Message from the Chair

Dear Students,

As Fall quarter winds down, we continue to move forward into an academic year that will be unlike anything we’ve seen before. The faculty and staff of your Political Science Department are grateful for the opportunity to reconnect with you through courses that challenge and support you, in online office hours that give us the chance to learn about the goals you are pursuing and the obstacles that you are tackling, through academic advising that will help you chart your course to graduation, through internship and research apprenticeship programs that broaden and deepen your studies, and through events that let you apply political science concepts to the policymaking world.

We recognize that this has been - and will be - an extraordinarily challenging year for all of you. Indeed, the pandemic our nation faces and the social justice issues that we need to confront together, amid a fractured political era, pose a challenge to everyone. We want you to know, first and foremost, that we are here to support you. Our professors, staff, and graduate teaching assistants are committed to learning about the obstacles that you face, remaining flexible, and working with the university as a whole to provide you the opportunity to learn and thrive that you deserve. Let us know how you are doing and what we can do to support you. We will listen. If you’d like to reach out to us to let us know how we can support you, or to provide any feedback about our department, you can do so – either with your name or anonymously – through this form.
We also want to let you know that we heard many of you this spring in your passionate calls to make tangible progress on social justice, both in our broader society and in the UC San Diego community. This has long been a goal of our department, and to accelerate progress toward it we created a Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion that has been meeting throughout the summer and into the fall. The Task Force is bringing together undergraduate and graduate students with faculty and staff leaders to make concrete proposals, with subcommittees focused on the areas of department culture, recruitment and retention, mentorship, and curriculum. The full membership is listed at the bottom of this message, and we are grateful both to the students who are serving and to the many more who submitted excellent applications; we will be following up with wider opportunities to have your voices heard. For those who would like to provide input to the Task Force, please contact Professor Claire Adida, who chairs it, at cadida@ucsd.edu.

This summer, for the fifth year we hosted our HBCU/STARS Summer Research Program, which brings in students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities to hone, expand, and deepen their academic research skills. It is designed to broaden and diversify the pipeline of graduate students at top doctoral programs and eventually in professorships. This article shows how the incredible students who have taken part in this program over the past half-decade are already diversifying and enriching our program. This September, we also launched our new major in Race, Ethnicity, and Politics. Constructed over a two-year process and available for enrollment now, this major allows students to focus their coursework on these vital topics, on which a range of our faculty conduct research and teach courses that advance our understanding of the role played by race and ethnicity on politics in the United States and around the world.

Thanks to all of you who are helping us shape and reshape our department, and please reach out and stay in touch with us this Fall and over the course of the year as we work together to support you in your studies.

Best, Thad Kousser
Chair, Department of Political Science

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Undergraduate News

New Major Alert!: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science - Race, Ethnicity, and Politics

The Department of Political Science welcomed a new major, beginning in Fall 2020: a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science - Race, Ethnicity, and Politics. This new major is structurally the same as our other majors with an area of concentration, in that it requires four lower division courses: POLI 10(D), POLI 30(D) and two from POLI 11(D), 12(D), and 13(D), and 12 upper division courses, with at least five courses pertaining to the Race, Ethnicity, and Politics area of concentration.

Department Chair and Professor Thad Kousser, along with Professors Maureen Feeley, Claire Adida, Tom Wong, and LaGina Gause, as well as the Undergraduate Student Affairs Advisor, Natalie Ikker, hosted a virtual information session right before the start of the quarter to interested students and addressed a variety of questions and topics that highlighted the importance of the new major in our Department.

If you missed the workshop, you can review the recording here and review the major in more detail on its major page.

The Department of Political Science and School of Global Policy and Strategy Unveil New Joint Program: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science - International Affairs/Master in International Affairs

After many years of planning, the joint BA/MIA program between the Department of Political Science and School of Global Policy and Strategy became a reality! This new joint program allows incoming first year students to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science - International Affairs and a Master degree in International Affairs within five years, and incoming transfer students to earn these degrees within three years.

Director of Academic Programs at GPS, Dr. Nancy Gilson, led an engaging information session about the program.
earlier in the quarter. The Political Science - International Affairs major is only available for undergraduate students who are accepted into the program; accepted students’ original major will be changed once they have accepted the program’s offer of admission. For more information about the Political Science aspect of the major, and to watch the information session again - or if you missed it the first time - you can find it here.

More information sessions about the program, including an application workshop and personal statement workshop, are being planned for the Winter 2021 quarter. Eligible students will be able to begin applying to the program in the upcoming months, with acceptances sent in late Spring quarter. The first cohort of this new program will begin in Fall 2021.

First Year and Transfer Orientations

A warm welcome for our Department’s newest admits - over 300 of you! The Department of Political Science hosted two virtual orientations for our incoming transfer students in August and one virtual orientation session for our incoming first year students in September. Both groups learned all about what the Department has to offer for our students, including information about campus partners and programs, co-curricular involvement opportunities, and our academic majors. For those of you who missed out on these orientations, you can find the PDFs of the presentations on our “New and Prospective Students” page on the Department’s website.

Students who RSVPed were asked to share how they plan to be successful as a Political Science student at UCSD.

Here are a handful of those responses:

“I plan to be successful by staying organized academically, reaching out to my fellow peers majoring in Political Science, and taking any opportunity to work with a mentor and gain real experience.”

“Study, study, study! Additionally, taking advantage of as many opportunities as I can during my time at UCSD.”

“I plan on studying my materials and spending quality time on my homework. I also plan on being involved in campus activities relating to political science.”

“I am planning to manage my time well, and ensure that I put great effort and time into the subject. I will also try to be as engaging as possible to be able to learn both in and outside of the classroom. Furthermore, I will continue what I have already done which is to keep myself updated in regards to what is happening around us, and the world.”

“I plan to use campus resources and reach out when I need help.”

“I plan to actively take part in any arising opportunities (i.e. volunteer work, internships, joining a club/org in relations to political science, etc.) that would give me more experience in the field. In turn, my experience in the field would theoretically help me to be successful at UCSD.”
Fall 2020 Undergraduate Professional Development Workshop Series

A virtual environment didn’t stop our Department from putting forth a few different workshops for students across a variety of subjects!

**First Steps Info Session & Studying Abroad As A Political Science Major**

Political Science students interested in different studying abroad programs heard from Study Abroad Advisor, Andra Jacques, on how to get started with study abroad, specific programs for Political Science majors, and lots of financial aid opportunities to fund their travels. The Undergraduate Advisor for Political Science, Natalie Ikker, informed students on how many courses can be used from study abroad to fulfill major requirements, petitioning courses from abroad, and the general timeline students should keep in mind when considering study abroad.

The presentation also discussed how COVID-19 has changed studying abroad to reflect more virtual program options for the near future, and possible changes to programs when studying abroad regularly is resumed. Currently, the Study Abroad Office can be reached by email and the Virtual Advising Center, with plenty of videos and resources for students on their main page. In the meantime, you can also review the Department of Political Science’s web page for studying abroad.

**Alumni 101: Demystify the Path - Political Science Major to Non-Traditional Career Options**

Students were able to hear from four different Political Science alumni, all of whom took their careers across a variety of fields and roles. These alumni currently work in finance, technology, non-profit and business ownership, and sales within the public and private sector. Attendees were able to see how a Political Science degree -which cultivates analytical, rhetorical and writing skills - can be applied to a number of career opportunities outside of common paths such as politics or law.

We plan to work with our campus partners and alumni to offer future “Alumni 101” workshops for students that touch on a number of topics relevant to students’ interests and questions, so be on the lookout for those email notices in weekly Department newsletters!

**Careers In International Affairs**

Shortly following the Department’s information session about the new Bachelor of Arts in Political Science - International Affairs/Master in International Affairs joint program, students were invited to participate in a workshop focusing on careers in international affairs. Carmen Iezzi Mezzera, who serves as executive director
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of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs, spent time speaking to students about career opportunities, the connections between academics, interests, and careers, how to be a competitive applicant for a job opportunity, and putting together an excellent application even with respect to the challenges that COVID-19 has brought up.

If you were interested in attending the workshop, but were not able to attend, you can find the recording here.

UCDC Planning & Benefits of Remote Opportunities

Earlier in the Fall quarter, students listened to Jennifer Homrich, UCDC Coordinator at UCSD, and McKenzie Richardson, a Winter 2019 UCDC Alumni, Department of Political Science Alumni, and current graduate student at the School of Global Policy and Strategy, about how to plan ahead for UCDC and the benefits of remote internship opportunities for one's career goals, graduate school aspirations, and professional development in a time of COVID.

The UCDC program will be remote for the entirety of the 2020-2021 academic year. For those interested in the program for Summer 2021 and beyond, please contact Jennifer to set up a meeting, or review the website for updates and application materials. You can find the workshop recording on our Department’s Youtube page.

Capital Fellows Program

A great program that students are encouraged to participate in after graduating from UCSD is the Capital Fellows Program. Dang Do and Zaire Bailey, graduate students within the Department of Political Science, both participated in the prestigious Capital Fellows Program prior to beginning their graduate studies. Intertwining humor and professional insight, Dang Do and Zaire Bailey shared their application tips, personal experiences in the program, and benefits of participating in the program with interested students during the presentation.

For those who are interested in the program, including those who were unable to attend the workshop, we recommend you review the Capital Fellows Program page and reach out to Dang and/or Zaire for their insight. From the website, the Capital Fellows Programs, “...are nationally recognized public policy fellowships which offer unique experiences in policy-making and development in each branch of government. Capital Fellows are placed at some of the highest levels of California state government and assist state legislators, senior-level executive staff, and court administrators with a broad range of public policy issues and projects and are typically given assignments with a significant amount of responsibility and challenges.”

Applications for the 2020-21 Capital Fellows Programs are due Monday, February 1, 2021 (11:59 pm PST)
Krinsk-Houston Law & Politics Initiative

Welcoming a New Director

The Department welcomed a new Director for the Krinsk-Houston Law and Politics Initiative: Maysa Eissa Nichter, J.D..

Maysa joins UC San Diego and our Department after five years of legal practice in private and public interest settings and seven years of experience in law school teaching and administration, most recently at UC Irvine School of Law.

As an attorney, Maysa practiced in the intellectual property and corporate departments of McDermott, Will and Emery, LLP. She also served on the firm’s Pro Bono Committee, successfully represented asylum applicants in partnership with the National Committee on Refugee and Immigrant Children, and advised public interest organizations.

Maysa received her JD from UC Berkeley School of Law and her BA from UCLA. Please do not hesitate to contact Maysa at mnichter@ucsd.edu with any questions.

Fall 2020 Event: Preparing Your Strongest Law School Application - Tips and Questions Answered by the Experts

Moderated by the Department of Political Science's Law & Politics Director, Maysa Nichter, this event had law school admissions officers from the top schools in the country, including UC Berkeley, UCLA, USC, USD, and Chapman, who offered advice and answered questions regarding the application process and how students can prepare their most compelling application.

For those who missed the event, or want a refresher during the holiday break, you can find the recording on our website here, under the “Media from Classes and Events” section.
Graduate News

Grad Council Election Results

The results of the 2020-2021 Graduate Student Council elections are in, and congratulations to all the new members! The new Graduate Student Council for the upcoming year is the following:

- **President**: Marco Alcocer
- **Faculty Liaison**: Rachel Schoner
- **Social Programming**: Austin Beacham and Rachel Skillman
- **Volunteering**: Yeilim Cheong
- **Orientation**: Alexandra Lange and Bertrand Wilden
- **Recruitment**: Jesus Rojas Venzor and Wendy Wagner
- **Treasurer**: Eddie Yang
- **GSA Reps**: Giulia Corno and Anthony Anderson

Kathryn Baragwanath-Vogel and Ella Bayi Publish Study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Congratulations to Department of Political Science PhD student, Kathryn Baragwanath-Vogel (left) and co-author Ella Bayi (right), a 2019 UCSD alumni from our Department who is a PhD student for the Department of Political Science at Columbia University in the City of New York, for the publication of their study, "Collective property rights reduce deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon", in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), the official journal of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS).

You can read and download their full research article here.

Brian Engelsma and Matthew Draper Earn TA Excellence Award

Each year the Department of Political Science selects TA Excellence Award recipients based on TA evaluation scores assigned from undergraduate students. Graduate students Brian Engelsma (left) and Matthew Draper (right) were awarded the TA Excellence Award for the 2019 - 2020 year.
Amara Sengamphan, a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt College who is a Political Science - International Relations major, participated in the Public Policy and International Affairs Program (PPIA) Junior Summer Institute this summer.

Read about Amara’s experience below:

1. How did you hear about the Public Policy and International Affairs Program (PPIA) Junior Summer Institute and what made you decide to apply?

I first heard about the Public Policy and International Affairs Program (PPIA) from my former supervisor. I used to work at a Social Justice and Equity Center, and my boss sent me a recommendation to apply to PPIA’s Public Service Weekends, where a host university will house you for a weekend. I applied on a whim, and surprisingly got in. The PPIA paid for a flight from California to Washington D.C and I spent a weekend at George Washington University learning so much about public policy, graduate school and more. I felt so inspired by each and everyone I met at PPIA and wanted to continue my journey at PPIA summer long Junior Summer Institute (JSI).

I knew PPIA JSI was right for me because its entire mission is to “address the lack of diversity across the spectrum of professional public service, including government, nonprofits, public policy institutions, and international organizations. The purpose of the JSI Fellowship is to prepare students to obtain a Master’s or joint degree, in public policy, public administration, international affairs, or a related field.” I have never met or seen another politician/lawyer/ or diplomat that looked like me, and I wanted to change that.

2. What was the application process like?

The application process is very similar to applying for graduate school, but you get the option of applying to five different affiliated college programs. The universities you may get accepted to are Princeton, Carnegie Mellon, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, or UC Berkeley. Each program has different curriculums, but all prospective students interested in the program will need: your transcripts, your resume,
two letters of recommendations, and be ready to write three different essays. The only exceptions are, Carnegie Mellon has a data analytics track and UC Berkeley has a law track; both requiring an additional essay.

In my experience, I felt as though I was able to be accepted as a competitive applicant compared to my more “experienced” cohort by shining in my admissions essays. It’s best to speak about your passions, and how the PPIA program will aid you in your future endeavors in public policy or international affairs.

3. What are some of the benefits of participating in the program?

Unfortunately with Covid-19 a lot of our in-person benefits like classes in Pittsburg, or presenting research in D.C were canceled, but to compensate all Carnegie Mellon participants received a $3,000 stipend, a free GRE prep book, T-Shirts, and transcripts. I can’t speak for other programs, but my program at Carnegie Mellon is one of only programs at the Junior Summer Institute to receive transcripts after completion of your classes. Within the program you attend and complete graduate level courses by world class professors, and on the weekends you attend workshops ranging from meeting with PPIA alumni who work as diplomats, or networking with graduate schools across the country like Harvard and our very own UCSD.

Moreover, upon completion of the program our alumni network has the opportunity to receive financial support for their graduate school education if they attend one of the programs in our Graduate School Consortium. You may look up how much each particular program allocates, but Carnegie Mellon students receive a full-ride scholarship at CMU if accepted into their graduate program.

4. What type of student do you believe this program is most beneficial for?

I believe that the PPIA program is most beneficial to low-income minority students because these programs make attending graduate school a reality that we never once believed was accessible by providing crucial grad school information, and providing us the resources to thrive in grad school once accepted. Moreover, you meet and speak to former alumni who look and share similar lived experiences— these connections are so important because it contextualizes the idea that it is possible for BIPOC and POC to succeed in graduate school, and continue working in the public sector.

5. How has participating in the program affected your remaining time at UCSD and your plans after graduating?

Participating in the program was one of the best decisions I have ever made, not only for the opportunities it has given me but how it has positively affected my remaining time at UCSD. I should be receiving credits for the classes I finished at CMU which will count towards my major requirements, meaning less classes for me to take this year. Before completing PPIA I was so earnest in attending law school, but now I might change my post-graduate path towards getting a masters degree in International Relations.
Being a UCSD TRELS Summer Research Scholar

Donna Yerat-Rodriguez, a senior at Revelle College who is a Political Science major and Ethnic Studies Minor, served as a TRELS Summer Research Scholar this summer. As part of the Academic Enrichment Program, the Triton Research & Experiential Learning Scholars (TRELS) program “...empowers students to pursue intellectual opportunities beyond the classroom, by providing support in the form of funding and mentorship”. The summer program is one of the four main initiatives supported by TRELS for UCSD students.

Read about Donna’s experience below:

1. How did you hear about the Summer 2020 TRELS program and what made you decide to apply?

I first learned about the Summer 2020 TRELS Program through the writing collective in the Raza Centro which helps students work through research and exposes students to research opportunities at UCSD. I decided to apply to the TRELS Summer Research program because I know that I wanted to take part in undergraduate research to learn more about how first-generation college students at UCSD defined success for themselves. As a Latinx first-generation scholar myself, I wanted to explore how our unique experiences and cultural community wealth help us define success for ourselves within institutions of higher education that historically have not served Black, Indigenous, and Latinx scholars.

2. Who is your Faculty Mentor and why did you choose them?

My Faculty Mentor is Professor Luz, Chung from the Educational Studies Department at UC San Diego. Professor Chung was awarded the Outstanding Mentor Award for the Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences, Academic Enrichment Programs in 2016. Due to her passion and commitment in mentoring students, I knew I wanted her to be my Faculty Mentor for the TRELS Summer Research Program.

3. What does your research this summer focus on? What made you decide to pursue your research topic?

I conducted research in the field of Educational Studies. As part of my research project, I am utilizing student testimonios (testimonies) to understand how first-generation college students define success within the context of higher education. Defining our own success through our testimonios allows us to center our own voices and highlights how our culture, language, and backgrounds help us navigate higher education. I decided
to pursue an interdisciplinary research topic because I wanted to incorporate the knowledge I’ve acquired through both my major and minor to create a substantial research project.

4. What are some of the benefits of participating in the program?

Participating in the TRELS Summer Research program has allowed me to develop a strong support network with my Faculty Mentor and being able to connect with campus leaders within Student Retention and Success programs at UCSD. Through the TRELS Summer Research program, I had the opportunity to enhance my critical thinking skills and developed my analytical skills to create a full research project. Participating in the TRELS program has been a great opportunity for conducting interdisciplinary research and learning more about what it looks like to conduct research within the Social Sciences. I encourage all students and especially underrepresented scholars at UCSD to take part in undergraduate research opportunities to enhance their educational experience and their personal development.

5. How has participating in the program influenced your plans after graduating?

While participating in the program, I had the opportunity to advocate for marginalized communities and equitable practices within institutions of higher education. My future plan is to attend law school and practice immigration law to continue advocating for marginalized communities. In the future, I also hope to begin a non-profit organization that serves underrepresented students that focuses on accessibility to college and peer-mentorship.
Graduate Student Accomplishments

Mariana Carvalho Barbosa and D.G. Kim Both Earn APSA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant

Two graduate students in our Department, Mariana Carvalho Barbosa (left) and D.G. Kim (right), have earned the APSA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG) to pursue their dissertation research. The APSA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG) program provides support to enhance and improve the conduct of doctoral dissertation research in political science. Up to twenty grants between $10,000 and $15,000 are awarded yearly “...to support doctoral dissertation research that advances knowledge and understanding of citizenship, government, and politics. The program will also connect awardees to APSA’s extensive professional development and public engagement networks and resources, to amplify the effect of the award on the awardee’s career and on the impact of their work as they explore solutions to a wide range of institutional, political, and social challenges. In addition, it will support the advancement of national health, prosperity, and welfare, by supporting projects that identify ways to use knowledge of citizenship, government, and politics to benefit society.”

From Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Christina Schiender, “This is a wonderful recognition of their innovative research projects. Congratulations, Mariana and D.G.I”

Eddie Yang and Austin Beacham Awarded the Marsha Chandler Fellowship

Two graduate students in our Department, Eddie Yang (left) and Austin Beacham (right), have earned the Marsha Chandler Fellowship. The Marsha Chandler Fellowship is awarded each year to a Political Science graduate student in recognition of his or her academic excellence in their first or second year of the program. From Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Christina Schiender, “Congratulations to this well-deserved recognition of your academic achievements so far!”
Lauren Gilbert Earns COVID-19 Rapid Grant

Lauren Gilbert (right) together with Lauren Schechter (UC Boulder) and Susan Parker (University of Michigan), received a COVID-19 rapid grant from University of Michigan to analyze how the pandemic and stay at home orders have affected reporting of domestic violence and usage of domestic violence services. Congratulations, Lauren!

Bianca Freeman Selected as APSA Minority Program Fellow

Bianca Freeman (left) was recently selected as an APSA Minority Program Fellow for 2020 - 2021. Her bio on APSA’s website can be found here. The APSA Minority Fellows Program (MFP) is a fellowship competition for individuals from underrepresented backgrounds applying to or in the early stages of doctoral programs in political science. The APSA MFP celebrates 50 years of scholar support and is considered a distinguished honor in the political science discipline. From the APSA website, “The MFP was established in 1969 (originally as the Black Graduate Fellowship) to increase the number of minority scholars in the discipline. Since its inception, the APSA MFP has designated more than 600 fellows and contributed to the successful completion of doctoral political science programs for over 100 individuals.” Congratulations, Bianca!

Andres Gannon Earns NATO Defence College (NDC) Eisenhower Research Fellow, APSA Centennial Center Research Grant, and Publication in the Journal of Conflict Resolution

Andres Gannon (right) has been awarded many accolades these past few months: NATO Defence College (NDC) Eisenhower Research Fellow opportunity for 2021, an APSA Centennial Center Research Grant, and a publication in the Journal of Conflict Resolution.

The NATO Defense College, whose mission is to “contribute to the effectiveness and cohesion of the Alliance by developing its role as a major centre of education, outreach and research on transatlantic security issues”,

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began in 1951 and offers eight fellowships each year in the field of defense and security policy research.

Andres earned the APSA Centennial Center Research Grant for his project entitled “Interstate Security Alignments and the Distribution of Military Capabilities.” He will be using grant funds to hire more undergraduate coders for his project.

His paper, “Keeping Your Friends Close, But Acquaintances Closer: Why Weakly Allied States Make Committed Coalition Partners”, is published in the Journal of Conflict Resolution. The Journal of Conflict Resolution, “…focuses on conflict between and within states, but also explores a variety of inter-group and interpersonal conflicts that may help in understanding problems of war and peace” and is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

Gannon’s paper seeks to explain why states make military contributions to coalition wars. Gannon argues that states make costly contributions not when they have a close alliance relationship with the coalition leader, but rather when they have a weak alliance relationship they would like to improve. By contributing forces to another state’s war, states hope to improve their standing with that country. He substantiates this theory with new evidence about national troop contributions during the US-led war in Afghanistan (2001-2014). You can read his published paper here.

Christina Cottiero Awarded Grant from the Smith Richardson Foundation

Christina Cottiero (right) was awarded a grant from the Smith Richardson Foundation, falling under their International Security and Foreign Policy Program, together with School of Global Policy & Strategy Professor Stephan Haggard, School of Global Policy & Strategy Assistant Professor Lauren Prather, and Department of Political Science Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies Christina Schneider.

The grant proposal, entitled “The Rise of Authoritarian International Organizations”, promises a book project (stemming from Christina’s dissertation) on regional security cooperation in Africa, a book on threats to international liberalism from Stephan Haggard, several papers on the areas in which authoritarian international organizations cooperate and their impacts on prospects for democratization in member states by Christina Cottiero and Stephan Haggard, a paper on development lending by authoritarian regional development banks by Christina Schneider, and a paper on election monitoring by authoritarian regional organizations from Lauren Prather. Additionally, there will be corresponding policy papers for each academic output.
Eddie Yang Awarded the Institute for Practical Ethics Data Analytics PhD Fellowship

Another accomplishment for Eddie Yang this year includes his selection as an Institute for Practical Ethics (IPE) Data Analytics PhD Fellow for 2020-2021 academic year. The IPE “seeks to promote research and multi-disciplinary deliberation about the social implications and ethics of science, technology and medicine” regarding issues facing the public.

The Data Analytics PhD fellows must be doing research on the topic of data analytics governance and accountability. In order to qualify for such a fellowship, eligible projects need to align within matters “concerning data analytics, governance and accountability where the results will have implications for how the ethics and policies of this field are envisioned. Examples of important issues in this domain include: data privacy and security, algorithmic fairness and discrimination, the replacement of human discussion and deliberation with narrowly focused algorithmic decision making, the masking of human decision making with data analytic operations, the lack of transparency and interpretability of algorithmic processes, and the various unintended consequences of the deployment of new information technology for social ends. To understand how these powerful tools work and to ensure that they are applied in ways that enhance rather than curtail human agency, social justice, democracy and economic development, we must articulate and investigate how data analytics govern and transform social life.” Congratulations, Eddie!

Graduate Student Awarded the Information Controls Fellowship

One graduate student in our Department, who wishes to remain anonymous, has been awarded the Information Controls Fellowship. The Fellowship will be supporting the graduate student in working with Stanford University for one year on the informational effect of censorship circumvention technologies.

Overseen by the Open Technology Fund, the Information Controls Fellowship Program (ICFP) is designed to “cultivate research, outputs, and creative collaboration on topics related to repressive Internet censorship and surveillance” and “supports examination into how governments in countries, regions, or areas of OTF’s core focus are restricting the free flow of information, cutting access to the open Internet, and implementing censorship mechanisms, thereby threatening the ability of global citizens to exercise basic human rights and democracy”. Fellowships are either three, six, nine, or twelve months in length, come with a $5000 monthly stipend, and a variable travel stipend based on the length of the fellowship.
Faculty News

Professors LaGina Gause and Marisa Abrajano, and Political Science Graduate Students, Earn Inaugural Award in Division’s Grant Competition

Assistant Professor LaGina Gause (top left) as Principal Investigator, including Professor Marissa Abrajano (bottom left) and graduate students Zaire Bailey, Alison Boehmer, Dang Do, Bianca Freeman, Gabriel de Roche, and Laura Uribe as Co-Principal Investigators, were awarded the Division of Social Science’s new research grant competition for advancing racial justice with their proposal, “Best Practices for Advancing Racial Justice via Social Media: A Partnership Between UCSD Political Scientists and San Diego Grassroots Organizations”.

Their project summary is as follows:

“In the wake of police violence against Black Americans and in response to unprecedented pressures from a global pandemic, grassroots organizations dedicated to advancing racial justice and fighting anti-Black racism have been heavily relying on social media to mobilize and inform their members and allies. Using CrowdTangle, a novel and exclusive source of Facebook data, our research team of political science faculty and graduate students will collaborate with local organizations to provide data-driven research on their messaging techniques. We will also host an online conference to share “best practices” with academics and local organizations beyond our partner organizations.”

The Department looks forward to seeing the important findings that will emerge from the data. Congratulations to all involved!
Gary Jacobson Awarded the Warren Miller Prize

Dr. Gary Jacobson, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science, was awarded the Warren E. Miller Prize, which is a major American Political Science Association (APSA) lifetime achievement award. From Professor and Department Chair, Thad Kousser, “I'm thrilled to pass along the news that Gary Jacobson has been awarded a major APSA lifetime achievement award, the Warren E. Miller Prize. With this year’s APSA moving to a virtual format, we’ll have to crowd the Zoom room when it is presented to him to let him know how proud and honored our whole department is of his tremendous achievement!”

The Warren E. Miller Prize is awarded every two or three years for an outstanding career of intellectual accomplishment and service to the profession in the elections, public opinion, and voting behavior field.

Dr. Gary Jacobson (right) shares, “Thanks for your congratulations and kind words. I was delighted and humbled by receiving the Warren E. Miller award, especially after looking at the list of previous winners. I’ve personally known and admired everyone on the list, and some are long-time friends and colleagues. It reminded me of how much I’ve enjoyed the collegial side of our profession over the years.

I worked (and dined and drank) with Warren for many years on the various ANES projects that were instrumental to my escape from Trinity College to UC San Diego and to my subsequent research, so it is especially gratifying to win an award in his name.

Warmest thanks also for making our department such a great place to work.”
Gareth Nellis Awarded “Best Book Published in 2019” from APSA Experimental Research Section

Dr. Gareth Nellis, Assistant Professor of Political Science, co-edited a book, titled “Information, Accountability, and Cumulative Learning: Lessons from Metaketa I,” which was awarded the “Best Book Published in 2019” in the APSA Experimental Research section. Dr. Claire Adida, Associate Professor of Political Science, was co-PI on one of the studies in the book and co-author of one of the chapters; Dr. Craig McIntosh, Professor at the School of Global Policy and Strategy, was also a co-editor of the book.

Committee members shared their praise: “Giving the section best book award to the Dunning, Grossman, Humphreys, Hyde, McIntosh, and Nellis book is an easy decision. The book is a landmark contribution in the methodology of experimental research and provides a new template for cumulative learning across RCTs.

In particular, the authors collaborate to develop a “common arm” intervention of information provision that is implemented as identically as possible across all of the 10 different contexts, along with comparable outcome survey measures. The author team is extremely thoughtful in developing standards for evaluating what counts as “comparable” in interventions and outcome measures that are implemented in diverse contexts and cultures, spanning Africa, Asia and Latin America – that is, they take care to attend to the subtle issues of ensuring construct validity in the interventions and outcomes across the different contexts. With this basis of comparability across the individual studies, the project demonstrates how to investigate external validity to establish what interventions generalize or do not generalize to different contexts.

Overall, the book is a monumental contribution to advance the agenda of the “credibility revolution” beyond one-off, discrete studies and shows the way forward for social science to begin to harness the power of RCTs to accumulate generalizable knowledge.”
The Next Adventure for Dr. Amy Bridges: Professor Emeritus and Recall Professor

Dr. Amy Bridges, previously Professor of Political Science and Adjunct Professor of History, has now changed her appointment to Professor Emeritus and Recall Professor, after having taught at UC San Diego for 35 years. Prior to UC San Diego, Amy was both an undergraduate and PhD student at the University of Chicago, before starting as an assistant professor at Harvard University in 1979.

Dr. Thad Kousser, Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science, shares: “Amy Bridges joined our department in 1988 and her many contributions since then are difficult to summarize. She is recognized as one of the leading figures in the field of American political development, urban politics, and, more broadly, the study of politics and history within the discipline of political science. She is an intellectual pioneer who has shaped these fields with her unparalleled ability to delve into previously untouched government archives and produce nuanced and singularly important work. Her major publications include A City in the Republic: Antebellum New York and the Origins of Machine Politics (Cambridge 1984), Morning Glories: Municipal Reform in the Southwest (Princeton 1997), Democratic Beginnings: Creating the Western States (University Press of Kansas 2015), other books, and many
articles and chapters in prestigious venues. Morning Glories: Municipal Reform in the Southwest (Princeton 1997) was awarded both the Best Book in Urban Politics for the Urban Politics Association of the APSA and Best Book in North American Urban History from the Urban History Association.

Amy has also been an exceptional departmental, university, and professional citizen. An incomplete list of her many significant service roles includes Director of the Urban Studies Program for eight years, where she helped to build up this strong program which has now become a department, and an Associate Director of the UC in DC Washington program, where she worked to integrate the academic and experiential elements of the program. She has also served as a CAP member and on numerous other professional and university committees. In all of these roles, Amy brought her commitment to educational and scholarly excellence. At the disciplinary level, she has been a major figure in building up the fields of American political development and of urban studies through her service as well as her scholarship. She has served on the editorial boards of Politics and Society, Urban Affairs Review, Journal of Policy History, and Studies in American Political Development.

Amy has also been an inspiration in her dedication as a teacher and advisor. At the graduate level, she has mentored students such as Jessica Trounstine, who has now become a leading figure in urban studies in her own right. Amy received near perfect student approval ratings throughout her career and her many advisees have shared their deep gratitude for her guidance and support. Amy has also been a valued mentor and colleague to many faculty and staff members over the years. She has been especially supportive of women and of new faculty members, generously sharing her expertise in navigating everything from the academic review process to finding the right neighborhoods to live in. Her wisdom, humor, integrity, and insight have helped many navigate their first years here and made the department better for all of us.

Don’t call it retirement, because she will be as busy as ever working on new projects and will retain her office and esteemed place in our intellectual community. But I just wanted to take this moment to let us all reflect on what she has achieved in her career thus far. On a personal note, I’ve been tremendously grateful for how welcoming she and her husband Rick, also a UCSD faculty member, have been to our family since before we even arrived on campus, and look forward to continuing our warm relationship for a long time. Please join me in congratulating Amy on moving to a new and exciting stage of her career!”
What follows is a small selection of tributes from Amy’s colleagues, mentees, and fans.

I am pleased to write for Amy's retirement but sad that she is retiring. From her first book to her present work on the western state constitutions Amy brings her formidable knowledge of politics, economics and historical context to bear on the problem she sets herself. In A City in the Republic which I read some thirty years ago I finished and said two things --I wish I had written that and two, I wish I knew that much. She followed this work up with her book on municipal reform in the Southwest and today she is working on the constitutions on western states. Her ability to bring together different strands of scholarship to form a coherent story about how politics, economics and institutions combine to produce new (I would say equilibrium) results has in my opinion made her a scholar that anyone studying American Politics must read. Together we founded the APSA Politics and History section and she was a pleasure to work with. When we talked about starting a section on history I was worried that the response would be so low that the Association would not say go ahead with the section. She calmed me down, told me that we would be ok and she was right and it all worked out. She also visited Stanford where I got to know her as an individual and she was as interesting as her scholarship and friendly and sociable. I wish her a retirement as long and fulfilling as her academic career has been.

– David Brady

Amy Bridges is a friend, confidant, mentor, inspiration, and interlocutor and she has profoundly impacted my career. I first met Amy when she invited me to give a talk to her graduate seminar while I was still finishing law school. I was immediately blown away by her close read and engagement, something that is all too rare. I was also enthralled by her brilliance, charisma, and energy. She was critical and rigorous, but also enthusiastic and reassuring that at least some of my arguments might be worthwhile. Shortly after that seminar, I joined the Sociology department at UCSD. Being both a new assistant professor, and an outsider to the political science department, I was initially quite tentative and uncertain of how to engage with my disciplinary colleagues who had their offices one floor down from me. Amy immediately welcomed me into her community of friends and colleagues, inviting me to seminars, giving frank and consistently necessary advice about navigating my institution and peers, and most importantly being a true friend.

In my first year there, she established a reading group that included me, Zoli Hajnal, and Jessica Trounstine, among others. Early in my career, this reading group had the intellectual influence akin to a first-year graduate seminar, opening my eyes to the expanded boundaries of literature that I thought I knew, and clearly did not. In particular, she introduced me to a wealth of readings on the
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American west, the burgeoning “borderlands” literature that was just beginning to become fashionable in sociology and history, and economic theories engaging with peripheral economies. Her ideas and insights motivated me to go further in my own understanding of the concepts of race and ethnicity, the boundaries of the American state, the meaning of historical development and path dependence, and how to conduct rigorous empirical historical research.

I left UCSD far too soon, but my friendship and intellectual engagement with Amy didn’t change. Not only do I require my graduate students to read her work, I constantly repeat her insights with them, and I try very hard to follow her model as an advisor and mentor. It is not at all accidental that so many of my dissertation advisees at Princeton have followed her intellectual footsteps in looking at cities, states, and the American west. Fortunately, her retirement from UCSD will not change any of this. There is absolutely no one like her and I look forward to many, many years of continuing our dialogue and friendship.

– Paul Frymer

Amy Bridges made my career. When I was a young assistant professor, she took me under her wing and helped me navigate the world of academia – both intellectually and practically. She spent countless hours over the years helping me find my way. She has become my friend and closest mentor. I was certainly not the only one. Since I have known her, she has never hesitated to counsel and help others. Anyone who works with her knows how giving and caring she is. Amy is also the most principled person I know. Her moral compass is unparalleled. But Amy is much more than just a ‘nice guy.’ She is also brilliant. She has a laser-like focus on big ideas that comes through in everything she writes. Her books are amazing. Her ideas have influenced so many and have certainly shaped my career. Academia would not be the same without her.

– Zoltan Hajnal

A little over a decade ago, I decided to write my dissertation about state constitutional development in the American South, which had the virtue of drawing together my interests in law, history, and southern politics. I started reading everything I could find on the subject, much of it dated and written by historians. I was concerned that state constitutions might not connect up with the scholarly literature of American Political Development, then I discovered “Managing the Periphery in the Gilded Age: Writing Constitutions for the Western States” by Amy Bridges. Not only could state constitutions fit into APD, but a leading scholar of the subfield (and a founder of the Politics & History section) was investigating them from a regional perspective!
When I emailed Amy about joining a panel at the Policy History Conference, I had no idea that my life would forever be changed for the better. We all remember how, as a grad student, it was a bit intimidating to meet an influential scholar whose work you admired, but Amy arrived in Richmond with a marked-up copy of my paper and great enthusiasm about my project. She would become one of my most important mentors and one of my very closest friends.

It was my great fortune to be in frequent contact with Amy as she wrote Democratic Beginnings: Founding the Western States. The book is an enormous contribution to the literature on both APD and Public Law. There is a short section in the introduction titled “How to Study State Constitutions” that every scholar of American constitutionalism should read. She mapped an approach that helped me navigate the morass of southern state conventions that met from secession to the turn of the twentieth century. Amy explains that “understanding the decisions delegates made requires attention both to the institutional characteristics of constitutional conventions and to time and place.” She also demonstrates that time matters at shorter intervals of sequence, such as the borrowing from other recent state constitutions or even the chronology of votes or debate within a given convention. Amy’s rigorous and thoughtful analysis of the notes, debates, memoirs, newspaper accounts, and other contemporaneous sources provides an essential work of scholarship that bridges political science and history and offers a new origin story for the West.

Amy is as kind as she is brilliant. I’ll offer just a few examples because to cover all she has done for me would require thousands of words. In 2012, Fred Woodward was trying to convince her to publish Democratic Beginnings with Kansas. Amy and I had just met, I wasn’t a student at UCSD, and she wasn’t on my committee, but she told Fred that he needed to talk to me about my project on the South. Her endorsement got me connected to a publisher and led to a book contract, which led to a job that I love. It is one of the nicest things anyone has ever done for me. While I was working to finish my dissertation, Amy was always available to talk through ideas over the phone. She never failed to solve my problem. I would send her my completed (but often rough) chapters, and she returned them with invaluable comments and line edits! These days our conversations revolve around kids and grandkids as much as current projects. I am a better researcher, thinker, writer, teacher, and parent as a result of our relationship. Amy Bridges is an exemplary scholar and one of the best people I have ever known. Her retirement is a sad day for the discipline, but her scholarship and influence will endure.

– Paul Herron

What a person! Amy’s intelligence is penetrating; her scholarship deep, considered, and original; her political passions fierce for justice. Both of us, New Yorkers, arrived at the same moment at the
University of Chicago, when the department was feisty and luminous. Both of us were fascinated by and wrote about urban politics from a historical and institutionalist perspective. Only formally was Amy my student. Substantively, she quickly became a colleague and a dear friend, not just to me but to Debbie and our children. When she and Rick married, I was honored to co-officiate in the Rose Garden of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, an uncommonly sweet moment. Her first book, on antebellum New York, burst on the scene turning much conventional wisdom on its head. Subsequent writing has compelled more provincial New Yorkers like me and students of cities in the East and Midwest to attend to the Southwestern quadrant of the country, the site of Amy’s truly pioneering studies. And throughout, her writing about cities has been driven by a commitment to understand and advance more decent democracy. Here we are, decades since Chicago, able to take stock of Amy’s brilliant books and leadership in APD. The probing intellect, the incisive scholarship, the longing for a better world persist. Retirement will only be a formality.

– Ira Katznelson

I remember fondly Amy Bridges as a breath of fresh air – or, perhaps a threatening hurricane – as she strode through the corridors of what can only be termed “feudal Harvard” in the 1980s. Her ever present sparkling eyes, rueful smiles, and brilliant mind dazzled all subordinates of that realm – non-tenured professors, graduate students, and staff alike – even while she perplexed and challenged the rulers, tenured professors and those of their ilk. Yes, of course, the 1960s had taught the nation to pay attention to the South via the Civil Rights Revolution. However, Amy taught everyone to pay attention to the West, a part of the country that Alexis de Tocqueville had written off as an impediment to the development of democracy in America. Not so. Amy established that we can find in the Sun Belt the foundations of workers’ rights, municipal reform, and many more ingredients of what we have come to term, American Political Development. As an intellectual pioneer and beloved friend of many, we celebrate Amy’s illustrious career . . . and we know that “retirement” is only a word . . . because we fully expect and hope that Amy will continue with her insightful research and enlightened publications as a continuing benefit to us all.

– Eileen McDonagh

I hope that talk of Amy’s retirement is fake news. The profession is worth it because of people like her. That said, who’s actually like Amy? Who is able to sit you down in the lobby of the Palmer House, train a piercing pair of eyes on you, tell you how you’re seeing the world upside down, ask you about your family, and brag about her daughters— all in about ten seconds? She is inspiring; she is a mentor and confidant, a sparring partner and brilliant, supportive critic, and a true friend. There is really only one
Amy’s support was quite important to me in my early career. A legal scholar who had stumbled into the world of American political development by accident, I struggled to find my voice and figure out how to link my insights about legal mobilization and constitutional development to broader narratives about politics. Amy’s kind encouragement helped me to mature as a scholar, but also modeled for me how to support scholars entering the profession. Her own work, unapologetically historically engaged and focused on deep and geographically specific analyses of development, carved out a space in the discipline that has continued to grow in importance. The discipline is richer for her intellectual contributions, and a better place because of her generosity.

– Julie Novkov

We share one mentor and she trained another of mine—making her both my sibling and grandparent, in a scholarly family tree—so Amy has shaped my thinking since even before I first read Morning Glories in the second week of grad school. Her careful way of bringing new eyes and syncretistic approaches to longstanding questions provided a template for asking important questions about city power. When I once had the chance to meet a “dream mentor” at a dinner, of course I could think of no one better than her. Not only did we hit it off, she ended up giving close feedback—twice—on a full dissertation for a student a continent away. I can only strive to live up to that example, and am so grateful to count her as a trusted source for advice and insight, a role model, and a generous friend.

– Tom Ogorzalek

I am sure that Amy will, in retirement, continue her incredibly gifted research and writing. She has a mind that encompasses both trail-blazing political theory and detailed political history of urban structures and policies (the first making sense of the second).

Look at western and northeastern cities now as they confront the destructive and deadly coronavirus, and generate fervent protest against police brutality. How could Pacific and Midwestern progressivism have led to such condemnable police departments and widespread inequality? What led the New York governor to send thousands of people to die in nursing homes? Who besides Amy Bridges could explain the century of agitation and development of urban structures and their intersection with rising industrial and financial wealth that might explain these unhappy situations?
Understanding of federalism has never been more important to understanding American democratic (and undemocratic) politics and policies, and Amy’s books, articles and classes have been essential to that understanding. A mind this brilliant does not always coexist with a heart this big. I cherish my friendship and years of conversations with Amy. I eagerly await her next book. Meanwhile, I hope to hear interviews with Prof. Bridges on NPR, BBC, and podcasts. They desperately need her depth of insight in this bewildering time.

– Elizabeth Sanders

As a first-year graduate student at UC San Diego, I was assigned to Amy for advising. Immediately she took a deep interest in my progress and helped me to develop the skills I would need to finish. She pushed me early-on to grapple with difficult questions like what kind of scholar I wanted to be and what topics would hold my interest for a thesis length project. Her knowledge of the literature and cases was (and is) vast and her keen ability to poke holes in any argument that I developed was both frustrating and invigorating. She never accepted mediocre evidence or theory and yet was always willing to explore new paths along with me.

Amy’s love of history was contagious. It was in the context of her American Political Development class that I first conducted original research, interviewed people, dug through archives, practiced data analysis and most importantly learned to provide a theoretical answer for a difficult question. It will come as no surprise to all who know her, that Amy did not accept the first version of the paper that I prepared for this class! It was in rewriting it that I first learned what it meant to be a scholar.

When it came time to write the dissertation, I approached Amy with a handful of ideas. She listened, nodded, and then said “well, if you pick any of the first three, you’ll have to find a different chair.” My jaw dropped! I figured Amy could advise anything (because she is so brilliant). But, again, my understanding of what it meant to be a scholar grew.

Throughout the dissertation writing process she read and re-read innumerable drafts of my question, my theory, and each and every chapter. She also gave me her precious data. Amy introduced me to the world of conferences, made phone call after phone call to increase my chances on the job market, and then spent hours deliberating over the right job choice with me. Since leaving graduate school, Amy has continued to read and comment on my work, helping me make sense of my ideas. She has been at once my toughest critic and my biggest fan. It is difficult to explain and even more difficult to quantify just how large a role Amy Bridges has played in my career. She was and continues to be an inspiration.
When I met Amy, I was a terrified graduate student, just beginning a dissertation on state constitutions, and presenting this work at a conference for the first time. Amy’s presence on the panel had heightened my terror considerably, since she was a famous scholar whom I knew to be writing a book about state constitutions. I had heard that Amy was a lovely person, but I was desperately concerned about her reaction, and totally unprepared for her enormous generosity. As soon as the panel ended, she leaned over to me and said, "Well we certainly have a lot to talk about. Are you free for lunch?" I had flown across the country with the giant looseleaf binder of state constitutional provisions, and in a fit of over-preparedness, I toted it with me to the restaurant, and placed it on the table next to my plate. Not only did Amy manage to keep a straight face, but she declared "I just love that you brought this binder." She looked through it with interest, and then spent hours that afternoon talking through my project and its problems, offering encouragement, and asking the kind of probing question that only someone with substantial knowledge of a subject can provide. I can’t remember when Amy offered to join my dissertation committee, but I vividly remember the sense that I could not go very far wrong if she would be reading my work. By the time I defended, Amy had edited every chapter, improving and cheering on the project in equal measure.

I have always known how lucky I am to be one of Amy's students, but her influence on my thinking and on the field of American politics are increasingly obvious to me. Amy’s work questions the conventional account of American political history by insisting that we pay attention to places, movements, and differences others have elided, or simply never noticed. By digging into the details, she rebuts easy generalizations and uncovers the institutional heterogeneity that has characterized and shaped American political development. I aspire to do this kind of work, and to be the kind of mentor that Amy has been to so many of us.

– Emily Zackin
Contracts and Grants News

Recently Awarded Grants

Claire Adida, Associate Professor
Title: Can religion increase compliance with COVID-19 prevention measures?
Awarded by: Innovation Grants for Inclusive Research Excellence

Maureen Feeley, Associate Teaching Professor
Title: Online Instructional Modules for Introductory Statistics in Political Science, and Beyond
Awarded by: Course Development and Instructional Improvement Program

LaGina Gause, Assistant Professor
Title: Faculty Career Development Program
Awarded by: Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor

Seth Hill, Associate Professor
Title: Yankelovich Center Book Manuscript/Grant Proposal Improvement Grants
Awarded by: Yankelovich Center

Gareth Nellis, Assistant Professor
Title: WhatsApp with India? The Effects of Social Media on Political Preferences and Violent Majoritarianism
Awarded by: Hellman Fellowship Program

Agustina Paglayan, Assistant Professor
Title: The Autocratic Roots of the Global Learning Crisis
Awarded by: Hellman Fellowship Program

Mariana Carvalho Barbosa, Graduate Student
Title: The Political Economy of Assassinations
Awarded by: American Political Science Association

D.G. Kim, Graduate Student
Title: Yellow Peril Revived?: The Rise of China and Anti-Asian Racism in the United States
Awarded by: American Political Science Association

Zoe Nemerever, Graduate Student
Title: Rural Representation Gaps in the American States
Awarded by: American Political Science Association

Congratulations to our Researchers!
Other Grant News

Please make sure you check out the information for faculty page here:  
https://blink.ucsd.edu/research/preparing-proposals/kuali-research/faculty-info.html

This page contains information for faculty on new proposal submission deadlines, answering the PI questionnaire and certification in Kuali Research, and searching and viewing a proposal in Kuali Research.

Please keep these deadlines in mind:

- PIs shall notify research administrators of their intent to submit proposals no later than **14 business days** prior to the sponsor deadline and complete the research questionnaire and certification provided by a KR notification link.
- KR proposal records shall be routed to the assigned Sponsored Project Office **5 business days** prior to the sponsor’s published deadline.
- The final draft of the research plan is due to OCGA **2 business days** prior to the sponsor’s published deadline.

**Kuali Research is live!**

The Kuali Research project will:

- Replace current contract and grant that do not fully support our research administration needs
- Redesign business processes in order to streamline and develop institutional best practices
- Engage the research administration community throughout the project’s lifecycle to ensure user needs are met

**For those planning on submitting grants through the Department, please contact Vanessa Medina at vomedina@ucsd.edu for assistance.**