

Department of Political Science

The Department of Political Science offers a full undergraduate curriculum in political science; provides graduate education and research training at the highest level of excellence; maintains an environment in which faculty and advanced students can carry out original research on political behavior, processes, institutions, and policies; and contributes to the capacity of governmental and private organizations at the local, national, or international level to deal effectively and humanely with important political issues. The department's mission is to create a community of men and women—senior and junior scholars, students, and staff—that is rich and diverse in terms of gender, race, and national origin, all pursuing or supporting relevant and groundbreaking research and excellence in teaching.

The key to success lies in recruiting, nurturing, and retaining an outstanding faculty, devoted to both research and teaching. In this regard, the department is flourishing: over the past several years, the department has successfully recruited a number of new faculty, two of whom will join the department in July 2004. We are very excited about these hires and about the department's prospects of additional junior and senior faculty hires in the coming year. (See Personnel Activity below.)

Significant Events 2003–2004

Many members of the department's faculty participated in a number of MIT-wide fora during the year on the topics of the upcoming presidential elections, the continuing war in and occupation of Iraq, and the ongoing war against international terrorism.

Educational Initiatives

Washington Internship Program. The department is helping MIT take the lead nationally in enhancing the education of technologically sophisticated undergraduates by exposing them to the practical world of politics and policymaking, while maintaining a high degree of academic rigor. The program, which allows MIT's technically-oriented students to experience how institutions vital to their later success operate, also gives the federal government and other policymakers early access to the best young scientists and engineers in America. The program continues to flourish, and in the summer of 2003 15 undergraduates participated.

Other Educational Initiatives

Professor Stephen Ansolabehere is the director of the Senior Congressional Staff Seminar, which educates congressional staff in changes in fields of science and technology and their long-term implications for public policy in the United States and internationally. Raphael Dorman and Helen Starbuck professor Suzanne Berger is planning for a MIT Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI)-OpenCourseWare (OCW) collaboration to bring teams of MIT students to sites in South Africa, China, and Mexico to assist local faculty in adapting OCW materials. Assistant professor Kanchan Chandra organized and led the Work in Progress seminar, a weekly forum for discussion and analysis of current trends in political science, open to all. Professor Nazli

Choucri is in the midst of establishing an MIT-Malaysia program, with a course on sustainable development. This would be a core course in the graduate education program of the Malaysian University for Science and Technology (MUST). She also continues to develop the Global System for Sustainable Development—an internet-based set of experiments in international, distributed, multilingual and multicultural knowledge development, sharing, and networking. Associate professor Kenneth Oye has established the Center for International Studies (CIS) Political Economy and Technology Policy Program, which uses theories and analytic methods from the political economy discipline to examine problems in science and technology policy. Professor Harvey Sapolsky helped organize a MIT Professional Institute course on biowarfare/bioterrorism offered in July 2003. Professor James Snyder, jointly with Harvard University, continues to offer and oversee the biweekly seminar on positive political economy. Professor and associate dean Charles Stewart III is continuing to participate in the residence-based advising pilot project at McCormick Hall as the housemaster.

New Subjects

This past year the department offered several new undergraduate and graduate courses. Leon and Anne Goldberg professor of humanities Joshua Cohen cotaught a Harvard/MIT political philosophy seminar on democracy with Harvard University's professor Amartya Sen. Professor Berger offered a new subject, 17.148 Political Economy of Globalization, and developed a MISTI-OCW project for involving students in working with foreign universities to introduce OCW materials. Assistant professor Sarah Song offered several new courses on political theory.

Graduate Program Changes

In the spring of 2001, the faculty decided to reevaluate the Political Science graduate program. And so over the course of academic year 2002, the faculty's Graduate Program Committee, chaired by Professor Thomas Christensen, met to discuss improvements to the program. Its recommendations were presented to the faculty and students and were approved by the faculty in June 2002. Further discussions took place during the 2002–2003 academic year and resulted in some fine-tuning of the proposal. These recommendations include a year-long seminar required of all first-year students that will explore core issues in the principal subfields of the discipline; a second-year seminar in which students will be required to write and present a paper of publishable quality of approximately 10,000 to 12,000 words; and a shift from two general exams to one, while adding the requirement that students take at least four courses in a second field with minimal overlap with the generals field. These changes will be implemented in the fall of 2004. The hope is that they will produce both greater intellectual integration and quicker transitions from preliminary requirements to thesis work.

Student Recruitment, Placement, and Enrollment

The department had a terrific year in graduate recruitment. It received and reviewed approximately 250 applications for the PhD program and accepted 31 applicants. The enrolling class is 18 students. The admissions yield this year was phenomenal and, as in the previous several years, we had a much more diverse group of students, including a

large group of strong applicants in American politics, as well as a strong group in comparative politics. In the case of comparative politics, we decided several years ago to build from below in this field, and we now have a large group of excellent junior faculty. The fact that the group is so heavily junior limits graduate student recruitment, but reputations are growing and positions are consolidating, as we know they will. We are confident that this year's stellar results are not a one-time blip.

Our graduating doctoral students continue to find positions at leading research universities and institutions such as Dartmouth College, Holy Cross, Johns Hopkins University, Harvard University, Princeton University, UCLA, University of Oregon, and the Naval Postgraduate School.

Undergraduate enrollments have continued at high levels. Political Science courses experienced a 6 percent increase in enrollment in AY2002 versus AY2001 (from 932 to 985 students), but dipped slightly in AY2003 and stayed steady in AY2004. However, the long-term trend is decidedly upward. While the number of undergraduate majors has inched upward (39 in the past year, 35 in 2002–2003, and 34 in 2001–2002), and the number of minors has fluctuated greatly (a total of 11 minors in the classes of 2004, 2005, and 2006, compared to 38 last year), the number of concentrators has plateaued at approximately 60, which is about the average number of concentrators over the last several years. These numbers confirm that the department continues to be an ever-increasing presence in the life of MIT's undergraduate population—which is exactly what we had hoped for and expected.

Faculty/Personnel

Faculty Awards and Recognition

- Professor Berger was awarded the Prix Européen du Livre d'Economie (European Prize for the best book on the economy) for her book *Our First Globalization*.
- Assistant professor Adam Berinsky was awarded a time-sharing experiment for the Social Sciences award for his "Assuming the Costs of War: the Effects of Knowledge of Casualty Rates on Support for Military Intervention."
- Professor Choucri was invited by the director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to serve on the advisory board of its Management of Social Transformations Program (MOST-II).
- Associate professor Chappell Lawson was named to the Class of 1954 career development professorship, which has a three-year term.
- Professor Richard Locke was awarded \$10,000 from the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Research Fund to support graduate student research and workshops on migration and development.

—Professor Stephen Meyer was awarded MIT's Arthur C. Smith Award, which is presented to a member of the MIT faculty for meaningful contributions and devotion to undergraduate student life and learning at MIT.

—Associate professor Melissa Nobles spent the year in residence at Harvard as a Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study fellow. She also is the president-elect of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists. Her term in office begins in 2005.

—Professor Oye was a principal investigator on a National Science Foundation (NSF) integrated graduate educational and research training grant.

—Associate professor Jonathan Rodden was awarded a \$100K NSF research grant for assembly of a cross-national provincial-level political/economic database.

—Ford International professor Richard Samuels's book, *Machiavelli's Children: Leaders and Their Legacies in Italy and Japan* was awarded the 2003 Marraro Prize from the Society for Italian Historical Studies and the 2004 Jarvis-Schroeder Prize for International Studies from the American Political Science Association.

—Arthur and Ruth Sloan professor of political science and economics Jim Snyder was the Suntory and Toyota International Centre for Economics and Related Disciplines's distinguished visitor at the London School of Economics in the spring of 2004.

—Professor Song's dissertation was nominated by Yale's Political Science Department for the American Political Science Association's Leo Strauss Award, given for the best dissertation in the field of political philosophy.

Promotions/Personnel Activity in AY2004 and Upcoming Faculty Searches

Compared to the large number of promotion cases in prior years, this past academic year's faculty promotion agenda was relatively light, though we are pleased to report that effective July 1, 2004, assistant professors Adam Berinsky and Kanchan Chandra will be promoted to associate professor without tenure, and associate professor Edward Steinfeld will be promoted to associate professor with tenure.

The department conducted three faculty searches in the fall in the following areas: American politics/public policy, international relations, and comparative politics. We are pleased to report that we successfully recruited our top choice in two of the three fields.

Taylor Fravel will be hired, effective July 1, 2004, as an assistant professor of international relations. He has a PhD from Stanford and was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard during the past year. His area of study is Chinese domestic and foreign policy. Lily Tsai also will join the department as an assistant professor in AY2005; she received her PhD from Harvard this summer. Her research and teaching interests are in comparative politics with a focus on Chinese political development.

The department was not successful in its American politics/public policy faculty search. In AY2005, the department will shift the focus by searching in the American politics field in the hopes of attracting a wider pool of superior candidates. Increasing the presence of minorities and women in the department remains a major concern. All committees formed for the coming year's faculty searches will make special efforts to identify outstanding women and minority candidates.

Faculty Leaves, Departures, Upcoming Searches, and Visitors

Several faculty members were on leave during this past academic year. Professors Chandra and Rodden were on junior faculty research leaves. Professors Nobles and Sapolsky were on sabbatical leaves.

In the coming year, the department will be hosting visiting professor Pierre Rosanvallon, a French expert on democratic politics who is a faculty member at L'Ecole de Hautes Etudes in Paris; he will be offering a course on democracy this fall. Gary Troeller, a United Nations employee, will be visiting the department and offering seminars on migration.

Faculty Research and Publications

A very brief summary of the faculty's current publications and research interests and activities, which is by no means comprehensive, includes:

—*Professor Berger*. Publications: *The First Globalization: Lessons from the French* (La Republique des Idees, Seuil, Paris.) Research: Collaborations on globalization with the Cambridge-MIT Institute (on US-UK-German responses to globalization) and with the Sociological Institute of the University of Goettingen.

—*Professor Berinsky*. Publications: *Silent Voices: Opinion Polls and Political Representation in America* (Princeton University Press, 2004). Research: Public opinion and World War II.

—*Professor Chandra*. Publications: *Why Ethnic Parties Succeed* (Cambridge University Press). Research: Data collection project, "A Cross-National Database on Ethnic Parties." Book manuscript (edited) "Constructivist Approaches to Ethnic Politics."

—*Professor Choucri*. Publications: *New Dimensions of International Relations: Knowledge Networking and Connectivity for Sustainability* (MIT Press, forthcoming). Research: Global accords, best practice, and IT sustainability (supported by MUST Program, in progress).

—*Professor Cohen*. Publications: "Privacy, Pluralism, and Democracy," forthcoming in *Law and Philosophy* (MIT Press, 2004); "Democracy and Development: Review of Stiglitz and Easterley" (with Joel Rogers), *New Labor Forum*, 2003. [Portuguese translation: "Globalização, crescimento e pobreza," *Econômica* 5, 2 (December 2003): 331–41; "Minimalism About Human Rights: The Best We Can Hope For?," *Journal of Political Philosophy* 12, 2 (June 2004): 190–213; "Deliberation and Participation," with Archon Fung, *Swiss Journal of Political Science* (forthcoming); "The Importance of

Philosophy: Reflections on John Rawls," *South African Journal of Philosophy*, 23, 2 (2004): 1–6. Research: book on Rousseau's political philosophy, *A Free Community of Equals*, under contract with Oxford University Press.

—*Professor Lawson*. Publications: "Television Coverage, Media Effects, and Mexico's 2000 Elections," with James McCann, *British Journal of Political Science* (forthcoming). Research: The Mexico 2005 Panel Study: Issue Emergence and Democratic Representation (grant proposal to the NSF) for study of the 2006 Mexican elections.

—*Professor Locke*. Publications: "Construindo confiança," *Econômica*, 3, 2 (September 2003). Research: Three of five chapters completed on a book "Building Trust."

—*Professor Meyer*. Research: "Dynamics of Community-based Environmental Protection" multiyear research project funded by the NSF.

—*Professor Nobles*. Publications: "The Other Side of American Exceptionalism: The Comparative Study of Racial Politics." APSA-CP, Newsletter of the American Political Science Association. Winter 2004. Research: Book manuscript "The Past is Present: Official Apologies and Multicultural Citizenship." Article Manuscript: Black Political Participation in Latin America.

—*Associate professor Petersen*. Publications: "Memory and Cultural Schema: Linking Memory to Political Action," in *Memory and the Second World War*, edited by Francesca Cappelletto (Berg, forthcoming). Research: Rationality and Emotion in Ethnic Conflict, book manuscript in progress based upon field research in Kosovo.

—*Professor Posen*. Publications: "Command of the Commons: The Military Foundation of US Hegemony," *International Security*, 28, 1 (Summer 2003). Research: The European Union security and defense policy.

—*Professor Rodden*. Publications: "Reviving Leviathan: Fiscal Federalism and the Growth of Government," *International Organization* 57, Fall 2003. Research: NSF award for assembly of a cross-national provincial-level political-economic database. "Distributive Politics around the World," several papers exploring political institutions, race, religion, and the geographical distribution of government spending.

—*Professor Samuels*. Publications: "Politics, Security Policy and Japan's Cabinet Legislation Bureau: Who Elected those Guys, Anyway?" Japan Policy Research Institute Working Paper No. 99, March 2004. Research: Along with professors Petersen and Lawson, supervising a CIS working group and are planning a coedited volume on the comparative politics of civil-military relations.

—*Professor Snyder*. Publications: "Party Labels, Roll Call Votes and Elections," with Mike Ting, *Political Analysis*, Autumn, 2003. "Did Firms Profit from Soft Money?," with Stephen Ansolabehere and Michiko Ueda, *Election Law Journal*, 2004. Research: "Interest Groups and the Electoral Control of Politicians," with Mike Ting, June 2004.

—*Professor Song*. Publications: “Majority Norms and the Conflict between Cultural Rights and Women’s Rights,” under review; “Culture, Gender, and Equality.”

—*Professor Stewart*. Publications: “Out in the Open: The Emergence of Viva Voce Voting in House Speakership Elections,” with Jeffrey Jenkins, *Legislative Quarterly Studies*. Nov. 2003. Research: A project on the House of Representatives and the rise of political parties in the United States and continued investigation into election technologies in the US.

—*Professor Van Evera*. Publications: “Why States Believe Foolish Ideas,” in *Structural Realism and World Politics*, edited by Andy Hanami (Palgrave Press, forthcoming). Research: “Causes of War: Misperceptions and the Roots of Conflict,” a book manuscript on national misperception and the causes and prevention of war; the US war on terror; new narratives and the Mideast conflict.

The department’s faculty continues to give an enormously wide variety of invited lectures, appears at conferences, and serves on boards of prestigious professional organizations and editorial boards, in addition to serving as advisors for government, private, and international organizations and agencies. We are confident that the number and range of these outside activities will grow and continue to generate further awareness of and respect for the quality of our department.

Joshua Cohen
Department Head
Leon and Anne Goldberg Professor of Humanities

More information about the Department of Political Science can be found on the web at <http://web.mit.edu/polisci/www/>.