Department of Political Science

The MIT Political Science Department remains one of the country’s leading departments. It continues to attract top-quality graduate students and faculty and serves as the home of several important educational and research activities.

The department has nearly completed a 10-year process of faculty rebuilding. With the exception of a postponed search to replace faculty members in comparative politics, all of our faculty slots are now occupied. We continue to take steps to strengthen the graduate program, to develop stronger ties with other departments and research initiatives at MIT (including the new MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing), and to foster the research creativity and productivity of our faculty.

This past year, the department focused on:

- Maintaining and strengthening our finances so that we can support a healthy and competitive PhD program and hire to fill all remaining faculty slots
- Recruiting new faculty to fill vacant slots in international relations/security studies and comparative politics
- 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, and the world) and our intellectual community
- Fostering norms of respect, support, and inclusion to sustain a rich and nurturing intellectual community
- Building ties with the emerging MIT Schwarzman College of Computing and exploring possibilities for joint faculty hires

Fundraising

We must continue to make progress on raising funds for our graduate program in order to reach our goal of admitting 13 to 15 students every year. Although permanent fellowship funds from external donors (Andronico Luksic, Jon Borschow, Nike Inc.) have gone a long way toward establishing three endowed graduate fellowships, we still have a major gap. We are working hard to close this gap. PhD alumnus Jesse White recently established a fund for graduate student support, and we continue to strengthen our ties with him.

Faculty Searches and Diversity Initiatives

In AY2020, we undertook a junior faculty search in international relations. We invited four candidates to give job talks and hired two of these individuals. Mariya Grinberg, a PhD graduate from the University of Chicago and currently a postdoctoral associate at Stanford University, and Erik Lin-Greenberg, a PhD graduate from Columbia University and currently an assistant professor at American University (and an alumnus of MIT’s undergraduate program), were both offered positions and accepted. Lin-Greenberg will start in fall 2020, and Grinberg will start in fall 2021 after she completes postdoctoral
work at Dartmouth College. We conducted another junior faculty search in the field of comparative politics, looking to fill two positions. We invited six candidates to campus and offered positions to two of them; unfortunately, however, neither accepted owing to personal reasons.

Along with attracting qualified underrepresented minority (URM) candidates to the department through our regular faculty search process, we participate in the Diversity Predoctoral Fellowship program, which is sponsored by the provost and the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS). In AY2020 we were fortunate to host two scholars participating in this program, Lucas de Abreu Maia (from the University of California at San Diego) and Andrew Thompson (from Northwestern University). In addition, Professor Ariel White and PhD student Joan Joseph publicized our program at the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute, an academic program for top URM undergraduates interested in political science careers.

**Intellectual Commons**

We continue to support a series of research-related activities, including the Political Experiments Research Lab; the Seminar on the State and Capitalism since 1800; the International Political Economy Speaker Series; the Security Studies Working Group and Program Seminars; the Latin Americanists Working Group, the Political Methodology Research Workshops and Speaker Series; the Poverty, Violence, and Development Working Group; the Boston/Cambridge Election Science Group; the graduate student Work-in-Progress Group; and the Comparative Politics Speaker Series. These seminars and workshops all create a sense of intellectual energy and excitement within the department.

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) continues to be a critical resource for graduate students and the department alike. The GSC serves as a platform for student programming and a forum for student concerns. The council runs a student-to-student mentor program, organizes social events, and co-sponsors (with the department) an annual dinner for female graduate students and faculty. In a time of extreme disruption and anxiety due to COVID-19 and widespread unrest in the nation over issues of race, the GSC has been a vocal advocate for students and an important liaison among students, faculty, and staff. In late April, the council sponsored a survey about graduate student well-being and adaptation during the COVID-19 crisis and shared the findings with students and faculty members.

The Political Methodology Lab, the MIT Governance Lab, and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab continue to grow in personnel and scope. Several faculty members, including Suzanne Berger, Chappell Lawson (faculty director), Richard Samuels, Benjamin Schneider, and Kathleen Thelen, continue to play a major role in the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) program.

The department increased its engagement with the new MIT Schwarzman College of Computing. Professors Devin Caughey, In Song Kim, Lily Tsai, and Bernardo Zacka joined advisory committees to address the social and ethical responsibilities of computing and the “common ground” curriculum, while Professor David Singer initiated a series of discussions with Dean Daniel Huttenlocher on the parameters of a possible joint hire. Professor Kim and Professors Adam Berinsky, Nazli Choucri, Fotini Christia, Richard
Nielsen, Charles Stewart, and Teppei Yamamoto continue their work as affiliate faculty members of the Institute for Data, Systems, and Society (IDSS)—now a key operating unit of the MIT Schwarzman College of Computing—while Professor Kenneth Oye is a core faculty member. Singer and Professor Munther Dahler (IDSS) submitted a proposal to Dean Huttenlocher for a hiring cluster in computational social science.

We also hosted several discipline-wide events to help increase our visibility in the profession, including the Political Methodology Society’s annual conference in July 2019. Our annual American Politics and Political Behavior of Development conferences have become popular events that enhance our intellectual commons and provide opportunities and exposure for our junior faculty and graduate students.

**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 the reforms of several years ago.

After steady improvements to the graduate program, we have achieved a state of equilibrium; we are consistently offering our graduate students the courses they need to make progress in their program and compete in the job market. Our political methodology classes continue to attract students from other MIT departments as well as from Harvard University. When classes went online in spring 2020, we prioritized keeping our students on track academically, and the vast majority completed their coursework and held their colloquia, second-year paper, and thesis defenses on time.

On the undergraduate front, and in anticipation of the 2020 election, we offered additional sections of 17.263 Electoral Politics, including a new special topics course (17.S918 Elections by the Numbers) taught by elections specialist Charles Stewart (this course will be offered in fall 2020 to coincide with the national election). New undergraduate administrator/lecturer Katherine Hoss offered 17.03 Introduction to Political Thought in the fall and will continue to do so, adding to what we are able to offer in political theory. Lastly, Benjamin Schneider developed and taught a special topics course, 17.S919 Education, Politics, and Poverty, that has been approved by the undergraduate committee to be a standard departmental offering.

In addition to its own curriculum, the department is home to a number of internship and other “hands-on” experiences, mostly for undergraduates. These activities allow science and engineering students to engage with policymakers at home and with laboratories and industries abroad. Two worth highlighting here are MISTI and the MIT Washington Summer Internship Program.

Although MISTI is formally affiliated with the Center for International Studies, almost all of the faculty directors of the country programs are from the Department of Political Science, 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 among other colleges and universities with a large number of students in science and engineering.
The MIT Washington Summer Internship Program continues to provide MIT’s technically oriented students opportunities to work in government agencies, advocacy groups, corporations, and legislative and executive offices. It also provides the federal government and other policymakers early access to the best young scientists and engineers in America. Sixteen undergraduates from three of the Institute’s five schools (School of Engineering, School of Science, School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences) were chosen to participate in summer 2020. The program was unable to host its spring break trip due to COVID-19 travel restrictions; the money saved was used to fund two additional internships. Student placements included Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), the World Bank Group, The Economist, New America, the Government Accountability Office, Secure World Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Nuclear Energy Institute, and the American Public Health Association. The program focused on a branding campaign this spring, developing a logo and a website that will launch at the end of summer 2020.

In addition, every summer and academic year, faculty members from the department work with 10 to 15 students through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) on projects such as big data and machine learning, data initiatives in election science, and innovation in citizen engagement and government responsiveness. In anticipation of additional need for UROP work, as many students lost their summer opportunities due to COVID-19 restrictions, the undergraduate committee was able to secure an additional seven UROP placements for summer 2020.

**Student Recruitment, Placement, and Enrollment**

The department reviewed 358 applications for the PhD program, down about 7% from last year. In 2019, 14 of the 33 students admitted accepted our offer, two more than our ideal cohort of 12. In 2020, 13 of the 32 students admitted accepted our offer, which put us one above target. Of the 13 students who accepted, more than half (seven) were women. This year the number of underrepresented minority applicants was 24, slightly down from 27 in 2019 but 33% above the 2018 total. For the third consecutive year, we successfully recruited a URM admit, a trend we hope to continue to build upon.

Our graduating doctoral students continue to garner rewarding and prestigious appointments in higher education and industry. In 2020, our PhD graduates secured faculty appointments at the US Naval Academy, the University of Haifa, Pontifica Universidad Catolica, and Vanderbilt University, as well as postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Chicago, Hebrew University, the Brookings Institution, Stanford University, the RAND Corporation, New York University Abu Dhabi, and the European University Institute.

In AY2020, our undergraduate enrollment was 803, up from 766 the previous year. The number of undergraduate political science majors was 13, slightly up from last year. We have 141 concentrators (in all graduation years), up from 137 last year, and 45 minors, down from 48 last year (21 in political science, 20 in public policy, and four in applied international studies).
**Faculty and Promotions**

We are delighted to report that this year Devin Caughey and Richard Nielsen were promoted to associate professor with tenure. In addition, Ariel White was promoted to associate professor without tenure.

**Awards and Grants**

Notable awards, grants, recognitions, and important professional responsibilities given to faculty members during AY2020 include the following.

Arthur and Ruth Sloan Professor Andrea Campbell served as the Kluge Chair in American Law and Governance in the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress in fall 2019.

Silverman (1968) Family Career Development Associate Professor Devin Caughey received an Allan Sharlin Book Award honorable mention for his book *The Unsolid South*.

Professor Volha Charnysh jointly received a John Templeton Foundation Grant ($15,000) with Konstantinos Matakos of King's College London.

Professor Fotini Christia renewed (for an additional $100,000) her Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency grant (Decision Making via Hierarchy of Network Games: Algorithms, Game Theory, Artificial Intelligence, and Learning).

Professor M. Taylor Fravel was awarded a grant from the Greater China Innovation Fund.

Class of 1956 Career Development Associate Professor In Song Kim received a MISTI Global Seed Fund grant, a Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Authority Grant, a d’Arbeloff Fund for Excellence in Education award, and a subaward from the Center for Global Partnership of the Japan Foundation.

Total Professor of Political Science and Contemporary Africa Evan Lieberman served as a fellow with the Boundaries, Belonging, and Membership Program of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research; he also received a Digital Humanities/Mellon Foundation Faculty Fellowship to develop digital game simulations for the 17.571 Engineering Democratic Development in Contemporary Africa online course.

Instructor Asya Magazinnik was awarded a National Science Foundation dissertation improvement grant ($17,509) and (with Michael Hankinson) a Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Authority Grant ($48,159).

Associate Professor Vipin Narang served as a nonresident scholar with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, received the International Studies Association Emerging Scholar Award, and received support from the George Adaniya Nuclear Outreach Fund.

Professor Kenneth Oye received a National Institutes of Health subaward with Harry Selker of Tufts University.
A gift was made in honor of Arthur and Ruth Sloan Professor Roger Petersen to establish the new Security Studies Program Graduate Student Enhancement Fund.

Ford International Professor Richard Samuels served as the Albert Einstein Visiting Fellow at the Free University of Berlin. His book *Special Duty: A History of the Japanese Intelligence Community* was named to the Best of Books 2019 list by *Foreign Affairs*.

Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor Charles Stewart III was awarded grants on election auditing and redistricting from the Democracy Fund and the National Science Foundation.

Ford Professor Kathleen Thelen received the Aaron Wildavsky Enduring Contribution Award for *A Theory of Gradual Institutional Change* (with James Mahoney), the Michael Endres Research Prize from the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, and the Friedrich Schiedel Award for Politics and Technology from the Technical University Bavarian School of Public Policy.

Associate Professor Lily Tsai received program support from a Gates Foundation grant in addition to 10 other active grants.

Silverman (1968) Family Career Development Assistant Professor Ariel White was co-awarded an Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab project grant ($174,636).

Assistant Professor Bernardo Zacka was awarded two research fellowships (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin and Balliol College, Oxford) and one visiting professorship (University of Aalborg, Denmark) for AY2021.

**Faculty Leaves, Departures, and Visitors**

Professors Campbell and Yamamoto were on leave all year. Professors Choucri and Zacka were on leave during the fall semester, and Professor Stephen Van Evera and Professor Tsai were on leave during the spring.

**Faculty Research and Publications**

The faculty of the Department of Political Science are prolific in their 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 research and publications over the past year.

Mitsui Professor Adam Berinsky served as editor for the third edition of *New Directions in Public Opinion*, wrote two book chapters, and authored and/or co-authored five articles including “Persuading the Enemy: Estimating the Persuasive Effects of Partisan Media with the Preference-Incorporating Choice and Assignment Design” (*American Political Science Review*) and “Mistrust in Science—A Threat to the Patient–Physician Relationship” (*New England Journal of Medicine*). He shared his expertise on political misinformation with the Department of Homeland Security’s Science and Technology Directorate, and served as an academic affiliate with the Office of Evaluation Sciences at the US General Services Association. Professor Berinsky served on two editorial boards, as a reviewer for 12 journals, and as editor of the Chicago Studies in American Politics book series.
Professor Campbell served on the team authoring the textbook *We the People*, contributing supplementary material on the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020 for instructors. She co-authored two articles and one book chapter and shared her expertise at five different roundtables and conferences, including as a discussant at the University of Toronto’s political development conference. She reviewed book manuscripts and articles for seven publishers and journals and served on five editorial boards.

Professor Caughey co-authored two articles, including “Policy and Performance in the New Deal Realignment: Evidence from Old Data and New Methods” (*Journal of Politics*), and presented research at three different seminars and conferences.

Professor Charnysh served as a reviewer for eight journals, wrote one book review, and presented her research at 12 different seminars, workshops, and conferences, including “Migration, Diversity, and Economic Development: How Post-WWII Population Transfers Remade Europe” for the Networks and Time Workshop at Columbia University and King’s College London.

Professor Choucri co-authored the book *International Relations in the Cyber Age: The Co-Evolution Dilemma*. She shared her expertise at eight difference talks and conferences and served on four boards of directors. In addition, she was a member of the editorial board for the *American Political Science Review* and served on the Boston Tech Hub Faculty Working Group, chaired by Ash Carter, at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

Professor Christia co-authored five working papers; two articles, including “Tehran Paints Over Its Antiamerican Murals” (*Foreign Policy*); and the book chapter “Syrian Refugee Integration in Turkey: Evidence from Call Detail Records” (in *Guide to Mobile Data Analytics in Refugee Scenarios*). She shared her expertise at 14 different book talks, seminars, and conferences, including “Prospects for Refugee Return in North Syria: Evidence from Social Media” at Harvard University. She served as a reviewer for six publishers and an American Political Science Association (APSA) section board, and she was a research affiliate for the EGAP (Evidence in Governance and Politics) Community Policing Metaketa steering committee.

Professor Fravel published the Japanese version of his 2008 *Strong Borders, Secure Nation: Cooperation and Conflict in China’s Territorial Disputes*. Also, he published the article “China’s ‘World-Class’ Military Ambitions: Origins and Implications” (*The Washington Quarterly*) and co-authored “Dangerous Confidence: Chinese Views of Nuclear Escalation” (*International Security*). In addition, he co-authored one book chapter and three op-eds. He presented at nine book talks for his recent book *Active Defense: China’s Military Strategy Since 1949* along with three seminars and the Consul’s General Briefing at MIT on China’s military strategy. He continues service on several national platforms, including the National Asian Research Program Advisory Council, the Maritime Awareness Project, and the board of directors of the National Committee on US-China Relations. Professor Fravel is an editorial board member and reviewer for numerous publications.

Professor Kim published three articles including “The Effects of Political Institutions on the Extensive and Intensive Margins of Trade” (*International Organization*) and “Measuring Trade Profile with Granular Product-level Trade Data” (*American Journal of Political Science*).
Science). Professor Kim developed four new open-source software packages for academic research: PanelMatch (methods for causal inference with time-series cross-sectional data), wfe (weighted linear fixed-effects regression models for panel data analysis), polnet (statistical analysis of political networks), and Concordance (concordance utilities for international trade research). He served as a reviewer for five journals.

Professor Lawson shared his research at two conferences, including “The Effectiveness of a Quasi-Voluntary Regime: Cybersecurity for U.S. Critical Infrastructure” at the APSA annual conference in Washington, DC.

Professor Lieberman wrote a book chapter titled “Research Cycles” (in The Production of Knowledge) and published three articles. He shared his expertise at six different conferences and presentations, including “The Political Economy of Dignity” for meetings at APSA and “Validated Participation Promotes Self-Efficacy and Citizen Engagement in Development” at meetings of the African Studies Association in Washington, DC. Professor Lieberman served on two editorial boards, as a reviewer for various journals, and as vice president for the board of directors of the Friends of the Legal Resources Centre of South Africa, a human rights and public interest law firm.

Instructor Magazinnik co-published two articles including “At-Large Elections and Minority Representation in Local Government” (American Journal of Political Science). She shared her expertise at four conferences, including the talk “What Can We Learn About Preferences from Conjoint Experiments?” for an applied statistics seminar at Harvard University. She also served as a reviewer for three different journals.

Professor Narang presented at nine different seminars, including “North Korean Nuclear Crisis” at the Korean National Diplomatic Academy and “The Third Nuclear Age” at Princeton University. He continued his frequent presence in the media, wrote the book chapter “Nuclear Deterrence in the India-China Dyad” (in The China-India Rivalry in the Globalization Era), co-authored “North Korea: Risks of Escalation” (Survival), and published “Is a New Nuclear Age Upon Us?” (Foreign Affairs). He also served as a reviewer for 15 different publishers.

Professor Nielsen published or co-published four articles including “Women’s Authority in Patriarchal Social Movements: The Case of Female Salafi Preachers” (American Journal of Political Science). In addition, he published two book chapters, shared his research (“Did Killing Bin Laden Make His Ideas More Popular?”) at the Sorenson Impact Center, and served as a reviewer for 11 journals.

Professor Oye shared his expertise at nine different conferences, roundtables, and meetings, including moderating On Security Implications of COVID-19 for Seminar XXI and On Governing Risks of Emerging and Converging Technologies for an International Risk Governance Council conference in Lausanne, Switzerland. Also, he co-published the working paper “Designing Institutions and Processes to Enable Cross-disciplinary Cooperation on Societal Aspects of Biological Research.”

Professor Petersen authored the article “Anger and Politics” (Emotion Researcher); shared his expertise at five speaking events, including “The Balkans Region: Old and New
Challenges” at the Conference on Security Challenges in the Balkans; and served as a reviewer for numerous journals and presses.

Ford International Professor Barry Posen authored two op-eds, including “Do Pandemics Promote Peace? Why Sickness Slows the March to War” (*Foreign Affairs*). In addition, he shared his expertise as a panelist on *The Whole Truth* and the MIT-France Program’s Normandy in WWI introductory talk seminar. He participated in an MIT alumni cruise, giving three lectures, as well as presenting to the Institute for Strategic Research, Ministry of Defense in Paris.

Professor Samuels published the book *Special Duty: A History of the Japanese Intelligence Community*. In addition, he co-authored three book chapters and two book reviews and spoke at nine book talks around the world, including for the Japan Society of New York and the Social Science Research Council. He shared his expertise at several other events, including a National Intelligence Council briefing in Washington, DC, and gave the keynote speech at the Hamilton-Lugar Center’s conference at Indiana University. He served as a reviewer for six publishers.

Ford International Professor Benjamin R. Schneider co-authored two book chapters and two articles, including “Business and Development: How Organization, Ownership, and Networks Matter” (*Review of International Political Economy*), and presented at two seminars around the globe. He served as a reviewer for seven different journals, consulted for the United Nations Development Programme flagship publication on economic concentration and inequality in Latin America, and was a co-editor for the Cambridge University Press Elements series on the politics of development.

Professor Singer co-authored the book *Banks on the Brink: Global Capital, Securities Markets, and the Political Roots of Financial Crises* with Mark Copelovitch.

Professor Stewart co-authored a book chapter and four articles, including “Waiting to Vote in the 2016 Presidential Election: Evidence from a Multi-County Study” (*Political Research Quarterly*). He shared his expertise at the Parthemos Lecture for the University of Georgia, and was a consultant to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Professor Thelen co-authored three articles, including “Are We All Amazon Primed? Consumers and the Politics of Platform Power” (*Comparative Political Studies*), as well as an op-ed in the *Washington Post*. Thelen gave a number of different talks, including “Employer Organization and the Law: American Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective” at the Yale Law School and “Vocational Education and Training for the 21st Century” at a meeting of the MIT Task Force on the Work of the Future.

Professor Tsai shared her expertise at five different talks and seminars, including “China as a Development Model” at Duke University, and spoke on the topic “Is Representative Democracy Dead in the Digital Era?” She co-authored six articles including “Building Trust and Cooperation in Weak States: Persuasion and Source Accountability in Liberia during the 2014–2015 Ebola Crisis” (*Comparative Political Studies*) along with five working papers and briefs.
Professor White shared her research at five conferences and seminars, including “Off the Clock? Linking Police Officers’ Social Media Behavior to Their Work Behavior” at Princeton University’s conference on policing and “More Money, More Turnout? Minimum Wage Increases and Voting” at the University of Oxford. In addition, she wrote an op-ed, “Jails Disenfranchise Thousands Who Have a Constitutional Right to Vote,” in USA Today. She reviewed 22 articles for 14 different journals.

Alfred Henry and Jean Morrison Hayes Career Development Associate Professor Teppei Yamamoto co-published four articles including “Persuading the Enemy: Estimating the Persuasive Effects of Partisan Media with the Preference-Incorporating Choice and Assignment Design” (American Political Science Review). He also gave five talks, including “Causal Mediation and Effect Modification: A Unified Framework” at APSA’s annual meeting in Washington, DC, and “Tracing Causal Paths from Experimental and Observational Data” at the Society for Political Methodology’s annual meeting in Cambridge. He is a member of the editorial board of the American Journal of Political Science, as well as two other editorial boards, and reviewed for various journals.

Professor Zacka co-edited the book Political Theory and Architecture with Duncan Bell, published one article, co-authored “Political Theory in an Ethnographic Key” (American Political Science Review), and published the op-ed “Ode to the Humble Balcony” (New York Times). He shared his expertise at five conferences and workshops, including “Political Theory with an Ethnographic Sensibility” at Princeton University. He served as a referee for 10 journals.

**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. The following is a sample of the contributions that political science faculty made to Institute enterprises in AY2020.

Professor Berinsky served as director of the Political Experiments Research Lab, as a member of the Committee on the Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects (COUHES), as head of Ashdown House, and as a member of the department’s admissions and tenure review committees.

Professor Campbell served on the Institute’s Faculty Complaint Review Panel.

Professor Caughey served on a faculty search committee.

Professor Charnysh served on the department’s admissions committee and co-taught a new class with Professor Lieberman, 17.506 Ethnic Politics.

Professor Choucri served on the department’s undergraduate program committee.

Professor Christia was a co-advisor for two IDSS PhD students. She served as the department’s director of graduate studies, on a faculty promotion committee, and as faculty advisor to the Global Diversity Lab. She also served on five major Institute committees, including the Ad Hoc Committee on Guidelines for Outside Engagements, the International Advisory Committee, and the College of Computing Committee on Broadening IDSS in the Social Sciences, Humanities, and the Arts.
Professor Fravel served as director of the Security Studies Program, on the Institute’s Presidential Committee on Distinguished Fellowships, on the Seminar XXI executive board, and as the graduate program chair.

Professor F. Daniel Hidalgo served on a department tenure committee and as academic director for the MIT Governance Lab.

Professor Kim served on a department faculty search committee and as the Institute’s faculty representative to the Harvard-MIT Data Center.

Professor Lawson was director of MISTI and the International Policy Lab. Also, he served on the Institute’s Gift Processes Committee and the Committee on Guidelines for Outside Engagements.

Professor Lieberman co-convened the department’s Comparative Politics Speaker Series, chaired the graduate admissions committee, served as the founding director of the Global Diversity Lab, and co-taught a new class with Professor Charnysh, 17.506 Ethnic Politics. In addition, he took on the role of director of the MIT-Africa Program and was a member of the MIT Africa Advisory Executive Committee.

Instructor Magazinnik served on the department’s graduate admissions committee.

Professor Narang chaired a faculty search committee and served as a member of 14 PhD committees, chairing three. He also taught a new class, 17.5951 Advanced Nuclear Topics.

Professor Nielsen served on the department’s admissions committee, chaired the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Statistics/Political Science selection committee, and served on COUHES and nine PhD committees.

Professor Oye served as director of the MIT Program on Emerging Technologies and Seminar XXI (as of May 2020), on the Internet Policy Research Institute, as chair of the Broad Institute’s Biofoundry Safety Committee, and as organizer and convener of the weekly international synthetic biology policy conference calls, providing training to parties of the UN Biological Weapons Convention.

Professor Petersen supervised the student-run Security Studies Working Group and a faculty promotion committee and served on the Institute’s ROTC advisory board. He also served on 14 PhD committees, seven of those as the committee chair.

Professor Posen served on the department’s graduate admissions committee and as a consultant for the National Intelligence Council.

Professor Samuels served as director of the Center for International Studies and the MIT-Japan Program and as a member of the Dean’s Committee on Global Languages. In addition, he created the Wargaming Working Group and served as the department’s transfer credits officer, as director of Seminar XXI, and as a consultant for the National Intelligence Council.
Professor Schneider served as coordinator for the comparative politics faculty, faculty sponsor for the student-run Latin American Working Group, and undergraduate minor advisor. Also, he was director of the MIT-Brazil Program, joined the steering committee of the MIT Sloan Latin America Office, and served on the SHASS Education Advisory Committee.

Professor Singer served his first year as department head as well as in numerous roles in support of the Institute, including serving as secretary of the faculty and as chair of the Working Group on Whistleblower Policy. He was a member of the Academic Continuity Working Group, the Academic Policy and Regulations Team, the Emergency Academic Regulations Team, the Faculty Policy Committee, and the Committee on Race and Diversity, in addition to continuing his service as associate head of MacGregor House.

Professor Stewart served on a department faculty promotion committee and was director of undergraduate studies.

Professor Thelen served on a department faculty promotion committee, was faculty advisor on seven PhD committees, and was a member of the Institute's Presidential Council on Family Work. Also, she co-chaired the SHASS Gender Equity Committee, was faculty director for the MIT-Denmark Program, and served on the MIT Task Force on the Work of the Future.

Professor Tsai chaired a faculty search committee and served on a promotion committee. She also was a member of seven Institute committees and groups, including the Beyond MIT Working Group (co-leader), the Committee on Race and Diversity, the MIT Schwarzman College of Computing’s Action Group on Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing, and the MIT Staff Emergency Hardship Committee. She served on nine PhD committees, four of those as the committee chair.

Professor White served as the department’s equal opportunity officer. Her planned visit to the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute at Duke University to recruit students from underrepresented groups to apply to MIT was canceled due to COVID-19.

Professor Yamamoto served as the models and methods subfield coordinator and as a member of the Institute's Statistics and Data Science Center Program Committee.

Professor Zacka developed the new class 17.055 Just Code: The Ethical Lifecycle of Machine Learning, convened the MIT Workshop in Social and Political Theory, and served as the department’s undergraduate concentration advisor, on the Undergraduate Program Committee, and on the editorial board for Case Studies in Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing.

David A. Singer
Department Head
Raphael Dorman-Helen Starbuck Professor of Political Science