POLITICS LEARNING OUTCOMES

To study politics is to study power—how it positions actors unequally, who has it and who fights to get it, how it is used and for what purposes. In the Politics Department of The New School for Social Research, we study authority, cooperation, deliberation, persuasion, resistance, rebellion, and other manifestations of power in many contexts ranging from the family to the transnational environment. We critically analyze power relations across political, social, and economic systems; ethnic groups; social classes; genders and sexualities; divisions of labor; citizenships; and species lines. We attend to the movements and struggles, historical and contemporary, to reshape power and define its possibilities. Exploring whether the exercise of power benefits a few or promotes the welfare of the many and how struggles for power advance or obstruct the conditions of possibility for a better world, our objective is to contribute to the formation of critical thinkers and passionate actors, to deepen democracy, and to promote global justice.

Our program emphasizes the following themes:

- Civic engagement and political activism in the United States and elsewhere
- Law, power, and political institutions in comparative perspective
- Critical social, political, and democratic theory
- Globalization, inequality, and international affairs
- The politics of nature and the environment
- The politics of race, ethnicity, class and gender
- States and markets in international development
- Critical perspectives on policy making and policy development

We come from a tradition of critical social theory. In this view, the objective of rigorous analysis of politics is not just explanation and understanding but also social progress. We want to improve the world as well as to explain it. The Politics Department therefore places a high premium on normative political theory, a field devoted to developing a vision of those ideals toward which we should be striving. We blend empirical, historical, and theoretical work as well as interdisciplinary perspectives. To study power, we need insights from other fields such as
philosophy, anthropology, sociology, and economics.

Our department’s location in New York City offers a rich opportunity to explore the major political issues of our time at close range. The problems of our day—including terrorism, civil liberties, immigration, popular protests, international institutions, the power of global finance and capital, the implications of socioeconomic inequality and cultural diversity, and the need for environmental protection—play out in and around this global city. How these issues are handled and resolved here informs their evolution on an international scale.

**Undergraduate Program Assessment**

In general our undergraduate program aims to produce graduates who are familiar with foundational concepts in politics, including the state, civil society, identity, democracy, law, citizenship, power, and justice; who can apply these concepts rigorously in conducting independent research; and who demonstrate a capacity for critical reflection.

In order to determine the extent to which the program is meeting its goals, we will use three different assessment methods:

1. Evaluation of written senior research projects by supervising faculty members, recorded on a short form (see Appendix I, below);
2. Public presentations of senior research projects, attended by department faculty and other students;
3. Focus group interviews with graduating seniors, conducted by the Director of Undergraduate Studies and other Politics faculty, with a summary of the results to be distributed to the department faculty, along with the evaluations of senior research projects by supervising faculty members.

We then propose that the department as a whole, or a subcommittee of relevant faculty members, meet to review these documents and to discuss in general the quality of the public presentations and papers submitted in fulfillment of the BA by all politics majors. The goal of this meeting will be to determine jointly what these documents reveal about the learning outcomes of that year’s graduate cohort, focusing on five specific learning outcomes:

1. **Research abilities.** Do the papers evidence students’ ability to conduct independent research? Is a wide range of sources consulted? Do students demonstrate erudition in their chosen field(s)?
2. **Quality of conceptualization.** How robust is the conceptual framework these students are deploying? Are students able to use key concepts precisely and consistently? With what other fields are students in conversation?
3. **Originality.** Are students capable of framing novel questions and elaborating unusual arguments? How fresh and original are their theses?

4. **Quality of writing.** Are the papers lucid and well organized? Can students cogently synthesize a substantial body of information? Are their theses written in a way that makes the work interesting – at least to fellow specialists, if not to general readers?

5. **Capacity for critical reflection.** Do papers demonstrate an awareness of fundamental dilemmas raised by all social inquiry? For example, objectivity; the reliability of evidence; the limits to knowledge in different research settings. Have students demonstrated an ability to be responsive to constructive criticism?

Each year the department will report its findings to the faculty, and also to the Provost’s office.

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**Graduate Program Assessment**

One index of whether or not our program is realizing its objectives is reliable data on the placement of graduates. Such data exists for politics PhD graduates (see Appendix II, below) – but comparable data remains to be developed for MA graduates. *The gathering of reliable data on MA graduates is one focus of our assessment efforts for the 2012-2013 academic year.*

Besides collecting reliable data on the placement of MA and PhD graduates, we believe that the MA project; the results of the comprehensive field exams given to all PhD students; and the dissertation itself, all offer important opportunities to measure the general success of the program.

Once each year, after all comprehensive exams have been graded, we propose that the department meet to discuss the quality of the exams in each field that year, with minutes taken of this conversation, to be included in an annual report on graduate learning outcomes.

To facilitate a further collective conversation, we propose that the faculty member responsible for passing an MA student, and that each faculty chair of a dissertation committee, fill out a short form (see Appendix I, below).

We then propose that the department as a whole, or a subcommittee of faculty members, meet twice each year, to review these shorts forms and to discuss in general the quality of the papers submitted in fulfillment of the MA by all politics MA graduates, and – at a separate meeting – the dissertations submitted in fulfillment of the PhD. The goal will be to determine jointly what these documents reveal about the learning outcomes of that year’s graduate cohort, focusing on five specific learning outcomes:

1. **Research abilities.** Do the papers evidence students’ ability to conduct independent
research? Is a wide range of sources consulted? Do students demonstrate erudition in their chosen field(s)?

2. **Quality of conceptualization.** How robust is the conceptual framework these students are deploying? Are students able to use key concepts precisely and consistently? With what other fields are students in conversation?

3. **Originality.** Are students capable of framing novel questions and elaborating unusual arguments? How fresh and original are their theses?

4. **Quality of writing.** Are the papers lucid and well organized? Can students cogently synthesize a substantial body of information? Are their theses written in a way that makes the work interesting – at least to fellow specialists, if not to general readers?

5. **Capacity for critical reflection.** Do papers demonstrate an awareness of fundamental dilemmas raised by all social inquiry? For example, objectivity; the reliability of evidence; the limits to knowledge in different research settings. Have students demonstrated an ability to be responsive to constructive criticism?

The purpose of this review is not to evaluate the grading of individual papers or to monitor the judgment of individual instructors. The pool of MA texts and PhD dissertation will instead be discussed collegially in an effort to assess the general skills of our graduating cohort – and to recalibrate our collective standards for evaluating learning outcomes.

Obviously, a higher level of achievement will be expected overall in PhD dissertations.

Each year the department will submit an annual report on its deliberations (about comprehensive exams, MA work; and PhD dissertations) to the Dean, and also to the Provost’s office. In addition, our annual review will help the department identify candidates for distinguished student awards.
## APPENDIX I

### ASSESSING KEY COMPETENCIES OF POLITICS STUDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Assessment source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Research abilities</td>
<td>BA students: senior research project;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MA students: paper(s) submitted for MA thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PhD students: dissertation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Quality of conceptualization</td>
<td>BA students: senior research project;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MA students: paper(s) submitted for MA thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PhD students: dissertation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Originality</td>
<td>BA students: senior research project;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MA students: paper(s) submitted for MA thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PhD students: dissertation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Quality of writing</td>
<td>BA students: senior research project;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MA students: paper(s) submitted for MA thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PhD students: dissertation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Capacity for critical reflection</td>
<td>BA students: senior research project;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MA students: paper(s) submitted for MA thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PhD students: dissertation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RUBRICS

1. *Research abilities.* Do the texts evidence students’ ability to conduct independent research? Is a wide range of sources consulted? Do students demonstrate erudition in their chosen field(s)?
Excellent – Conducts in-depth original research into primary source materials; research is well-structured and is tied together in an overall arc; draws on various subfields as appropriate in pursuit of more relevant and incisive analyses of politics and power.

Good – Conducts original research into primary source materials; research has structure, though may not cohere completely as a whole.

Fair – Conducts research, but with little depth; use of primary sources is weak (little material used; or relies only on a few sources); overall structure of thesis is satisfactory.

Poor – Little or no original research evident; structure is poor.

2. Quality of conceptualization. How robust is the conceptual framework these students are deploying? Are students able to use key concepts precisely and consistently? With what other fields are students in conversation?

Excellent - Demonstrates not only competent understanding of conceptual or abstract political concepts, but is able to engage with them in a theoretically sophisticated and thoughtful manner; demonstrates grasp of conceptual logic and abstract thinking; clearly understands how conceptual analysis relates to secondary material (e.g., political data, political discourse, primary source materials, political theoretic texts and secondary literature); and/or is able to generate original conceptual analysis from primary source material.

Good – Shows solid command of relevant theoretical arguments and is able to link them together in a critical analysis.

Fair – Uses and understands some conceptual material, but does not make use of it to further political analysis.

Poor – Little or no conceptual thinking evident.

3. Originality. Are students capable of framing novel questions and elaborating unusual arguments? How fresh and original are their theses?

Excellent – Demonstrates unusual originality in approach or results.

Good – Shows promise of producing original work in the near future.

Fair – Demonstrates competence but not originality.

Poor – No potential for constructive scholarship.

4. Quality of writing. Are the papers lucid and well organized? Can students cogently synthesize a substantial body of information? Are their theses written in a way that makes the work interesting – at least to fellow specialists, if not to general readers?
Excellent – Writing is clear, fluid, and interesting.

Good – Writing is strong, conveying needed concepts, but not compelling.

Fair – Solid writing, but at times unclear.

Poor – The prose is often confusing and dull.

5. Capacity for critical reflection. Do the texts demonstrate an awareness of fundamental dilemmas raised by all social inquiry? For example, objectivity; the reliability of evidence; the limits to knowledge in different research settings. Have students demonstrated an ability to be responsive to constructive criticism?

Excellent – Clearly outlines competing alternative explanations in the literature or in everyday politics; engages with these explanations in a fair and even-handed, rather than polemical, manner; shows in exceptional fashion why they are internally or externally inconsistent, politically problematic, or normatively flawed. Student understands and responds to feedback given during writing and research process; incorporates new thinking or material into the written document over time; and is able to go above and beyond any direct guidance given by showing independent, critical evaluation of how to respond to the criticism offered.

Good – Outlines competing arguments or explanations, and engages with them solidly. Student understands and responds to feedback, with direct guidance on how to incorporate into written document.

Fair – Presents competing arguments or explanations, but does not engage with them or does so poorly (i.e., unfairly or polemically). Student understands some feedback, and responds to some of it in written form in an average manner.

Poor – Does not present competing arguments, or does so only in a superficial way. Student does not respond to constructive criticism.
APPENDIX II

PhD students in politics, 1999 - 2012

With dissertation topics and placement details

2011-2012 Dissertations

This list includes people who defended their dissertations in late spring or summer 2011 and who filed in Fall 2011; people who defended dissertations in Fall 2011 and filed then or in Spring 2012; and people who defended and filed in Spring 2012.

DAVID BERNEY, Ph.D. 2012

Main field: American Politics

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Victoria Hattam, Timothy Pachirat

Dissertation: “From the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission to the Courthouse - Does Civil Rights Litigation Remediate Racial Inequality in the Workplace?”

Placement: Law Offices of David J. Berney, P.C

Email: djberney@berneylaw.com

LISA BJORKMAN, Ph.D. 2012
**Main field: Comparative Politics**

Advisers: Timothy Pachirat (chair), Sanjay Ruparelia, Vyjayanthi Rao (Anthropology)

Dissertation: “Getting Water: the politics and performance of access in Mumbai”

Placement: Postdoctoral Fellow, Max Planck Institute, University of Goettingen (Germany)

Email: lbjorkman6@gmail.com

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**ALEXANDRA BUDABIN, Ph.D. 2012**

**Main field: International Relations (American Politics)**

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Jeff Goodwin (NYU), Victoria Hattam, Ronald Kassimir, Lisa Richey (Roskilde University, Denmark)


Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Dayton (Fall 2012)

Email: 

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**ANDREA CARLA, Ph.D. 2012**

**Main field: Comparative Politics (American Politics)**

Advisers: Victoria Hattam (chair), Aristide Zolberg, Riva Kastoryano


Placement: Instructor, University of Dayton (Fall 2012); Researcher, EURAC - European Academy, Bolzano, Italy (Fall 2012)

Email: carlandrea18@gmail.com
ADAM GANNAWAY, Ph.D. 2012

Main field: Political Theory

Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), Banu Bargu, Ross Poole, Hauke Brunkhorst

Dissertation: “Cosmopolitan Constitutionalism: Democratic Legitimacy and the International Order”

Placement:

Email: adamgannaway@gmail.com

CLAUDIA HEISS BENDERSKY, Ph.D. 2012

Main field: Comparative Politics

Advisers: Andrew Arato (chair), Andreas Kalyvas, Sanjay Ruparelia

Dissertation: “Presidents Unleashed: Emergency Powers and the Case of Chile.”

Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Universidad de Chile, Santiago (Fall 2011)

Email: claudiaheissb@gmail.com

MAYA JOSEPH, Ph.D. 2012

Main field: American Politics

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Victoria Hattam, Marion Nestle (NYU)

Dissertation: “Outpacing Regulation? Technology, Democracy, and Animal Cloning at the FDA.”

Placement: Green Initiative and Garden Manager, Sullivan Street Bakery, NY

Email: maya@sullivastreetbakery.com
JOSH LERNER, Ph.D. 2012

Main field: Comparative Politics

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Katie Salen (Parsons), Carlos Forment (Sociology), Timothy Pachirat

Dissertation: “Making Democracy Fun? Games as Tools for Democratic Participation”
Placement: Josh Lerner, Director, The Participatory Budgeting Project, New York.

Email: joshalerner@gmail.com

BENJAMIN NIENASS, Ph.D. 2012

Main field: Political Theory

Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), Banu Bargu, Andreas Huyssen

Dissertation: “Europe’s Postnational Relations to the Past: Provincializing the Ethics of Memory”
Placement:

Email: bnienass@gmail.com

RUHIYA KRISTINE SEWARD, Ph.D. 2012

Main field: Comparative Politics

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Sanjay Ruparelia, Deva Woodly

Placement: Researcher, UNDP

Email: kris@zencantada.org
NATASCHA VANDERZWAN, Ph.D. 2012

Main field: American Politics (Comparative Politics)

Advisers: Victoria Hattam (chair), Julia Ott (History), Teresa Ghilarducci (Economics)

Dissertation: "Contentious Capital: The Politics of Pension Investment in the United States and Germany".

Placement: Visiting Assistant Professor, Wake Forest University, 2011-2012.

Current Position: Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Amsterdam Institute of Advanced Labor Studies, University of Amsterdam.

Email: n.a.j.vanderzwan@uva.nl

EMILY WILLS, Ph.D. 2012

Main field: Comparative Politics (Political Theory)

Advisers: Courtney Jung (chair), Timothy Pachirat, Nancy Fraser

Dissertation: "Political Discourse in Motion: Social and Political Contestation in Arab New York."

Placement: Visiting Assistant Professor, Hobart & William Smith, 2011-2012

Current Position: Postdoctoral Fellowship, Toronto Initiative for Economic and Social Rights.

Email: brooklynmili@gmail.com
HANAN AL-HAJERI, Ph.D. 2011
Main field: Comparative Politics
Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Federico Finchelstein (History), Enrique Peruzzotti
Dissertation: “Presidentialism and Political Instability in Argentina and the United States of America: A Comparative Study”
Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Kuwait University (Fall 2010).
Email: hananboston@aol.com

EVAN DANIEL, Ph.D. 2011
Main field: American Politics
Advisers: Victoria Hattam (chair), Oz Frankel (History), Robin Blackburn (History)
Dissertation: “Rolling for Revolution: A Transnational History of Cuban Cigar Makers in Havana, South Florida and New York City, 1850s-1890s”
Placement: Department of History, Queens College, CUNY (fall 2010)
Email:

BIRGIT LANGENBERGER, Ph.D. 2011
Main field: Political Theory
Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Jay Bernstein (Philosophy), Victoria Hattam
Dissertation: “Slavery and Colony – Natural rights in the American Declaration of Independence”
Email:

DANIELA MANSBACH, Ph.D. 2011

Main field: Political Theory
Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), Banu Bargu, Faisal Devji
Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Wisconsin Superior
Email: mansbachdaniela@gmail.com

BRIAN MILSTEIN, Ph.D. 2011

Main field: Political Theory
Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), Andreas Kalyvas, Richard Bernstein, Rainer Forst, Terry Williams (dean's rep.)
Dissertation: Commercium: Toward a Critical Social Theory of the Cosmopolitan
Placement: Postdoctoral Fellowship, Free University Berlin, 2011-2012
Email:

ALEXANDER MIRESCU, Ph.D. 2011

Main field: Comparative Politics
Advisers: Courtney Jung (chair), Mala Htun
Dissertation: “The State Policy of Religion and Free Spaces: A Comparative Study of Church-State Relations in East Germany, Poland, and Yugoslavia”

Placement: Assistant Professor, St. Peter’s College (Fall 2010)

Email:

NANCY REIFER, Ph.D. 2011

Main field: Political Theory

Advisers: Richard Bernstein (chair), Jerome Kohn, Elizabeth Young Bruehl

Dissertation: “From Law and Power to Ideology and Terror.”

Placement: Visiting Assistant Professor and Assistant Director of the Hannah Arendt Center, Bard College (Fall 2011)

Email:

SILKE STEINHILBER, Ph.D. 2011

Main field: Comparative Politics

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Mala Htun, Claus Offe (Hertie School, Berlin)

Dissertation: «Back to the Hearth? Family Policy and Gender in Postsocialist Poland and the Czech Republic (1990-2004).»

Placement: Independent Consultant on Social Policy and Gender Equality Policy in Central and Eastern Europe, current contracts with UNICEF, Regional Office for CEE/CIS; European Commission, DG Employment and Social Affairs.

Email: silkestein@aol.com
MICHAL AHARONY, Ph.D. 2010

Main field: Political theory

Advisers: James Miller

Dissertation: “Total Domination – Between Conception and Experience: Rethinking the Arendtian Account through Holocaust Testimonies.”

Placement: January-September 2010, postdoctoral fellowship at the Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center, Hebrew University; October 2010 – January 2011, International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem.

Current Position: Postdoctoral Fellow, Open University, Raanana, Israel.

Email: michalaharony@gmail.com

JESSICA BLATT, Ph.D. 2010

Main field: American Politics

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Victoria Hattam, Adolph Reed (University of Pennsylvania).


Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Marymount Manhattan College (Fall 2009)

Email: jblatt@mmm.edu
RODRIGO CHACON AGUIRRE, Ph.D. 2010

Main field: Political Theory

Advisers: James Miller (chair), Richard J. Bernstein (Philosophy), Andreas Kalyvas, David Plotke

Dissertation: “German Sokrates: Heidegger, Arendt, Strauss.”

Placement: Jack Miller – Veritas Fund Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Boston College (2009-2010).

Current position: Lecturer, Social Studies, Harvard University (Fall 2010)

Email: chacon@fas.harvard.edu

GUADALUPE CORREA-CABRERA, Ph.D. 2010

Main field: Comparative Politics

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Mala Htun, Gabriel Negretto (CIDE, Mexico City)

Dissertation: “Democracy in Two Mexicos: Political Exclusion, Economic Exclusion, and (Un)civil Modes of Political Action in Nuevo Leon and Oaxaca.”

Placement: Assistant Professor of Government, University of Texas at Brownsville (Fall 2009)

Email: Guadalupe.correacabrera@utb.edu

CARLOS FIGUEROA, PH.D. 2010

Main field: American politics

Advisers: Victoria Hattam (chair), David Plotke, Adolph Reed (University of Pennsylvania)


Placement: Assistant Professor of Government, University of Texas at Brownsville (fall 2010)
MATTHEW GRITTER, Ph.D. 2010

Main field: American Politics

Advisers: Victoria Hattam (chair), David Plotke, R. de la Garza (Columbia)

Dissertation: “Shaping Incorporation: People of Mexican Origin and Anti-Discrimination Policy.”

Placement: Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science, Oberlin College, 2010-2011.

Current position: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Angelo State University (Texas), 2012-2013.

Email: matthew.j.gritter@gmail.com

SHELLEY HURT, Ph.D. 2010

Main field: American Politics (International Relations)

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Aristide Zolberg, Herman Schwartz (University of Virginia)


Placement: Fellow, Rockefeller Center for Public Policy and the Social Sciences, Dartmouth College (2008-09).

Current position: Assistant Professor of Political Science, California State Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo (Fall 2009)

Email: shurt@calpoly.edu

ROSANNE KENNEDY, Ph.D. 2010
Main field: Political Theory

Advisers: James Miller (Chair), Banu Bargu, Helena Rosenblatt (History, CUNY)

Dissertation: “Rousseau and the Perversion of Gender.”

Placement: Instructor, Gallatin School, New York University, 2010-2012

Current Position: Faculty, Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies, Public Policy & Social Change, Union Institute and University (Cincinnati)

Email: rohanekennedy@gmail.com

LAURA MILLER, Ph.D. 2010

Main field: American Politics (Political Theory)

Advisers: Victoria Hattam (Chair), Nancy Fraser


Email: lsmiller2001@hotmail.com

JOHN PINKARD, Ph.D. 2010

Main field: American Politics

Advisers: David Plotke (Chair), Victoria Hattam, Darrick Hamilton (Milano School)

Dissertation: “African American Felon Disenfranchisement: A Case Study in Modern Racism.”

Placement: CEO, Center for Urban Education, Newark New Jersey.

Email: jepsrcue3@aol.com

MARY RIDDELL, Ph.D. 2010
Main field: Political Theory
Advisers: David Plotke (Chair), Ellen Freeberg, Katayoun Chamany (Lang College)

Dissertation: “Reproductive Free Trade: Assisted Reproductive Technology and Egg Donation on the Internet.”

Email: mvriddell@gmail.com

JUDITH SIMONSEN, Ph.D. 2010

Main field: American Politics
Advisers: David Plotke (Chair), Victoria Hattam, Oz Frankel (History)


Email: simojudith@gmail.com

BARBARA SYRRAKOS, Ph.D. 2010

Main field: Comparative Politics
Advisers: David Plotke (Chair), Victoria Hattam, Christa Altenstetter (CUNY).


Placement: Assistant Professor of History, City College of New York (Fall 2009).

Email: bsyrrakos@yahoo.com
NIDA ALAHMAD, Ph.D. 2009

Main field: Comparative Politics

Advisers: Victoria Hattam (chair), Andrew Arato (Sociology), Timothy Mitchell (Columbia)


Placement: Qatar Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Georgetown University (2010-2011); Lecturer, New York University (2009-2010).

Email: nida.alahmad@gmail.com

EDMUND FONG, Ph.D. 2009

Main field: American Politics

Advisers: Victoria Hattam (chair), George Shulman (NYU), Uday Mehta (Amherst College)


Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science & Ethnic Studies, University of Utah (Fall 2008).

Email: Edmund.fong@utah.edu

EDDIE GONZALETEZ, Ph.D. 2009

Main field: Comparative Politics
Advisers: Mala Htun (Chair)


Email: baldoria23@gmail.com

WILLIAM GORDON, Ph.D. 2009

Main field: American Politics

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Victoria Hattam, Sanjay Ruparelia


Placement: Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science, Washington State University (2007-08).

Current position: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Austin Peay State University, Tennessee (Fall 2008).

Email: gordonw@apsu.edu

DANIEL KATO, Ph.D. 2009

Main field: American Politics

Advisers: Victoria Hattam (chair), Andrew Arato (Sociology), Ira Katznelson (Columbia).


Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Kalamazoo College (Fall 2009).

Email: dkato@kzoo.edu
OLIVIA NEWMAN, Ph.D. 2009

Main field: Political Theory

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), James Miller, Joan Miller (Psychology), Ellen Freeberg.


Placement: Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh (Fall 2009).

Current Position: Lecturer, Social Studies, Harvard University (Fall 2011).

Email:

SCOTT SAVAiano, Ph.D. 2009

Main field: Political Theory

Advisers: James Miller (chair), Andreas Kalyvas, Simon Critchley (Philosophy)

Dissertation: "King Among the Theologians: Political Eschatology, Security State Violence and the Civil Rights Movement."

Email: savais01@newschool.edu

TIMOTHY VORONOFOFF, Ph.D. 2009

Main field: Political Theory

Advisers: Yuri Yovel (chair, Philosophy), Andreas Kalyvas, Banu Bargu


Email:
BRIAN CONLEY, Ph.D. 2008

Main field: American politics

Advisers: Victoria Hattam (chair), David Plotke, Oz Frankel, Elaine Abelson
Dissertation: “Ray Bliss and the Making of the Modern Republican Party”
Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Suffolk University (Fall 2008).

Email: bmconley@gmail.com

KEITH HAYSOM, Ph.D. 2008

Main field: Political Theory

Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), Jay Bernstein (Philosophy), Andreas Kalyvas.
Placement: Instructor at the School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa

Email:

DESIREE HURTAK, Ph.D. 2008

Main field: Comparative Politics

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Aristide Zolberg, Courtney Jung

Email: desihur@hotmail.com
JAMES INGRAM, Ph.D. 2008
Main field: Political Theory
Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), Andeas Kalyvas, Jay Bernstein
Dissertation: “Rethinking Cosmopolitanism: The Ethics and Politics of Universalism”
Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Oregon (2007-08).
Current position: Assistant Professor of Political Science, McMaster University, Ontario (Fall 2008).
Email: jingram1@gmail.com

DANIEL MULCARE, Ph.D. 2008
Main field: American politics
Advisers: Victoria Hattam (chair), David Plotke, Adolph Reed (Pennsylvania), Oz Frankel (History).
Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Salem State College, Massachusetts (Fall 2007).
Email: mulcad01@gmail.com

ERIC SCHWARTZ, Ph.D. 2008
Main field: Political Theory
Advisers: James Miller (chair), William Milberg (Economics), David Plotke
Dissertation: “Passions and Interests in English Political Thought.”
MICHAEL LEE SMITH, Ph.D. 2008

Main field: Comparative Politics

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Courtney Jung, Joshua Tucker (New York University).


Placement: Senior Researcher, Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic; Principal Investigator 2010-2012 for the project, "Environmental Values, Beliefs and Behavior in the Czech Republic in Historical and Cross-National Perspective," funded by the Czech Science Foundation; Lecturer, Department of the Comparative History of Ideas, University of Washington, Seattle.

Email: Michael.Smith@soc.cas.cz

ELISA TARNAALA, Ph.D. 2008

Main field: Comparative Politics

Adviser: Victoria Hattam

Dissertation: Stability Before Democracy: Dominant Coalitions and their Radical Challengers in Interwar Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Finland and Hungary

Placement: Universidad Externado de Colombia, Bogota

Email: tarnaala@jippi.fi

AYLIN TOPAL, Ph.D. 2008

Main field: Comparative Politics
Advisers: Courtney Jung (Chair)

Dissertation: “Decentralization of the Mexican State and Local and National Politics.”

Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Middle East Technical University (Ankara, Turkey) (fall 2008).

email: aylintopal@gmail.com

MARIELA VARGOVA, Ph.D. 2008

Main field: Political Theory

Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), Andrew Arato, David Plotke, Michel Rosenfeld (Cardozo Law School).


Email: vargovam@aol.com
FRED COCOZZELLI, Ph.D. 2007

Main field: Comparative Politics

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Ary Zolberg (co-chair), Susan Woodward (CUNY).


Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, St. John’s University, New York (Fall 2006)

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ERIC GOODFIELD, Ph.D. 2007

Main Field: Political Theory

Advisers: Agnes Heller (chair, Philosophy), James Miller, Claudia Barracchi

Dissertation: “Between Politics And Philosophy: The Contest Of The One And The Many In The Thought Of Plato And Hegel”

Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, American University in Cairo (Fall 2007).

Current Position: Visiting Professor, American University of Beirut (2012 - 2014)

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HANAKO KOYAMA, Ph.D. 2007

Main field: Political Theory

Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), Andrew Arato, Richard Bernstein
Dissertation: “Mapping the *vita activa*: a multiple strands approach to Hannah Arendt's Discussion of Action and Politics.”

Placement: Assistant Professor in the School of International Politics, Economics, and Communication, Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo.

Current position: Assistant Professor, School of General Education, Shinshu University, Matsumoto City, Japan.

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IRINA LICZEK, Ph.D. 2007

Main field: Comparative politics

Advisers: Mala Htun (chair), David Plotke, Aristide Zolberg.

Dissertation: “The struggle for gender equality in Central Asia: Democracy, international norms, and Islamic resurgence.”

Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Niagara University (Fall 2006). She worked for UNDP in Turkmenistan and Central Asia.

Current position: Project Manager, "Confidence building early response mechanism" (COBERM), with UNDP Georgia, Tbilisi. In 2012-2013 she will be a fellow at the Harriman Institute at Columbia University.

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ADAM LUPEL, Ph.D. 2007

Main field: Political Theory

Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), Andrew Arato, Andreas Kalyvas


Placement: Editor, International Peace Institute

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ANDRE REGIS DE CARVALHO, Ph.D. 2007

Main field: Comparative Politics

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Andrew Arato, Marcus Melo


Placement: Professor de Direito Constitucional, Faculdade de Direito de Olinda – AESO, Pernambuco, Brazil.

Current Position: Professor of Constitutional Law, Federal University of Paraíba, João Pessoa – PB. Brazil.

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RENATA SEGURA, Ph.D. 2007

Main field: Comparative Politics

Advisers: Courtney Jung (chair), Mala Htun, Andrew Arato (Sociology).


Placement: Program Officer at the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum, Social Science Research Council

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MYRA WATERBURY, Ph.D. 2007

Main Field: Comparative Politics

Advisers: Mala Htun (co-chair), Aristide Zolberg (co-chair), Andrew Arato, Zsuzsa Csergo (George Washington)

Dissertation: “The State as Ethnic Activist: Explaining Continuity and Change in Hungarian Diaspora Policy.”

Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Ohio University (Fall 2006).

Current Position: Associate Professor of Political Science, Ohio University (Fall 2012).

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2005-06 Dissertations

RICHARD GILMAN-OPALSKY, Ph.D. 2006

Main field: Political Theory

Advisers: Courtney Jung (chair), David Plotke

Dissertation: “Transgressing the Boundaries between National and Transnational: From Habermas to the Zapatista Public Sphere.”

Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Philosophy, Department of Political Studies, University of Illinois at Springfield (Fall 2006).

Current position: Associate Professor of Political Philosophy, Department of Political Studies, University of Illinois at Springfield (Fall 2012).

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MARIA GOMEZ, Ph.D. 2006

Main field: Political Theory

Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), David Plotke, Orville Lee (Sociology)


Placement: Associate Professor and Directora del Departamento del Lenguajes y Estudios Socio-culturales, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad de los Andes, Bogota.

Current position: Associate Professor (on leave) at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Universidad de los Andes, Bogota; and Visiting Assistant Professor, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia in Sociology (2012-2013).

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MICHELLE HARTMAN, Ph.D. 2006

Main field: American Politics

Advisers: Victoria Hattam (chair), Oz Frankel (History), David Plotke


Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, St. Peter’s College (Fall 2006).

Current position:

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CLAUDIA LEEB, Ph.D. 2006

Main field: Political theory

Advisers: David Plotke (co-chair), Jay Bernstein (co-chair), Drucilla Cornell (Rutgers Law)

Dissertation: "Rethinking Class and Gender Justice with and against Marx, Adorno and Lacan."


Visiting Scholar, Center for European Studies, Harvard University, 2007-2009.

Assistant Professor of Government, Dartmouth College (Spring 2009).

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Roanoke College (Fall 2009).

Current Position: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Washington State University (Fall 2012).

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MARTA NUNES DA COSTA, Ph.D. 2006
MAURICIO ROMERO, Ph.D. 2006

Main field: Comparative Politics

Advisers: David Plotke (Chair), Diane Davis (MIT), Mala Htun, Charles Tilly (Columbia)


Placement: Assistant Professor, IEPRI (Instituto de Estudios Politicos y Relaciones Internacionales), Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogota.

Current position: Director, Centro de Estudios Politicos e Internacionales, Universidad el Rosario, Bogota.

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TAL SESSLER, PH.D. 2006

Main field: Political theory

Advisers: James Miller (chair), Agnes Heller, Tracy Strong (UCSD)

Dissertation: “Between Transcendent and Immanent Humanism: Levinas, Camus, and the Struggle against Totalitarianism"

Placement: Neubauer Fellow, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York.
Current position: Rabbi, Congregation Agudath Achim, the Freehold Jewish Center, New Jersey (2011)

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DENISE WALSH, Ph.D. 2006

Main field: Comparative Politics

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Nancy Fraser, Shireen Hassim (University of the Witwatersrand), Mala Htun.

Dissertation: “Just Debate: Culture and Gender Justice in the New South Africa”

Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science & Women’s Studies, University of Virginia (Fall 2005).

Current position: Associate Professor of Political Science & Women’s Studies, University of Virginia (Fall 2011)

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CHRISTIANE WILKE, Ph.D. 2006

Main field: Comparative Politics (Political Theory)

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Nancy Fraser, Courtney Jung, James Miller


Placement: Assistant Professor of Law, Carleton University, Ottawa (Fall 2005).

Current Position: Associate Professor of Law, Carleton University (as of Fall 2009).

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2004-2005 Dissertations

ERNESTO VERDEJA, Ph.D. 2005
Main Field: Comparative Politics (Political Theory)
Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), Courtney Jung, Andrew Arato (Sociology), Richard A. Wilson (University of Connecticut)
Dissertation: “On Reconciliation after Extreme Political Violence and Atrocity”
Placement: Assistant Professor, Department of Government, Wesleyan University (Fall 2004).
Current position: Assistant Professor of Political Science and Peace Studies, Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame (Fall 2008).
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PRISCILLA YAMIN
Main Field: American Politics
Advisers: Victoria Hattam (chair), Adolph Reed (University of Pennsylvania), Ann Snitow (Eugene Lang College).
Dissertation: "Nuptial Nation: Marriage and the Politics of Civic Membership in the U.S."
Placement: Research Associate, Center for the Study of Women in Society, University of Oregon.
Current position: Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Oregon (Fall 2007).
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2003-2004 Dissertations

SONIA ARRIBAS, Ph.D. 2004
Main Field: Political Theory
Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), Richard Bernstein (Philosophy), Ernesto Laclau (SUNY Buffalo), Jay Bernstein (Philosophy)
Dissertation: “The Last Conceptual Revolution? The Place of Language in Political Philosophy”
Placement: Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the Universidad de Valladolid, in Valladolid, Spain.
Current position: ICREA (Catalan Institute for Research and Advanced Studies) Researcher at the Universidad Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona).
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JOSEPH LOWNDES, Ph.D. 2004
Main Field: American Politics
Advisers: Victoria Hattam (chair), Ira Katznelson (Columbia), David Plotke, Adolph Reed, George Shulman (NYU)
Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Oregon (Fall 2003).
Current position: Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Oregon.
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WILLIAM MELLO, Ph.D. 2004
Main field: American Politics
Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Victoria Hattam, Orville Lee (Sociology), Adolph Reed
Placement: Assistant Professor of Labor Studies, Indiana University, Kokomo (Fall 2003).
Current position: Associate Professor of Labor Studies, Indiana University, Kokomo
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BEVERLY TAKAHASHI, Ph.D. 2004
Main field: American Politics
Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Victoria Hattam, Adolph Reed, Elaine Bernard (Harvard University)
Current position: Assistant Research Scientist, University of Michigan.
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TRIADAFILOS TRIADAFILOPOULOS, Ph.D. 2004
Main field: Comparative Politics
Advisers: Ari Zolberg (chair) Victoria Hattam, David Plotke
Current Position: Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Toronto (July 2006).

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CHRISTOPHER VOPARIL, Ph.D. 2004
Main field: Political Theory

Advisers: James Miller (chair), Nancy Fraser, Sankar Muthu (Princeton), Richard Bernstein (Philosophy)

Dissertation: “Politics and Vision in the Thought of Richard Rorty”

Placement: Assistant Professor of Humanities, Lynn University

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2002-2003 Dissertations

B.J. AHN, PH.D. 2003
Main field : American Politics
Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Jeffrey Goldfarb (Sociology), Victoria Hattam, Adolph Reed
Placement: Research Professor, Institute for Social Science Studies, Kyunghee University, Seoul, Korea.
Current position: Assistant Professor, Department of American Studies, Kyung Hee Cyber University, Seoul, Korea
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DANIEL FRIEL, PH.D. 2003
Main field: Comparative Politics
Advisers: Victoria Hattam (chair), David Plotke, Charles Tilly (Columbia)
Current position: Assistant Professor of Business Administration, Universidad de San Andres, Buenos Aires, Argentina
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MARA KOLESAS, PH.D., 2003
Main field: Political Theory
Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), Andrew Arato (Sociology), David Plotke
Placement: Jean Monnet Postdoctoral Fellowship, European University Institute, Florence (2003-2004); Assistant Professor of Political Science, American University Beirut.
Current position: Research Analyst, Division of Equity and Inclusion, UC Berkeley.
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JASON KOSNOSKI, PH.D. 2003
Main field: Political Theory
Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), James Miller, David Plotke, Richard Bernstein (Philosophy)
Current position: Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan-Flint (Fall 2005).
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SHERROW PINDER, PH.D. 2003
Advisers: Victoria Hattam (chair), Adolph Reed, Elaine Abelson (Historical Studies)
Dissertation: “Workfare in Canada and the United States – A Comparative Approach: Single Mothers and Their Reentry into the Workforce.”

Current Position: Assistant Professor of Political Science, California State University at Chico (Fall 2006).

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2001-2002 DISSERTATIONS

LINDA ALLEGRO, Ph.D. 2002
Main field: Political theory
Advisers: Aristide Zolberg (chair), Hector Cordero Guzman (Milano), David Plotke
Placement: Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science, Hampshire College.
Current position: Lecturer, Oklahoma State University 2011.
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WILL MORRISEY, Ph.D. 2002
Main field: American Politics (Political Theory)
Advisers: James Miller (chair), Andrew Arato (Sociology), Jacob Landynski
Dissertation: “Idea of Self-Government in the Political Thought of the American Presidents in the Founding Era and Civil War”
Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Hillsdale College, Michigan
Current position: Associate Professor of Political Science, William and Patricia LaMothe Chair in the U.S. Constitution, Hillsdale College, Michigan.
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MARGOT OLAVARRIA, Ph.D. 2002
Main field: Comparative Politics
Adviser: Victoria Hattam (chair)
Dissertation: “Andean Hope: Autonomy and Alliances in Chile’s Poblador Movement.”
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ROBERT PALLITTO, Ph.D. 2002
Main field: American Politics (Political Theory)
Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), David Plotke, Patricia Williams (Columbia)
Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice, University of Texas, El Paso.
Current Position: Associate Professor of Political Science, Seton Hall University (Fall 2011).
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2000-2001 DISSERTATIONS

ALBENA AZMANOVA, Ph.D. 2001
Main field: Political Theory (Comparative Politics)
Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), Andrew Arato, Ira Katznelson (Columbia)
Previous positions: Assistant Professor, Versalius College (Brussels, Belgium); Visiting Lecturer,
Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po.), France.

Current position: Lecturer in International Relations, Director of Graduate Studies, MA in International Political Economy and MA in European Public Policy, University of Kent, Brussels School of International Studies.

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KEVIN BRUYNEEL, Ph.D. 2001
Main field: American Politics
Advisers: Victoria Hattam (chair), Anne Norton (University of Pennsylvania), David Plotke
Dissertation: “Politics on the Boundaries: Indigenous People’s Politics in the United States”
Placement: Assistant Professor of Politics, Babson College, Wellesley, Massachusetts.
Current position: Associate Professor of Politics, Babson College, Wellesley, Massachusetts.
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STEEVE COUPEAU, Ph.D. 2001
Main field: Comparative Politics
Advisers: Aristide Zolberg (chair), David Plotke
Dissertation: “States, Social Elites, and Local Governance in Haiti.”
Current position: Editor and publisher, NYIHA Advocacy News; Lecturer, College of New Rochelle.

TATIANA MATTHIESEN, Ph.D. 2001
Main field: Comparative Politics
Adviser: Aristide Zolberg (chair)

Placement: Project Director, ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius (German Foundation)

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NANCY WADSWORTH, Ph.D. 2001

Main field: American Politics

Advisers: David Plotke (chair), Victoria Hattam, Ira Katznelson (Columbia)


Current Position: Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Denver (Fall 2006).

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1999-2000 Dissertations

FERDAN ERGUT, Ph.D. 2000
Main Field: Comparative Politics
Advisers: Aristide Zolberg (chair), Karen Barkey (Columbia), Michael Hanagan, Courtney Jung, Charles Tilly (Columbia)
Dissertation: “State and Social Control: The Police in the Late Ottoman Empire and the Early Republican Turkey, 1839-1939”
Placement: Instructor, History, Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara
Current Position: Assistant Professor of History, METU, Ankara
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THOMAS GOLD, Ph.D. 2000
Main field: Comparative Politics
Advisers: Aristide Zolberg (chair), David Plotke, Charles Tilly (Columbia)
Dissertation: “Institutional Change and the Politics of the New Right in Italy”
Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science at Sacred Heart University, Connecticut.
Current position: Director of Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs at the Research Alliance for NYC Schools, NYU
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ZORAN KURELIC, Ph.D. 2000
Main field: Political Theory
Advisers: James Miller (chair), Richard Bernstein (Philosophy), Nancy Fraser, David Plotke
Dissertation: “Incommensurability as a Political Concept”
Placement: Assistant Professor of Poliitical Science, University of Zagreb, Croatia
Current Position: Professor of Political Science, University of Zagreb, Croatia
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FRED LANGENEGGER, Ph.D. 2000
Main field: Political theory
Advisers: Nancy Fraser (chair), James Miller
Placement: Instructor of Political Science at Stonehill College, Easton, Massachusetts.
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CATHERINE MARIE O’LEARY GOLDWYN, Ph.D. 2000
Main field: American Politics
Advisers: Ira Katznelson (chair), Nancy Fraser, Victoria Hattam
Dissertation: “Culture as the Site of Structural Inequality: Identity, Politics, and Institutions in Education Reform, New York City and Chicago since the 1960s”
Placement: Assistant Professor, Manhattan Marymount College
Current Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International
CARLOS PEREIRA, Ph.D. 2000
Main field: Comparative Politics
Advisers: Aristide Zolberg (chair), David Plotke, Adam Przeworski (NYU)
Dissertation: “What are the Conditions for Presidential Success in the Legislative Arena? The Brazilian Electoral Connection”
Placement: Research Fellow in Politics at the Center for Brazilian Studies, St. Anthony’s College, Oxford University.
Current Position: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Michigan State University.
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MARK REDHEAD, Ph.D. 2000
Main field: Political Theory
Advisers: James Miller (chair), Nancy Fraser, David Plotke
Placement: 2000-2001 Visiting Assistant Professor, Notre Dame University.
Current Position: Associate Professor of Political Science, California State University, Fullerton.
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ANDREW SCHLEWITZ, Ph.D. 2000
Main field: Political Theory
Adviser: Aristide Zolberg (chair)


Placement: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Wabash College, Indiana.

Current position: Assistant Professor in Latin American Studies at Grand Valley State University, Michigan (Fall 2008).

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