

# POLITICAL SCIENCE

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## What is Political Science?

-Specialists in **comparative politics** analyze power dynamics in communities, states, and regions throughout the world.

-Specialists in **international relations** focus on the power relationships between countries and between citizens and organizations of different countries.

-Specialists in **Public Policy** analyze the processes, structures and outcomes of government policies and policy-making.

-Specialists in **American politics** look at the exercise of power domestically, through American institutions and processes ranging from the state to social movements.

-**Political theorists** address fundamental normative and explanatory assumptions, such as the nature and purpose of the state; who should have power and why; and what would constitute a good society.

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## Newsletter

Editors : Bryan Melcher  
and Kat Carroll  
Faculty: Ruth Groff

## BIG CHANGES IN THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

### *Phyllis Forchee Retiring in June*

After 19 years of keeping everything going in the Political Science Department, our beloved Administrator Phyllis Forchee is retiring. Phyllis has worked with multiple Chairs, beginning with Dr. Leguey-Feilleux through to current Chair Dr. Ellen Carnaghan. Phyllis notes that the department has doubled in size since she started. She has enjoyed seeing students come through, and then move on toward their career goals. “The immediate future will be busy planning for our daughter’s wedding in the fall,” she says. “After that maybe a little bit of travel and then we will just have to see what opportunities appear.” We will miss Phyllis greatly, and wish her all the best.

### *Tim Lomperis Retirement*

Dr. Tim Lomperis will be retiring soon ... stay tuned for more information!

### *Welcome New Faculty*

Dr. Chryl Laird and Dr. Steve Rogers will be joining us this fall. Dr. Laird is cross-appointed with African-American Studies. Stay tuned for feature stories.

### *Promotions!*

Dr. J.D. Bowen and Dr. Ruth Porter Groff have both been awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

Dr. Bowen writes about how political and economic elites respond to the rise of influential social movements led by previously-excluded groups, especially in Latin America. He explores how the language and practices of liberal democracy serve as tools to perpetuate the marginalization of indigenous peoples and others without power. Dr. Bowen also writes about U.S. foreign policy in the region.

Cont.

# DR. ELIAS OPONGO, S.J.

## VISITING SCHOLAR, SPRING 2014

### **Where are you from, Dr. Opongo?**

I'm originally from Kenya, Nairobi. I teach at the Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations. We do a program for economic advocacy and peace-building. I taught at a theology school in Nairobi but I also taught in Rwanda. I'm a Jesuit priest; it's part of our Jesuit university.

I was originally interested in media, so I went to work with Jesuit refugee service in northwestern Tanzania where the Jesuits had a radio station. There I worked with refugees and then developed an interest in peace politics and working with populations after the war.

I then went to Hekima to study theology, and did some work with a UNESCO peace training program. During breaks and long vacations I went to Somalia to train teachers to educate for peace. That was from 1999-2001.

In 2001 I left for Boston College in the Western Jesuit School of Theology to study Social Ethics. My thesis was on refugees and what the contribution of NGO's could be in situations like this. I did a stint at a Mennonite University.

I was sent to Hakimani to do research and social action. While there, I did some teaching at Hakimani college and in Rwanda. After 4 years there, I went to England to the Ph.D program at University of Bradford in England, and then back to Hekima.

### **What has your experience been here at SLU?**

I was able to guest lecture at a number of classes: one in Amber Knight's class on the role of the UN in monetary human rights violation. I did some lectures on literature and English. I did an Atlas Week event, and presented some research on peace and conflict perspectives. The last thing I did was a public lecture on the Rwandan genocide that was hosted by the International Studies department.

I attempted to link up with some other faculty and students to examine collaboration between HIPSIR. Our students usually go on to work with NGO's, civil society, and government. We've had students mainly from Africa, but also Poland, Ireland, and Venezuela.

### **How did you find SLU's pursuit of the Jesuit mission?**

I was very impressed when I saw that SLU was 5<sup>th</sup> in the country for service learning. It's a really great culture of student awareness of social justice issues. People are always talking about the Jesuit mission, and I think that's very positive. When seeking collaboration with another Jesuit university, it's very positive to see people working together and exploring the International Jesuit administration.

# Senior Legacy Presentations

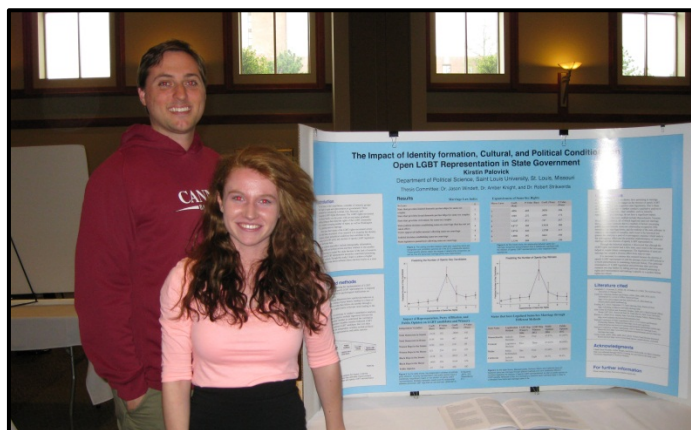


Above, senior Beatrice Abraham with her mentor Dr. Jason Windett, and department chair Ellen Carnaghan. Beatrice's work involved visiting a variety of refugee resettlement programs in Saint Louis and determining their direction.



Above, senior Jesse Doggendorf with his mentor Dr. Wynne Moskop. His work focused on investigating the usage of the legal argument of the Lockean private sphere in advancing the gay agenda of marriage equality and gay civil rights.

Below, senior Kristin Palovick with her mentor Dr. Jason Windett. Her poster was an exploration of factors of LGBT representation in state legislature.



# 2017 ATLAS WEEK

SAM AND MARILYN FOX

EDUCATION: IGNITING THE FLAMES OF CHANGE



SHABANA BASIJ-RASIKH

"Dare to Educate Afghan Girls"

5:30 - 7 p.m.  
THURSDAY,  
APRIL 3

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY  
Wood Grand Ballroom, Busch Student Center

340° Меридиан 0° or 180°  
Или нулевой



МОРЕ

180° 200° 220°

КАРТА МИРА

Масштаб по экватору 1:95 000 000



This year's Atlas Week was, again, an enlightening and extremely entertaining week packed full of events. The Keynote Symposium, Dare to Educate Afghan Girls, was a speech by Shabana Basij-Rasikh about her journey through education and about how influential education can be in changing the lives of girls in Afghanistan and advancing the country as a whole. Shabana visited Marian Middle School and gave the same speech she had at the Symposium, and they had so many questions they did not have the chance to complete their project.

"The keynote was my favorite event mainly because it was so amazing to see a woman our age who was taking so many strides to create education for women. Especially in a country where education for women does not exist, and breaking barriers is so hard." – Caroline Kwan, Atlas Week Intern

Elias Opongo, S.J. visited and gave a lecture "Global Injustices, War and Conflict in Africa: A Transitional Justice Perspective." Dr. Andy Price spoke about "Rights in Humanity: Pioneering the Human Right's Approach". Dr. Jeanne Rueth's gave a lecture called "The Rule of Law in Afghanistan."

There were 18 Political Science events out of 130 events as a whole, which means our department had the most events. Holla! Most of them were planned and organized by Political Science majors and Atlas Week Interns. The Billiken World Festival and a cooking demo of Pakistan healthy cooking were some of the most

# Big Changes, cont.

## Promotions!

Dr. Bowen's research has appeared in *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies* and *Foreign Policy Analysis*. Dr. Bowen is also the Graduate Director for the Department of Political Science.

Dr. Groff mostly writes about how very basic philosophical assumptions affect social and political thought. This means that her work crosses boundaries between (and within) the disciplines of philosophy and social science. Dr. Groff is the author of two books and three edited volumes (one co-edited with John Greco), most recently *Ontology Revisited: Metaphysics in Social and Political Philosophy*, and (ed.) *Subject & Object: Frankfurt School Writings on Ontology and Method*, as well as various articles and book chapters. Dr. Groff will be on leave in the fall of 2014, working on a new book, entitled *A Critical Introduction to Causal Powers and Dispositions*, which will be published by Bloomsbury (2016 release expected). Plans for an edited volume on Marx and metaphysics are also underway.

## Dr. Adam Myers Headed to Providence College

Dr. Adam Meyers, Visiting Assistant Professor, will be joining the Political Science Department at Providence College, in Rhode Island. Dr. Meyers will be teaching courses in American politics and working on a book about federalism and party politics in the New Deal era.

## \*\*\* *Summer Reading Group* \*\*\*

The best way to read (and think) is with company!

Join Dr. Bob Cropf and others in reading and discussing Thomas Picketty's *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, about which Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman said: "This is a book that will change both the way we think about society and the way we do economics?"

If you are interested, contact Dr. Cropf (cropfra@slu.edu). It's a long book (700 pages) and it's ambitious in its scope so he thinks that the group will read 1 or 2 chapters per week. The group will meet at a friendly, conversational place such as a coffee shop that is close to where everyone lives.