

Department of Political Science

The [Political Science Department](#) remains one of the country's leading departments. It continues to attract top-quality graduate students and junior faculty, and serves as the home of several important educational and research activities.

Over the last two years, the Political Science Department has begun a very exciting (and at times intense) process of rebuilding. The goal is within the next three to five years to make the department one of the country's top five political science departments, and in the process, to help transform the discipline by showing that analytical and theoretical rigor can go hand in hand with policy relevance and that the field of political science can make significant contributions towards solving the world's great challenges while also advancing the frontiers of knowledge. To achieve these goals, we will need to build upon existing strengths within the department, develop stronger ties to other departments and research initiatives, and invest new resources into the department, both in the short and medium term.

This past year, the department has focused on:

- Strengthening the departments' finances so that we can support a healthy and competitive PhD program and fill all open faculty slots.
- Reviewing and upgrading our graduate and undergraduate programs so that we can offer our students the very best possible education in politics, policy, and the underlying methods required to understand and evaluate competing political positions/policy options.
- Increasing the quantity and quality of scholarly activities occurring within and sponsored by the department in order to enhance both our visibility – within MIT, the discipline, the world – and our intellectual community.
- Changing the norms, or “culture” of the department so that we can create a rich and nurturing intellectual community.
- Building stronger ties to other departments and research centers at MIT by playing a greater role in various policy-related debates on campus and promoting collaborative projects and joint courses with faculty from other units. Strengthening our ties and identification with MIT is key to our return to prominence.

Although we still have a lot of work to do, we have begun making progress on each of these tasks.

Fundraising

Progress has been made on raising funds for our graduate program. Funds from external donors (Andronico Luksic, Jon Borshow, and NIKE, Inc.) were raised to establish three new endowed graduate fellowships in the department. We have also received a gift of \$200,000 from the Korean Development Institute to support graduate students working on issues of industrial policy and/or economic development in Korea and other “late

industrializing” countries, including, but not limited to, China, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Brazil. We received \$250,000 from Li & Fung to support graduate students working on work organization, supply chain efficiencies, and labor standards; \$300,000 from Just Supply Chains Initiative Fund—CREATe—which seeks to explore how best to promote a shared goal of achieving just working conditions, fair competition, and broad adherence to ethical business practices in an open, competitive environment. Banco do Nordeste of Brazil (BNB) provided \$5,250,000 for a BNB–MIT Political Science collaboration to develop training programs, conduct research, and better assess alternative public policies concerning sustainable economic development. We also received a number of smaller gifts (totaling \$90,711) from a variety of donors.

We also received a \$5 million gift from The Stanton Foundation to establish a new, chaired professorship in nuclear security policy studies in the Department of Political Science. The faculty member holding this new professorship will be known as the Frank Stanton Professor in Nuclear Security Policy Studies (“The Stanton Chair”). We will begin to search for a senior scholar to occupy this chair beginning in the summer.

Faculty Searches

We ran three faculty searches this past year, in the areas of American politics, comparative politics, and international relations, in an effort to strengthen both our graduate and undergraduate programs. The American politics search resulted in the appointments of Devin Caughey and Christopher Warshaw as assistant professors. Devin Caughey (PhD, University of California, Berkeley) was chosen because he is a scholar of American political development, that is, the study of the evolution of American political institutions in historical context. Caughey’s research interests not only complement those of others in the American politics section, but they also overlap with several colleagues in the comparative politics group. Christopher Warshaw (PhD, Stanford University; JD Stanford Law School) was chosen because he is a scholar of representative institutions in the United States. He has innovated in the use of public opinion surveys to measure constituent opinions in a variety of legislatures, across a wide variety of issues. In addition, he has a law degree and is qualified to teach classes on constitutional law, which is a major hole in our undergraduate offerings. Finally, his interests in environmental politics provide opportunities for collaboration with other units at the Institute. We are very excited that we were able to successfully recruit two top junior scholars of American Politics into our department.

The comparative politics search yielded five candidates that we invited to the department to present job talks. Unfortunately, the faculty did not feel that any of the candidates truly fit the parameters of the search and therefore did not extend an offer. We will run this search again in the fall.

The international relations senior faculty search had 39 applicants, all of which were well known in the field. We decided to recruit Michael Hiscox from Harvard University because he was the most impressive candidate. Hiscox is currently the Clarence Dillon professor of international affairs at Harvard University. Hiscox’s research focuses on international trade, foreign investment, immigration, development, government accountability, and private sector initiatives and standards for addressing social and

environmental issues in global supply chains. We are still awaiting his decision. Should he decide to remain at Harvard, we will run this search again next year.

Intellectual Commons

We have launched a series of new research-related activities (e.g., Distinguished Speaker Series; Working Group on African Political Economy; Measuring American Democracy) and have continued with our current subfield workshops in American politics, comparative politics, and security studies which, all together, have created a new sense of intellectual energy and excitement within the department.

In conclusion, we have made progress on all the key issues facing the department—issues that we need to address if we are going to achieve our goals.

Educational Initiatives

The department's core mission is education, starting on the MIT campus and extending into the wider world. Fulfillment of that mission is centered on the undergraduate and graduate programs, both of which have established equilibria following reforms of several years ago.

One important development in the graduate program was a revamping of the formal methods sequence, which was spearheaded by professor Jens Hainmueller and others in the methods field, following widespread consultation with faculty and graduate students throughout the department. This involved a new "math boot camp," which was taught for the first time to incoming graduate students during late August 2010, and a rearranging of the three-semester statistics sequence. This required sequence has helped strengthen the new methodological skills of our PhD students.

In addition to its own curriculum, the department organizes a number of internship and other "hands on" experiences, mostly for undergraduates, which allow science and engineering students to engage with policymakers at home and with laboratories and industries abroad.

Although the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) is formally affiliated with the Center for International Studies, almost all of the faculty directors of the country programs are from the Political Science Department, as is the director of MISTI, professor Chappell Lawson. In addition to being an important part of the education of hundreds of MIT students each year, MISTI serves as a model of international education for other colleges and universities with a large number of students in science and engineering.

The minor in applied international studies (AIS) now housed in the department. Many students who participate in the MISTI program also pursue the AIS minor, which is now the third-largest minor at the Institute.

During AY2012, departmental faculty developed new subjects aimed at increasing our undergraduate enrollments. They include 17.33 Building a Better World, taught by Richard Locke and Chappell Lawson, that discusses key policy challenges, including

state-building, economic development, environmental protection, corruption and the rule of law, the provision of basic public services, democratization, the strengthening civil society, and international security; Also 17.28J The War at Home: American Politics and Society in Wartime, taught by Adam Berinsky, which examines the relationship between war and domestic politics in the United States since the start of the 20th century. Professor Fotini Christia also designed 17.583 Conflict and the Graphic Novel, to debut in spring 2013.

The MIT Washington Summer Internship Program continues to allow MIT's technically oriented students to experience how institutions vital to their later success operate, and gives the federal government and other policy makers early access to the best young scientists and engineers in America. Fifteen undergraduates participated in the summer of 2012, representing all of the schools at the Institute. They were placed in the Brookings Institution, Chemonics International, the Congressional Research Service, the Department of the Interior, the House Ways and Means Committee, the Inter-American Development Bank, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Capitol Planning Commission, the Orbital Sciences Corporation, Resources for the Future, the Senate Finance Committee, and Teach For America.

Student Recruitment, Placement, and Enrollment

The department reviewed 438 applications for the PhD program. We accepted 36 applicants, of whom 15 will enroll in fall 2012. The past year was filled with much uncertainty about how the state of the economy would affect applications and admissions, as well as uncertainty about how other competitor departments would be addressing many of these same issues. This year our applicant pool again was weighted heavily toward security studies and comparative politics. We continue to struggle with the number of students who apply in the field of American politics—a subfield in which demand for high-quality PhD-holders vastly outstrips supply.

Our graduating doctoral students continue to garner rewarding and prestigious appointments in academics and industry. Our PhD graduates this year obtained faculty appointments at Boston College, Harvard University, the University of Texas at Austin, Trinity College, and the University of Notre Dame, along with postdoctoral fellowships at Harvard University, Princeton University, the University of Southern California, and the Harvard Academy.

A number of graduate students won prestigious fellowships and awards, among them two National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships, one NSF honorable mention, a Smith Richardson Fellowship, a Truman Library Research grant, and a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

Undergraduate enrollments continued to be comparable to past years. We had 18 majors, 42 concentrators, and 87 minors overall (20 in political science, 6 in public policy, and 61 in applied international studies).

Faculty and Promotions

We are delighted that four faculty members were promoted this year: Fotini Christia to associate professor without tenure; Jens Hainmueller to associate professor with tenure; and Adam Berinsky and Andrea Campbell to the rank of professor.

Awards and Grants

Notable awards, grants, recognitions, and important professional responsibilities given to faculty members during the 2011–2012 academic year include the following:

- Professor Suzanne Berger was honored by having a MISTI prize for outstanding student named after her: the Suzanne Berger Award for Future Global Leaders.
- Professor Andrea Campbell was awarded a Radcliffe Institute Fellowship for 2012–2013. In February 2012 she was awarded a Special Initiative on the Social and Economic Effects of the Great Recession grant from the Russell Sage Foundation for “Dire States: Fiscal Effects and Policy Choices during the Great Recession.”
- Professor Nazli Choucri was appointed to the Science Board of the Santa Fe Institute (complexity research) and to the advisory committee of the International Social Science Council.
- Professor Taylor Fravel was a fellow in the Public Intellectuals Program, supported by the National Committee on United States–China Relations; he was also a research associate at the National Asia Research Program organized by the National Bureau of Asian Research in partnership with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.
- Professor Jens Hainmueller received the Robert H. Durr Award for the best paper applying quantitative methods to a substantive problem in political science by the Midwest Political Science Association. He was the winner of the American Political Science Association’s (APSA) Labor Project Best Paper Award for the best paper on the study of labor in politics.
- Professor Richard Locke was awarded grants from the Center for Responsible Enterprise and Trade (CREATe), the Korean Development Institute/World Bank Institute, and Li & Fung.
- Professor Roger Petersen was awarded the Association for the Study of Nationalities’ Joseph Rothschild Prize in Nationalism and Ethnic Studies for *Western Intervention in the Balkans*. His proposal “Remote Sensing and Indicators of Well-Being and Governance” (Proposal No. 11-934) received \$215,000 in funding from Draper Laboratories.
- Professor Barry Posen received funding from the Frankel Family Foundation for the Security Studies Program’s policy education and outreach; he also received funding from the Stanton Foundation for two to three visiting pre- and postdoc nuclear weapons policy fellows and he was awarded a one million dollar grant from the Carnegie Corporation over three years.

- Professor Daniel Posner served on the editorial committees of *Annual Review of Political Science*, *World Politics*, and *PS: Political Science and Politics*. He chaired the APSA Best Article award committee in the Comparative Democratization section.
- Professor Ben Ross Schneider was awarded an Inter-American Development Bank project on business-government relations in industrial policy. He was also awarded an Institute for Applied Economic Research project to investigate new forms of state intervention in the economy to promote development in Brazil.
- Professor Charles Stewart III was honored with an Infinite Mile Award from the Dean for Student Life for his service on the House Dining Advisory Group. He was also the recipient of a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts for “Measuring Elections Performance Project.”
- Professor Edward Steinfeld was awarded a Department of Defense–sponsored Minerva Research Initiative grant.
- Professor Kathleen Thelen was an Appointed Research Fellow at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin (Science Center, Berlin) from 2012 to 2014; she served as president of the Comparative Politics section of APSA.
- Professor Lily Tsai served on the Fieldwork award committee for APSA’s Comparative Democratization section.
- Professor Stephen Van Evera served as the chair and organizer of the Tobin Project’s National Security initiative, and is a member of the executive committee of the APSA section on Qualitative and Multi-Method Research.

Faculty Leaves, Departures, and Visitors

Professors Christia, Kenneth Oye, and Richard Samuels were on leave for the 2011–2012 academic year. Professor Melissa Nobles was on leave for the fall semester.

Professor Vipin Narang left MIT for personal reason. He accepted a position as assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin.

Professor Lucas Stanczyk taught 17.01J Justice in the fall and spring semesters as a visiting instructor. Carlos Diaz taught 17.20 Introduction to the American Political Process in the spring semester as a visiting instructor.

Faculty Research and Publications

The faculty of the Department of Political Science is prolific in its publication activity across a variety of topics. The faculty’s research is funded through a combination of outside grants and internal Institute funds.

The following is a representative sampling of faculty publications over the past year.

Professor Campbell published “Policy Makes Mass Politics” in the *Annual Review of Political Science*, 15 (2012); 333–51; “Policy Feedbacks and the Impact of Policy Designs on Public Opinion” in *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 36(6): 961–73; and “Down the Insurance Rabbit Hole,” an op-ed piece for the *New York Times*, April 4, 2012.

Professor Choucri authored *Cyberpolitics in International Relations* (MIT Press, forthcoming); “Cyberpolitics in International Relations,” “Environmentalism in International Relations,” and “Environmentalism in Comparative Politics,” all in the *Oxford Companion to International Politics* (Joel Krieger, ed., forthcoming). He coauthored with Toufic Mezher and Daniel Goldsmith “Renewable Energy in Abu Dhabi: Opportunities and Challenges” in *Journal of Energy Engineering*, December 2011: 169–176; and coauthored with Daniel Goldsmith “Lost in Cyberspace: Harnessing the Internet, International Relations and Global Security” in *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 2012: 68(2) 70–77.

Professor Hainmueller published “Entropy Balancing: A Multivariate Reweighting Method to Produce Balanced Samples in Observational Studies” in *Political Analysis*, 20(1): 25–46, 2012; he coauthored with Michael Hiscox “Voter Attitudes towards High- and Low-Skilled Immigrants: Evidence from Survey Experiments” in *Immigration and Public Opinion in Liberal Democracies* (G. P. Freeman, R. Hansen, D. L. Leal, eds., Routledge Research in Comparative Politics series, forthcoming). His article, coauthored with Dominik Hangartner, “Who Gets a Swiss Passport? A Natural Experiment in Immigrant Discrimination” has been accepted for publication in *American Political Science Review*.

Professor Locke authored *Beyond Compliance: Promoting Labor Justice in a Global Economy* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming); coauthored with Ben Rissing and Timea Pal “Complements or Substitutes? Public vs. Private Regulation and the Enforcement of Labor Standards in Global Supply Chains” for the 50th anniversary issue of *The British Journal of Industrial Relations* (forthcoming); coauthored with Greg Distelhorst, Timea Pal, and Hiram Samel “Production Goes Global, Standards Stay Local: Private Labor Regulation in the Global Electronics Industry” under review for *Regulation & Governance*; and coauthored with Hiram Samel “Looking in The Wrong Places?: Labor Standards and Upstream Business Practices in the Global Electronics Industry” under review for *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*.

Professor Narang authored *Posturing for Peace?: The Sources and Deterrence Consequences of Regional Power Nuclear Postures* (draft manuscript in progress); “Detering Unequally: Regional Power, Nuclear Postures, and International Conflict” in *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (forthcoming); “India’s Evolving Security Strategy” in *The Handbook of Indian Politics* (Atul Kohli and Prerna Singh, eds., Routledge, forthcoming); and coauthored with Paul Staniland “Institutions and Worldviews in Indian Security and Foreign Policy” in *India Review* (April 2012).

Professor Nobles coedited with Jun-Hyeok Kwak of Korea University *Historical Reconciliation and Inherited Responsibility in East Asia*, and will coauthor the introduction and conclusion and be the soleauthor for one chapter (accepted for publication).

Professor Petersen published *Western Intervention in the Balkans: The Strategic Use of Emotion in Conflict* in the series *Cambridge Studies in Comparative Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2011); authored “Identity, Rationality, and Emotion in the Processes of State Disintegration and Reconstruction” in *Constructivist Theories of Ethnic Politics*

(Kanchan Chandra, ed., Oxford University Press, forthcoming); and “Guilt, Shame, Balts, Jews,” forthcoming in a volume that will be part of the Divided Memories and Reconciliation project of the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center at Stanford University.

Professor Schneider published with Sebastian Karcher “Business Politics in Latin America: Investigating Structure, Preferences, and Influence” in *Handbook of Latin American Politics* (Routledge, 2012). He authored “Contrasting Capitalisms: Latin America in Comparative Perspective” in *Latin American Political Economy* (Javier Santiso and Jeff Dayton-Johnson, eds., Oxford University Press, 2012) and coauthored with Alejandra Mizala “The Political Economy of Regulating Private Provision of Education in Chile” in *The Politics of Non-State Social Welfare in the Global South* (Melani Cammett and Lauren MacLean, eds., forthcoming).

Professor Steinfeld authored “Scale Up Nation: The Political Economy of Chinese Industrialization,” 2012 (under review at *World Politics*); and “Private Sector Development: An Alternative Target for Industrial Policy in Vietnam?” a working paper prepared for a Korean Development Institute/World Bank Institute project (March 2012).

Professor Stewart authored “Fighting for the Speakership” (forthcoming, fall 2012).

Professor Thelen published “Varieties of Capitalism: Trajectories of Liberalization and the New Politics of Social Solidarity” in *Annual review of Political Science* (May 2012); “Duale Ausbildung und Personalpolitik: So geich und doch so fremd? Eine vergleichende Untersuchung im Industriesektor zwischen Deutschland und der Schweiz” in *Die Betriebswirtschaft*, vol. 3, no. 11 (Mai/Juni 2012).

Professor Yamamoto published, with Kosuke Imai and Dustin Tingley, “Experimental Designs for Identifying Causal Mechanisms” in the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, series A, (forthcoming), read before the Royal Statistical Society on March 14, 2012, and “Understanding the Past: Statistical Analysis of Causal Attribution” in the *American Journal of Political Science* (2012), 56(1), 237-256.

Institute Service

An important aspect of academic life is contributing to the educational commons through service to the Institute. Members of the Department of Political Science have historically been significant contributors to these efforts across the Institute. The following is a sample of the contributions that political science faculty made to Institute enterprises in 2011–2012:

Professor Berger chaired the Comparative Politics search committee; she was a member of the selection committee for Global Seed Funds, a member of the Empowering the Teachers (Nigeria) planning and organization committee, and chair of the MIT-France board of advisors.

Professor Berinsky was director of the MIT Political Experiments Research Lab and served on the Committee on the Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects the Edgerton Faculty Achievement Award Selection Committee.

Professor Campbell was a member of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program's subcommittee on the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) Requirement and a member of Edgerton Faculty Achievement Award Selection Committee. She also served as head of the American Politics group.

Professor Choucri served on the graduate program committee. She is also the associate director of the Technology and Development Program as well as the director of the Middle East Program.

Professor Fravel served on the Committee on the Undergraduate Program, the Security Studies search committee, and the Institute Distinguished Fellowship Committee.

Professor Hainmueller served as the faculty organizer for the MIT/Harvard Positive Political Economy workshop and the Friday Political Economy Breakfasts. He also served on the ad hoc Committee on Statistics and its Applications at MIT.

Professor Locke currently serves as department head; he is co-director of the MIT-Brazil Program, a member of the Faculty Policy Committee, a member of the Distinguished Fellowship Committee, and served on the Presidential Search Committee.

Professor Narang served on the International Relations search committee.

Professor Nobles served as the HASS representative on the Committee for Gender Equity; she was a member of the Student Support Services advisory committee, and served as head of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program.

Professor Petersen served as chair of the graduate program committee and chaired the International Relations search committee.

Professor Posen served as the chair of the Security Studies senior search committee and as director of the Security Studies Program.

Professor Schneider served as co-director of the MIT-Brazil Program; co-director of MIT-Chile; and as a member of the graduate program committee; he served as placement advisor for graduate students on the job market; a member of the International Relations search committee; a member of the promotion committee for Adam Berinsky; and an advisor for the restructuring of the minor in applied international studies.

Professor David Singer served as associate housemaster for MacGregor House and was a member of the Committee on Student Life.

Professor Steinfeld served as chairman of the Comparative Politics subfield and chair of the graduate admissions committee; director of MIT-China Program; member of the MIT-China Strategy Group; member MIT study group on Production in the Innovation Economy.

Professor Stewart was housemaster of McCormick Hall; and faculty director of the MIT Washington Summer Internship Program.

Professor Thelen served on the graduate program committee and the Independent Activities Period committee.

Professor Van Evera was acting director of the Center for International Studies and served on the Political Science graduate admissions committee, the senior International Relations “target of opportunity” search committee, and the senior International Relations non-security search committee.

Richard M. Locke
Department Head
Class of 1922 Professor of Political Science and Management