

NEWSLETTER

Department of Political Science
Marquette University



Letter from department chair, Dr. Paul Nolette:

Greetings! As I write this in March, we approach the midpoint of a spring semester that began a week later than scheduled due to pandemic-related challenges. That said, there is a sense of a return to normalcy. Classes continue to be largely back in-person, and Marquette recently switched to a mask-optional policy to reflect the high vaccination rates among students and staff and low prevalence of COVID-19 on campus. The pandemic has certainly changed much about how we go about our daily lives, but it has been impressive to see the Marquette community work together during this time.

A difficult moment more specific to the department was the passing this past April of Dr. John McAdams, who had taught American politics at Marquette for over forty years. His work on the Kennedy Assassination and related courses on how to think about claims of conspiracy had a lasting impact on scholars and students in the field. Following the spring 2021 semester, another long-time faculty member, Dr. Barry McCormick, retired from full-time teaching. Dr. McCormick first joined the department as an assistant professor in 1984, and continues now as an emeritus professor in 2022. We'll miss his teaching on Chinese politics, his longtime leadership of the Interdisciplinary Major in International Affairs, and his commitment to student success.

The political science and international affairs majors remain among the most popular on campus. Political Science, with more than 290 majors, is the eighth largest major university-wide and second largest in the College of Arts & Sciences. International Affairs remains the largest interdisciplinary major within the

College. A special congratulations to three majors – Maggie Landers, Savannah Charles, and Keeley Cronin – who won our departmental awards during this past year. More information on the awards is below.

Amid the sharpening polarization in American society, the department launched a new Civic Dialogues Program. Led by Dr. Amber Wichowsky, the goal is to provide students across the political spectrum opportunities to engage with one another on important public policy issues. You can read more about this ongoing program below.

This past year was a very productive one for scholarship, with our faculty publishing over 30 articles and book chapters in academic journals and presses. Additionally, faculty remained very active in the media and with public scholarship. Dr. Risa Brooks's work appeared in both the Washington Post and New York Times, and Dr. Julia Azari and Dr. Phil Rocco frequently appeared in the media commenting on current events in American politics, including on the popular FiveThirtyEight website and in numerous podcasts. As I am writing this, Dr. Lowell Barrington has been providing numerous insights to help us understand the tragic developments in Ukraine.

You can always follow the latest events and happenings on our social media pages. Please keep in touch and let us know the latest with you!

Faculty news and honors

Dr. Jessica Rich was awarded the 2022 Way Klingler Sabbatical Award. The university-wide award, which is given to one faculty member per year, pays for two semesters of teaching leave, plus additional financial support for the summer. Dr. Rich will use her sabbatical to conduct fieldwork in Brazil for a new book project. Building on her previous work, she will examine how social movements in Latin America defend human rights policies after they are already on the books, a question that is relevant more broadly for new democracies and the U.S. alike. Dr. Rich is the third political science professor to win the award in the last four years. The 2019 award went to Dr. Amber Wichowsky and the 2021 award went to Dr. Noelle Brigden.

A team of Marquette researchers led by **Dr. Noelle Brigden** was awarded one of two grants as part of President Michael Lovell's Challenge for Racial Justice and Equity Response. The President's Challenge is a partnership with American Family Insurance and Johnson Controls Foundation to fund projects that advance racial justice and equity in Milwaukee. Dr. Brigden's project, "Restorative Justice in Movement" focuses on the trauma suffered by women whose friends and family members have been incarcerated, which in Milwaukee disproportionately affects women of color. Partnering with the Milwaukee Turners, her team is facilitating public workshops for community members that are meant to study the benefits of various athletic modalities – powerlifting, yoga, and martial arts – for recovery and healing of women of color impacted by incarceration.

Dr. Lowell Barrington received a contract for a new edition of *Comparative Politics: Structure and Choices*, his introductory text connecting themes and theories of comparative politics with contemporary developments in several countries. Three faculty also received book contracts from top university presses for forthcoming scholarly work: **Dr. Brian Palmer-Rubin** (University of Michigan Press), **Dr. Phil Rocco** (Columbia University Press), and **Dr. Julia Azari** (Princeton University Press).

Dr. Susan Giaimo, who holds a joint appointment at Marquette in the Political Science and Biomedical Sciences departments, was also appointed Adjunct Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Dr. Jessica Rich and **Dr. Mark Berlin** were awarded the 2020 and 2021 Elmer Plischke awards for best publication by a member of the Marquette University Political Science Department. Dr. Rich won the 2020 award for her book, *State-Sponsored Activism* (Cambridge University Press), and Dr. Berlin won the 2021 award for his book, *Criminalizing Atrocity* (Oxford University Press).

Faculty in the news

Selected sound bites from the past year

On the steps toward a democratic breakdown in the U.S.:

"It is this comparatively quiet but steady subversion, rather than a violent coup or insurrection against a sitting president, that Americans today have to fear most."

- Risa Brooks in the Washington Post, December, 10, 2021

On Wisconsin Republican leaders' legislative proposal for dealing with the pandemic:

"It's a real attempt at repositioning the entire public health regime that's been constructed in the state over the last 100 years — away from the power of public health professionals, away from the sort of people who are at the local level and aware of unique local contexts and toward explicitly political branches of government and toward generalists rather than specialists."

- Philip Rocco in the Wisconsin Examiner, December 3, 2020

On Congressional Democrats' struggles to unite their party members:

"Many of the Democrats' problems in the legislative process are not of their own making. But, fairly or not, Democratic leaders will need to think differently about how power flows through their coalition if they want to see their successes in electoral politics turn into policy achievements."

- Julia Azari in the New York Times, December 30, 2021

On her research project that aims to help process community trauma in Milwaukee through fitness:

"People will say fitness, or they'll say mental health, but we have a much more ambitious goal of empowerment...To discover that, in fact, your mind is part of your strength and connected to your body in that way is a powerful moment for me to watch and listen to."

- Noelle Bridgen in the Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service, December 3, 2021

On the impact of the U.S. diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics:

"To my knowledge, none of these boycotts or bans, diplomatic or otherwise, have actually changed a country's policy, but I still think that people see a need to get a message out there."

- Karen Hoffman on WUWM (89.7 FM), February 3, 2022

On why Brazil has succeeded in vaccinating more of its population against COVID-19 than the United States:

"Brazilian public health officials cultivated trust [in public health] by building a health system focused on preventive care that everyone can access, regardless of their ability to pay...In the American health system, which skews toward treatment, even middle-class people struggle to get access to the most basic preventive medical services."

- Jessica Rich in the Los Angeles Times, February 6, 2022

On the geopolitical goals of Russian President Vladimir Putin:

"His mission really since 2000 has been...to reestablish Russian greatness, and I think along the way, to both weaken the U.S. as a model of democracy but also try to weaken this unity within the West and Europe."

- Lowell Barrington on Wisconsin Public Radio, Jan. 25, 2022

On the prospects for overcoming the problems of misinformation and disinformation in U.S. politics:

"I don't think this is anything we're leaving behind just because a new administration has been sworn in."

- Amber Wichowsky on WTMJ -AM (620) Jan 21, 2021

On the increasing politicization of state attorneys general:

"You have AGs who are increasingly unwilling to work with AGs across party lines... These AGs are increasingly engaged in national politics and policy and are focused on often very highly partisan disputes."

- Paul Nolette in the Daily Beast, May 10, 2021

Here are just some the media outlets that quoted or cited our faculty over the past year:

ABC's Good Morning America, American Banker, Bloomberg, Bloomberg Businessweek, Bloomberg Law, The Bottom Line, Business Insider, Catholic News Service, Christian Science Monitor, The Conversation, Daily Beast, The Debrief with Major Garrett podcast, The Economist, E&E News, FiveThirtyEight, Foreign Policy, Law360, LawnStarter, Los Angeles Times, Military Times, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, National Law Journal, NBC News, New Hampshire Public Radio, New York Public Radio's Politics with Amy Walter podcast, New York Times, NPR, Philadelphia Inquirer, Topeka Capital-Journal (Kansas), U.S. News and World Report, USA Today, Vox, Washington Post, WDJT-TV (CBS 58), The Week, WGN-AM (720), Wisconsin Examiner, Wisconsin Public Radio, WISN-TV (ABC 12), WITI-TV (FOX 6), World Politics Review's Topline Podcast, WTMJ-AM (620), WTMJ-TV (NBC 4), WUWM-FM (89.7)

New publications by faculty

in academic journals and books

Lowell Barrington

"Citizenship as a cornerstone of civic national identity in Ukraine," in *Post-Soviet Affairs*.

"Is the regional divide in Ukraine an identity divide?" in *Eurasian Geography and Economics*.

Noelle Brigden

"Fieldwork as social transformation: Place, time, and power in a violent moment," in *Geopolitics* (co-authored with Miranda Hallett).

"Subversive Knowledge in Times of Global Political Crisis: A Manifesto for Ethnography in the Study of International Relations," in *International Studies Perspectives* (co-authored with Cetta Mainwaring).

"From La Monjita to La Hormiga: Reflections on Gender, Body and Power in Fieldwork," in *Geopolitics*.

Risa Brooks

"Crisis of Command: America's Broken Civil-Military Relations Imperils National Security," in *Foreign Affairs* (co-authored with Jim Golby and Heidi Urben).

"Through the Looking Glass: Trump Era U.S. Civil-Military Relations in Comparative Perspective," in *Strategic Studies Quarterly*.

"Comparing Civil-Military Relations in Egypt and Tunisia," in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Politics*.

"Civil-Military Relations and Grand Strategy" in *The Oxford Handbook of Grand Strategy*.

Jennifer Kiefer Fenton

"Storied Social Change: Recovering Jane Addams's Early Model of Constituent Storytelling to Navigate the Practical Challenges of Speaking for Others," in *Hypatia*

Richard Friman

"Funding the Mission: Jesuit Networks, Outsider Access, and 'The Origins of Marquette College' Revisited," in *The Catholic Historical Review*.

Paul Nolette

"The State of American Federalism, 2020–2021: Deepening Partisanship amid Tumultuous Times," in *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* (co-authored with David M Konisky)

Brian Palmer-Rubin

"Incentives for Organizational Participation: A Recruitment Experiment in Mexico," in *Comparative Political Studies* (co-authored with Candelaria Garay and Mathias Poertner).

"Multi-Label Prediction for Political Text-as-Data," in *Political Analysis* (co-authored with Aaron Erlich, Stefano Dantas, Benjamin Bagozzi, and Daniel Berliner).

"Measuring human rights abuse from access to information requests," in *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (co-authored with Sarah Ellington, Benjamin Bagozzi, Daniel Berliner, and Aaron Erlich).

"The political logic of government disclosure: evidence from information requests in Mexico," in the *Journal of Politics* (co-authored with Daniel Berliner, Benjamin Bagozzi, and Aaron Erlich).

"Media attention and bureaucratic responsiveness," *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* (co-authored with Aaron Erlich, Daniel Berliner, and Benjamin E Bagozzi).

New publications by faculty

in academic journals and books

Jessica Rich

Who Counts Where? Federalism and the Politics of COVID-19 Surveillance," in *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law* (co-authored with Philip Rocco, Katarzyna Klasa, Kenneth Dubin, and Daniel Béland).

Ativismo patrocinado pelo Estado: burocratas e movimentos sociais no Brasil democrático (Editora Fiocruz). Portuguese translation of Dr. Rich's book, *State-Sponsored Activism*.

"Teaching Methods in the Context of a Writing Intensive Course," in *The Palgrave Handbook of Political Research Pedagogy*.

"Brazil's participatory infrastructure: opportunities and limitations for inclusion," in *The Inclusionary Turn in Latin American Democracies* (Cambridge University Press) (co-authored with Lindsay Mayka).

Philip Rocco

"COVID-19, Federalism, Policy Feedback, and Health Care Funding in Canada, the United States, and Mexico," in *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis* (co-authored with Daniel Béland, Greg Marchildon, and Anahely Medrano).

"Trump, Bolsonaro, and the Framing of the COVID-19 Crisis: How Political Institutions Shape Presidential Strategies," in *World Affairs* (co-authored with Daniel Béland, Catarina Ianni Segatto, and Alex Wadda).

"Keeping Score: The Congressional Budget Office and the Politics of Institutional Durability," in *Polity*.

"Who Counts Where? Federalism and the Politics of COVID-19 Surveillance," in *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law* (co-authored with Jessica Rich, Katarzyna Klasa, Kenneth Dubin, and Daniel Béland).

"Fiscal Federalism and Economic Crises in the United States: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic and Great Recession," in *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* (co-authored with Mariely Lopez-Santana).

Social Policy Responses to COVID-19 in Canada and the United States: Explaining Policy Variations between Two Liberal Welfare State Regimes," in *Social Policy & Administration* (co-authored with Daniel Béland, Shannon Dinan, and Alex Waddan).

"Explaining Intergovernmental Conflict in the COVID-19 Crisis: The United States, Canada, and Australia," in *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* (co-authored with André Lecours, Daniel Béland, Alan Fenna, Tracy Beck Fenwick, Mireille Paquet, and Alex Waddan).

Mónica Unda-Gutiérrez

"The Superfluous Congress: Executive Dominance and Business Lobbying in Mexico's 2013 Tax Reform," in *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos*.

"Una hacienda local pobre: ¿qué explica la recaudación predial en México?," in *Estudios Demográficos y Urbanos*.

Amber Wichowsky

"Call and Response? Neighborhood Inequality and Political Voice," in *Urban Affairs Review* (co-authored with Paru Shah and Amanda Heideman).

"The PARC Initiative: A Multi-Anchor Approach to Community Engagement and Development," in *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement* (co-authored with Patrick Kennelly, Luke Knapp, Erin Wissler Gerdes, Jacqueline Schram, Jennifer Byrne, Rana Altenburg, and Daniel Bergen).

Department news

Dr. Barrett McCormick retires after 37 years at Marquette

After 37 years of teaching and advising students at Marquette University, Dr. Barrett McCormick has retired and been named Professor Emeritus. Dr. McCormick began teaching at Marquette in 1984 after completing his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin. As the department's specialist on Chinese and Asian politics, Dr. McCormick taught scores of undergraduate and graduate courses and produced dozens of scholarly publications, including one book and two edited volumes. Over the years, Dr. McCormick has also held a number of important leadership roles, including Department Chair and two nine-year stretches as coordinator for the Interdisciplinary Major in International Affairs. Indeed, he helped shepherd the International Affairs program into the 21st century by incorporating emerging frontiers in international politics, such as cyber security, into the curriculum. Dr. McCormick is known for his love of cycling and could regularly be spotted riding to campus in below-freezing wind chills from his home 10 miles north. Thank you, Dr. McCormick, and here's to a happy retirement!

Political Science department launches Civic Dialogues program

A new initiative led by Dr. Amber Wichowsky aims to bring students of different viewpoints together to discuss and deliberate over the most pressing public policy issues of the day. The Marquette Civic Dialogues program arranges regular deliberative events, each organized around a particular issue of current concern. Topics so far have included climate change, homelessness in Milwaukee, and redistricting. Participants are provided with some background information about the topic and are put into small groups to discuss the question "what should we do?" about it. The dialogues provide an opportunity for students from diverse perspectives to participate in meaningful exchange and learning. Beyond improving their understandings of particular topics, the dialogues also give students opportunities to improve their speaking, listening, and argumentation skills.



Dr. Mónica Unda-Gutiérrez brings students to Mexico for first-hand learning

Some college students visit Mexico over Spring Break to enjoy the beaches. The students in Dr. Mónica Unda-Gutiérrez's *Applied Global Business Learning* course have a different aim: to understand how small and family businesses operate in a developing country. Dr. Unda-Gutiérrez, who holds a joint appointment at Marquette in the Political Science and Economics departments, brings her students to Mexico over spring break to offer them up-close views of the experiences and challenges faced by local producers and micro-enterprises. In 2020, right before the onset of the pandemic, she and her students spent one week in the city of



Guadalajara meeting and learning from small business owners and entrepreneurs, which included visits to a cooperative berry farm, a small craft business run by indigenous women, and a coffee shop owned and managed by young people in a high-crime neighborhood. Due to ongoing university restrictions, this year's trip will be virtual.

Dr. Fenton's students collaborate across universities to carry out poll on deliberative democracy

For her Fall 2021 section of *Writing and Argumentation in Political Science*, Dr. Jennifer Kiefer Fenton worked with her students to design and host a national deliberative polling event. In collaboration with Stanford's Center for Deliberative Democracy and the American Academy for the Arts and Sciences, Dr. Fenton and her students worked with students from multiple institutions, including Slippery Rock University, Stanford, and Yale, to plan and host the virtual event, collect and analyze the data, and produce a report. Participants between the ages of 18-29 deliberated virtually with one another on the topics of Civic Responsibility and Representation, and Social Media and Democracy.

Would you like to support the work that we do in the Political Science Department to empower students, offer high-impact research opportunities for majors, and host excellent events for the campus community?"

Consider making a financial gift to the Department!

The numbers of students in the Political Science and International Affairs programs have continued to grow. So your help is much appreciated! Our current fundraising efforts are focused on expanding opportunities for student research, experiential learning, and campus events. If you are interested in supporting these efforts, please get in touch with Department Chair Paul Nolette at: paul.nolette@marquette.edu. Thank you!

Alumni profiles

Molly Healy '21

Molly Healy, a native of Orland Park, Illinois, graduated in 2021 with a B.A. in Political Science, International Affairs, and Economics. That year, she went on to a position as a Treasury Advisor at the Milwaukee office of BMO Financial Group. Molly said that as she looked for jobs in the banking sector, her Political Science and International Affairs background set her apart. She also credits those courses with enabling her to “view things in gray, rather than black and white, which is sometimes how things are viewed in business school.” Molly says that the support she received while at Marquette was crucial to her success. “I was never a student who understood concepts right away,” she said. “My professors and peers at Marquette helped me to accomplish everything.”



Bethany Woodson '19

After two years working for the Peace Corps in Burkina Faso, Bethany completed an M.A. in International Affairs at Marquette. While here, she worked as a Trinity Fellow for the International Institute of Wisconsin resettling refugees in Milwaukee and evaluating refugee programming. That work, she says, and the skills she developed there, eventually led her to a position as a Program Manager for the Jesuit Refugee Service in rural South Sudan. Today, she is a Senior Conflict and Displacement Officer for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, an organization that works primarily on election security and voter rights. There, Bethany develops democracy programs specifically for displaced populations. She is currently working on election security in Libya and Iraq, climate event prevention and awareness in the Asia Pacific, and prevention of election violence in Ethiopia, among others projects



Attention Political Science and International Affairs alumni!

Let us know what you're up to!

We love to hear from our graduates. Please help us keep track of all the great things Marquette alumni are doing. Send an email to poliscialumni@marquette.edu to tell us about where you work, where you've gone on to further studies, or any other achievements.

Undergraduate awards, 2020-2021

Political Science and International Affairs awards:

Virgil C. Blum, S. J. Award: **Maggie Landers**

- Awarded to the senior who has displayed the most outstanding academic achievement in Political Science.

James M. Rhodes Political Science Student Citizen Award: **Savannah Charles**

- Awarded to the graduating senior in the Department of Political Science who best embodies the commitment both to academic excellence and to service to Marquette University and the broader community.

International Scholar of the Year Award: **Keeley Cronin**

- Awarded to the most outstanding graduating senior in the International Affairs major, based on GPA, service to international studies, and overseas experience.

In the last three years, our Political Science and International Affairs undergraduates have gone on to work for the following employers:

American University in Cairo
Baird
Banner Witcoff
Bergman & Moore
Birdsall Law Offices
Bronx County District Attorney
Catholic Relief Services
City of Milwaukee
Clearview AI
CURA Strategies
Democratic Party of Wisconsin
Donald J. Trump for President
Equiniti
FIS
Foley & Lardner
Foley Hoag
FPI Strategies
Fragomen
G4S
General Mills
GenMet Corp
Gruber Law Offices
Hanover Township
HealthCorps
Horn & Johnsen
Hydrite Chemical Co.
JB Pritzker for Governor

Kirkland & Ellis
La Causa
Lakeshore Community Action
Program
Lee Enterprises
MacGillis Wiemer
Mayor Tom Barrett
MB Financial Bank
Milwaukee Justice Center
Milwaukee Social Development
Commission
Murmuration
National Association of Wholesaler-
Distributors
National Democratic Training
Committee
National Interest Foundation
NextGen America
OpenGov
Organizing Together
Pathfinders
Peace Corps
Polyurethane Products Corp.
Public Defenders Office
Rausch Sturm
Richard J. Prendergast
Snell & Wilmer

State of Maine
State of Wisconsin
Strang, Patteson, Renning,
Lewis & Lacy
Summit Information Resources
Sun Badger Solar
Thorek Memorial Hospital
U.S. Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Representative Gwen Moore
U.S. Representative Mike Gallagher
U.S. Representative Mike Kelly
U.S. Senate
United Way
Venn Strategies
VISTA
Walther Law Offices
Weisbrod Matteis & Copley
Wilson Elser
Wisconsin Court System
Wisconsin Organizing Together
Wisconsin State Assembly