

Department of Political Science

The MIT Department of Political Science has worked over the past year to extend the excellence of its research and teaching efforts and to increase its influence throughout the profession of political science and the world of public policy. Although it is the smallest major political science department in the nation, the department supports a full curriculum of undergraduate and graduate instruction, its graduates go on to accept distinguished positions in teaching and public service, and its faculty members provide influential advice in many important areas of public policy. The department was ranked tenth in this year's *US News and World Report* assessment of political science graduate departments. Because these rankings in the field of political science are highly correlated with department size and breadth of subfield coverage, the fact that a department of our small size and focus is ranked so highly is testimony to the dedication and excellence of the department's faculty and students.

The key to the department's success lies in recruiting, nurturing, and retaining an outstanding faculty devoted to both research and teaching. Half of the department faculty has been at MIT for a decade or less, reflecting the fact that the department is rebuilding following the retirement of its founding generation. Our challenge now is to maintain the department's strength by retaining our excellent and prominent newer faculty members. This challenge, coupled with a rising intensity over the recruitment of the best young people for PhD study, represents our biggest current concern.

The presence of an increasingly competitive environment in the field of political science led us to begin a strategic planning process two years ago to help guide our activities in hiring, curriculum, and research over the next several years. This year we continued to hone our understanding of the strategic opportunities available to the department, which has served us well as we have begun to address the difficult financial circumstances facing the Institute.

Educational Initiatives

An important responsibility of the department's faculty members is to provide an excellent educational experience for graduate and undergraduate students within the unique environment of MIT. The department is a pioneer in engaging science and engineering students with policy makers and international laboratories and industries through innovative research and internship programs, such as the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) and the MIT Washington Internship Program.

The Minor in Applied International Studies (AIS) continues to make important contributions to MIT's efforts to deepen the international and global education of its students. The AIS minor is overseen by the department and administered by the Center for International Studies. It prepares undergraduate students for a future in an increasingly global economy and international research environment. The minor is based on three key principles that guide a rigorous model of international education: (1) the ability to speak the language of a foreign country and to be familiar with its cultural dimensions; (2) awareness of fundamental international, economic, political, cultural,

and historical patterns; and (3) hands-on experience in another culture combined with theoretical learning. AIS is already the second-largest minor at the Institute and is a model for how MIT might broaden its international and global education efforts further.

Department head Charles Stewart III cochaired the Subcommittee on the Educational Commons, which was charged by the Committee on the Undergraduate Program to bring to the faculty a set of recommendations intended to improve the General Institute Requirements. Although the Institute Faculty ultimately did not endorse the complete package of recommendations, it did endorse the changes pertaining to the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Requirement.

During AY2009, department faculty developed five new subjects. Professor Nazli Choucri developed a joint graduate/undergraduate subject, 17.441/17.442 International Politics and Climate Change. Professor Ben Ross Schneider developed two new subjects, undergraduate subject 17.135 Comparative Politics of Business–Government Relations and 17.178 Institutional Foundations of Capitalist Development. Professor Kathleen Thelen developed a new graduate subject, 17.156 Welfare and Capitalism in Western Europe.

The MIT Washington Summer Internship Program allows 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 2009, representing all of the schools at the Institute. They were placed in the Department of the Interior; US Senate; House Ways and Means Committee; Inter-American Investment Corporation; the World Bank; office of the chancellor of the Washington, DC, Public Schools; Senate Finance Committee; Department of Energy; Office of Management and Budget; Systems Planning and Analysis, Inc; the Brookings Institution; the National Capitol Planning Commission; and the International Monetary Fund.

Student Recruitment, Placement, and Enrollment

The department reviewed 344 applications for the PhD program (a record amount since the time the department began retaining admissions statistics in 1994). We accepted 33 applicants, of whom 13 will enroll in fall 2009. 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 we had a surprising shortfall in applicants in the field of comparative politics. For the first time since 1996, when we began keeping statistics, the number of entering students in American politics will exceed the number entering in comparative politics.

Our graduating doctoral students continue to garner rewarding and prestigious appointments in academics and industry. Our PhD graduates this year obtained faculty appointments at the University of Virginia, Columbia University, Franklin and Marshall College, and Lewis and Clark College. Students received postdoctoral fellowships at Brandeis University and at Nuffield College, University of Oxford.

Undergraduate enrollments continued to be comparable to past years. We had 14 majors, 82 concentrators, and 82 minors overall (25 in political science, two in public policy, and 55 in applied international studies).

Faculty and Personnel

The MIT political science faculty has a high profile in the profession and is often sought after for commentary and advice about current affairs. For instance, in 2008 professor Barry Posen testified before the US House of Representatives' Armed Services Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, on a US grand strategy of restraint and renewal. Professors Stephen Ansolabehere and Stewart joined in an amicus brief with professor Nathaniel Persily of Columbia Law School that was filed with the US Supreme Court in the matter of the North Austin Municipal Utility District Number One—an important case that tested the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act. Theirs was the only brief directly discussed by the justices during oral arguments.

The department added two new tenured faculty members to its ranks this year: Kathleen Thelen and Ben Ross Schneider, both formerly on the faculty at Northwestern University. Professor Thelen's areas of expertise include Western European politics and comparative political economy. Professor Schneider's areas of expertise include Latin American politics and business-government relations.

We are also happy to report that this past year professor Lily Tsai was promoted to associate professor with tenure.

The department ran two junior searches and was successful in recruiting two new assistant professors. Jens Hainmueller will join the faculty in fall 2009 and will teach in the area of models and methods. Vipin Narang will join the faculty in fall 2010, after completing a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard, and will teach in the area of international relations and security.

Particular awards and recognition given to faculty members during the 2008–2009 academic year include the following:

- Professor Suzanne Berger was made *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur*, recognizing her contributions to French-American cooperation throughout her career.
- Professor Andrea Campbell served as a committee member on a panel established by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Public Administration. The topic was “The Fiscal Future of the United States: Analysis and Policy Options.”
- Professor Choucri was the principal investigator on a project called Explorations in Cyber International Relations, which was awarded a major grant through the Department of Defense Minerva Project. This project involves collaborations between MIT and Harvard and, within MIT, among the Department of Political Science, the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, and the Sloan School of Management. Professor Choucri was also elected to serve a second three-year term as chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee of UNESCO's Program on the Management of Social Transformation.

- Professor Richard Samuels was visiting professor at the Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane in Florence, Italy, in May 2009 and visiting professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Tokyo, Japan, in January 2009. His most recent book, *Securing Japan: Tokyo's Grand Strategy and the Future of East Asia*, was a finalist for the 2008 Lionel Gelber International Affairs Book Prize.
- Professor Schneider was codirector (with Andrew Schrank) of workshops on revitalizing development studies in the Social Science Research Council's Program for Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowships 2009. He also received Inter-American Development Bank funding for a project on business-government relations and industrial policy in Latin America, 2008–2009.
- Professor David Singer served this year as visiting scholar at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- Professor James Snyder was named visiting research associate at the Suntory and Toyota International Centres for Economics and Related Disciplines at the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2008. He was also the recipient of the Jewell-Loewenberg Award for the best article in the *Legislative Studies Quarterly* for 2007, for "Do Multimember Districts Lead to Free Riding?"
- Professor Thelen was elected into the Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften). She gave the Vilhelm Aubert Memorial Lecture at the University of Oslo in January 2009, and delivered the inaugural keynote for the lecture series of the *British Journal of Industrial Relations* at the London School of Economics in November 2008.
- Professor Tsai was named a fellow of the Public Intellectuals Program, National Committee on US-China Relations (2008–2010).

Faculty Leaves, Departures, and Visitors

Professors Adam Berinsky, Taylor Fravel, Orit Kedar, Lily Tsai, and Stephen Van Evera were on leave during the fall semester. Professor Chappell Lawson was on leave during the spring semester. Professors Ansolabehere and Singer were on leave for the entire 2008–2009 school year.

Prior to joining the faculty permanently in spring 2009, Professors Schneider and Thelen were visiting professors in the department during the fall semester.

Drs. Helene Landemore, Marc Meredith, Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch and professor Nahum Karlinsky (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev) served as visitors during the year.

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 Berinsky's *In Time of War: Understanding Public Opinion from World War II to Iraq* will be published by the University of Chicago Press in October 2009. He also published "Public Opinion and the Iraq War," in *Understanding Public Opinion*, 3rd edition, edited by Barbara Norrander and Clyde Wilcox (Washington, DC: CQ Press; 2009); and "Survey Non-Response" in *Handbook of Public Opinion Research*, edited by Wolfgang Donsbach and Michael W. Traugott (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications; 2008).

Professor Campbell (with Tara Sussman and Robert Blendon) published "Will Americans Support the Individual Mandate?" in *Health Affairs* 2009 28(April 21):W501–209; "What Americans Think of Taxes," in *The New Fiscal Sociology*, edited by Monica Prasad, Isaac Martin, and Ajay Mehrotra (New York: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming); "Social Security: Political Resilience in the Face of Conservative Strides," with Ryan King (UROP student), in *The New Politics of Old-Age Policy*, 2nd edition, edited by Robert Hudson (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press; forthcoming); and "A New Macropolitics of Aging? The Case of the USA, Older Voters, and AARP," in *Altern, Familie, Zivilgesellschaft und Politik* [Aging, Family, Civil Society, and Politics], edited by Jürgen Kocka, Martin Kohli, and Wolfgang Streeck (Halle, Germany: Nova Acta Leopoldina; 2009).

Professor Choucri authored *CyberPolitics in International Relations* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press; forthcoming); "Legacies of the 20th Century and Knowledge Imperatives for the 21st Century" and "Perspective" for UNESCO's Forum on Higher Education Research and Knowledge; the report "Higher Education, Research and Innovation—Global Social Sustainable Development, for the Global System for Sustainable Development); and "Globalization, Migration, and New Challenges to Governance" in *Current History* 2009 108(717):173–179.

Professor Fotini Christia published "Following the Money: Muslim versus Muslim in Bosnia's Civil War" in *Comparative Politics* 2008 40(4):461-480, and with Houchang Chehabi published "The Art of State Persuasion: Iran's Post-Revolutionary Murals" in *Persica*, 2008 22:1–13.

Professor Fravel published *Strong Borders, Secure Nation: Cooperation and Conflict in China's Territorial Disputes* (Princeton: Princeton University Press; 2008).

Professor Kedar published (with Matias Bargsted) "Coalition-Targeted Duvergerian Voting: How Expectations Affect Voter Choice under Proportional Representation" in *American Journal of Political Science* 2009 53(2):307-323; "Kadima—Forward in a Dealigned Party System" (with Michal Shamir, Raphael Ventura, and Asher Arian) in *Elections in Israel—2006*, edited by Asher Arian and Michal Shamir (New Brunswick, NJ: Transactions Publishers; 2008); and a review of *The Economic Vote: How Political and Economic Institutions Condition Election Results*, by Raymond M. Duch and Randolph T. Stevenson, for the journal *Comparative Political Studies* (forthcoming). Her book *Voting for Policy, Not Parties: How Voters Compensate for Power Sharing* is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press.

Professor Gabriel Lenz's paper "Learning and Opinion Change, Not Priming: Reconsidering the Evidence for the Priming Hypothesis" was accepted for publication

in the *American Journal of Political Science* (forthcoming, October 2009). He also published (with Jonathan Ladd) "Exploiting a Rare Communication Shift to Document the Persuasive Power of the News Media" in the *American Journal of Political Science* 2009 53(2):394–410, and a review of *Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State: Why Americans Vote the Way They Do* in *Public Opinion Quarterly* 2009 73(1):221–223.

Professor Richard Locke has three articles that will be forthcoming in 2009: "Virtue out of Necessity?: Compliance, Commitment and the Improvement of Labor Conditions in Global Supply Chains" (with Matthew Amengual and Akshay Mangla) in *Politics & Society*, "Building Ties in the Building Trades" (with Sean Safford) in *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, and "The Promise and Perils of Private Voluntary Regulation: Labor Standards and Work Organizations in Two Mexican Factories" (with Monica Romis) in *Review of International Political Economy*.

Professor Kenneth Oye has two articles forthcoming in fall 2009: "Planned Adaptation in Risk Regulation: A Review of US Environmental, Health, and Safety Regulation," (with Lawrence McCray and Arthur Petersen) in *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, and "The Intellectual Commons and Property in Synthetic Biology" (with Rachael Wellhausen) in *Synthetic Biology: The Technoscience and its Societal Consequences*, edited by Markus Schmidt and published by Springer Academic Publishing.

Professor Roger Petersen's chapter "Anger, Violence, and Political Science," (with Sarah Zuckerman) will be published in *A Handbook of Anger: Constituent and Concomitant Biological, Psychological, and Social Processes*, edited by Michael Potegal, Gerhard Stemmler, and Charles Spielberger (Springer, forthcoming). He also published (with Paul Staniland) "Resentment, Fear, and the Structure of the Military in Multiethnic States" in *Intra-State Conflict, Governments and Security: Dilemma of Deterrence and Assurance*, edited by Steve Saideman and Marie-Joëlle Zahar (Routledge, 2008).

Professor Samuels published (with J. Patrick Boyd) "Prosperity's Children: Generational Change and Japan's Future Leadership" in *Asia Policy*, 2008 No. 6:15-51 and "Wing Walking: The US-Japan Alliance" in *Global Asia* 2009 4(1).

Professor Schneider published (with David Soskice) "Inequality in Developed Countries and Latin America: Coordinated, Liberal, and Hierarchical Systems" in *Economy and Society* 2009 38(1):17–52; "Economic Liberalization and Corporate Governance: The Resilience of Business Groups in Latin America" in *Comparative Politics* 2008 40(4):379–398; and "Big Business in Brazil: Leveraging Natural Endowments and State Support for International Expansion" in *Brazil as an Emerging Economic Superpower?* edited Lael Brainard and Leonardo Martínez-Díaz (Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution; 2009).

Professor Singer published "The Subprime Accountability Deficit and the Obstacles to International Standards Setting" in *Global Governance* 2009 15(Jan-Mar).

Professor Snyder published "Using Multimember Districts to Estimate the Sources of Incumbency Advantage" (with Shigeo Hirano) in *American Journal of Political Science* 2009 53(2):292–306; "Two's Company, Three's an Equilibrium: Voting and Multicandidate

Elections” (with John W. Patty and Michael Ting) in *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, forthcoming fall 2009; “Distributive Politics with Primary Elections” (with Shigeo Hirano and Michael Ting) in *Journal of Politics*, 2009 71(4):1467–1480; “State Legislative Elections, 1967–2003: Announcing the Completion of a Cleaned and Updated Dataset” (with Thomas M. Carsey, Richard G. Niemi, William D. Berry, and Lynda W. Powell) in *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 2008 8(4):430–443; and “Returns to U.S. Congressional Seats in the Mid-19th Century” (with Pablo Querubin) in *The Political Economy of Democracy*, edited by Enriqueta Aragonès, Carmen Bevia, Humberto Llavador, and Norman Schofield (BBVA Foundation, 2009). He also published “The Media’s Influence on Public Policy Decisions” (with David Stromberg) and “I’m News, Are You? Newspaper Coverage of Elected vs. Appointed Officials” (with Riccardo Puglisi) in *Fact Finder, Fact Filter: How Media Reporting Affects Public Policy*, edited by Roumeen Islam (World Bank, 2008).

Professor Edward Steinfeld published “Greener Plants, Grayer Skies: A Report from the Front Lines of China’s Energy Sector” (with Richard Lester and Edward A. Cunningham) in *Energy Policy*, 2009 37(5):1809–1824; “China and Climate Change: Power Plant Emissions, Lessons from Sulfur” (with Richard Lester and Edward A. Cunningham) in *The China Economic Quarterly*, September 2008; “The Capitalist Embrace: China Ten Years after the Asian Financial Crisis,” in *Crisis as Catalyst: Asia’s Dynamic Political Economy*, edited by Andrew MacIntyre, T.J. Pempel, and John Ravenhill (Ithaca: Cornell University Press; 2008); and “Greener Plants, Grayer Skies: A Report from the Front Lines of China’s Energy Sector,” (with Richard Lester, and Edward A. Cunningham) MIT Industrial Performance Center Working Paper 08-003 (August 2008).

Professor Stewart published “Early- and Late-Adopters of Provisional Ballots” in The Pew Charitable Trust report “Provisional Ballots: July 2009”; “Assessment of Voting Systems” in *Election Law Journal* (forthcoming fall 2009); “Amazing Race: How Post-Racial Was Obama’s Victory” (with Stephen Ansolabehere) in *Boston Review* January/February 2009; “Election Fraud Fears: The Cure” in the *Los Angeles Times*, October 27, 2008; and “Basic Principles of Data Collection” in the report *Data for Democracy—Improving Elections through Metrics and Measurement* (Pew Charitable Trusts; 2008).

Professor Thelen published “Institutional Change in Advanced Political Economies” in the *British Journal of Industrial Relations* 2009 47(3):471–498, and “Institutional Change in Varieties of Capitalism” (with Peter A. Hall), *Socio-Economic Review* 2009 7(1):7–34. Her book, *Explaining Institutional Change: Ambiguity, Agency, and Power* (coedited with James Mahoney) will be published by Cambridge University Press in the fall.

Professor Tsai published “Understanding the Falsification of Village Income Statistics” in *The China Quarterly* 2008 196:805–826.

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 2008–2009:

Professor Berger served as the director of MISTI, director of MIT France, and as a member of the International Advisory Council, the MIT Press Editorial Board, and the Institute Committee on Tenure and Promotion.

Professor Berinsky served on the Edgerton Award Committee and is a member of the Student Evaluations Advisory Group.

Professor Campbell served on the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Overview Committee and the D'Arbeloff Fund for Excellence in Education Selection Committee.

Professor Choucri was associate director of MIT's Technology and Development Program, an international program in collaborative research focusing on the challenges of development and technological transformation.

Professor Lawson served on the Faculty Policy Committee, the Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement, the Committee on the Use of Human Experimental Subjects, and the Tenure and Promotion Process Review Committee.

Professor Lenz served on the Stellar Faculty Advisory Board.

Professor Locke was a member of the MIT Global Health Initiative, the MIT Global Council, the MIT Nominations Committee, and cochaired the Procurement Task Force for the Institute-wide Planning Committee.

Professor Melissa Nobles served as associate chair of the Faculty and as a member of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program, the Committee on Graduate Policy, and the Faculty Policy Committee.

Professor Oye served on the Executive Committee of the MIT Environment Council, the educational task force of the MIT Energy Initiative, the executive committee of the MIT Seminar XXI Program, and the Executive Committee of the MIT Technology and Culture Forum.

Professor Posen was director of the MIT Security and Arms Control Program, a member of the MIT–Department of Defense Engagement Group, and on the Executive Committee of the MIT Seminar XXI Program.

Professor Samuels was director of the Center for International Studies and the cochair of the MIT Global Council.

Professor Singer was associate housemaster of MacGregor House.

Professor Snyder served on the MIT Committee on the Library System.

Professor Steinfeld was a member of the MIT China Strategy Group; a member of the Institute-wide Task Force, Space Working Group; faculty director of the MISTI-China Program; and director of the China Politics Working Group, Center for International Studies.

Professor Stewart was housemaster of McCormick Hall, cochair of the Subcommittee on the Educational Commons, a member of the MIT Congressional and Executive Staff Seminar Program, faculty director of the MIT Washington Summer Internship Program, and chair of the Senior House Housemaster Search Committee.

Charles Stewart III

Department Head

Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Political Science

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