



(Photo Credit: Natalie Ikker)

Message from the Chair

As we look toward Spring 2021 with great hope, the Department of Political Science remains committed to the core mission that has guided our actions throughout a challenging 2020. We have worked to support our students by delivering courses through remote instruction and in outdoor tent classrooms, to serve our university and community by providing informative forums on public affairs, to contribute to our discipline through path-breaking research, and to continue to foster an inclusive department culture. Some of the key areas we'd like to highlight include:

- To adapt to the pandemic, our faculty, lecturers, and graduate instructors are changing not only where they teach but how they teach, striving to leverage technology to create more opportunities for active learning and to connect with students in new ways. Our department also launched a new major in the fall in [Race, Ethnicity, and Politics](#) at the same time that we continue to expand enrollment and course offerings for our B.S. in [Data Analytics](#), the first program of its kind at any UC. Our [Law and Politics Initiative](#) is offering new classes to prepare students for successful law and public affairs careers, holding career-planning events for students, connecting them to internships supported with stipends, and advising them on post-graduate applications through the leadership of our new director, [Maysa Nichter](#).



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- During a complex and critical election season, our scholars provided data-driven research to help inform the public discussion about how to administer elections in the [nation](#) and in our [state](#) during a pandemic. We also organized a [mayoral issues forum](#), broadcast on KPBS, that brought together the two candidates in the San Diego mayor race to address the city's policy challenges in depth. After the November election, our faculty shared their expertise with the entire campus community at two university post-election [information sessions](#).
- Our [faculty](#) and [PhD students](#) continue to publish influential work in top journals and in books from leading academic presses. You can learn more about some of these projects, as well as the courses that explore these topics in greater depth, through the research summaries of UCSD work on [social media and political action](#) and on [racial and ethnic politics](#). Many of our faculty also lead centers that bring together research teams and connect their scholarship to the policy realm and community needs through research centers including the [US Immigration Policy Center](#), the [Center on Peace and Security Studies](#), and the [Center for Global Justice](#).
- In order to accelerate progress toward creating an inclusive culture, our new Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion has brought together undergraduate and graduate students with faculty and staff leaders to make concrete proposals in the areas of department culture, recruitment and retention, mentorship, and curriculum. We have co-sponsored events organized by the Associated Students this year featuring speakers such as Angela Davis and Kimberle Crenshaw and are planning additional events. 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, and are thrilled that three alumnae of these programs are now enriching our graduate program.

Undergraduate News

Partnership in Action: Workshops Focused on Preparing Students for the Political Science – International Affairs/Master in International Affairs Joint Program with GPS

This quarter, the Department of Political Science and School of Global Policy and Strategy collaborated on a number of workshops to inform students about the newly created Political Science - International Affairs B.A./Master in International Affairs Joint Program, how to prepare for the application process, and develop a compelling personal statement. These workshops were all recorded, and students can find them on our [Department YouTube Page](#).

For information about the Political Science - International Affairs major, please review its [webpage](#) on the Department of Political Science website. Students who have questions about the Master of International Affairs component of the joint program can connect with [Dr. Nancy Gilson](#), Director of Academic Degree Programs at GPS.

Undergraduate Professional Development Workshop Series Winter 2021

A virtual environment has not stopped our Department from putting forth a few different workshops for students across a variety of subjects!

Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships: Fulbright, Critical Language Scholarship & The Boren



Students heard from Study Abroad Advisor, Andra Jacques, about funded study and research travel opportunities through the United States government, including the [Fulbright](#), the [Critical Language Scholarship](#), and the [Boren Award](#). These prestigious opportunities are highly competitive and sought after, so please take time to explore them early to see if they are a great fit with your professional goals! You may find the recording of the workshop [here](#). To connect with Andra further, or another member of the [Study Abroad office](#), please do so via the Virtual Advising Center.

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Library Resources + Q&A with Political Science Librarian & Help! I Have A Political Science Class Project/Research Paper Due!

[Annelise Sklar](#), Librarian for Political Science, Law & Society, and International Documents, is one of the best points of contact for when undergraduate and graduate students need help with navigating all the resources - general and Political Science-specific - available at [Geisel Library!](#)

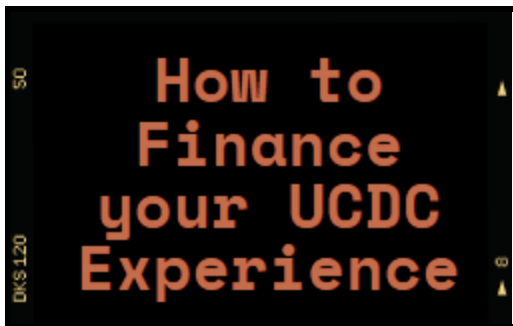
In the [first workshop](#), she covered a basic, high level overview of these resources and spent most of the time answering questions. In the [second workshop](#), she covered how students cover how you can prepare for - and work through - papers and projects successfully.



Alumni 101: Public Policy or Private Sector Career Paths

In this rendition of Alumni 101, students were able to hear from multiple Political Science alumni, about the topic of public policy and career exploration. They shared about the diverse career paths they have taken and how Political Science can serve as a foundation for a variety of policy careers. Because of the casual and honest commentary of these events, we do not record them for later viewing. However, 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!

How to Finance Your UCDC Experience



Students heard from 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 students interested in the UCDC Program can successfully budget and pay for a quarter in Washington D.C.. She shared financial resources, benefits of paid vs unpaid internships, and methods of financial planning to reduce the financial stress of a UCDC quarter.

We also had a guest speaker, UCDC alumni [Melissa Dargan](#), who is the founder of [TourTrackr.com](#) and a former Capitol Hill staffer for five years.

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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 UCDC Coordinator for the UCSD Campus, Jennifer Homrich](#), 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](#).

Graduate Student Panel: Pros + Cons of Pursuing Graduate School

Thanks to the many workshop ideas put forth by undergraduate students in the beginning of the academic year, we found that a popular topic focused on various aspects of graduate school. An added bonus of our Department is a thriving and robust graduate program that produces high quality PhD graduates that go on to work in a variety of fields and institutions as faculty themselves. Mid-quarter, we held a panel discussion and welcomed the following graduate students to share their experiences and insights on the considerations an undergraduate student should take to decide if graduate school is right for them:

- Laura Uribe
- Marco Alcocer
- Jennifer Gaudette
- Bertrand Wilden

Many thanks to you all for sharing your experiences with students, and to those who attended the workshop! We look forward to more workshops focused on graduate school in quarters to come.

Krinsk-Houston Law & Politics Initiative

What I Wish I Knew Before Attending Law School Event

Moderated by the Department of Political Science's Law & Politics Director, Maysa Nichter, this event had a virtual panel of recent law school graduates from across the country who shared their insider tips and tricks for succeeding during law school. This virtual event welcomed students from all academic levels and majors, given the diversity of those who pursue law school.

Students' questions were shared in advance, with many more also addressed in the chat and during the ending Q+A!

You can find the recording of the event [here](#).



Women in the Law Event: Insights from Law School to Practicing Attorney

Later in the Winter quarter, the Department of Political Science's Law & Politics Director, Maysa Nichter, and the Career Services Center came together to co-host another popular virtual event that focused on women who balance motherhood and practice law.

Students of all genders, academic levels, and majors were invited to attend and hear from a group of women lawyers who engaged in a lively discussion about the roles women play as professionals of the law.

You can find the recording of the event [here](#).

Graduate News

Department of Political Science's 2021 Graduate Student Open House

The Department of Political Science hosted its first ever virtual Open House for admitted PhD students on March 8, 2021. While this was the first Zoom-based Open House, faculty, staff, and current graduate students worked together to pre-record presentations, facilitate meet and greet sessions in breakout rooms, and have a graduate student panel on what it is like to be a current student.

The Open House being virtual this year also had the added advantage of being recorded for admitted students who are in different time zones. The Department would like to thank our admitted students for attending and thank our amazing faculty, staff, and current graduate students for making this virtual Open House a success!

Undergraduate Student Accomplishments

Alisha Saxena Presents at 2021 Pi Sigma Alpha National Research Conference

Alisha Saxena, a senior Political Science-Public Law major and African American Studies minor, had the opportunity to present her paper, ***An Undue Burden: Assessing the Impacts of Gender, Public Opinion, and Electoral Systems on Female Candidate Campaign Strategy, and Proposing Solutions to Ensure a More Equitable Experience***, at the [2021 Pi Sigma Alpha National Research Conference](#) in March. Alisha has been a member of [Pi Sigma Alpha](#) for nearly a year.



What is your paper about?

A brief description of my paper is as follows: While literature has often recognized biases that negatively impact female political candidates, such as the impacts of appearance and the competence bias, this same literature has failed to outwardly proclaim that the amalgamation of such barriers creates an undue burden for female political candidates in the United States. This paper conducts an extensive literature critique on this burden, which is created by gender, public opinion, electoral systems, intersectionality, campaign finance, and more. Then, the paper looks to the future by compiling a list of pre-existing and original solutions which could help reduce and mitigate the compounded burden for female candidates. If students wanted to read my paper, I'm happy to let them! They can email me at alsaxena@ucsd.edu

How did you find out about this opportunity?

I found about this opportunity via the Pi Sigma Alpha email listserv. I applied for my paper to be accepted to this conference by submitting the title and a short abstract. Then, in January, I was informed that I was accepted to this conference, after which I focused on making extensive revisions to my paper and prepared the 10-minute presentation component for the research conference.

What was the Pi Sigma Alpha National Research Conference experience like for you?

What was a highlight of partaking in this opportunity?

It was an amazing experience to participate in this research conference! Not only did I get to hear the amazing work being pursued by other students across the country, but I also got the opportunity to attend their professional workshops and keynote speaker workshops which the conference had organized. It was also a

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great experience for providing me a direction on how to improve this paper in the future, since we had PhD students in charge of providing us feedback on the paper and presentation.

What are some of the ways you are involved at UC San Diego?

Currently, I am a part of the [Research Apprenticeship Program](#) hosted by the Department of Political Science, and I have also been involved with UCSD and UC-wide student government.

Anything else you want to share that would be helpful for your peers, or you think they would enjoy knowing?

The [Academic Internship Program](#) was the reason I had this paper in the first place! In the fall, I was able to intern with an organization that gave me the inspiration to pursue this topic, and the required paper component of the AIP program encouraged me to create a baseline for my senior capstone project! I highly recommend this program - you get internship experience, elective academic credit, and the chance to write a paper under a faculty mentor! My faculty mentor was our Department Chair Thad Kousser!

Graduate Student Accomplishments

Daegyeong Kim and Mariana Carvalho Both Earn the 2020 APSA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant

Graduate students Daegyeong (“D.G.”) Kim and Mariana Carvalho have both been awarded the 2020 APSA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant which “provides support to enhance and improve the conduct of doctoral dissertation research in political science. Awards will support basic research which is theoretically derived and empirically oriented. The APSA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant program will award up to twenty grants yearly of between \$10,000 and \$15,000 to support doctoral dissertation research that advances knowledge and understanding of citizenship, government, and politics.” Below are their respective profiles on APSA’s website:



Daegyeong (“D.G.”) Kim is a PhD candidate in political science at the University of California, San Diego. His research focuses on Race, Ethnicity, and Politics, American public opinion, and International Relations. Bringing together theories of American racial hierarchy, elite-public interactions, and foreign policy, his dissertation examines the political causes and consequences of contemporary anti-Asian racism in the United States. Utilizing public opinion surveys, survey experiments, and text analyses, he probes the long-term underlying factors behind the rise of anti-Asian sentiments across the United States, focusing on demographic changes, the China trade shock, and anti-China political rhetoric. He also examines the role anti-Asian sentiments played in the election of Donald Trump in 2016

and the relationship between the racial attitude and the American public’s response to the rise of China. In so doing, he develops a new scientific measure of anti-Asian American sentiment, the Asian American Resentment (AAR) scale.

Additionally, his current projects investigate the rise of anti-Asian racism in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic and the geopolitical repercussions of the pandemic, particularly concerning U.S.-China relations. D.G. received his undergraduate from Cornell University.

Mariana Carvalho is a PhD candidate in Political Science at University of California, San Diego. Her research focuses on political economy and violence. Her dissertation investigates the causes and consequences of assassinations of local politicians, with a central focus on Brazil. She draws from models of contest and war to explain why assassinations happen as a



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consequence of disputes for spoils from the government. Her project contributes to our understanding of criminal politics and political violence by emphasizing the relationship between corruption and violence against politicians. She employs a mixed-method approach to answer questions about the targets, perpetrators, causes, and consequences of political killings. Original data on political assassinations provide evidence on the characteristics of local politicians and the political and economic factors that explain spatial and geographical variation in executions.

Her other projects investigate the electoral cycle of violence, how the legacies of authoritarian regimes impact violence over time, and how to identify and deter corruption in the health sector. Originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Mariana obtained her undergraduate degree from Fundação Getulio Vargas, where she also obtained a Masters in Public Administration.

Andres Gannon Awarded Hans J. Morgenthau Fellowship

Andres Gannon was recently awarded the [Hans J. Morgenthau Fellowship](#) for 2021-2022 from Notre Dame's International Security Center. Over the course of the year, fellows receive a \$10,000 stipend, travel expenses, accommodations, and will *"discuss their own research in the context of the burgeoning literature on U.S grand strategy, become part of the broader network of junior and senior scholars engaged with these topics, and hone their teaching skills."* In addition to this fellowship, Andres has also been awarded multiple fellowships in recent months:

- Duke America in the World Consortium Postdoc
- Belfer International Security Program (ISP) Postdoc
- NATO Eisenhower Defence Fellowship



ShahBano Ijaz Selected as Member of the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society



ShahBano Ijaz has been selected to be a member of the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. The [Bouchet Graduate Honor Society](#) is a national network of preeminent scholars who exemplify academic and personal excellence, foster environments of support, and serve as examples of scholarship, leadership, character, service, and advocacy for students who have been traditionally underrepresented in the academy. Shahbano and other graduate scholars were also highlighted in a [recent UC San Diego news article](#).

Congratulations for this tremendous achievement and well-deserved recognition of your excellence, ShahBano!

Gabe De Roche Selected to Receive a 2021 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Second year graduate student, Gabe De Roche, has been selected as one of the recipients of the prestigious [National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship](#). There were only 14 recipients of the fellowship, of which Gabe is the only UC-affiliated recipient.

Per his advisor, Professor Tom K. Wong, *"Gabe has put together an impressive research agenda on climate-induced displacement and is poised to lead political scientists in this nascent area of research."*

Please join us in congratulating Gabe on this significant achievement!



Gabe de Roche and Jesus Rojas Venzor in Washington Post's The Monkey Cage



Associate Professor Tom K. Wong and graduate students Gabe de Roche and Jesus Rojas Venzor were highlighted in a [recent article](#) on assessing migrant "surge" at U.S. southern borders.

They share that, *"...in fiscal year 2021, it appears that migrants are continuing to enter the United*

States in the same numbers as in fiscal year 2019 — plus the pent-up demand from people who would have come in fiscal year 2020, but for the pandemic. That's visible in the first figure, earlier, in which the blue trend line for the five months of data available for fiscal year 2021 (October, November, December, January and February) neatly reflects the trend line for fiscal year 2019 — plus the difference between fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2019.

This suggests that Title 42 expulsions delayed prospective migrants rather than deterred them — and they're arriving now. That would be consistent with nearly three decades of research in political science."

Faculty News

Political Scientists React to January 6th Attack on the Capitol

Shortly after the start of the Winter 2021 quarter, people witnessed rioters breaching security and storming into the Washington D.C. Capitol Building on live television, as Congress was in the midst of a session to record the Electoral College votes in the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

In response, faculty were asked to provide their impressions and responses to the incident. Read the write up in the UC San Diego News Center [here](#).



Professor Barbara F. Walter Earns the Susan Strange Award



Professor Barbara Walters, who is a professor of political science at the School of Global Policy and Strategy and an adjunct professor in the Department of Political Science, was awarded the [Susan Strange Award](#) from the International Studies Association.

In the words of Professor and Department Chair Thad Kousser, *"I can't think of another scholar who better meets the criteria of someone whose 'singular intellect, assertiveness, and insight most challenge conventional wisdom and intellectual complacency'! Congrats, Barb, on everything you have done to so richly deserve this!"*

Established in 1998, the award was created to *"recognize Susan Strange for her unique and extraordinary role within the International Studies Association and the worldwide community of scholars. This award recognizes a person whose singular intellect, assertiveness, and insight most challenge conventional wisdom and intellectual and organizational complacency in the international studies community."*

Christina Schneider Wins the 2021 EUSA Best Book Award



Professor Christina Schneider 2019 book, *The Responsive Union: National Elections and European Governance*, was awarded the European Union Studies Association's 2021 EUSA Best Book prize.

The selection committee wrote the following recommendation for the 2021 EUSA Best Book Award:

"Christina J. Schneider's The Responsive Union: National Elections and European Governance (Cambridge University Press, 2019) presents an important account of strategic policymaking and response signaling by the European Union. Schneider skillfully navigates a variety of theoretical suppositions and empirical tests—ranging from carefully-designed conjoint survey experiments to time series analysis of EU budget distribution—to

illustrate how European governments use public commitments in negotiations within the intergovernmental Council of the European Union to signal responsiveness to their electorates.

The book's key insight—that response signaling coincides with national elections—highlights the influential, and often hidden, bargaining environment in international organizations like the EU. Through this engagement, Schneider argues, citizens come to support EU works and how governments use strategic signals of responsiveness to cope with mass demands.

The committee believes this work provides a critical bridge for thinking about public opinion and EU institutions. Against conventional wisdom that the EU has become technocratic and distant from its citizens, this book deftly shows both its enduring political nature and close, if opaque, connections to EU citizens. The book stands out for its parsimonious theorization and high execution of analysis."

Congratulations, Christina!

Appointment of Professor Marisa Abrajano as Provost of Earl Warren College

Beginning on January 1, 2021, Dr. Marisa Abrajano, Professor of Political Science, was appointed Provost of Earl Warren College. In his announcement of Dr. Abrajano's appointment to the campus community, Chancellor Khosla shares, *"In her service as Interim Provost of Warren College since September 2020, Professor Abrajano has been instrumental in guiding the College through the challenges associated with these exceptional times. She has also provided valuable service to the Council of Provosts in her work on establishing review criteria for Senate faculty in the colleges. She represents the colleges as co-chair of the Holistic Teaching Evaluation Implementation Committee."*



Dr. Abrajano joined UC San Diego as an assistant professor in the department of Political Science in 2006. Her research focuses on racial inequities in the US political system and mechanisms for addressing them. She is the author of four books, and has received best book awards for two. Professor Abrajano has published dozens of peer-reviewed articles, review/invited articles and book chapters; many of which appear in leading outlets in the field. Her research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, UC Office of the President, and other funding agencies.

Professor Abrajano has served for several years as co-director of Thurgood Marshall's Dimensions of Culture writing program. She is the immediate past chair of the Committee on Academic Personnel and previously served as CAP vice-chair and as a committee member. She has been co-president for the American Political Science Association's (APSA) section on Race, Ethnicity and Politics, and as co-editor of the section's official journal, The Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Politics. Professor Abrajano has also served as president of APSA's Latino Caucus, and on numerous professional committees.

A UC graduate and first-generation college student, Professor Abrajano is deeply committed to issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. She teaches courses on Latino politics in the US, Race and Politics in the US, DOC 1: Diversity, and the Politics of Immigration. In recognition of these efforts, she was awarded with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Distinguished Teaching Award in 2014. Additionally, she has mentored and advised numerous graduate and undergraduate students through the STARS program, the McNair program and through independent studies and internships.

We are grateful for Professor Abrajano's extraordinary service as Interim Provost, and we look forward to her continued leadership of Warren College."

Professor David Mares Awarded the Alfred Stepan Lifetime Achievement Award in Defense, Public Security, and Democracy

Professor David Mares was recently awarded the **Alfred Stepan Lifetime Achievement Award in Defense, Public Security, and Democracy** by the [Latin American Studies Association](#)'s Section on [Defense, Public Security and Democracy](#).

In the words of Professor and Department Chair Thad Kousser, *“Wonderful recognition for achievements in a career that is still very much in full swing!”*

Congratulations, David!



Contracts and Grants News

Recently Awarded Grants

Sebastian Saiegh, Professor

Title: Democracy, Federalism, and Political Careers in Contemporary Mexico: Towards a Comprehensive Perspective

Awarded by: UC MEXUS

Andres Gannon, Graduate Student

Title: Interstate Security Alignments and the Distribution of Military Capabilities

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.

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