



SPRING 2025 | NEWSLETTER

MSU Department of Political Science

For Alumni & Friends





MSU Political Science Pre-Law senior Sedrick Huff got the opportunity to introduce U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris at a pre-election rally in East Lansing in the fall of 2024. Courtesy photo.

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Public service is more than a career path; it's a commitment to community, justice, and the common good. It's also a core value that drives so much of the work done by our students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

- Jeff Conroy-Krutz

LETTER FROM CHAIR:

Jeffrey Conroy-Krutz



Dear Alumni and Friends,

As we close out another academic year, I'm proud to share the Spring 2025 edition of the Department of Political Science newsletter—this time with a theme that sits at the heart of what we do: public service.

Public service is more than a career path; it's a commitment to community, justice, and the common good. It's also a core value that drives so much of the work done by our students, alumni, faculty, and staff. In these pages, you'll read about PLS alumni who are serving their communities through elected office, law, and research—each finding unique ways to strengthen democracy, promote civic engagement, and pursue justice.

Our current students are equally inspiring. Through initiatives like the Michigan Government Semester Program, undergraduates are exploring future careers in public service by working and studying in Lansing during the Spring semester. Others are contributing to political campaigns, interning with advocacy organizations, or producing original research that addresses real-world challenges. Their energy and dedication affirm that the future of public service is in good hands.

This semester also marked the return of our in-person Master of Public Policy capstone presentations. These final projects highlight the essential role of evidence-based analysis in shaping policy outcomes that serve diverse communities, from here in Michigan to as far away as Ghana.

We also celebrate a bittersweet milestone: the retirement of Rhonda Burns, who has been the steady, welcoming presence in our department for 41 years. Rhonda's dedication has helped generations of students, faculty, and staff thrive in PLS. Her legacy of service will remain a model for us all.

Beyond our public service theme, this newsletter features exciting updates on faculty research that continues to push the boundaries of Political Science. From studies on partisanship, the courts, and immigration in the US to research on election violence in Africa, central banks, and authoritarian regimes, our faculty are producing scholarship that is both rigorous and deeply relevant.

Finally, we are delighted to introduce the first recipients of our four new Katosh scholarships, awarded to outstanding undergraduates. These scholarships reflect our commitment to supporting the next generation of leaders in Political Science and public life, as well as the generosity of our alumni in providing a leg up to these promising students as they get set to launch their careers.

Thank you for being part of the PLS community. Your support makes all of this possible.

#YesPLS!

Jeff Conroy-Krutz



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

From Foot Locker to “the VIP treatment”

By Karessa Weir

Introducing U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris before her pre-election rally in East Lansing last November was not an honor that Sedrick Huff ever expected, even after he spent months campaigning for the Democratic presidential candidate.

“It is cemented as one of the most surreal experiences of mine,” said Huff, a Political Science Pre-Law senior and president of the Black Undergraduate Law Association.

Huff was working at his second job at the shoe store Foot Locker when he got a call from an unknown number. He expected it to be from someone soliciting for a campaign and let it go to voice mail.

“Something told me to actually check this one out,” he said

It was a member of the Harris campaign’s outreach and service team, who wanted Huff to call him back when he could.

“I just dropped the shoes in my hand,” he said. “I went out of ‘Foot Locker mode’ and called him back.”

The coordinator, Bobby Bennett, asked Huff if he wanted to introduce the Vice President before her rally at Jenison Field House Nov. 3. Huff asked him to repeat it.

“He said, yeah man, this is real,” Huff said.

Huff couldn’t sleep the night before because he was too excited. The campaign sent him a speech, and that was when he realized it was actually going to happen. He was told to be at Jenison around 3 p.m. for the 6 p.m. rally.

“I’ve never done anything like that before in my life, so I really had to psych myself up,” he said.

While Huff was waiting for his turn on stage, he “got the VIP treatment” meeting with MSU President Kevin Guskiewicz and his family, Michigan Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, and other state and national political figures.

Huff had been spending days working on the campaign, canvassing for support, but nothing had prepared him to introduce Harris.

“I was not ready. Nothing could have prepared me,” he said. “But I did pretty good.”

Huff did go “off script” for a portion of the introduction, responding to the energy of the packed fieldhouse.

Vice President Harris strode on the stage following the introduction and shook hands with Huff.

“I just soaked it all up,” Huff said. “It was amazing to see her in person and feeling her energy and vibe. I love how she got the crowd engaged.”

During her speech, Harris called out students like Huff, telling them “I see you.”

“It definitely warmed my heart when she said how much she admired Gen-Z,” Huff said. “Just having that recognition that she knows we are willing to work as hard as we can, to change our lives, to change the future, to have a role in society.”

In addition to his work on the Harris campaign, Huff has served as an intern with 30th Judicial Circuit Court Judge Rosemarie Aquilina. PLS Professor Sarah Reckhow also praised Huff’s performance, both in the classroom and on the stage.

“Sed is a terrific student in class who is also highly engaged in politics, policy, and leadership outside of the classroom--as President of the Black Undergraduate Law Association and through his internship. Seeing him introduce Vice President Harris on-stage in front of thousands of people with so much poise and composure was really exciting,” Reckhow said.

Following graduation, Huff is working in his hometown of Detroit to build connections for his future, while studying for his LSAT exams for law school. He would love to go to a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) for law school and knows he will end up in Washington D.C. someday.

“Once I get through law school, I will be a civil rights attorney for five to ten years and then run for some type of office, maybe judge,” he said. “I want to take my legal and political aspirations as high as they can go.”

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

From harvesting crops to reshaping narratives



Luz Vazquez is a first-generation student studying Public Policy in the Department of Political Science, who is graduating a semester early this Fall. Vazquez is the daughter of migrant farmers from Mulberry, Florida, and she began working at a young age, joining her family to pick crops. Here, she shares the story of her journey to MSU.

From the long hours standing or kneeling to working bent to the ground harvesting crops in the extreme heat — my background of farm working will always be with me. As a first-generation student graduating with my bachelor’s degree in Political Science, it’s still hard

to believe that my days in the fields — 19 years old, worrying and unsure about what was next — would lead me to Michigan State University.

Moving to Michigan was not new to me. Growing up, I migrated with my family from Florida to Michigan to follow the seasonal crops. From age 14 to 19, I had firsthand experience picking various crops, including strawberries, squash, blueberries, cherries and more.

I first learned about the College Assistant Migrant Program, or CAMP, at MSU through my older brother, who had the opportunity to attend MSU and benefit from the program. Additionally, the recruitment MSU CAMP did at my high school made me aware of their program. Seeing my brother succeed in college, especially with the support of CAMP, motivated me to apply. I qualified for the program and saw it as a valuable opportunity to receive the support I needed to pursue higher education.

When I arrived at MSU, CAMP welcomed me to my new home. In a new environment, with little to no clue how to navigate college, CAMP immediately guided my cohort and me, introducing us to many leaders and new organizations and providing continuous resources throughout my first year.

As MSU transitioned back to in-person lectures following the COVID-19 pandemic and I saw more students face-to-face, I knew this was my chance to meet new people and get involved.

Being in CAMP, I had the opportunity to participate in my first education abroad with the International Engagement to Mexico, or IEM program, where I spent my spring break volunteering in Oaxaca. Throughout this experience, I was reminded of my culture and my passion for giving back to my community.

As I returned for my second year at MSU, I remember telling myself that I would be involved around campus, take leadership roles, and make new friends. Once the Fall semester began, I was excited to join a new student organization called Latino Leaders in Policy in addition to participating again in the IEM program, this time returning as a site leader.

More importantly, I was beyond grateful that I would start my first internship on campus with University Communications and Marketing and the Office for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion.

In my position, I quickly learned from sharing my story on various platforms that MSU migrant farmworker students lacked representation. I wanted to help others tell their own stories and bring recognition to different community groups on campus.

My passion for storytelling and advocating for farmworkers led me to drive a year-long campaign that included stories and content to raise awareness of the migrant and farmworker community on campus.

During the campaign, I worked closely with CAMP staff, specifically Luis Alonzo Garcia, director of Migrant Student Services, and Elias Lopez, senior associate director of CAMP, who supported me by inviting me to farmworker-focused events to help with new story ideas or networking opportunities.

By attending these events, I connected with Associate Professor David Mota-Sanchez and learned about the MSU Great Lakes Latina/o Farmers Program, formerly La Cosecha, which offers bilingual training for first-generation farmers to support them in improving their processes and farms.

After discovering this program and knowing that MSU has a community of students, faculty and others from farmworker backgrounds, I wanted to honor them as valuable contributors to agriculture and society.

To recognize their essential role, I created an art exhibition named Las Alas Invisibles: The Unseen Wings to launch with National Farmworker Awareness Week. The exhibition was themed on the shared northbound migration journey between farmworkers and monarch butterflies during the harvesting season.

My exhibit featured a video, over a dozen MSUToday stories, farm working photos from community members, a display of fieldwork clothing and tools, and a collection of CAMP yearbooks to show visitors a window into farmworkers’ lives and recognize the labor that feeds America.

Attorney General Joins PLS to Celebrate MGSP Participants

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel joined PLS faculty and community partners to celebrate students wrapping up their participation in this Spring's Michigan Government Semester Program (MGSP). MGSP launched over a decade ago to provide MSU students with immersive opportunities to learn more about state government and careers in public service.

This Spring's twenty-four participants came from across MSU into the program with vastly different experiences, interests, career aspirations, and political viewpoints. While in MGSP, they worked in legislative offices, judges' chambers, law firms, lobbying firms and non-profits, for a collective total of 6,480 hours of public service.

For participant Lucas Gravatt, the best part of his internship experience has been the people he's met and the friendships he has made during the semester.

"It's been super awesome to make all those connections," Gravatt said. "These are connections I'm going to keep for a long time. If any of us need something down the road, we all know we can reach out to each other."

Program Director Marty Jordan, an Assistant Professor in PLS, praised the students at a reception in downtown Lansing, overlooking the state capitol, this April. "You've drafted legal briefs and memos, attended courtroom proceedings, staffed legislators on the floor late into the evening," Dr. Jordan said. "You didn't just show up for class but deepened your knowledge."

In addition to their placements and traditional classroom time, students heard from over three dozen speakers in and around government, many of them alumni and long-time supporters of MSU.

Prof. Jordan said these speakers gave students opportunities to learn about myriad educational and career paths.

Further, the program provided a space for students to see and participate in models of respectful, meaningful political dialogue. "We didn't shy away from the tough topics," Prof. Jordan said, noting that the students showed that these debates could happen "with civility and respect."

Political Science Pre-law junior Andrew Palmer interned with Judge Michelle Rick. His time there has expanded his knowledge of law and convinced him to continue toward his goal of attending law school.

"I've had a lot of opportunities to explore different areas of not only just the law, but events and different extracurriculars that the judge participates in. It's been great," Palmer said. "I've gotten to meet a lot of people, a lot of judges who work in family law, at the federal level and as administrative law judges. It has definitely influenced me and what I want to do."

PLS Chair Jeff Conroy-Krutz, who welcomed attendees, said the Spring reception is one of his favorite events of the year. "There is an infectious energy in the room with students just completing their programs, and being surrounded by all these people dedicated to public service," Prof. Conroy-Krutz said, praising Prof. Jordan's dedication to the internship program and public service.

Prof. Jordan quoted New York Governor and then-presidential candidate Franklin D. Roosevelt, who told graduates of Oglethorpe University in 1932: "We need the courage of the young. Yours is not the task of making your way in the world but in remaking the world."



From left, Michael Ghete, Daniel Taekyu Kang and Lucas Gravatt were among the 24 Michigan Government Semester Program participants for 2025. Photo by Jackie Belden Hawthorne, College of Social Science.

"Those words could not be more true now," Prof. Jordan went on. "We need to make public service more attractive again and more accessible to students, to make government look more like the people it serves. To have young people not just make your way in the word, but improving it. Others may be questioning the value of public service, we are challenging that notion."

Speaking before the interns and their sponsors, Attorney General Nessel thanked them for the work they did this semester and urged them to consider future careers in public service.

"Work in public service is valued, it's important, it is critical to maintain a civil society and all the things that are truly great about America. It's going to continue with all of you understanding the difference you all can make in the lives of so many people if you choose that path. I hope you will love working for the government as much as I have," she said.

2025 Outstanding Graduate Program Community Award



Recent MSU PLS PhD graduates Gerson Guevara, Erika Vallejo and Alejandra López Villegas celebrate their achievements at the spring awards ceremony

The MSU PLS PhD program was selected by MSU's Graduate School as the winner of the 2025 Outstanding Graduate Program Community Award.

According to MSU Graduate School Associate Dean Kirsten Tollefson, the program stood out for several reasons, including supporting their PhD students with a lounge and lending library, as well as providing professionalization opportunities.

"The Graduate Student Association (GSA) plays a core role within the department by serving on many departmental committees, including climate and access, strategic planning and the Graduate Committee," she wrote.

"The program is committed to career and professional development. For example, they recently turned a teaching professionalization workshop into a semester course. They have instituted peer mentoring in the form of "Methods Fellows" with experienced students helping the first-year students through their initial coursework. To foster networking opportunities and career placement after the pandemic the program hosted a student-alumni conference, that they hope to continue," she wrote.

Prof. Ian Ostrander, Director of Graduate Studies, nominated PLS as an embodiment of MSU's foundational values in graduate training.

"I am particularly proud of what our community has been able to achieve, creating an intellectual and supportive climate even in an era of diminished resources," Ostrander wrote.

PhD students Alexandra Stinson-Swartout, president of the GSA; Bailey Oates; and Matthew Cota wrote a letter in support of the award, saying that "PLS is a place where students and faculty thrive because of our commitment to our work and to each other."

The award comes with a grant of \$5,000, which the Department plans to use to subsidize its upcoming PLS PhD Alumni conference in Fall 2025, as well as a plaque for the graduate lounge.

PhD students receive end of the year Graduate Awards

Best Paper



Li-Hong Weng



Ben Yoel



Alejandra Lopez Villegas

Rhode Fellowship



Kelechi Amakoh

PLS Teaching Award



Matt Cota



Jack Katosh PLS Scholarship Awards announced for four political science students

Four MSU Department of Political Science students are the first recipients of the newly created Jack Katosh Scholarships to assist MSU students in research, education, study abroad, and ROTC programs.

Katosh, a PLS alumnus and long-time public opinion researcher, announced the generous gift in the fall of 2024, creating the awards to give back to his MSU roots.

“The seeds to my career were embedded in me at Michigan State,” Katosh said. “Now I’m in a position where I’ve had a good career, invested well and at a point in my life where I’m able to ‘give back’ in a hopefully meaningful way. Each of the scholarships is geared to mirror some aspect of my career.”

Each of the awards provides students with \$5,000.

Lowell Monis



Lowell Monis was selected for the 2025-26 Jack Katosh Political Science American Government Award, which focuses on outstanding research by an undergraduate student in US government.

Lowell’s research paper, “Intersectionality in the Halls of Power: Diversity and Its Impact on Policy in United States Legislatures,” was impressive for its demonstration of high-quality research skills, sophisticated analysis, and valuable contribution to understanding of the role of diversity in legislative performance and representation, said Undergraduate Program Director Dr. Erica Frantz.

Lowell applied for the award to expand his education into more advanced PLS courses.

“Being selected as an inaugural recipient of the Jack Katosh Award validates my interdisciplinary approach to political science research. It recognizes the value of combining methods with political theory. This honor encourages me to continue exploring American governmental systems and motivates me to expand my research beyond academic settings. As one of the first recipients, I’m honored to help establish a tradition of scholarship that contributes to our understanding of effective governance and policymaking in the United States,” Lowell said.

Noelle Whorf



Noelle Whorf was selected for the 2025-26 Jack Katosh Undergraduate Research and Experiential Learning Award, which recognizes students interested in survey research. Whorf

has pursued multiple opportunities to deepen understanding of political science data and research, including assisting with MSU’s Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, and she plans to continue work in survey research following graduation.

“It is an honor to receive this award,” Whorf said. “I am humbled to be recognized among such a dedicated group of students. It is incredibly motivating to receive support from an individual like Mr. Katosh, who values investing in the education of future generations.” Whorf will be using this award to learn about British culture, history, and politics in London, Oxford, and the Lake District, in the PLS Study Abroad Program “British Politics and Society,” with Dr. Michael Wahman.

“Without this award, this experience would not be feasible for me, and it will significantly enrich my time here at MSU.”

Stella Weiss



Stella Weiss was selected for the 2025-26 Jack Katosh Political Science ROTC Award.

“Stella is an exemplary student in Political Science, as well

as a highly valued member of ROTC, demonstrating in all of these endeavors a strong work ethic, leadership skills, and commitment to service,” Dr. Frantz said.

Stella is currently a cadet in Army ROTC and a Political Science Pre-Law major.

“My ultimate aspiration is to become a military JAG officer, and this scholarship supports both my academic and military career paths,” she said. “I am incredibly grateful to be one of the inaugural recipients of this award. It’s an honor to be recognized for my commitment to both ROTC and political science. This scholarship motivates me to continue striving towards both my academic and career goals.”

Jaelynn Smith



Finally, Jaelynn Smith was selected for the 2025-26 Jack Katosh D.C. Study Away Scholarship, which recognizes undergraduate students pursuing experiential learning in the US capital. Smith

has substantial experience working as an intern, including for the Michigan Senate, and is a dedicated student and policy advocate. Jaelynn plans to continue this work in the future in a position in D.C.

“PLS is very grateful to Jack for his generous support of our students. Lowell, Noelle, Stella, and Jaelynn are such amazing examples as the first recipients of these awards, and we congratulate them for all their accomplishments,” PLS Chair Jeff Conroy-Krutz said.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

Gender bias in central banking

Central bankers are among the most important public officials in many political systems. In the US, the Federal Reserve drives monetary policy, which has significant ramifications for employment, prices, and long-term interest rates. In other words, central bankers are key economic decision-makers, and their influence is broad.

However, historically there have been few women in these roles. In the US, only one woman—Janet Yellen—has chaired the Federal Reserve. Globally, only about one in ten finance ministers or central bank governors is a woman, although those numbers are growing.

How does gender matter in how the public views central bankers? PLS Professors Cristina Bodea and Andrew Kerner tried to answer this question, using a novel experiment conducted with thousands of survey respondents in the US. Their findings were recently published in an article in the *Journal of Politics*, titled “Expectations, Gender Bias, and Federal Reserve Talk: Do Americans Trust Women as Central Bankers?”

Profs. Bodea and Kerner found that gender does, in fact, impact how the public perceives messages from central bankers. Participants in their study read identical vignettes about the US economy. The messages, based on real-life statements of male and female central bankers, included assurances that the Federal Reserve had the tools to resolve and fix challenges with inflation. As part of the experiment, details about central bankers making the statements varied, in terms of their gender and professional credentials. This strategy allowed Profs. Bodea and Kerner to isolate how specific characteristics of central bankers, including their gender, affected how participants responded to the bankers’ assurances.

One of their central findings was that gender does, in fact, impact how central bankers are perceived. Namely, messages from women central bankers were less likely to improve optimism about the economic future or trust in the Federal Reserve, particularly among men who

participated in the study. Further, men’s bias against female central bankers held, even in scenarios when information about the bankers’ credentials was also provided. In other words, men were more optimistic about the future and more trusting of the Federal Reserve when the central banker was male. “When the Federal Reserve asked Americans to trust them to fight the highest inflation in four decades, American men were more likely to extend that trust to other men in positions of power,” they wrote.

Because the work of a central banker relies primarily on trust, many, including former Chair Alan Greenspan, leverage both their personal and institutional reputations to “stave off inflation and prevent financial panic.” The research done by Profs. Bodea and Kerner suggests that women central bankers face larger challenges in establishing public trust, because of gender bias.

This falls in line with previous research that showed the general public associates men with “competence, with capable leadership, and with economics,” according to Profs. Bodea and Kerner. Meanwhile, women are more associated with compassion.

Bodea and Kerner suggest that “gender bias remains in expectations related to monetary policy and appears related to stereotypes related to traits and competencies about women in this area. Our data cannot speak to trends, but establish that these biases existed at a consequential moment and several decades beyond when women began achieving more significant representation levels,” they wrote.

Bodea has been a Professor in PLS since 2006, having previously worked as an Economist at the European Central Bank in Frankfurt, Germany. Kerner, who has been an Associate Professor in PLS since 2023, focuses on the politics of corporate governance and securities law reform.

The work was supported by the Women’s Leadership Institute at MSU with the Tomlanovich-Diamond Equity Fund in 2021.



Dr. Cristina Bodea



Dr. Andrew Kerner

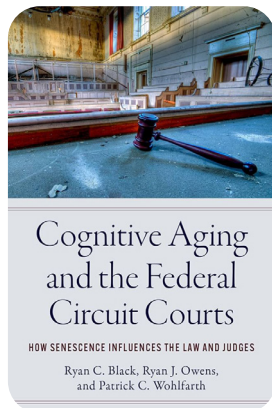
New Faculty Books

Cognitive Aging and the Federal Circuit Courts: How Senescence Influences the Law and Judges (Oxford University Press, 2024)

Ryan C. Black (with Ryan J. Owens & Patrick C. Wohlfarth)

Federal circuit court judges are older today than ever before, yet little is known about how cognitive aging affects their work.

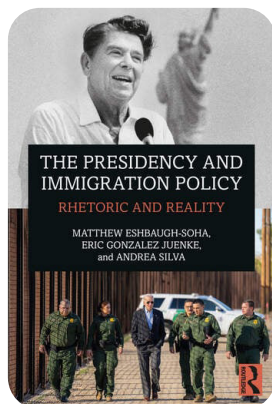
In this book, Prof. Black and his coauthors explore that question in depth, revealing several concerning patterns. As judges age, they take longer to write opinions, rely more heavily on shortcuts during bargaining, and produce less cognitively complex writing. They increasingly delegate opinion-writing to clerks and incorporate more language from party briefs. Their decisions are cited less often by colleagues and reflect a more ideological application of Supreme Court precedent. Aging also diminishes their influence on panels, while making them more open to persuasion. These patterns raise pressing questions about judicial tenure. Prof. Black and his coauthors also examine public attitudes toward reform and find surprisingly strong support for modest changes. While no perfect solution exists, they argue that incremental reforms that preserve judicial independence could address some of aging's most serious effects.



The Presidency and Immigration Policy: Rhetoric and Reality (Routledge, 2023)

Eric Gonzalez Juenke (with Matthew Eshbaugh-Soha & Andrea Silva)

Presidents play a key role in shaping public perceptions about immigration, yet most research on immigration politics overlooks how presidents talk about the issue. At the same time, those studies that do focus on presidential communication have rarely focused on immigration. In this book, Prof. Juenke and his coauthors bridge that gap by examining how US presidents have talked about immigration, from George Washington to Joe Biden,

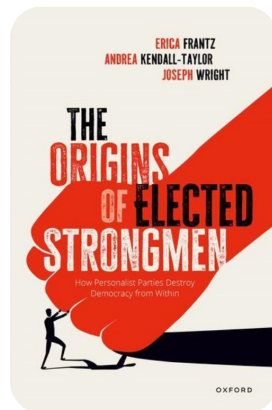


with a deeper focus on the modern presidency since Eisenhower. Their analysis shows that immigration has long been a source of political conflict in the U.S., and that conflict has only intensified over time. Presidents often speak about immigration to advance both policy goals and political agendas. Yet, despite frequent public messaging, no recent president—regardless of whether their tone was positive or negative—has succeeded in reforming immigration through legislation. This book explores how shifts in presidential rhetoric reflect and shape today's deeply polarized immigration politics.

The Origins of Elected Strongmen: How Personalist Parties Destroy Democracy from Within (Oxford University Press, 2024)

Erica Frantz (with Andrea Kendall-Taylor & Joseph Wright)

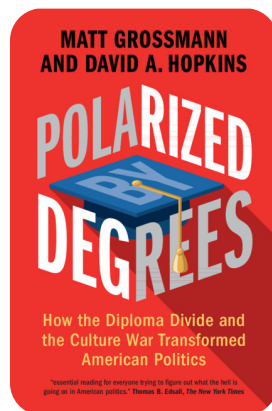
Since World War II, democracies often collapsed through military coups or force. Today, they are more likely to erode from within—undermined by elected leaders who gradually weaken democratic institutions. In this book, Prof. Frantz and her coauthors explore how personalist political parties—those built mainly to serve the ambitions of a single leader rather than a shared policy agenda—play a key role in this decline. Drawing on original data covering democratically elected leaders from 1991 to 2020, they find that personalist parties make it easier for leaders to expand executive power and dismantle institutional checks. These parties rarely resist power grabs because they're tied too closely to the leader's success. As a result, democratic norms break down, polarization deepens, and public trust erodes. Personalist parties weaken both legal constraints and democratic accountability, making it far more likely that democracy will decay—or even collapse—under their rule.



Polarized by Degrees: How the Diploma Divide and the Culture War Transformed American Politics (Cambridge University Press, 2024)

Matt Grossmann (with David A. Hopkins)

In recent decades, US society has undergone major shifts—from changing social norms and group dynamics to the rising importance of a college degree. These changes have deepened political

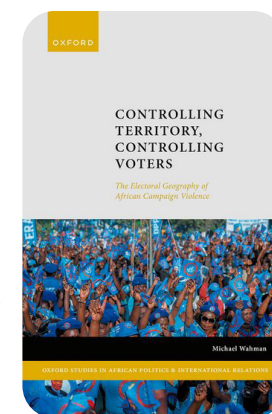


divisions and fueled an ongoing culture war. In this follow-up to their award-winning book *Asymmetric Politics*, Prof. Grossmann and his coauthor, David Hopkins, examine how these transformations have reshaped the two major parties. Today, Democrats are largely supported by highly educated voters with progressive social views who trust experts and institutions to guide policy-making. In contrast, Republicans have become the party of white, non-college-educated voters, who are increasingly skeptical of experts, including teachers, scientists, journalists, and even corporations. This widening “diploma divide” has made politics more all-encompassing—and more polarized. Their book places today's culture war in historical context, focusing on the role of education.

Controlling Territory, Controlling Voters: The Electoral Geography of African Campaign Violence (Cambridge University Press, 2024)

Michael Wahman

Violence during election campaigns is a widespread issue across Africa and in other parts of the world. Estimates suggest that most African elections involve some level of violence, much of which occurs during the campaign period before the vote. Although common, this violence impacts citizens unevenly across different areas. In places where intimidation and violence are embedded in campaign strategies, they undermine local democratic processes. In this book, Prof. Wahman questions why different regions in the same country vary in the levels of violence their citizens endure. His research in two countries in Southern Africa—Malawi and Zambia—suggests that violence doesn't occur randomly, and it doesn't bubble up from the grassroots. Rather, political parties organize violence in strategic ways, mainly to intimidate and guide behavior of voters in their own strongholds.



Master of Public Policy students share their senior capstone research projects

From “The Black Detroit Wealth Heist” to the “Brain Drain Dilemma in Ghana,” Master of Public Policy graduating students presented their capstone research projects at this year's MPP Forum.

The fourteen graduating students spent their final semesters on individualized research projects based on public policies that interested them. Under the direction of Prof. Sarah Reckhow, Interim Director of the MPP Program, they created research posters and explained their methods and findings to a packed audience at a reception of faculty, students, administrators, and alumni at the MSU Union on April 17.

Among the problems students sought to solve were access to mental health, disability assistance in Michigan, congestion pricing in Chicago, and the burden of administration of Medicare.

“This is for our graduating students who have finished the coursework in the program, and they're about to graduate. They have produced these original projects on topics of their choosing,” Prof. Reckhow said. “All the topics are dealing with important, policy relevant topics and this showcases the skills they've been learning as part of the program.”

This is first in-person forum that has been held for MPP graduates since COVID-19.

MPP is a two-year, graduate-level program in quantitative analysis, program development, policy implementation, public finance, and policy evaluation. Students who complete the program have gone on to successful professional careers in policy analysis, program management, and policy advocacy in public, private and non-profit sectors.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Domonique Clemons

Domonique Clemons is the Genesee County Clerk & Register of Deeds, having been elected into the position in November 2024. Four years earlier, he was elected as a Genesee County Commissioner. Before running for office, he served as director of government affairs for the Flint & Genesee Group, and as the director of diversity and staff development and legislative director at the Michigan House of Representatives. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Public Policy from MSU in 2016 and earned a master's degree in Political Management from George Washington University in 2019. We recently sat down with Domonique to hear more about his time in Political Science at MSU and his paths since.

Genesee is one of the largest counties in the state of Michigan. How did you come to be its Clerk & Register of Deeds?

My path to being elected as Genesee County Clerk & Register of Deeds was certainly a unique one. During my time as an undergrad [at MSU], I actually changed my major five times before I came to the College of Social Science. Once I recognized my interest in government and public service, I knew PLS was the right fit. After graduation, I worked various roles in the Michigan Legislature and multiple political campaigns throughout the state, all while completing my master's degree in Political Management from the George Washington University. In 2019 I was approached about running for County Commissioner. I was hesitant to run, as I believed my path was that of a legislative staffer and campaigner. I quickly realized that my community lacked representation on our county board, and there were no young voices advocating for the issues that I believed in. In 2020, I was elected as one the youngest County Commissioners on the board, and by my second year on the board, had been appointed as chair of the board. When the County Clerk-Register position became vacant, I was asked to consider going for the vacancy. I was unanimously appointed to the Clerk-Register position by a vote of our Circuit court and was elected to retain the seat for a full four-year term in 2024. I am now serving as the youngest County Clerk in the State of Michigan.

How did MSU PLS prepare you for this position?

PLS not only gave me the academic knowledge to understand governance, policy, and community, but it also helped me build a strong network of public sector staff and officials from across the state. I believe the network of people around you is one of the most important assets of any career. Thanks to the connections I have built from PLS, I have been able to work alongside many people from various backgrounds and viewpoints to get many major initiatives accomplished, and to simply learn and gain more insight.

What are your favorite memories of PLS?

The Michigan Government Semester Program. This program was unlike anything else in my academic career, and by far was the most useful in preparing me for public service. I specifically remember the assignment where we had to prepare and provide testimony on a legislative issue in front of a mock legislative committee that included actual legislators, lobbyists, and industry professionals. It was one of the most intimidating experiences having to debate toe to toe with the Governor's Chief of staff over a policy bill in front of my entire class. That experience gave me the tools to confidently advocate for policy and understand legislative research.

What advice would you give students considering a career in public service?

Public service is one of the most rewarding career paths, in that the work you do can positively impacts thousands of people on a regular basis. Government is, however, a slow and deliberate process, and change and progress take time. It is often easy to get frustrated or discouraged during the process, as it often takes years for a good policy to be crafted, approved, and implemented.

Any advice for those seeking to run for office?

While we need more good people to run for office, especially young people, running for office is no easy feat. Anyone who is running for office needs to examine carefully their "why" for wanting to do so. It has to be something you are passionate about and ready to go all in on. The most successful elected officials are those with a passion for public service and a genuine desire to advocate for policy and advance their community. Those who do it simply for prestige, notoriety, or because it looks fun or easy will quickly learn that being in the public eye is a big challenge. It is important to understand just how much of your personal life and freedom you are giving up to become a public official.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Charley Willison



Charley Willison earned her Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science with a minor in Political Science from Michigan State University in 2010. She went on to earn her MPH/MA from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in 2013 and a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan School of Public Health in 2019. In 2021, she began her career as an Assistant Professor at Cornell University within the Department of Public and Ecosystem Health.

Prof. Willison is an award-winning author, with her book, *Ungoverned and Out of Sight: Public Health and the Political Crisis of Homelessness in the United States* (Oxford University Press, 2021), evaluating supportive housing policies. She received the Dennis Judd Best Book Award in 2022 from the American Political Science Association's Urban and Local Politics Section.

PLS's Prof. Sarah Reckhow, who taught Prof. Willison in 2010 in an undergraduate Urban Politics course, said "I'm so proud to see all that Charley has accomplished and how much her work exemplifies engaged scholarship on social issues of critical importance."

We caught up with Prof. Willison and asked her to reflect back on her career so far and her time at MSU.

What motivated you to pursue a career in Political Science?

I was always interested in the policy behind health. As an undergraduate, I

wanted to learn more about the legal and political aspects of health outcomes, and at the time, health justice and bioethics, with a focus on health care. Political Science gave me a framework to start thinking about these broader questions, like why do different countries have varying degrees of access to and quality of health care?

What are your fondest memories of your time as an MSU Political Science student?

Reading Jane Jacobs and discussing the role of community organizing in American local political development!

What motivated you to pursue both a Master of Public Health and a Ph.D. in Public Health after earning your degree at MSU?

My road to public health was winding. During my time at MSU, I studied abroad in Malawi and got to work with policy organizations involved in evaluating access to healthcare and accountability for those investments. This experience solidified my interest in health policy, and the politics around health policy, but I didn't know to what end. After graduating from MSU, I interned at the American Medical Association's Bioethics Group. I had the opportunity to work on various aspects of health care policy ethical guidance. After working explicitly in medical policy, I realized I was more interested in population-level health policy, and the social determinants of health. I wanted to work in state or federal policy to improve access to different types of health services at the population level, with an emphasis on marginalized groups. From there I looked to MPH programs that incorporated the normative frameworks of bioethics with public health. This led me to pursue a joint MPH and an MA in Bioethics at Case Western Reserve University. My MPH training focused on how to identify and evaluate best practices for population health and health equity. During this training, I was consistently puzzled by the policy choices that were often misaligned with public health goals,

especially for marginalized groups. This work brought me back full circle to Political Science: what [political] factors influence public health policy outcomes? What explains the public health policy choices governments make? These key questions are a very small part of public health research and practice, despite their necessity to achieve public health goals, which drove my interest in pursuing a PhD in political science and health policy.

What role did Michigan State University's Department of Political Science play in shaping your career in public health and political science?

My foundational interest in Political Science and training at MSU directly influenced my career. Public health has very lofty and often essential goals, which cannot be achieved without understanding political processes that influence policy outcomes. In my scholarship, I am especially interested in the influence of local politics and democracy on public health policy. My interest in local politics stems from the structural fact that most public health policy in the U.S. is implemented (and in many aspects designed) at the local level. But this interest also arose very much from my studies in Political Science at MSU, including Dr. Sarah Reckhow's Urban Politics course, which illustrated the important and complex role of local politics in shaping the built environment — an essential social determinant of health.

Reflecting on your journey from Michigan State University to Cornell University, what advice would you give your younger self as you were beginning your studies in Political Science?

I would tell myself to consider all opportunities presented to you. MSU has so many incredible programs, including study abroad and study away. I am very grateful for this practical experience and the opportunity to test out different career pathways and learn from different mentors.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Aaron Stephens



Aaron Stephens earned a Political Science degree in 2018. But even as a student, he was already making headlines when he ran for and won a seat on the East Lansing City Council a year before graduating.

During a surprising double resignation of the city's mayor and mayor pro tem in 2020, Stephens suddenly found himself, at twenty-four years old, the youngest mayor in East Lansing history, and at the time, the youngest mayor in the entire US. During his tenure, he had to negotiate a global pandemic and calls for police reform.

After leading the city through the first year of the pandemic, he stepped down from the office two months before the end of his term to pursue a Master in Public Policy degree at Harvard University's Kennedy School. With his graduate degree in hand, Stephens has now returned to East Lansing. He recently caught PLS up on his career, life, and future plans.

Why did you decide to move on to graduate school? And how did PLS prepare you?

The real answer is my mother was angry at me for not having a plan after I decided not to run for re-election, so I did what any rational person would, and applied to Harvard. The tricky part was that I somehow got in, and then needed to figure out how to act like I belonged when I went. Luckily, the MSU Political Science Department taught me enough about probability and statistics, and being a policymaker taught me a bit about making policy.

On a more serious note, I've often said that the Political Science degree allows students to learn while also giving them freedom to chart their own course at MSU. In that way, graduate school and the PLS degree are similar, and I felt very comfortable taking on the challenge because of it.

What has your career path looked like since you finished your Master's degree?

I've been working on national policy, focused on antitrust and progressive economic policy, along with a few passion projects, such as leading the coalition of outside groups that fights to end insider trading in Congress. I've been lucky enough to be invited to the Rose Garden, give congressional briefings, and have hundreds of meetings with member offices because of my work. My work life is going to shift a lot with the new Congress and administration, but I am hopeful that I will still be able to make an impact, even if it's not on the national stage.

Looking back to your time at MSU, what were some of the most defining moments of your time as a Political Science undergraduate?

I, along with a good friend, Brieanne, ran the Students for Sanders group in 2015 and 2016. We were able to get ASMSU to commit \$60,000 to bring a presidential candidate to campus and then convinced the Bernie Sanders national campaign that if he did a tour of Michigan, the state was winnable. We got him to come to the state, which included a stop in East Lansing, where I gave a speech introducing him at age 19 in front of over 13,000 people. My Republican father was extremely conflicted whether to be proud of the situation or not, but it turned out pretty well either way!

Even more importantly, it turns out, was that my wife was in the front row of that rally, and we met shortly after.

What advice would you give students considering a career in public service, especially in today's political climate?

I'll give two pieces of advice.

For public service specifically: Things happen slowly, plan accordingly. Unless public perception on an issue shifts extremely rapidly on an issue, generally it will take years for major change to be accomplished. It's okay to be there for part of the campaign, it's also okay to be there for all of it, just don't be discouraged when it takes time.

For your general career: Go out and do the thing. Send the cold email, apply for the job that you think is a bit out of reach, run for office as a twenty-year-old who everyone said wouldn't win (that one may be personal). Generally, the people who make a lasting impact are the ones who are unafraid to go out on a limb, or the ones that just do it anyway.

Your decision to run for office while still in school was somewhat unique. Looking back, would you advise other students to do the same?

I advise dozens of young candidates across the country through my work with Run for Something and Leaders We Deserve, many around the age I was when I ran. More young people need to be involved in the direction this country, or their communities are going.

However, I need to add a caveat. Running for office is not a casual decision. I hate

the phrase "throw my hat in". It affects your mental health, family, and you instantly become a public figure subject to scrutiny from people you've never met. More importantly, when you run for office, you are claiming to everyone in that city, district, or area that you are the best person for the job, and that people should put their faith in you. I will never advise someone who does it halfway. You are responsible for the people who voted for you, the ones who didn't, and the safety and future of your community. Treat that responsibility with respect.

When I became mayor, which in East Lansing is considered a "part-time job", I was facing a political reckoning on policing and managing a global pandemic in a city with one of the largest college populations in the country. I quit my day job, and worked fourteen-hour days.

I even, in secret, took a night shift stocking shelves at a south Lansing Meijer so I could pay rent and still focus all of my attention during the day on my role as mayor.

Student or not, when you run, do it because you believe you really can make an impact, and do it all the way.

What lessons did you learn in your time as a council member and then mayor?

Too many to count. I think I got worse at interviewing as time went on, definitely much less polished. But I did learn that honesty

is a blessing, and you should never trust someone who is not able to say the phrase "I don't know".

You may have run for office to work on housing regulation, but rest assured you are going to deal with every issue from historic district boundaries to deer culling. In my limited experience, the people who walked in and acted like they had all the answers were usually the ones making questionable or outright selfish decisions. I learned over time that being the person who is willing to ask questions, even if they seem foolish, will lead to better policymaking in the long term.

What do you think are the next steps in your career? And what is your dream job?

I'm hoping I get the chance to serve in office again, although I don't have any plans to at the moment. At the Kennedy School, I got the chance to help teach a class on running for office, and it was one of the best experiences I had there. I come from a family of teachers, my father was a professor at Oakland University, my grandfather was a math teacher in the Detroit public school system. My dream job is the one where I feel like I can make the most positive impact, and right now, I feel like teaching is that place.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Daniel Baum

Daniel Baum grew up in West Bloomfield, Michigan, choosing a path of public policy, with a thought of one-day having a career in politics. However, as he continued his studies at MSU, where he majored in Public Policy and Jewish Studies, he increasingly became interested in the legal sphere. He therefore attended the University of Michigan Law School and became a practicing attorney, focusing on labor and employment matters, as well as complex civil litigation. Today, he is an Attorney at the Jones Day law firm in Detroit.

However, Baum's interest in law might be rooted even deeper, stretching to his family's history in Europe in the early twentieth century. Growing up, Baum had

known that his maternal grandparents were both survivors of Holocaust, having fled Germany in the 1930s. He has spent extensive time researching and documenting their experiences, and frequently works with the Zekelman Holocaust Center in Farmington Hills to pass on the story of their resilience and how we can continue to speak out and stand up for others in the face of injustice everywhere.

At MSU, Baum sought to connect what he knew about his family's specific experiences with the broader context of the time. He took a History of the Holocaust class with Amy Simon, a professor in History and at James Madison

College, who helped him use archives and genealogy to better understand his family's history. Prof. Simon, along with fellow MSU History professor Kirsten Fermaglich, encouraged his research and facilitated an independent study in which he was able to travel to Germany and visit the towns his grandparents were born in.

"I'm not an expert at all in genealogy or history, and I don't speak German or Yiddish, so it required relying on people who work in those fields, and a lot of waiting and doing my best to use the information that I had from family members to build the narrative and the story as best as I could," said Baum. "You kind of just need to put on your investigative reporter hat and do the best you can."

Each day, Baum is reminded of the journey his papa took to safety and what he endured. A copy of his grandfather's official Declaration of Intention to become a U.S. citizen hangs in Baum's office, high up in the 150 West Jefferson Building in downtown Detroit, which happens to overlook the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan—the very space in which his grandfather signed that document more than eighty ago.

"It's a document that really means a lot to me, it's his document to become a contributing United States citizen," Baum said. "It's a constant reminder, and it's a testament to the sacrifices that he made, and that my family made, to be here today."



Longtime Political Science administrator Rhonda Burns retires amid cheers and tears



On May 5, the office at the end of the long hall on the 3rd floor of South Kedzie Hall stood empty. The flower-covered windows were dark. The friendly face who has greeted faculty, staff and students at MSU Department of Political Science was gone.

Administrative Assistant Rhonda Burns had been with the department for 41 years. Her retirement this spring was met with gratitude, celebrations and sadness from her longtime colleagues:

Kelly Sweet

"Rhonda was my direct supervisor for the past 6 years. She is hands down the best supervisor that I have ever worked with. I am really going to miss Rhonda... There will never be anyone quite like her! Thanks for everything, Rhonda!

Sarah Krause

"Rhonda has been a staple of the Department of Political Science ever since I started working here. She helped train me for my job and was always there to answer questions. I knew I could go to her office to get answers or just vent frustrations with work or life. We enjoyed discussing family, TV shows, and going out to lunch some Fridays. I'll never forget her teaching me to use the crosswalks on campus. As a rural-raised individual I was always waiting forever for traffic to clear and she boldly stepped into the crosswalk proclaiming pedestrians have the right of way on campus. I swear HER life flashed before MY eyes but now I traverse campus easily. She has a great sense of humor and a kind spirit, always willing to go out of her way to help. I felt truly supported and appreciated with her in the department as my supervisor and friend. I will deeply miss her."

Marty Jordan

Our diverse department boasts more than 900 undergraduate majors; some 40 full-time faculty and staff; around 50 PhD and Master of Public Policy students; numerous experiential learning programs, public forums, and departmental activities to serve our student body and larger community. Rhonda served all of us expeditiously and with care for more than three decades. She didn't just make the "trains run on time," she did so with grace, humor, and distinction. Her express responsibilities included supporting the Chair's duties, supervising staff, managing office space, and maintaining the department's budget and accounting procedures. But she did so much more than that. She lifted up and celebrated student, staff, and faculty contributions. Rhonda is a true gem, and the legacy of our Department is stronger and more meaningful because of her invaluable contributions over these many decades. Rhonda will be greatly missed."

Ani Sarkissian

"Despite her tough exterior, Rhonda's warm heart shone through in everything she did for the Department. Faculty are not always known for being easy to deal with or great with deadlines, and I'm sure this caused lots of frustration and headaches for Rhonda. Yet, she always worked diligently to solve problems and make things right—and managed not to make you feel bad when you messed up. She also took charge when something needed to be done, even if it wasn't her responsibility. I can't remember how many times I saw her moving furniture, cleaning up stains, or doing other such tasks because "someone had to do it." I will really miss the morning chats we had in her office when nobody else was around, but am so happy that she will get to spend more time with her family, doing the things she loves."

Krista Zeig

"Rhonda was truly the glue to the PLS department. She was the go-to person for every single person in the department- faculty, staff member, or academic advisor. She was always the first person I contacted with questions for which I had no idea where to start. She was an incredible resource and so knowledgeable, while also being willing to help with anything. Rhonda was the first person to welcome me into the department and make me feel like I belonged in PLS, and I will never forget how thankful I was to her in my early days for popping by my office just to say hi and talk for a few minutes. Additionally, shortly after having my first child, Rhonda took time out of her day to drive my laptop to me while I was on maternity leave. These are just a couple examples (of many!) that show how caring and kind Rhonda is. Rhonda is easily one of the most hard-working and kind people I have met, and I feel very thankful to have worked with her for 10 years. While she is already missed greatly, I'm so glad she is now able to spend more time with her family and friends. We love you, Rhonda!"

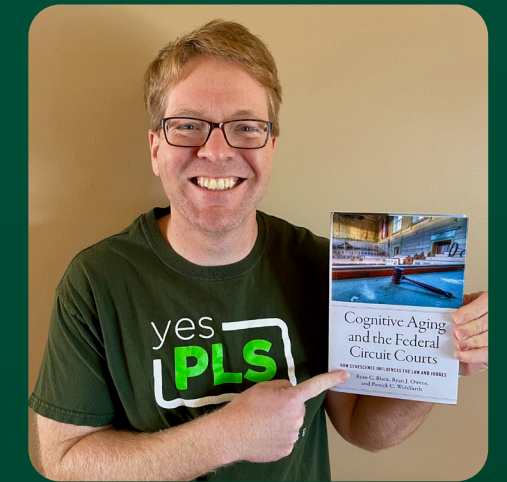
Erica Frantz

"Rhonda is a no-nonsense, get-things-done type of person – with a heart of gold. If you have a problem, Rhonda solves it! Rhonda took care of so many things for so many people in the department, working behind the scenes to keep it all functioning and going above and beyond in all that she did. Rhonda accumulated a wealth of institutional knowledge during her time at MSU, having navigated the complex university bureaucracy adeptly and efficiently, making her an invaluable resource for us all. She handled difficult and frustrating tasks with patience and good humor. Though Rhonda was never one to seek the limelight, I hope that she understands what an all-star person and colleague she is. We will miss her deeply!"

Ryan Black

"Over the 16 years that I've been at MSU, I've sent thousands of emails to Rhonda. Many were of the "Help me, Rhonda" variety, where I needed to tap into her bottomless reservoir of institutional knowledge to try and figure out how a process worked. But, if I'm being completely honest, an even larger share of these emails began with "Sorry that I..." when I goofed something up, waited until the very last second to do something, or chose to forge ahead with the forgiveness over permission strategy. Sometimes, my transgression ticked all these categories. Yet somehow, Rhonda always met my chaos with calm competence, turning my panic into a plan and my apologies into action items. It would have been impossible to get anything done here without her steady hand and generous spirit. The Department is a better place because of her myriad contributions. And, as we've learned in the time since her departure, there's hardly any facet of the operation of PLS that she wasn't involved with. Here's to Rhonda -- may her retirement be as generous to her as she always was to all of us!"

Dr. Ryan Black Awarded Pritchett Book Award



MSU Political Science Professor Dr. Ryan Black has been awarded the C. Herman Pritchett Book Award for his most recent book, *Cognitive Aging and the Federal Circuit Courts: How Senescence Influences the Law and Judges* (2024, Oxford University Press).

The C. Herman Pritchett Award is given annually to the best book on law and courts published in the previous year, as determined by the Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association.

"The committee received many outstanding submissions, making the selection process extremely competitive," said Ali Masood, Assistant Professor of Politics at Oberlin College.

The book was co-authored by Ryan J. Owens (Professor of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Patrick C. Wohlfarth (Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland College Park). All three will receive their award during the APSA meeting in Vancouver this September.



Thank you for being so welcoming, caring, and hard working, and thank you for all your years of service to MSU-PLS. Enjoy your retirement and more time with your family---very well deserved! You will be missed!

- Brian Egan



Dr. Matt Grossmann selected as Andrew Carnegie Fellow

Dr. Matt Grossmann, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, is one of 26 researchers to be chosen as the 2025 Class of Andrew Carnegie Fellows.

The fellowship comes with a stipend of \$200,000 to continue research seeking to understand political polarization in the US and ways to strengthen the forces of cohesion to fortify democracy.

“I am honored to be included alongside such a great group of scholars as a 2025 Andrew Carnegie Fellow,” said Grossmann. “This fellowship will support my research on enabling policymaking in an age of party polarization & parity.”

Grossmann’s project, a book tentatively titled “Policymaking for Realists: Bipartisan Progress in a Polarized Age”, will argue that the way through our intense polarization is recognizing that our institutions require bipartisanship — not just occasional working coalitions, but a broader acknowledgment that both sides are here to stay and have something to offer.

“This award is a wonderful recognition of the contribution Prof. Grossmann has made—and continues to make—to our understanding of some of the most important questions in the study of US politics today,” said Dr. Jeffrey Conroy-Krutz, Chair of MSU Department of Political Science.



I am honored to be included alongside such a great group of scholars as a 2025 Andrew Carnegie Fellow.

- Dr. Matt Grossmann



Alumnus Jon Lynch joins College of Social Science 2025 Spring Commencement

The Michigan State University College of Social Science held its 2025 undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 3 at the Breslin Student Events Center. Dean Brent Donnellan began the ceremony by congratulating the diverse group of students on their outstanding academic achievements during their time at Michigan State.

In addition to the recognition of 39 Social Science seniors graduating with a perfect 4.0 GPA and being presented with the Board of Trustees’ Award for Academic Excellence, Social Work professor Ashlee Barnes-Lee was awarded the 2025 College of Social Science Outstanding Teacher Award. The Political Science 4.0 students were Jesse Doolin, Ryan Medendorp, Zachary Nessel, Eleni Panoushis, Anel Robinson, and Ofelia Yeghiyan.

This year’s alumni speaker was David Blight, a world-renowned historian and Pulitzer Prize winner who earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in History from the MSU College of Social Science. Blight grew up in Flint and is currently the Yale University Sterling Professor of American History and Director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition.

Joining them on stage was alumnus Jon Lynch, who represented CSS alumni, introduced the Distinguished Alumni Commencement Speaker and Outstanding Teacher Awardee, and presented them with their awards. Lynch and his wife Tina endowed the Jon & Tina Lynch Family Promoting Civility Scholarship fund. The fund is used to support students who are engaged in their community and as a way to promote civil discourse.

Professor emeritus receives service award

The American Political Science Association has announced that the recipient of this year’s Service Award is MSU PLS Professor Emeritus Reginald “Reggie” Sheehan.

“This year’s award honors Reggie’s remarkable career of service to the discipline—service that has spanned decades, institutions, and generations of scholars. With multiple nomination letters cosigned by 26 members of the section, including both junior and senior

colleagues, Reggie is truly deserving of this recognition,” wrote Dr. Sivaram Cheruvu, an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas-Dallas who will be joining PLS as a tenure-system faculty member in the Fall.

“Reggie’s contributions to our field are both manifest and transformational, and we are proud to recognize his extraordinary service with this year’s award. We look forward to celebrating Reggie’s achievements [at the APSA Annual Meeting] in Vancouver!”

Our mission and how to give

We seek to evaluate, innovate, and invigorate political processes/institutions across our research, teaching, and service.

GIVING INFORMATION

For more information on how to support students and programs at MSU Political Science, please contact:

Rachel Schmidt

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rschmidt@msu.edu



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OUR SCIENCE **TRANSFORMS THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE**
AND INSPIRES LEADERS