted an MIT Summer Research Program (MSRP) student in 2016. This program brings minority, first-generation, and low-income college students interested in graduate school to MIT for research experience and mentorship.

### **Intellectual Commons**

We continue to support a series of research-related activities, including the Political Theory Workshop Series, the Political Experiments Research Lab (PERL), the American Politics Workshop Series, and the Latin Americanists Working Group, that have all created a sense of intellectual energy and excitement within the department. We saw excellent attendance from faculty and students at our 50th Anniversary Symposium in fall 2015, celebrating the many contributions our faculty and alumni have made and continue to make to scholarship, public policy, and public life. Political science faculty members (Chappell Lawson, Michael Piore, Richard Samuels, Suzanne Berger, and Ben Schneider) continue to play a major role in the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) program.

In short, we are making progress on all of the key issues facing the department, issues we need to address if we are to meet our goals of becoming one of the country's top five departments and reinventing the discipline.

### **Educational Initiatives**

The department's core mission is education, starting on the MIT campus and extending into the wider world. Fulfillment of that mission is centered on the undergraduate and graduate programs, both of which have established equilibria following the reforms of several years ago.

We are pleased to report that political methodology instruction in our graduate program has been maintained and enhanced despite the departure of Associate Professor Jens Hainmueller to Stanford University in January 2014. Assistant Professor In Song Kim, who joined the department in fall 2014, now teaches several classes in quantitative

political methods. In addition, Assistant Professor Regina Bateson offers a class in qualitative political methodology, and Professor Evan Lieberman plans to offer a graduate seminar in “mixed methods” (the combination of qualitative and quantitative methods). Our strong methods sequences have been enhanced by two new graduate courses in applied methods, Professor Rich Nielsen’s 17.426 Empirical Methods in International Relations and Professor Daniel Hidalgo’s 17.830 Empirical Methods in Political Economy. The quality of our methods sequence and our additional offerings has attracted attention in the discipline and is helping us both recruit excellent graduate students and give them the training they need to be competitive for the top political science faculty positions.

On the undergraduate front, the faculty developed new subjects aimed at increasing our undergraduate enrollment during AY2016. These courses include 17.831 Data and Politics and 17.051 The Ethics of Energy Policy, both designed to attract undergraduates from science and engineering. We also reintroduced 17.811 Game Theory and Political Theory as a joint undergraduate/graduate class. In spring 2016, we offered 17.04J Modern Conceptions of Freedom as another new class jointly listed with Concourse.

In addition to its own curriculum, the department is home to a number of internship and other “hands-on” experiences, mostly for undergraduates. These activities allow science and engineering students to engage with policymakers at home and with laboratories and industries abroad. Two are worth highlighting here, MISTI and the MIT Washington Summer Internship Program.

Although MISTI is formally affiliated with the Center for International Studies (CIS), almost all of the faculty directors of the country programs are from the Department of Political Science, as is the director of MISTI, Professor Lawson. In addition to being an important part of the education of hundreds of MIT students each year, MISTI serves as a model of international education among other colleges and universities with a large number of students in science and engineering.

The MIT Washington Summer Internship Program continues to allow MIT’s technically oriented students to experience how institutions vital to their later success operate. It also provides the federal government and other policymakers early access to the best young scientists and engineers in America. Sixteen undergraduates from all five of the Institute’s schools participated in summer 2016. They worked at Community Enterprise; the US Department of Health and Human Services; the Government Accountability Office; the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; the Nuclear Energy Institute; the Urban Institute; the National Institutes of Health; PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays); Systems Planning and Analysis; Noblis; the World Bank Group; and the MIT Washington Office.

### **Student Recruitment, Placement, and Enrollment**

The department reviewed 356 applications for the PhD program, down about 10% from the previous year. In 2015, we admitted 32 applicants, 13 of whom accepted our offer. Of those 13, two deferred admission to 2016, leaving us with a cohort of 11, one short of our ideal of 12. This year, with the knowledge that two deferrals would be

joining the 2016 cohort, we lowered our target yield to 10 and admitted 28 students. We successfully reached our target yield, with 10 admits accepting our offer. Since one of the 10 deferred to 2017, we will have an incoming class of 11, again just short of our ideal of 12. Significantly, two of the incoming PhD students are American politics students; in contrast, no such students enrolled last year.

Our graduating doctoral students continue to garner rewarding and prestigious appointments in higher education and industry. This year our PhD graduates secured faculty appointments at the University of Pennsylvania; the University of California, San Diego; the University of Minnesota; the University of Albany; and the University of Toronto. In addition, one graduate received a postdoctoral fellowship from Dartmouth College.

In AY2016, our undergraduate enrollment was 968, a bit smaller than the previous year (1,019). However, the number of undergraduate political science majors was slightly higher this year. Enrollments in our concentration and our three minors stayed about the same. We had 15 majors, 89 concentrators, and 52 minors overall (14 in political science, 9 in public policy, and 29 in applied international studies).

### **Faculty and Promotions**

We are delighted to report that Lucas Stanczyk, F. Daniel Hidalgo, and Christopher Warshaw were promoted to associate professor without tenure this year.

### **Awards and Grants**

Notable awards, grants, recognitions, and important professional responsibilities given to faculty members during AY2016 include the following.

Professor Gina Bateson was named MIT's UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program) mentor of the year.

Professor Adam Berinsky was awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) Political Science Program grant of \$500,000 with Teppei Yamamoto, as well as an Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) Governance Initiative grant totaling \$59,974.

Andrea Campbell was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Devin Caughey was presented the American Political Science Association (APSA) award for best paper on state politics and policy.

Professor Nazli Choucri was the honoree at the International Studies Association Political Demography and Geography Distinguished Scholar Panel.

Fotini Christia was an International Growth Center research affiliate and an AALISM (Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies) Faculty Fellow. In addition, she was the Andrew Carnegie Inaugural Fellow and was awarded a two-year extension to her Army Research Office Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative grant.

M. Taylor Fravel has been named to the Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program for AY2017.

F. Daniel Hidalgo was awarded an \$800,000 Norway Research Council grant for his proposal "Breaking the Curse? The Politics of Drought in the Brazilian Northeast."

In Song Kim won the 2015 Mancur Olson Award from APSA for the best dissertation in political economy.

Evan Lieberman was awarded a grant for the MITx course Democracy and Development in Contemporary Africa and a grant from the MIT Center for International Studies for his project "Towards a Better Understanding of Democratic Governance in Africa."

Vipin Narang was presented the International Studies Association best book award in international security for *Nuclear Strategy in the Modern Era*.

Richard Nielsen served as the Neubauer Junior Research Fellow at Brandeis University's Crown Center for Middle East Studies.

Kenneth Oye was presented an Appreciation Award from the NSF Synthetic Biology Engineering Research Center for his service as director of policy and practices. He also received an Open Philanthropy Project (San Francisco) grant for work in the area of biosecurity risks.

Roger Petersen served as principal investigator on two grants recently awarded to graduate student Marika Landau-Wells by the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation.

Richard Samuels was named the Albert Einstein Foundation Visiting Fellow at the Free University of Berlin's Graduate School of East Asian Studies. In addition, he serves as the distinguished speaker for the Northeast Asia Council of the Association of Asian Studies.

Kathleen Thelen was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Her book *Varieties of Liberalization* won the Barrington Moore Prize and the Best Book Award from APSA's European Politics and Society Section. In addition, she was an invited visiting professor at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris and was awarded a Radcliffe Proposal for an exploratory workshop on "Work and Welfare in the Gig Economy."

Lily Tsai, director of the Governance Lab (GOV/LAB), was awarded four grants, one each from Twaweza East Africa (\$468,889), Making All Voices Count (\$243,210), the Hewlett Foundation (\$1,015,000), and the Ford Foundation (\$300,000).

Christopher Warshaw received a grant of \$59,686 from MIT's J.H. and E.V. Wade Fund to study public opinion on climate change.

Teppei Yamamoto received the Warren Miller Prize from the Society for Political Methodology and Oxford University Press and the Statistical Software Award from

the Society for Political Methodology. He was awarded three separate grants: a grant from NSF for his proposal “Collaborative Research: A New Design for Identifying Persuasion Effects and Selection in Media Exposure Experiments via Patient Preference Trials” (with Adam Berinsky and Matthew A. Baum; \$506,949); a Scholarly Innovation and Advancement Award from Dartmouth College (with Yusaku Horiuchi and Daniel M. Smith; \$38,000); and a faculty research grant from the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (with Yusaku Horiuchi and Daniel M. Smith; \$25,000).

### Faculty Leaves, Departures, and Visitors

Professors Bateson, Christia, Lieberman, Narang, Nielsen, and Warshaw were on leave for the academic year. Professor Caughey was on leave during the fall semester.

### Faculty Research and Publications

The faculty of the Department of Political Science are prolific in their 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 is a representative sampling of faculty research and publications over the past year.

Professor Bateson shared her research at several events, including APSA’s 2016 annual meeting, a workshop on civil conflict held at the University of Mississippi, and the Dean’s Speaker Series on Political Violence at the State University of New York.

Professor Berger presented her research at the Babbage Symposium at the University of Cambridge, gave the keynote address for the economics faculty at the National University of Mexico, and spoke on a plenary panel at the Council for European Studies conference. In addition, she produced a white paper, “Reforms in the French Industrial Ecosystem,” for the French government.

Professor Berinsky presented his research at Brigham Young University and the Public Policy Institute of California, among other venues. He served as editor for *Chicago Studies in American Politics* and as a reviewer for 15 different journals. He published “An Empirical Justification for the Use of Draft Lottery Numbers as a Random Treatment in Political Science Research” (with Sara Chatfield) in *Political Analysis*.

Professor Campbell published three articles, authored four book chapters, and shared her research at 10 different seminars and colloquia, including Tuft University’s Constitution Day (as keynote speaker) and the 23rd International Conference of the Council for European Studies. She is an editor or senior editor for four different publications and has served as a reviewer for 19 other publications, including two books.

Professor Caughey coauthored two articles and shared his research at three different conferences, including conferences held at Johns Hopkins and Yale University. He reviewed papers for nine different journals and coauthored nine working papers.

Professor Choucri shared her expertise and research at the International Congress of the Republic of Costa Rica Supreme Court of Justice in San Jose, Costa Rica; during a group visit to Italy to meet with educational and government dignitaries; and as a moderator

for a panel at the annual Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate in the United Arab Emirates. Also, she served as a reviewer for three different publications and coauthored one article.

Professor Christia presented her research at 10 different venues around the globe, including George Washington University; the “Israel under the Shadow of Conflict: A Reappraisal of Current Processes and of Future Repercussions” workshop in Israel; and the New America Foundation conference in Washington, DC. She also led meetings with the United States Agency for International Development in Baghdad and Tel Aviv to discuss impact evaluation. She coauthored seven articles.

Professor Fravel shared his research and expertise at a number of seminars and colloquia, including the U.S.-China University Think Tank Dialogue on Bilateral Relations. Also, he is a principal investigator for the Maritime Awareness Project and serves as an editorial board member and reviewer for numerous publications. He coauthored an article in *International Security* and a book chapter for the Brookings Institution.

Professor Francis Gavin organized three international workshops, authored two articles, and shared his work at several venues, including the Center for Security Studies at ETH Zurich and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy.

Professor Hidalgo published two articles, including “Compulsory Voting Can Increase Political Inequality: Evidence from Brazil” in *Political Analysis*.

Professor Kim published `lme4: R Package for Weighted Linear Fixed Effects Estimators for Causal Inference` (with Kosuke Imai), a software program he developed for implementing statistical methods in causal inference analyses with longitudinal data. He presented his research at three seminars, including the Asian Political Methodology conference at Tsinghua University in Beijing. He also served as a reviewer for four publications, including *International Studies Quarterly*.

Professor Lawson lent his expertise to the Department of Homeland Security as senior advisor for targeting to the assistant secretary for policy. He spoke on two panels and served as a reviewer for several publications, including the *American Journal of Political Science*, the *American Political Science Review*, *Comparative Politics*, *Mexican Politics*, and *World Politics*.

Professor Lieberman spoke at the Evidence in Governance and Politics Workshop in Cape Town, South Africa, and George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs, among other venues. He was chair of the South African Legal Services Foundation’s Information Technology Committee. Professor Lieberman coauthored four articles and publications and served as a reviewer for numerous journals, including the *American Political Science Review* and the *American Journal of Political Science*.

Professor Narang presented at the Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses and the Center for Policy Research in New Delhi. In addition, he participated in two



international discussions on nuclear stability for the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Defense. Professor Narang coauthored three publications, is an associate editor for the *International Security Studies Forum* and H-Diplo, and serves as a reviewer for 10 different publishers and publications.

Professor Nielsen shared his research at four seminars and colloquia and at three briefings for the defense community in Washington, DC, and Tampa, FL. He served as a reviewer for 10 academic journals and the National Science Foundation and published a chapter (“Ethics for Experimental Manipulation of Religion”) in *Ethics and Experiments: Problems and Solutions for Social Scientists and Policy Professionals*.

Professor Oye spoke at the European Union Synenergene workshop and forum in Amsterdam and at a Senior Analytic Service presentation in Langley, VA, among many prestigious talks and presentations. He copublished six articles, including “Regulate Home Brew Opiates” in *Nature*.

Professor Petersen discussed his research at the Guggenheim Foundation, the Pentagon, and the Harvard/MIT/Yale Political Violence Conference. He also helped the US Army Special Operations command formulate two strategic documents.

Professor Posen organized and spoke at 19 different panels and seminars. For example, he organized and chaired a panel on political violence in the greater Middle East for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and spoke at the Lincoln Laboratory Defense Technology Seminar. His op-ed “Contain ISIS” was published in the *Atlantic*, and he authored an introduction to a *Journal of Strategic Studies* special issue on understanding military doctrine.

Professor Samuels chaired the “Promoting Peace and Stability in East Asia” panel at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association in Atlanta and served as a panelist for the Global History and Meiji Restoration conference at the University of Heidelberg. He reviews manuscripts for four different publications, authored three articles in the *East Asian Forum*, and coauthored “Poor Substitute: No Japanese Submarines Down Under” in *Foreign Affairs*.

Professor Schneider published a new book, *New Order and Progress: Development and Democracy in Brazil*; presented at four different seminars and colloquia around the globe; and served as a reviewer for several journals.

Professor Singer presented his research at four events, including the World Federation of Exchanges biannual conference, and is an associate editor for *International Studies Quarterly*.

Professor Stanczyk published an op-ed for *Boston Review* and presented at eight different seminars, conferences, and workshops, including the European Consortium for Political Research annual meeting and the World Congress of the International Association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy.



Professor Stewart presented at many workshops testifying at a meeting of the US Election Assistance Commission in Washington, DC, and speaking at the national state certification testing annual conference. Also, he published two reports on the findings of the Voting Technology Project. He coauthored three *Monkey Cage* op-eds and a brief presented to the Supreme Court in the case of *Evenwel v. Abbott*.

Professor Thelen co-edited the book *Advances in Comparative-Historical Analysis* (with James Mahoney) and presented seven invited lectures in the United States and abroad.

Professor Tsai presented her research at several events, including the World Bank Global Partners Forum and comparative politics workshops held at Cornell University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Harvard University. She coauthored two reports related to her research on Ebola health services.

Professor Van Evera shared his research at several events including a meeting at the Belfer Center with Ambassador Wendy Sherman and served as chair and moderator of a Tobin Project conference on “Assessing Threat Assessment” in Washington, DC. In addition, he discussed his work with the *Open Source* radio program and made eight short appearances on CCTV discussing foreign policy and global security issues.

Professor Warshaw presented his research at the Arizona State University Conference on Representation and Elections and at a gathering of the MIT Industrial Liaison Program Mitsui visiting delegation. He served as a reviewer for nine different journals, published a chapter in *Computational Social Science: Discovery and Prediction*, and completed nine working papers with collaborators.

Professor Yamamoto spoke at a number of conferences, seminars, and workshops, including the American Political Science Association’s annual meeting and the World Statistics Congress on Identification and Estimation of Causal Mediation Effects with Treatment Noncompliance. He served as a reviewer for 10 journals and coauthored “Identifying Mechanisms behind Policy Interventions via Causal Mediation Analysis” in the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

### **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 AY2016.

Professor Berinsky served as director of the Political Experiments Research Lab and as a member of the Committee on the Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects. Also, he was a member of the Climate Change Conversation Committee and was housemaster at Ashdown House.

Professor Campbell began her first year as department head and co-chaired the Campus Sustainability Task Force.

Professor Caughey served on the department's undergraduate program and admissions/financial aid committees.

Professor Choucri was a member of the MIT faculty policy and radius steering committees. She also co-listed a new course, 17.S919/17.S952 Cybersecurity, with the Sloan School of Management.

Professor Christia served on the Institute for Data, Systems, and Society (IDSS) graduate program committee.

Professor Fravel served on the Institute's Presidential Committee on Distinguished Fellowships and the Seminar XXI Executive Board.

Professor Hidalgo organized the department's poverty, development, and violence workshop and served on a faculty search committee. He taught a new class, 17.831 Data and Politics.

Professor Kim was a member of the department's graduate admissions committee and served as the Institute's faculty representative to the Harvard-MIT Data Center.

Professor Lawson was director of MISTI and the International Policy Lab. He also was a member of the International Advisory Committee and the committee that led to the redesign of the Engineering Systems Division (ESD).

Professor Lieberman chaired a departmental faculty search committee and served on the MIT Africa advisory executive committee.

Professor Oye served as director of the MIT Program on Emerging Technologies and was a member of the MIT Cybersecurity Initiative steering committee and the Seminar XXI Executive Committee.

Professor Petersen was a member of the department's graduate program committee, the Institute's ROTC advisory board, and a review committee for International Policy Lab applications.

Professor Posen was named the next Henry A. Kissinger Chair in Foreign Policy and International Relations at the Library of Congress John W. Kluge Center. He also served as director of the CIS Security Studies Program and as a member of the Seminar XXI Executive Committee and the department's graduate program committee.

Professor Samuels was director of CIS and the MIT-Japan Program. Also, he was a faculty advisor at the MIT International House and a member of the department's undergraduate program committee.

Professor Schneider served as director of the MIT-Brazil Program and was the chair of the department's graduate program committee.

Professor Singer served on the department's graduate program committee. Also, he chaired the Institute's Committee on Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response and the SHASS (School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences) Education Advisory Committee and participated in the MIT LBGTQ Mentorship program. He designed a new international economics course for the Singapore University of Technology and Design.

Professor Stanczyk developed and taught 17.051 Ethics of Energy Policy, a new undergraduate class. He relaunched the department's Political Theory Workshop, which hosted 15 visiting speakers throughout the year.

Professor Stewart serves as the director of the MIT Washington Summer Internship Program and as the department's undergraduate officer and concentration advisor. He chaired the Committee on Academic Performance and served as a co-chair of a special committee to review MIT's withdrawal and readmissions processes.

Professor Thelen was the department's equal opportunity officer and was a member of the admissions committee. She organized the Comparative Politics Speaker Series in the spring and co-chaired the Seminar on State and Capitalism since 1800 at Harvard University.

Professor Tsai served as the department's advisor and director for graduate students on the job market, co-chaired the Poverty and Violence Working Group for one semester, and was a member of the PhD admissions committee and minority predoctoral fellowship program selection committee. She served on MIT's presidential committee on race and diversity and as an MSRP faculty advisor. She developed two new courses on comparative political behavior and state-society relations in developing contexts as well as an MIT GOV/LAB course.

Professor Warshaw was a member of the MIT Energy Initiative's Energy Education Task Force and the leadership team for a new concentration in legal studies.

Professor Yamamoto served on the department's faculty search and graduate curriculum committees. Also, he was a liaison to MIT's Statistics Curriculum Committee for the Institute for Data, Systems and Society (IDSS).

**Andrea Campbell**  
**Department Head**  
**Arthur and Ruth Sloan Professor of Political Science**