

Department of Political Science

MIT's Department of Political Science is one of the nation's premier political science departments, with distinctive strengths in the areas of international security, ethnic conflict, political economy, and political behavior/elections. Although it is the nation's smallest major political science department, it supports a full curriculum of undergraduate and graduate instruction. Its students go on to accept distinguished positions in teaching and public service, and its faculty is well known within academic and policymaking circles.

With such a small department, the key to success is the ability to recruit, nurture, and retain the very best talent in the discipline. The department must also continually evaluate its strengths relative to the rest of the discipline, because its size makes it more vulnerable to threats due to small changes in the environment and talent raids by other departments.

With the naming of Professor Richard Locke to take over responsibilities as department head effective July 1, 2010, the department engaged in an intense and vigorous set of meetings during the months of March, April, and May. Aimed at assessing our strategic situation, these meetings confirmed the department's current strengths as well as the energy that Professor Locke will bring to its leadership in the near future, and resulted in a set of decisions concerning hiring and programmatic initiatives to be implemented in the coming academic year.

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 is 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. This involves a new "math boot camp," to be taught for the first time to incoming graduate students during late August 2010, and a rearranging of the three-semester statistics sequence.

In addition to its own curriculum, the department is the home to a number of internship and other hands-on experiences that allow science and engineering students to engage with policymakers at home and with laboratories and industries abroad. The majority of these opportunities are for undergraduate students.

Although the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) is formally affiliated with the Center for International Studies (CIS), most of the faculty directors of the country programs and the overall director of MISTI, Professor Suzanne Berger, are from the Political Science Department. 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 large numbers of science and engineering students.

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

During AY2010, departmental faculty developed five new subjects that were first taught during the year. The new undergraduate subjects were 17.115 International Political Economy, taught by Professor Singer, and 17.561 European Politics, taught by Professor Thelen. The graduate subjects were 17.156 Welfare and Capitalism in Western Europe, taught by Professor Thelen; 17.178 Institutional Foundations of Capitalist Development, taught by Professor Schneider; and 17.202 Graduate Seminar in American Politics II, taught by Professor Stewart.

The MIT Washington Summer Internship Program continues to allow MIT's technically oriented students to experience how certain institutions operate, and gives the federal government and other policy makers early access to the best young scientists and engineers in America. Thirteen undergraduates participated in the summer of 2010, 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, NASA, the National Capitol Planning Commission, Orbital Sciences Corporation, Resources for the Future, the Senate Finance Committee, and Teach For America.

Student Recruitment, Placement, and Enrollment

The department reviewed 367 applications for the PhD program. This is a record number for the second year in a row since we began retaining admissions statistics in 1994. We accepted 25 applicants, of whom seven will enroll in the fall of 2010. 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 competitive departments would be addressing many of these same issues. This year our applicant pool again was weighted heavily toward security studies, with an encouraging rise in applications among students interested in comparative politics, especially the politics of advanced industrial countries. We continue to struggle, along with other departments, with the number applicants in the subfield of American politics, in which demand for high-quality PhDs vastly outstrips supply.

Our graduating doctoral students continue to garner rewarding and prestigious appointments in academia and industry. Our PhD graduates this year obtained faculty appointments at the University of Chicago and George Washington University, along with postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Pennsylvania, London School of Economics, and Koç University in Istanbul.

Undergraduate enrollments continued to be comparable to past years. We had 17 majors, 90 concentrators, and 75 minors overall. These included 28 in political science, 13 in public policy, and 34 in applied international studies.

Faculty and Personnel

The department added one new faculty member to its ranks this year, assistant professor Jens Hainmueller, who studies a broad range of issues in comparative politics and political economy, and who was hired to help lead our educational efforts in statistical methods. In addition, Vipin Narang, PhD, who was hired in 2008–2009, spent the year on a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard. Dr. Narang will join the department as an assistant professor in the fall of 2010.

The department extended an offer to Professor Daniel Posner, currently professor of political science at UCLA, to take up the inaugural Total chair of political science, focusing on the field of African politics. Professor Posner will be on leave at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences for the next academic year, and will formally join the department in January of 2011.

We are delighted that four faculty members were promoted this year, to take effect July 1, 2010: Gabriel Lenz and David Singer were promoted to the rank of associate professor without tenure, and Melissa Nobles and Roger Petersen were promoted to the rank of professor.

Notable awards, grants, recognitions, and important professional responsibilities given to faculty members during the 2009–2010 academic year include the following:

- Professor Andrea Campbell was named the co-chair of the program committee for the 2010 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in Washington, DC.
- Professor Nazli Choucri continued as principal investigator for Explorations in Cyber International Relations, which received a Minerva Research Initiative grant from the Department of Defense. She was also elected to serve a second three-year term as chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of UNESCO's Program on the Management of Social Transformation.
- Professor Taylor Fravel was named research associate (2010–2012) for the new National Asia Research Program being launched by the National Bureau of Asian Research and Woodrow Wilson International Center.
- Professor Jens Hainmueller was awarded three grants from Humanity United, as well as one from the National Bureau of Economic Research's Africa Project.
- Professor Lenz's article "Learning and Opinion Change, Not Priming: Reconsidering the Evidence for the Priming Hypothesis," *American Journal of Political Science* 53(4), won the award for the best article published in that journal for the year.

- Professor Melissa Nobles was the section organizer for the Ethnicity and Nationality panels at the 2010 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.
- Professor Richard J. Samuels was awarded a grant by the East Asian Institute for the study of East Asian international relations.
- Professor Ben Ross Schneider was co-director, with Andrew Schrank, of workshops on Revitalizing Development Studies in the Social Science Research Council program for Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowships. Together with Armando Castelar and Alejandra Mizala, he was also awarded funding from the Inter-American Development Bank and the Tinker Foundation for research on a project entitled Balancing Markets and Hierarchies to Enhance Efficiency and Quality in Social Services in Latin America.
- Professor Charles Stewart III received grants from the Jasper Whiting Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts for research related to election reform, and from the Kauffman Foundation for the annual Congressional and Executive Staff Seminar. In 2010 the topic of this seminar was The New Biology: Pathways to Convergence in the Life Sciences.
- Professor Lily Tsai served as division chair for Politics of Communist and Post-Communist Systems at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.

Faculty Leaves, Departures, and Visitors

Professors Fravel and Lenz were on leave for the fall semester. Professor Snyder was on leave for the spring semester.

Three faculty members departed at the end of the 2010 school year. Two of our most distinguished colleagues, Stephen Ansolabehere and James Snyder, accepted positions as professors of government at Harvard University. Professor Orit Kedar also resigned from the department, having been appointed associate professor of political science at Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Lucas Stanczyk taught subject 17.01 Justice 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, 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 Berger authored “Choix et Contraintes: la France en fin de régime,” in Philippe Urfalino, ed., *Intelligences de la France, Editions Cécile Défaul (Presses Universitaires de France, forthcoming)* and a review essay, “German Crises before the Crisis,” in *Comparative European Politics (forthcoming)*.

Professor Berinsky published *In Time of War: Understanding Public Opinion from World War II to Iraq* (University of Chicago Press, 2009).

Professor Campbell authored "Public Opinion and Winner-Take-All Politics," in *Politics and Society* (forthcoming); coauthored, with Tara Sussman, John Benson, Robert Blendon, and Alan Zaslavsky, "A Partisan Divide on the Uninsured," in *Health Affairs* 29 (March 2010); published "What the Social Security Experience Tells Us about Taxes Americans Can Embrace: Is the Economic Crisis Driving Wedges between Young and Old? Rich and Poor?" in *Generations* 33 (Fall 2009); and coauthored, with Kimberly J. Morgan, *The Delegated Welfare State: Medicare, Markets, and the Governance of Social Provision* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming).

Professor Choucri authored *CyberPolitics in International Relations* (MIT Press, forthcoming).

Professor Christia copublished, with Michael Semple, "Flipping the Taliban: How to Win in Afghanistan," in *Foreign Affairs*, July/August, 2009, and "Co-opt the Commanders," in "Is It Time to Negotiate With the Taliban? Room for Debate, A Running Commentary on the News," *New York Times*, September 1, 2009.

Professor Fravel published "Explaining Stability in the Senkaku (Diaoyu) Dispute," in Gerald Curtis, Ryosei Kokubun and Wang Jisi, eds., *Getting the Triangle Straight: Managing China-Japan-US Relations* (Brookings Institution Press, 2010), and "Zhongguo junshi jueqi chutan [A preliminary analysis of China's military rise], in *Zhongguo Guoji Zhanlue Pinglun*, No. 2 (2009).

Professor Hainmueller coauthored, with Michael Hiscox, "Attitudes toward Highly Skilled and Low Skilled Immigration: Evidence from a Survey Experiment," *American Political Science Review* (forthcoming); with Andrew Eggers, "MPs for Sale: Estimating Returns to Office in Post-War British Politics," *American Political Science Review* 103 (4) (2009); with Alberto Abadie and Alexis Diamond, "Synthetic Control Methods for Comparative Case Studies of Aggregate Interventions: Estimating the Effect of California's Tobacco Control Program," *Journal of the American Statistical Association* (forthcoming); with Holger Kern, "Opium for the Masses: How Free Foreign Media can Stabilize Authoritarian Regimes," *Political Analysis* 17 (2009); with Alberto Abadie and Alexis Diamond Synth, "An R Package for Synthetic Control Methods in Comparative Case Studies," *Journal of Statistical Software* (forthcoming).

Professor Kedar published *Voting for Policy, Not Parties: How Voters Compensate for Power Sharing* (Cambridge University Press); with Benjamin Deufel, "Race and Turnout in U.S. Elections: Exposing Hidden Effects," *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 74(2); and, with Matias Bargsted, "Coalition-Targeted Duvergerian Voting: How Expectations Affect Voter Choice under Proportional Representation," *American Journal of Political Science* 53(2) (2009).

Professor Lenz published "Learning and Opinion Change, Not Priming: Reconsidering the Evidence for the Priming Hypothesis," *American Journal of Political Science* 53(4),

and, with Jonathan Ladd, "Exploiting a Rare Communication Shift to Document the Persuasive Power of the News Media," *American Journal of Political Science* 53(2).

Professor Locke coauthored, with Matthew Amengual and Akshay Mangla, "Virtue out of Necessity?: Compliance, Commitment and the Improvement of Labor Conditions in Global Supply Chains," *Politics & Society*, Vol. 37, No. 3 (September 2009).

Professor Nobles published "The Prosecution of Human Rights Violations," in *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 13 (June 2010), and "'Here a Ghetto, There a Ghetto': The Value and Peril of Comparative Study," in Loic Wacquant, *Urban Outcasts: A Comparative Study of Advanced Marginality* (Polity Press, 2008).

Professor Oye published "Embracing Uncertainty," in *Issues in Science and Technology*, Vol. 26, No. 1 (Fall 2009); with Gautam Mukunda and Scott Mohr, "What Rough Beast: Synthetic Biology and the Future of Biosecurity," in *Politics and the Life Sciences*, Vol. 28, No. 2 (September 2009); with Lawrence McCray and Arthur C. Petersen, "Planned Adaptation in Risk Regulation: An Initial Survey of U.S. Environmental, Health, and Safety Regulation," in *Technological Forecasting & Social Change* (forthcoming); with Daniel D. Frey, Paulien Herder, Ype Wijnia, Eswaran Subrahmanian, Konstantinos Katsikopoulos, Don Clausing, Richard de Neufville, and Edward Greitz, "Research in Engineering Design: The Role of Mathematical Theory and Empirical Evidence," in *Research in Engineering Design* (forthcoming).

Professor Petersen copublished, with Sarah Zukerman, "Anger, Violence, and Political Science," in M. Potegal, G. Stemmler, and C. Spielberger, eds., *A Handbook of Anger: Constituent and Concomitant Biological, Psychological, and Social Processes* (Springer, Summer 2009).

Professor Posen published "Emerging Multipolarity: Why Should We Care?" in *Current History*, Vol. 108, Issue 721 (November 2009).

Professor Samuels published *Nippon Bōei no Daisenryaku* (Tōyō Keizai, 2009) (originally published as *Securing Japan: Tokyo's Grand Strategy and the Future of East Asia* by Cornell University Press in 2007); "Kidnapping Politics in East Asia," *Journal of East Asian Studies* (forthcoming); "Gojūnen Keiko Shite no Nichibeī Gunji Dōmei no Rifuōmu" [Reforming the military alliance after fifty years], *Shūshin* (December 2009); and "Japan, LLP" in *National Interest*, No. 107 (May/June 2010).

Professor Schneider published "Hierarchical Market Economies and Varieties of Capitalism in Latin America," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 41 (August 2009), and "Big Business in Brazil: Leveraging Natural Endowments and State Support for International Expansion" in Lael Brainard and Leonardo Martínez-Díaz, eds., *Brazil as an Emerging Economic Superpower?* (Brookings Institution, 2009).

Professor Singer published, with Alexandra Guisinger, "Exchange Rate Proclamations and Inflation-Fighting Credibility," *International Organization* 64 (Spring 2010); with Bumba Mukherjee, "International Institutions and Domestic Compensation: The

IMF and the Politics of Capital Account Liberalization," *American Journal of Political Science* 54 (January 2010); "Uncertain Leadership: The U.S. Regulatory Response to the Global Financial Crisis," in Helleiner et al., eds., *Global Finance in Crisis: The Politics of International Regulatory Change* (Routledge, 2009); and, with Layna Mosley, "The Global Financial Crisis: Lessons and Opportunities for International Political Economy," *International Interactions* 35 (November/December 2009).

Professor Snyder published, with David Stromberg, "Press Coverage and Political Accountability," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 118, No. 2 (April 2010); with David Primo, "Party Strength and State Government Spending," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 54, No. 2 (April 2010); with Stephen Ansolabehere, John Mark Hansen, and Shigeo Hirano, "Primary Competition and Partisan Polarization in the U.S. Congress," *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* (forthcoming); with Andrea Prat and Riccardo Puglisi, "Is Private Campaign Finance a Good Thing? Estimates of the Potential Information Benefits," *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* (forthcoming); with Shigeo Hirano and Michael Ting, "Distributive Politics with Primary Elections," *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 71, No. 4 (2009); and, with John W. Patty and Michael Ting, "Two's Company, Three's an Equilibrium: Strategic Voting and Multicandidate Elections," *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 4, No. 3 (2009).

Professor Steinfeld authored *Playing Our Game: Why China's Rise Doesn't Threaten the West* (Oxford University Press, 2010); and, with Richard Lester and Edward Cunningham, "Greener Plants, Grayer Skies: A Report from the Front Lines of China's Energy Sector," *Energy Policy*, Vol. 37, No. 5 (May 2009).

Professor Stewart co-authored, with Stephen Ansolabehere and Nathaniel Persily, "Race, Region, and Vote Choice in the 2008 Election: Implications for the Future of the Voting Rights Act," *Harvard Law Review* 123(6); and with Stephen Ansolabehere, "What Happened in Massachusetts," *Boston Review* (March/April 2010). He also published "Early- and Late-Adopters of Provisional Ballots" in the *Pew Report on Provisional Ballots* (August 2009) and "Assessment of Voting Systems" in *Election Law Journal*, and joined in the brief submitted by Nathaniel Persily, Stephen Ansolabehere, and Charles Stewart III, acting as *amici curae* on behalf of neither party, in the case of Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District Number One vs. Eric H. Holder, Jr., in the Supreme Court of the United States.

Professor Thelen co-edited, with James Mahoney, *Explaining Institutional Change: Ambiguity, Agency and Power* (Cambridge University Press, 2010); published, with Bruno Palier, "Institutionalizing Dualism: Complementarities and Change in France and Germany," *Politics & Society* (March 2010); "Beyond Comparative Statics: Historical Institutional Approaches to Stability and Change in the Political Economy of Labor," *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Institutional Analysis* (2010); and "Institutional Change in Advanced Political Economies," *British Journal of Industrial Relations* 47(3) (September 2009).

Professor Tsai authored "Quantitative Research and Issues of Political Sensitivity in Rural China," in *Chinese Politics: New Sources, Methods, and Field Strategies*, ed. Allen

Carlson, Mary Gallagher, Kenneth Lieberthal, and Melanie Manion (Cambridge University Press); “Accountability,” in *International Encyclopedia of Political Science* (CQ Press, Sage Publications); and “Governing One Million Rural Communities after Two Decades: Are China’s Village Elections Improving?” in *Growing Pains: Tensions and Opportunities in China’s Transformation*, ed. Jean Oi, Scott Rozelle, and Xueguang Zhou (Shorenstein APARC, 2009).

Professor Van Evera coauthored, with Peter Krause, “Public Diplomacy: Ideas for the War of Ideas,” *Middle East Policy*, Vol. 16, No. 3 (Fall 2009); wrote the foreword in A. Trevor Thrall and Jane K. Cramer, eds., *American Foreign Policy and the Politics of Fear: Threat Inflation since 9/11* (Routledge, 2009); and published “Using U.S. Leverage to Abate Conflicts that Harm U.S. Security,” *Tobin Project Occasional Papers* (June 2010).

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 2009–2010:

Professor Berger served as director of MISTI; director of MIT France; and a member of the Global Council, the International Advisory Committee, the Committee on Tenure and Promotion, and the Committee on the Future of OpenCourseWare.

Professor Campbell was a member of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program’s subcommittee on the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Requirement, and a member of the Edgerton Faculty Achievement Award Selection Committee.

Professor Choucri was the associate director of MIT’s Technology and Development Program; served on the editorial committee for the Faculty Newsletter; edited the MIT Press Series on Global Environmental Accord and was the founder of the premier book series in this area, a member of the Middle East Studies Working Group, and a member of the steering committee for Technology and Culture.

Professor Lenz served as a member of the Stellar Advisory Board.

Professor Locke was co-director of the MIT Brazil Program; co-chair of the Procurement Working Group, MIT Task Force; a member of the MIT Global Health Initiative; a member of the Global Council; and a member of the Foreign Scholarships Committee.

Professor Nobles served as a member of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program, the Committee on the Graduate Program, the Faculty Policy Committee, the Committee on Nominations, and as a Burchard Scholars Fellow.

Professor Oye was director of the CIS Political Economy and Technology Policy Program; a member of the MIT Environment Council; a member of the MIT Energy Initiative; a member of the Selection Committee for the Martin Environmental Fellows

Program; a member of Seminar XXI; and a member of the Technology and Culture Forum.

Professor Petersen served as a member of the HASS Oversight Committee.

Professor Samuels was co-chair of Global Council and member of the International Advisory Committee.

Professor Schneider served as co-director of the MIT Brazil Program.

Professor Singer served as associate housemaster of MacGregor House and as a member of the Committee on Student Life, the Committee on Distinguished Scholarships, and the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Selection Committee.

Professor Snyder served as a member of the Faculty Committee on the Library System and as co-organizer of the Harvard/MIT Positive Political Economy Seminar.

Professor Steinfeld served as director of the MIT China Program, co-director of the China Energy Group at the MIT Industrial Performance Center, a member of the Institute-wide Planning Task Force of the Space Working Group, and a member of the faculty leadership team in the MIT Sloan School of Management's China Program.

Professor Stewart was housemaster of McCormick Hall, a member of the MIT Congressional and Executive Staff Seminar planning committee, faculty director of the MIT Washington Summer Internship Program, a member of the Housing Strategy Group, and chair of the Senior House housemaster search committee.

Professor Tsai was a member of the Urban Studies and Planning group Yuan Xiao [Land policy in rural China].

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/>.