

## Department of Political Science

MIT's [Department of Political Science](#) remains one of the country's leading political science departments. It continues to attract top-quality graduate students and junior faculty, and serves as home for several important educational and research activities. Yet in recent years, the department has suffered a series of setbacks, including the departure of several prominent faculty members, the decline in its graduate fellowship budget—making it impossible to attract a healthy cohort of PhD students—and the feeling of a general malaise within the department, undermining the sense of intellectual excitement and community essential to any leading research and teaching program.

Beginning with the May 2010 arrival of a new department head, professor Richard Locke, the Department of Political Science began a very exciting, and at times intense, process of rebuilding. The goal is to make the department, within the next three to five years, one of the country's top five political science departments. In the process, we hope to help transform the discipline by showing that analytical and theoretical rigor can go hand-in-hand with policy relevance, and that the field of political science can make significant contributions toward solving the world's great challenges while also advancing the frontiers of knowledge. To achieve these goals, we will need to build upon existing strengths within the department, develop stronger ties to other departments and research initiatives at MIT, and invest new resources into the department, both in the short and medium term.

This past year, the department has focused on:

- Strengthening the departments' finances so we can support a healthy and competitive PhD program and hire to fill all open faculty slots.
- Reviewing and upgrading our graduate and undergraduate programs so that we offer students the very best possible education in politics, policy, and the underlying methods required to understand and evaluate competing political positions and policy options.
- Developing a strategic plan for the department that articulates a clear and convincing statement for which areas (i.e., subfields/specializations) and approaches the department can truly excel at and be distinctive in. This plan will guide both future investments (e.g., faculty slots, research funds, fellowships) and the content/structure of our educational and research programs.
- Increasing the quantity and quality of scholarly activities sponsored by the department in order to enhance our visibility (within MIT, in the discipline, and to the world) and our intellectual community.
- Changing the norms (i.e., culture) of the department so we can create a rich and nurturing intellectual community.
- Building stronger ties to other departments and research centers at MIT both by playing a greater role in various policy-related debates on campus and by promoting collaborative projects and joint courses with faculty from other units at MIT. Strengthening our ties and identification with MIT will be key to our return to prominence.

Although we still have a lot of work to do, we have begun to make some progress on each of these tasks. For example, with the help of the provost and the dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, we were able to re-fund three previously underfunded slots and thus launch a series of searches aimed at hiring at least six new faculty. We ran three faculty searches this past year, in the areas of American politics, methodology, and political theory, in an effort to strengthen both our graduate and undergraduate programs. We succeeded in filling open positions in methods and political theory, but were unsuccessful in our efforts to recruit new faculty in American politics. Once again, we still have significant work to do, but we have come together as a community to begin to address these issues.

We also have begun making progress on raising funds for our graduate program. A \$1M gift from Andronico Luksic was a significant contribution, and we have been successful at raising additional smaller gifts from an array of donors. We also have invested \$1M from expendable surpluses in existing political science endowed accounts that over time will generate sufficient income to support additional graduate students. We still have a major gap in our graduate fellowship budget but are working hard to close it.

In addition, over the course of past spring and this fall, faculty have been meeting, both in their subgroups/specialties and as an entire department, to develop a strategic plan and review and improve our graduate and undergraduate programs. As a result, we have made some significant changes to our graduate program, which should strengthen the methodological skills and training of our PhD students, provide a greater range of substantive courses in all the key subfields, and shorten the amount of time our PhD students take to complete their degrees.

We also have decided to combine two related fields, comparative politics and political economy, and are discussing an additional fusion of the international relations and security studies subfields. This is part of our goal to identify a small number of core strengths in the department that we can truly excel at, be distinctive in, and become well known for. Given our relatively small size (compared to other leading political science departments at peer institutions) we feel that building on our strengths is key to our goal of emerging as one of the top five political science departments in the country.

Finally, we have launched a series of new research-related activities (e.g., the Political Experiments Research Lab, the American Politics Speaker Series, the Younger Scholars conference, the Comparative Politics Workshop, and the Ideas Matter forum) that have created a new sense of intellectual energy and excitement within the department. We also hope to play a key role in the emergent Institute-wide Production in the Innovation Economy project.

In short, we have begun to make progress on all the key issues facing the department—issues we need to address if we are to meet our goals of reinventing the discipline and becoming one of the country's top five political science departments.

## Educational Initiatives

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

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

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

Although the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) is formally affiliated with the Center for International Studies, almost all of the faculty directors of the country programs are from the Department of Political Science, as is the overall 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 minor in applied international studies is formally affiliated with the department. Many students who participate in the MISTI program also pursue the applied international studies minor, which is now the third-largest minor at the Institute.

During AY2011, departmental faculty developed several new subjects that were first taught during the year. They include 17.551/17.522 Political Economy of Chinese Reform (Professor Edward Steinfeld), 17.869 Political Science Scope and Methods (Professor Adam Berinsky), and 17.473 The Politics of WMD Proliferation (Professor Vipin Narang).

The MIT Washington Summer Internship Program continues to allow MIT's technically oriented students to experience how institutions vital to their later success operate, and gives the federal government and other policy makers early access to the best young scientists and engineers in America. Thirteen undergraduates participated in summer 2010, representing all of the schools at the Institute. They were placed at the Brookings Institution, Chemonics International, the Congressional Research Service, the US Department of the Interior, the House Committee on Ways and Means, the Inter-American Development Bank, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Capital Planning Commission, Orbital Sciences Corporation, Resources for the Future, the US Senate Committee on Finance, and Teach For America.

## Student Recruitment, Placement, and Enrollment

The department reviewed 470 applications for the PhD program (a record number, for the third year in a row, since the department began retaining admissions statistics in 1994). We accepted 28 applicants, of whom 12 will enroll in fall 2011. 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 competing departments would be addressing many of these same issues. This year our applicant pool was again 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 of students who apply for the field of American politics—a subfield in which demand for high-quality PhD graduates vastly outstrips supply.

Our graduating doctoral students continue to garner rewarding and prestigious appointments in academics and industry. Our PhD graduates obtained faculty appointments at the Claremont McKenna College, Boston College, Harvard Business School, Texas A&M University, and MIT; and postdoctoral fellowships at Brandeis University, George Washington University, and Stanford University.

Undergraduate enrollments continued to be comparable to past years. We had 31 majors, 42 concentrators, and 87 minors (20 in political science, 6 in public policy, and 61 in applied international studies).

## Faculty and Personnel

The Department extended successful offers to Teppei Yamamoto (Princeton University), Lucas Stanczyk (Harvard University), and Daniel Hidalgo (University of California, Berkeley).

We are delighted that two faculty members were promoted this year, to take effect July 1, 2011: Taylor Fravel to associate with tenure, and Edward Steinfeld to the rank of professor.

Notable awards, grants, recognitions, and important professional responsibilities given to faculty members during AY2011 include the following:

Professor Suzanne Berger was president of Comité International d'Orientation Scientifique et Stratégique at the Collège de France (2011).

Professor Berinsky was awarded the Levitan Prize in the Humanities (2011). He was also a Warren J. Mitofsky Award Committee member for The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research (2011), and on the academic advisory committee of The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research (2010–present).

Professor Andrea Campbell was nominated to be president-elect and panel organizer (2012–2013), and president (2013–2014), of the American Political Science Association.

Professor Fotini Christia was awarded a United Nations World Food Programme/USAID Wheat Grant and Logistics for Afghan Development (2011), an ICG/LSE

Data Collection Grant for Afghan Development (2011), and a Draper Labs Grant for Afghan Data Collection (2010).

Professor Melissa Nobles was awarded the Arthur and Ruth Sloan chair (2010).

Professor Kenneth Oye was awarded the James A. and Ruth Levitan Award for Teaching Excellence (2011).

Professor Roger Petersen was awarded the Arthur and Ruth Sloan chair (2010).

Professor Daniel N. Posner was a visiting fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University (2010–2011).

Professor Richard J. Samuels was awarded a grant by the East Asian Institute Fellowship for the Study of East Asian International Relations (2009–2010).

Professor David Singer was a visiting scholar at Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University (2010–2011).

Professor Steinfeld received a National Science Foundation Political Science research grant, and a MISTI Global Seed Fund award for Non-democratic Accountability: Experiments with Citizen Contacting in China (2010–2011).

Professor Charles Stewart III was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2011), and was a visiting scholar at the Election Law Program at The Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law (2010–2011).

Professor Kathleen Thelen was a senior research fellow at Nuffield College at Oxford University, UK (2007–2011); held a Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study fellowship at Harvard University (Matina S. Horner distinguished visiting professor) (2010–2011); and was awarded an Abe Fellowship by the Social Science Research Council, which she declined. In addition, Professor Thelen was awarded the Stanley Hoffmann Prize for the article "Institutionalizing Dualism: Complementarities and Change in France and Germany," coauthored with Bruno Palier (*Politics and Society*, 2010). The prize is awarded for the "best English-language article on French politics published in a peer-reviewed journal during the previous two years."

Professor Lily Tsai served as the division chair, Politics of Communist and Post-Communist Systems, for the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.

### **Faculty Leaves, Departures, and Visitors**

Professors Thelen and Singer were on leave and professor Stewart was on sabbatical for the 2010–2011 school year. Professors Fravel, Gabriel Lenz, Chappell Lawson, and Tsai were on leave for the fall semester. Professor Schneider was on leave for the spring semester.

Professor Lenz departed for a position as associate professor at the University of California, Berkeley. Stanczyk taught subject 17.01 Justice in the spring as a visiting instructor. Carlos Diaz taught subject 17.20 Introduction to the American Political Process in the spring as a visiting instructor.



## Faculty Research and Publications

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

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

Professor Berger authored "German Crises Before the Crisis," in *Comparative European Politics* 8, no. 4 (December 2010); and "Puzzles from the First Globalization," in *Politics in New Hard Times* (Miles Kahler and David Lake, eds; Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

Professor Berinsky edited and wrote the "Introduction" for *New Directions in Public Opinion* (Adam J. Berinsky, ed.; Routledge Press, forthcoming); and authored "Representative Sampling and Survey Non-Response," in *The Oxford Handbook of American Public Opinion and the Media* (Lawrence Jacobs and Robert Shapiro, eds; Oxford University Press, 2010). Professor Berinsky also coauthored, with Gabriel Lenz, "Education and Political Participation: Exploring the Causal Link," in *Political Behavior* (forthcoming); coauthored, with Vincent Hutchings, Tali Mendelberg, Lee Shaker, and Nicholas Valentino, "Sex and Race: Are Black Candidates More Likely to be Disadvantaged by Sex Scandals?" in *Political Behavior* (forthcoming); coauthored, with Eleanor Neff Powell, Eric Schickler, and Ian Brett Yohai, "Revisiting Public Opinion in the 1930s and 1940s," in *PS: Political Science & Politics* (forthcoming); and coauthored, with Howard Lavine, "Self-Monitoring and Political Attitudes," in *Improving Public Opinion Surveys: Interdisciplinary Innovation and the American National Election Studies* (John Aldrich and Kathleen McGraw, eds.; Princeton University Press, 2011).

Professor Campbell authored "Policy Feedbacks and the Impact of Policy Designs on Public Opinion," in the *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* (forthcoming); and coauthored, with Kimberly Morgan, "Delegated Governance in the Affordable Care Act of 2010," in the *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* (forthcoming).

Professor Nazli Choucri authored "Renewable Energy Policy in an Oil-Exporting Country: The Case of the United Arab Emirates," in *Renewable Energy Law and Policy Review* 1, no. 1 (2010); "Renewable Energy in Abu Dhabi: Opportunities and Challenges," in *Journal of Energy Engineering* (forthcoming); and "The Politics of Knowledge Management," in *Mapping out the Research-Policy Matrix: Highlights from the First International Forum on the Social Science Policy-Nexus* (UNESCO Publishing; forthcoming). Professor Choucri's article, "International Institutions for Cyber Security," has also been submitted, reviewed, and is currently under revision.

Professor Christia authored *The Closest of Enemies: Alliance Formation in Civil Wars* (under review, Cambridge University Press); and "Hydra-Headed: Group Fractionalization in Multiparty Civil Wars," (under review, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*). Professor Christia also coauthored, with Stephen Biddle and J. Alexander Their, "Defining Success in Afghanistan: What Can the United States Accept?" in *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2010).

Professor Fravel coedited, with Sun Xuefeng and Matt Ferchen, *Rethinking China's Rise: A Reader* (Oxford University Press, 2010); authored "International Relations Theory and China's Rise: Assessing China's Potential for Territorial Expansion," in *International Studies Review* 12, no. 4 (December 2010); and coauthored, with Evan S. Medeiros, "China's Search of Assured Retaliation: The Evolution of China's Nuclear Strategy and Force Structure," in *International Security* 35, no. 2 (Fall 2010).

Professor Hainmueller authored "Entropy Balancing: A Multivariate Reweighting Method to Produce Balanced Samples in Observational Studies," in *Political Analysis* (forthcoming); coauthored, with Michael Bechtel, "How Lasting is Voter Gratitude? An Analysis of the Short- and Long-Term Electoral Returns to Beneficial Policy," in the *American Journal of Political Science* (forthcoming); and coauthored, with Michael Hiscox, "Attitudes toward Highly Skilled and Low-Skilled Immigration: Evidence from a Survey Experiment," in *American Political Science Review* 104, no. 1 (2010).

Professor Lawson coauthored, with Gabriel Lenz, "Looking the Part: Television Leads Less Informed Citizens to Vote Based on Candidates' Appearance," in *American Journal of Political Science* (forthcoming); and coauthored, with Gabriel Lenz, Andy Baker, and Mike Myers, "Looking Like a Winner: Candidate Appearance and Electoral Success in New Democracies," in *World Politics* 62, no. 4 (2010).

Professor Lenz coauthored, with Chappell Lawson, "Looking the Part: Television Leads Less Informed Citizens to Vote Based on Candidates' Appearance," in *American Journal of Political Science* (forthcoming); coauthored, with Jonathan Ladd, "Does Anxiety Improve Voters' Decision-Making?" in *Political Psychology* (forthcoming); and coauthored, with Adam J. Berinsky, "Education and Political Participation: Uncovering the Causal Link," in *Political Behavior* (forthcoming).

Professor Narang authored "Posturing for Peace?: Pakistan's Nuclear Postures and South Asian Stability," in *International Security* 34, no. 3 (Winter 2010).

Professor Nobles coedited, with Professor Jun-Hyeok Kwak of Korea University, a book on historical reconciliation that has been accepted for publication.

Professor Petersen authored *Western Intervention in the Balkans: The Strategic Use of Emotion in Conflict* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming); "The Social Psychology of Political Radicalization," a book review in the *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict* (forthcoming); and "Identity, Rationality, and Emotion in the Processes of State Disintegration and Reconstruction," in *Constructivist Theories of Ethnic Politics* (Kanchan Chandra, ed.; Oxford University Press, forthcoming.)

Professor Posner published, with Eric Kramon, "Kenya's New Constitution," in the *Journal of Democracy* 22, no. 2 (April 2011); and contributed to "Individual and Community" in the *Boston Review* (March/April 2011).

Professor Samuels published, with Robert Madsen, "Japan's Black Swan," in *Foreign Policy* (March 16, 2011).

Professor Schneider authored "Business Politics in Latin America: Patterns of Fragmentation and Centralization," in *The Oxford Handbook of Business and Government* (David Coen, Wyn Grant, and Graham Wilson, eds.; Oxford University Press, 2010); "Business Groups and the State: The Politics of

Expansion, Restructuring, and Collapse” in *The Oxford Handbook of Business Groups* (Asli Colpan, Takashi Hikino, and James Lincoln, eds.; Oxford University Press, 2010); and “Crises and Institutional Origins: Business Associations in Latin America,” in *Explaining Institutional Innovation* (Richard Doner, ed.; SSRN, 2010). Professor Schneider also published, with Sebastian Karcher, “Complementarities and Continuities in the Political Economy of Labor Markets in Latin America,” in *Socio-Economic Review* 8, no. 4 (October 2010).

Professor Singer published “Migrant Remittances and Exchange Rate Regimes in the Developing World,” in *American Political Science Review* 104, no. 2 (2010); coauthored, with Alexandra Guisinger, “Exchange Rate Proclamations and Inflation-Fighting Credibility,” in *International Organization* 64, no. 2 (2010); and coauthored, with Bumba Mukherjee, “International Institutions and Domestic Compensation: The IMF and the Politics of Capital Account Liberalization,” in *American Journal of Political Science* 54, no. 1 (2010).

Professor Steinfeld authored “Institutional Transformation and Industrial Recombination in Contemporary China,” MIT Department of Political Science (March 2011); and “A Political Chill in China?” in *The Boston Review* (forthcoming).

Professor Stewart authored “More Voting by Mail? First, Consider the Hidden Costs,” in *Election Law @ Moritz* (October 20, 2010).

Professor Thelen coedited, with James Mahoney, *Explaining Institutional Change: Ambiguity, Agency, and Power* (Cambridge University Press, 2010); and published “Varieties of Capitalism and Business History,” in *Business History Review* 84, no. 4 (Winter 2010).

Professor Tsai authored “Friends or Foes? Nonstate Public Goods Providers and Local State Authorities in Nondemocratic and Transitional Systems,” in *Studies in Comparative International Development* 46, no. 1 (2011); and “Accountability,” in *International Encyclopedia of Political Science* (CQ Press, SAGE Publications; forthcoming).

Professor Stephen Van Evera published “Trends in Political Science and the Future of Security Studies,” in *Security Studies Program Annual Report, 2009–2010* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Security Studies Program, 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 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 the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives; director of the MIT-France Program; cochair of the Production in the Innovation Economy Commission; and member of the Global Council, the International Advisory Committee, and the MIT-Japan Hayashi Fund. Professor Berger also presented to the executive committee of the MIT Corporation (on innovation) and to the MIT Corporation (on international



education), and organized and presented (with Fiona Murray and Charles Cooney) Institute-wide round tables on innovation and production.

Professor Berinsky founded the MIT Political Experiments Research Lab, and currently serves as its director. He also served on the Committee on the Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects and the Edgerton Faculty Achievement Award Selection Committee.

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

Professor Choucri served on the graduate program committee, was the associate director of the Technology and Development Program, and served as the director of the Middle East Program.

Professor Fravel served on the Committee on the Undergraduate Program and on the MIT Committee for Distinguished Fellowships.

Professor Hainmueller served as the faculty organizer for the MIT/Harvard Positive Political Economy workshop and the Friday political economy breakfasts. He also served on the graduate admissions committee.

Professor Lenz was a member of the graduate admissions committee.

Professor Locke currently serves as department head and codirector of MIT-Brazil Program, and served as deputy dean of the MIT Sloan School of Management and on the MIT Committee for Distinguished Fellowships.

Professor Nobles served as the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences representative on the committee for Gender Equity and as head of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program.

Professor Oye was a member of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program; the Martin Fellow Selection Committee; and the search committees for international relations, international political economy, methods, American politics, and public policy.

Professor Petersen served as a member of the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Oversight Committee; chaired the methods search committee (resulting in two hires); and served as graduate program chair.

Professor Samuels was director of the Center for International Studies and served on the promotion committee for Professor Steinfeld.

Professor Schneider served as codirector of MIT-Brazil Program, as codirector of the MIT-Chile Program, and as a member of the graduate program committee.

Professor Singer served as associate housemaster of MacGregor House; and as a member of the Committee on Student Life, the East Campus Associate Housemaster Search committee, and the graduate admissions committee.

Professor Steinfeld served as chairman of the Comparative Politics/Political Economy subfield, director of the MIT-China Program, codirector of the Industrial Performance Center's China Energy Group, and as member of the MIT Greater China Strategy Working Group and the Production in the Innovation Economy study group.

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

Professor Tsai was committee member the African politics search committee.

Professor Van Evera was the associate director for the Center for International Studies and served on the political science graduate admissions committee.

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