



Stony Brook University

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Political Science

Newsletter, Fall 2020

Greetings from the Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences at Stony Brook University. I hope you were able to enjoy some downtime this summer and that you and your family have remained safe and well.

We could all benefit from some good news during these troubled times and I wanted to let you know about recent events in the Department of Political Science and share news of the accomplishments and achievements of our faculty, graduate students and alumni.

We are delighted to welcome two new members to our department. Professor [Ryan Vander Wielen](#) is joining the faculty from Temple University. He specializes in the study of Congress and is currently writing a book about the ways in which FOX news has affected Congressional elections and legislative behavior.

We are also pleased to welcome Senior Researcher [Joseph Vitriol](#), who is joining us from Harvard University. He specializes in political psychology and studies political misinformation, conspiracy theories, legal psychology and racial bias.



Ryan Vander Wielen



Joseph Vitriol

Stony Brook Political Science In the News

Several faculty members have been in the news recently. Professor Yanna Krupnikov spoke with Zack Stanton at Politico about undecided voters, non-voters and the role of the party conventions. You can [read the interview here](#).

Professor Hannah Nam was quoted by Tom Edsall in a recent New York Times opinion column on the role of racial issues in the 2020 presidential election. You can [read the column](#)

here.

Professor Stanley Feldman was also quoted over the summer by Tom Edsall in a New York Times opinion column on the leftward tilt of the American electorate and the growing divide between white Republicans and Democrats on racial issues. [Read the column here.](#)

Professor Helmut Norpoth's prediction for the 2020 election is covered in a recent article in the Stony Brook News. You can [read the story here.](#)

Graduate & Alumni Achievements

Mary-Kate Lizotte (PhD 2009), Associate Professor at Augusta College, recently published *Gender Differences in Public Opinion: Values and Political Consequences*.

GENDER DIFFERENCES
IN PUBLIC OPINION
Values and Political Consequences

Caitlin Davies (PhD 2020) successfully defended her dissertation on factors that enhance and diminish African-American and Latinx loyalty to the Democratic Party. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Missouri State.



Mary-Kate Lizotte

Talbot Andrews (PhD 2020) recently defended her dissertation *Mobilizing Mitigation: Overcoming the Social Dilemma of Climate Change*. She is currently a postdoctoral research associate at Princeton University's Center for the Study of Democratic Politics. You can [read more about her work here.](#)

Michelle Io-Low received the national University of Singapore's Development Grant and the title "Young NUS Fellow." She studies attitudes toward economic inequality. [Read more about her work here.](#)

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE:
2020 Election Forum
Tuesday, October 6, 2020
2:00 pm

Moderator: Professor Leonie Huddy, Chair, Department of Political Science
Presenters from the Department of Political Science: Professors Helmut Norpoth, Stanley Feldman, and Yanna Krupnikov

Please join us for this exciting virtual forum on the 2020 election. Professor Norpoth will discuss the history of presidential election campaigns and explain predictions from his forecasting model. Professor Feldman will consider the effects of a polarized electorate and unique aspects of the 2020 election on its outcome. Professor Krupnikov will consider how levels of political interest, mobilization, and voter turnout will shape the election result. [Click here](#) to register.

We are very proud of our distinguished faculty and the successes of our undergraduate, master's, and PhD students. I do not need to tell you, however, that we face tough times ahead. The coming year will be a challenge on many fronts. As such, the Department of Political Science is participating in Stony Brook's second Giving Day on Thursday, October 8. We hope you will join us during this 24-hour energized giving campaign; our Department depends on our alumni and friends to offer financial support that enhances undergraduate and graduate student research and learning, allows us to recruit excellent students, as well as maintain faculty and student attendance at national and international research conferences. We are especially concerned about providing financial support to undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom will face new obstacles as they pursue their education in the coming years. I hope you'll consider investing in our students and faculty by supporting the Political Science Fund for Excellence on [Giving Day](#), making a gift today or speaking with Christopher Scarpati, Director of Development, at (631) 632-1202 or Christopher.Scarpati@stonybrook.edu.

Please stay in touch and send us updates on your accomplishments.