

PSC CHRONICLE

Volume 8 | Issue 1 | Autumn/Winter 2022



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Political Science Chronicle

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From the Department Chair

Scott Hibbard, PhD



Greetings and Happy Holidays! The Fall Quarter of the 2022-23 academic year has come and gone, and while the pandemic has subsided, its legacy remains. Higher Education in this new era includes an expansion of remote learning, the proliferation of ‘Flex’ classrooms (where some students participate via Zoom) and changing attitudes towards remote work. To this end, DePaul University is no different than other institutions of higher education – as well as other workplaces – in adapting to this new normal. For us, we have been particularly keen to maintain a strong sense of community in the post-pandemic world. Fortunately, the nature of the university lends itself towards activities that bring people together.

This past Fall was also one of new beginnings. DePaul welcomed a new President, Rob Manuel, the 13th in the University’s history. President Manuel has already made a positive impression on our faculty, both for his thoughtful approach to leadership and

his background as a political science and history major! He is one who certainly understands the merits of a Liberal Arts education. DePaul also sent a cohort of students to Washington DC on a new internship program that began in September. While we have sent students to the nation’s capital in the past, this new program is being run in conjunction with the University of Illinois. Some of these students, moreover, were supported by funds from the Cathy May Endowment, the first disbursement of these scholarships. More on these two stories can be found inside the newsletter.

The Department also hosted two panels on the midterm elections. Not surprisingly, there was much to discuss. Wayne Steger and Joe Tafoya were on both panels and provide short analyses in the following pages. Other panelists/participants included Val Johnson, Erik Tillman, Ben Epstein and Molly Andolina. Student participation was outstanding and the conversation lively.

“*For us, we have been particularly keen to maintain a strong sense of community in the post-pandemic world.*”

More on these and other issues are discussed in the following pages. We hope that you enjoy this edition of the PSC Chronicle. And whether you are a current or a former student, we would welcome any contributions that you might have for future editions. If anything else, we are happy to hear from you. You can also keep up with the Department and its faculty by following us on social media.



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What Political Science, Rather Than Journalism, Says About the 2022 Midterm Elections

Wayne Steger, PhD

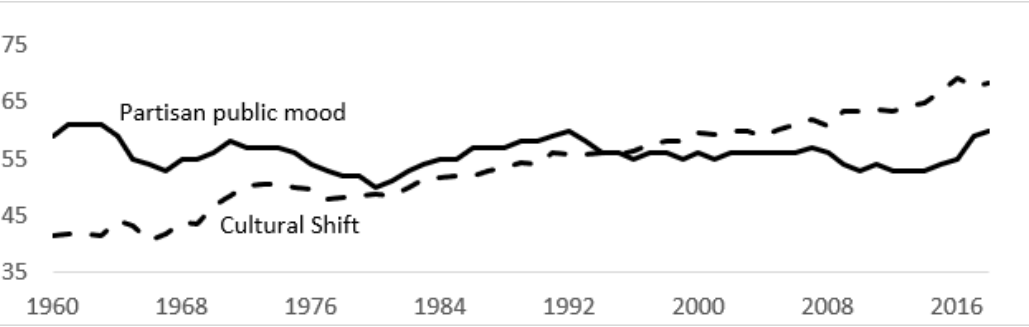
The president’s party usually loses seats in Congress during the midterm elections. This relationship tends to be stronger when the president’s party controls both chambers of Congress because unified party control of government makes the midterm election decision more clearly a referendum on national conditions and the president’s party. There are several reasons for this.

One, when the president’s party controls a majority of seats in Congress, they have done so because they benefited from strong voter turnout and support in the presidential election. Voter turnout usually falls off in a mid-term election, with relatively more of the decline being independent voters and soft-partisans who had supported the president and his co-partisans in the previous election. When these voters don’t turn out to vote or if some swing to the other party, the president’s party loses seats in the midterm election. In 2022, Republicans did win a majority of the national congressional vote, beating Democrats by about three to four percentage points (final count is not yet determined). The vote distribution shifted red in most states (note that since Biden had won by almost 5% of the national vote, this shift moved the needle back toward partisan parity on a national level).

Two, the opposition party’s supporters are usually motivated to turn out to vote in resistance to the majority party’s policies. This occurs in large part because public opinion across all the issues that divide the two parties, called partisan public mood, tends to move in the opposite direction to the policy positions of the governing party (see Figure 1). Partisan public mood acts as a thermostatic feedback loop in which the public reacts negatively toward the policy positions of the party in power (Stimson, 1991). For example, partisan public mood moved in a conservative direction during the Obama Administration and in a liberal direction during the Trump Administration. This benefitted Republicans from 2010 to 2016 and Democrats in 2018 and 2020. During Biden’s first two years public opinion has been moving in a conservative direction which would benefit Republicans in 2022 (Stimson has not yet made this data public—he is meticulous about data).

Three, the national issue agenda favored Republicans in the fall. The national agenda refers to the set of issues receiving widespread media coverage. This coverage influences the issues that large numbers of voters think about when evaluating candidates. The national agenda benefited Democrats during the summer of 2022 but became more favorable to Republicans in the fall. Inflation and crime became high profile issues. Inflation adversely

Figure 1: Partisan public mood & the shift on cultural (social equity) issues



Source: adapted from Mary Layton Atkinson, K. Elizabeth Coggins, James A. Stimson, & Frank Baumgartner, 2021, *The Dynamics of Public Opinion*, Cambridge University Press.

affects most people, and the president receives most of the blame as the most visible symbol of government. Crime became a Democratic liability because Republicans used the progressive call for defunding the police to paint the Democratic Party as extreme. Extremism is a label that works against a political party (Bawn et al., 2013). Exit and AP/NORC polls show that people who saw these issues as important voted overwhelmingly for Republicans. The issue agenda, however, was not entirely favorable to Republicans (see below).

Four, Democrats were relatively more vulnerable in the 2022 House elections because Republicans controlled the majority of state legislatures after 2020 and could gerrymander district boundaries to maximize the chances of electing Republicans to Congress. Republicans in Texas, Florida, Ohio, and Alabama gerrymandered House districts to their advantage in both 2010 and in 2020. Democrats did the same in states in which they controlled state legislatures like Illinois, Oregon, Colorado, New Mexico, and New York. State courts declared the gerrymandered districts unconstitutional in New York and California adopted an independent commission to draw boundaries there—limiting Democrats ability to match the Republican gerrymandering. Republicans, however, had gerrymandered districts declared unconstitutional in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Michigan. Since Republicans had gerrymandered districts in these states in 2010 but not in 2020, the net result from gerrymandering was a lesser Republicans advantage in 2022 compared to previous years. Still, in close election, gerrymandering may have contributed to a net loss of several seats for Democrats (it is not clear that gerrymandering alone had this result because Republican voter turnout in the Republican gerrymandered states was very high, while Democratic turnout was low in these states).

Offsetting these Republican advantages were explanatory forces that benefited Democrats in 2022. First, the voting public is extraordinarily polarized, such that partisans mostly back the candidates of their party—regardless of national conditions and issue considerations. In the current polarized environment, partisanship is a highly effective, or emotionally driven, phenomenon. Further, partisans engage in negative partisanship, in which partisans of both sides are highly critical of the other side. Partisanship mostly locks in voting preferences because partisans of both sides engage in *motivated reasoning*, which is a psychological process in which partisans pay attention to, emphasize, and interpret issues in ways that reinforce their partisan

identities and beliefs, while ignoring, discounting, and rationalizing away information that would weaken their partisan identity. For example, Republicans blamed Democrats for inflation, crime, and other problems. Democratic voters, however, rationalized crime and inflation in ways that deflected blame—blaming crime on the lack of gun control and identifying alternative explanations for inflation other than their own party’s culpability. In the end, people who saw inflation and crime as problems, mostly voted for Republicans, while those who did not see these as Democratic problems, voted for Democratic candidates. But in both cases, voters were adopting issue opinions that aligned with their partisan voting preferences more than they voted in response to their issue positions. In a highly polarized environment, changing conditions and issues do not move partisans much off their voting preferences. The small portion of the voting public, pure independents tend to be more open to information and persuasion, but they are also a very small portion of the voting public—but one that decides winners and losers in close races.

Another factor that offset Republican advantage is that public opinion on social equity issues involving racial, gender, and LGBTQ+ equity have been trending in a liberal direction for fifty years (see culture shift series in Figure 1 above). In this context, the Dobbs decision reversing Roe v. Wade suddenly put Republican cultural positions abortion, gender equity, LGBTQ and trans rights, and race out of sync with public opinion (outside of the Republican Party base). The Democratic edge on cultural equity issues owes to the changing composition of the electorate. Younger voters are a growing portion of the electorate, and young voters are more socially liberal—although there is a strong divide between socially liberal college educating/ed young voters, and non-college educated young voters who are more socially conservative though less so than older non-college educated voters. Increasing liberalism also owes the growing percentage of the population that is college educated, since these people tend to be more liberal on gender and sexual identity equity issues and to a lesser extent on racial equity. Further, college educated people are more likely to vote, producing an outsized share of the electorate. Finally, social liberalism is increasing because there are more people who do not identify with an organized religion, or who identify with a more moderate or liberal religious denomination, or who are infrequent church attenders. The result is a society that is increasingly liberal on social equity issues— more so on gender and LGBTQ issues. Republican

opposition to equity contributed to a party reputation that is extreme and out of sync with the American public. The Dobbs decision made this reputational extremism salient (important and relevant) to voting decisions—more so than crime (see above).

Third, Democrats benefitted from Donald Trump. Trump’s influence in the Republican Party is demonstrated through two mechanisms. One, Trump has a potent influence on Republican nominations, with 95% of his endorsed candidates becoming the Republican candidate for the general election. Most of these candidates would likely have won their nomination without Trump and most of these more experienced candidates did win their general elections. However, in very visible races in PA, OH, AZ, GA, WI, and elsewhere, Trump backed candidates who lacked prior political or policy experience, lacked familiarity with public policy, were poor fund-raisers, did not know how to function in a campaign organization, and were relatively poor candidates. Further, these weaker, Trump-endorsed candidates had reputations for extremism—a label that is alienating to independents and opposing partisans. While Democrats had candidates viewed as extreme, Republicans had about 10% more such candidates. The inexperienced Trumpist candidates were weaker candidates in districts and states in which the partisan composition of the electorate would mean a very close election. According to an analysis by Nate Cohen (NYTimes, 11/15/2022), MAGA candidates ran almost five percentage points behind non-MAGA candidates nationally and more so in close elections. So while Republicans won a majority of the vote nationally, they ran well behind that in districts and states with MAGA candidates and more than enough to negate the Republican advantages noted above. Republican strategists wanted to make the election about Biden. Trump inserted himself into the picture, trying to make the election as much about him. Donald Trump has been (past tense) an unrivaled, attention seeking machine. While he and his base love it, and journalists cannot help themselves but cover him, it was not helpful for the Republican Party. Between July 1 and Election day of 2022, Donald Trump received almost as much national Cable and Broadcast television coverage as did President Biden (645 mentions on broadcast and cable news programs compared to 716 mentions for Biden). This matters because Trump motivates Democrats and more Independents to vote against him, more than Biden motivates Republicans and independents to vote against him. Democrats wanted to make the election a referendum on the MAGA Republican

threat to democracy. Trump was an unwitting ally.

It is also likely that election denialism espoused by Trump and his aligned Republicans likely contributed to weaker than expected Republican voter turnout. It is hard to mobilize your voters to vote, while also telling them that elections are fraudulent and illegitimate. Denialism helps the Trumpist, populist wing of the party by feeding the sense of victimization at the hands of powerful, liberal elites in government. While the politics of victimization is a potent mobilizing force, it is limited to those Republicans who buy the argument. That helps MAGA candidates win Republican nominations, but it costs them among never-Trump Republicans and independents whose support is needed to win general elections.

As a final note, Democrats expected gains in part because the non-white voting population of the US has continued to grow—mainly through legal immigration of Latinos, Asians, and Africans. These voters had voted strongly in favor of Democrats in recent election cycles. However, the advantage of the growing non-White segment of the voting population did not have the impact that might have been expected in 2022. Both Exit Polls and the AP/NORC voter surveys show that Latinx voters moved toward the Republican Party in both 2020 and 2022 elections (such that Latinx voters were about 55% Democratic in 2022 —much lower than the 69% support received by Democrats in 2018. In part, this owes to the recruitment of Black and Latino candidates by Republicans. In both 2020 and in 2022, most of the electoral gains by House Republicans were in districts where they ran a POC or woman candidate. While Democrats did not gain in 2022 from the growing diversity of America, these groups did increase their representative footprint in Congress, and in doing so, should dampen the white nationalism of congressional Republicans who will need their non-white, non-male co-partisans to govern.

In sum, there were reasons to expect Republicans to have a strong wave election, but there were also strong counter-vailing factors that mitigated Republican gains and enabled Democrats to limit losses in the House and hold the Senate.

Wayne Steger is Professor of Political Science and Distinguished Honors Faculty at DePaul University. He teaches courses on the American Presidency, the US legislative process, and research methods.

Meet the 2022-2023 PSC Student Reps

Political Science students elected the following students to be their representatives in departmental governance matters.



Macy Hittmeier

My name is Macy Hittmeier and I am a senior at DePaul, studying political science and women and gender studies! As someone who got the opportunity to serve as a student representative alternate last year, I feel confident that I can strongly advocate for the students of the political science department this year! I have so many new ideas to bring forward to create better student involvement and opportunities! Additionally, as a senior I feel I have a great perspective on the school itself, the political science department, and the student experience.

During meetings, I will always ask how the material being discussed will impact the students. I want to advocate for students of all backgrounds, from different abilities, religions, races, genders, as well as students within different contexts such as commuting, dorm life, etc. I value communication with my peers greatly and want to voice their opinions as much as possible!



Nazo Islamaj

Hi, my name is Nazo Islamaj! I am a junior PSC major with plans to attend law school and become a corporate lawyer. I was born and raised in Chicago, and I enjoy frequenting Chicago’s dining scene.

I am so humbled to be voted as a PSC student representative for 2022-2023, and so appreciative of the support from my fellow students. As a rep, I will emphasize being a bridge from students to faculty. I hope to continue to place significance on PSC students’ needs in the department. As a passionate, responsible and opinionated student, I hope to continue my work towards bettering students’ experiences as PSC majors.



Alik Schier

Hi everyone! I’m Alik Schier (he/him) studying Political Science, and I just entered my junior year! I grew up in Washington DC, where I got hands-on experience with what politics is, and how I feel I could shape that definition. When I joined the DePaul community, I joined Student Government, serving as the seat of senator for first year students, and senator for second year students. Before my time at DePaul I worked in local DC politics, helping progressive candidates run and win. I ran a campaign advocating for lowering the voting age to 16 in DC for two years, and worked on the national campaign serving as a board member. When I was a junior in high school I worked on Capitol Hill for Rep. Jason Crow of CO-06 and House Democrats. I’m fired up and ready to continue bringing a unique perspective to the political science department, and I hope to focus on an intersectional lens for this next year, and help make our curriculum more inclusive, progressive, and robust. I am also ready to hold our new administration accountable, and ensure a clean transition within the department. Outside of politics or school you can catch me serving tables, sporting a new button up shirt, and saying hi to dogs I pass on the street. DePaul needs a student representative to enact real change, and I am ready to continue serving as that representative.



Susan Arab

Hi, my name is Suzan Arab, and I’m from Hinsdale, IL. I have previously held many leadership positions, such as being the Senior President of my local food pantry. I have also had the opportunity to participate in a fellowship by iCivics, where I learned the importance of student voice and being a leader in a community I care about. I value students’ voices and will be a good representative of what my fellow peers favor. I am not too fond of fluff, and I am not afraid to voice my opinion on changes we want to see.



Benjamin Dym

My name is Benjamin Dym, and I am a Junior majoring in Political Science, with a concentration of American Politics. I come from a family of refugees from Iraq on my mother’s side and Holocaust survivors on my father’s side. I believe that my background and upbringings has made me a stronger person today and has shown me how politics and government can truly affect our everyday lives. As a student representative, I want to help make my community a better and more inclusive place for all. I want everyone to feel welcome at DePaul and comfortable in their own skin, while also bringing everyone together.



The Year in Climate Action: Is Change Afoot?

Phillip Stalley, PhD

The end of the calendar year is a good time to take stock of the international community's effort to combat climate change. Each November, the nations of the world gather for a two-week summit to negotiate updates to the 2015 Paris Climate Accord.

In the run-up to the conference, governments and think tanks release reports offering us a glimpse of trends in both greenhouse gas emissions and government policies.

So where do things stand at the end of 2022? Are we making sufficient progress in addressing climate change? Unfortunately, the answer is 'no.' By most measures, the world is *not* on track to limit global warming to less than two degrees Celsius, which science tells us is necessary if we are to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Nonetheless, the picture is not entirely dark and there are glimmers of hope. Looking at trends in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, recent developments in climate diplomacy, and advances in China—the world's largest emitter—there is reason for cautious optimism.

The carbon keeps coming. As 2022 draws to a close, the world is on pace to produce just over 40 gigatons (Gt) of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the chief source of global warming. Emissions from fossil fuels, which account for 90 percent of all GHG emissions, are set to reach an all-time high largely due to an increase in oil use as global travel bounces back from the COVID-19 pandemic. The concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere reached a new record of 417 parts per million this year, which is just over 50 percent higher than the pre-industrial level.

The good news is that 2022 emissions are less than the peak year of 2019 and annual emissions have not increased noticeably since 2015. Also encouraging, over last decade two dozen countries have expanded their economies while reducing GHGs. These countries, which represent about a

quarter of global emissions, indicate that it is possible to address climate change without sacrificing economic growth.

The problem is that simply holding emissions steady is inadequate. Think of the world as a bathtub about to overflow. Over the last decade we have stabilized the rate at which water is flowing into the tub, but we are still filling it. To avoid disaster, we need to turn off the faucet.

In the case of climate change, avoiding disaster means reaching the Paris Climate Accord targets of holding global warming to "well below 2° Celsius" and "pursuing efforts" to limit it to 1.5°. To reach these targets, we need to do more than just flatten emissions, we must reduce them rapidly and reach net-zero by mid-century. At the current rate, the world will surpass the carbon budget necessary for the 1.5° target in just nine years.

Diplomacy fails...and succeeds. With the climate clock ticking, 112 world leaders gathered last month in Sharm-El Sheikh, Egypt, for the 27th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-27) to the Framework Convention on Climate Change. With more than 33,000 delegates in attendance, COP-27 was the second largest climate conference of all time. Negotiations were intense as evidenced by the fact that the summit concluded 39 hours later than planned, the second longest overrun in COP history.

The final text coming out of COP-27, known as the cover decision, was in many ways disappointing. Throughout the conference, India lobbied for language calling for a phase down all fossil fuels, a position which had support from 80 countries, but ultimately was blocked by Russia, Saudi Arabia, and other fossil fuel producers. In similar fashion, a proposal to peak GHG emissions by 2025, which is deemed necessary to reach the 1.5° target, was rejected. Proposed language calling on countries to strengthen their emission reduction pledges was also watered down.

Despite these setbacks, there were some diplomatic successes. China and the US overcame the tension in their relationship and rekindled

bilateral climate talks, which China had suspended in August in the wake of Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. The G20 announced \$20 billion of aid to Indonesia to hasten its transition away from fossil fuels. The number of countries signing on to the Global Methane Pledge, an initiative to cut methane emissions by 30 percent by 2030, expanded to 150 (vs. less than 100 a year ago). China, which is one of the few countries yet to sign, announced its own national methane strategy and Chinese Climate Envoy, Xie Zhenhua, made a surprise visit to the ministerial meeting of parties to the Pledge.

But the highlight of the conference was the creation of a Fund for Loss and Damage. Sometimes referred to as "climate reparations", the Loss and Damage Fund will provide aid for vulnerable nations harmed by the effects of climate change. This year's extreme weather events, including flooding that left one-third of Pakistan underwater, gave added impetus to the issue. However, at the end of the day the inclusion of Loss and Damage was the result of three decades of political pressure by developing countries and climate activists that finally overcame the resistance of the wealthy nations most responsible for climate change.

Whether the Fund is effective remains to be seen. There will be years of negotiations over who will pay and how the money will be distributed. And the record of the rich nations in providing climate finance is far from stellar. The wealthiest two dozen countries, which account for only 7 percent of the population but more than 50 percent of historical emissions, have yet to deliver fully the \$100 billion a year in climate aid pledged more than a decade ago. Nonetheless, just a few years ago it would have been hard to imagine Loss and Damage dominating the formal agenda of a COP summit. In that sense, the establishment of a fund represents genuine progress and a hard-fought victory for climate justice advocates.

At the center of it all. No country is more important in the fight against climate change than China. Because China burns more coal than the rest of the world combined, it accounts for almost 30 percent of global GHGs, roughly double the United States. In terms of historical and per capita emissions, China lags well behind the US, but it is catching up quickly. China's per capita emissions surpassed the EU's almost a decade ago and today are about double those of other emerging economies with a similar level of GDP per capita. Given its outsized impact, it is hardly an exaggeration to say that the fight against climate change will be won or lost in China.

In 2022, China's record was mixed. With the collapse of the property sector and continued COVID lockdowns, China's emissions are on pace to decline about one percent this year. While any emission reduction is a welcome development, China has yet

to turn a corner in lowering its emissions. Of greatest concern, China showed little sign of kicking its addiction to coal. Focused on energy security in the wake of two years of power shortages, Beijing approved 21 gigawatts of new coal power projects in the first six months of 2022, the largest amount since 2016. The rate of retirement of existing plants slowed as well, despite the fact that coal has been unprofitable in China for more than a year.

Last year, UN Secretary General António Guterres called on all nations to cease funding new coal projects. Since 2015, roughly four dozen nations have committed to "no new coal". Until China is part of this club, it will be hard to achieve the climate targets laid out in Paris.

While China's reliance on coal remains cause for concern, other aspects of its climate record are remarkable. In 2022, China is once again set to add more renewable energy capacity than the US, Europe and India *combined*, a trend that goes back several years. Electric vehicle (EV) sales and production continued to skyrocket with EVs accounting for more than 25 percent of new sales. The US, by contrast, just crossed the 5 percent threshold. By the end of the year, China is likely to account for more than 60 percent of global EV sales.

The bottom line is China has shown that, when it comes to investing in clean energy and electrifying its economy, it is moving at a pace consistent with the most ambitious of the Paris targets (i.e., 1.5° C). This is an extraordinary achievement, particularly for a middle-income country. In the coming years, if China can make similar progress in lowering overall energy demand and decarbonizing industrial sectors such as steel and cement, it will go a long way toward winning the fight against climate change.

On to 2023. Climate change is a race against time. The earlier we employ technologies and policies to reduce emissions, the less severe the climate impacts and the greater the odds that we adapt to our new climate without widespread disruption and suffering. For most of the 21st century we have been dragging our feet and losing badly. Developments in 2022 indicate that we have at least started running. Whether we can summon the political will to accelerate and actually start catching up remains to be seen.

Phillip Stalley is Associate Professor of Political Science and Endowed Professor of Environmental Diplomacy in the Grace School of Applied Diplomacy at DePaul. He teaches courses on Chinese politics and foreign policy, environmental politics, and international relations.



The 2022 Midterm Elections: Latinos Are More Relevant Than Ever

Joe R. Tafoya, PhD

The 2022 Midterm Elections felt like the transformation that started in 2020 was in full swing for Latino voters.

In the Presidential Election two years ago, Latino voter turnout was the highest ever (53%, it is usually less than 50%) but many of the new votes went to Donald Trump. In 2020, 32% of Latinos voted for Trump which was a 4% increase from 28% in 2016. You would think Latinos would have been galvanized to repudiate Trump given his administration's bias against Mexicans, immigration raids across the country, the family separations policy at the border, or withholding natural disaster aid from Puerto Rico (despite all Puerto Ricans being U.S. citizens). But the reality was that Republicans made inroads with Latinos and this greatly threatened Democratic prospects in 2022.

Pre-election forecasts predicted a Red Wave – major Democratic losses of both the House and

the Senate but what we got was more of a red ripple. Republicans won control of the House but narrowly and the Senate stayed in Democratic control. The loss of Democratic seats in Congress was the least it had been in recent memory. President Biden declared the outcome a victory for democracy while dissent within the Republican Party went against Donald Trump because his chosen candidates lost. Many of Trump's candidates denied the outcome of the 2020 Presidential Election. Ultimately, Democratic victories were aided by the Latino vote - 60% of Latinos voted Democratic. But this margin of support was the lowest it had been since 2004 when George W. Bush won 40% of the Latino vote. The proportion of Latinos voting Republican was 39% and it is the highest of any election cycle in the last sixteen years.

Latino voters were consequential in the 2022 Midterm Elections because Republican inroads (1) made some elections more competitive threatening Democratic incumbents, (2) took states out of battleground status and made them solidly Red, and (3) brought in new voices diversifying the group of Latinos elected to Congress. Sure, the Republican Party underperformed expectations

but they overperformed with Latinos, setting the stage for a showdown with Democrats over what looks like an emerging swing vote in American politics.

The 2022 Midterm Elections were pivotal to Latinos because at long last American politics contended with the diversity of Latinos living in America. We have all heard the tagline, "Latinos are not a monolith" and this is true because no one Latino community can speak for the totality of the demographic. If we disaggregate Latino communities, we see how Republicans have started to peel away Latino support from Democrats. Democrats generally do well with working class Puerto Ricans and Mexicans, the children of immigrants, and Latinas who are among the party's biggest supporters. Republicans can benefit from right leaning Cubans and Venezuelans in Florida, Tejanos in Texas, small business owners concerned about the economy, and Latino men open to Trump's "Macho" appeal. Ahead of this election, vendors of voter records reported increased interest by campaigns for data on Latinos within subcategories like nationality to microtarget age and gender groups. The race was on amongst the parties.

The role of Latinos in competitive races

Ahead of the election, pollsters saw that the races for the Senate in Arizona and Nevada were going to depend on what Latino voters were going to do. Whether Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ) and Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto (D-NV) were going to return to office and if the Democrats retained control of the Senate depended on whether Democrats could mobilize enough Latinos. It was not clear whether Democrats could do this – Republicans adopted a strong ground game in which they knocked on doors and made personal appeals, oftentimes in Spanish. "Operación ¡Vamos!" reported contacting 300,000 Hispanic voters in Nevada alone and 1.4 million across nine states including Arizona, Colorado, and Florida. The Republican strategy was to go into heavily Latino Democratic areas and peel away just enough Latinos to win statewide offices. Republicans knew they would not win most Latinos but improving their margins from 2020 would keep the race competitive and put the Democrats in peril.

That Democrats found themselves in dire straits in Arizona and Nevada was a big surprise because Latinos had become a pillar of the Democratic parties in those states. In Arizona, mass mobilization against SB1070 in 2010, an anti-immigration law that encouraged racial profiling by police, saw Latinos get elected to statewide offices and the movement for in-state tuition for immigrant students succeeded. In Nevada, Senator Cortez-Masto, Senator Harry Reid's chosen successor, was the first Latina elected to the Senate with strong backing from the state's Culinary Workers Union. And yet the races

exposed that the Democratic Party struggled to connect with working class voters – Democratic candidates were vulnerable to being accused of being "too woke" on social issues and fell flat on how to handle the soaring cost of living due to inflation. Democrats also had an authenticity problem with Cortez-Masto who did not speak Spanish. Her backers admitted that some voters did not know her full name, many just called her "La Senadora" while she argued she was "un de las nuestras" (one of ours).

Ultimately, Democrats won Arizona and Nevada but just barely. Monetary investments to appeal to Latino voters paid off. In Arizona, Democrats spent the most they have ever spent on Spanish language advertisements, \$20 million. The figure dwarfs the \$1.5 million Republicans spent in Spanish language ads, but the act represents a departure from the old playbook – Republicans took steps to incorporate Latinos like never before. In Nevada, Cortez-Masto won 62% of the Latino vote, leaving the GOP to reap close to 40%. This ensures that Nevada will remain a battleground state and Democrats need to reevaluate how to inspire and mobilize Latinos for the Presidential Election in 2024.

The status of Latinos where states got redder

Latinos were at the center of two major Democratic losses for the Midterm Elections taking place in Florida and Texas. The Democratic Party has a big problem in these areas – Latinos are susceptible to populist appeal from conservatives in the style of Donald Trump.

Ron DeSantis was handily re-elected as governor, and it was the biggest Republican victory of the night. He has been described



The 2022 Midterm Elections were pivotal to Latinos because at long last American politics contended with the diversity of Latinos living in America.

as offering the vitriol of Trump without any of the baggage. On top of that, DeSantis is leading the charge against so-called “woke ideology” by opposing gender-affirming procedures, transgender women in girls’ sports, and teaching Critical Race Theory in public schools. His efforts are being appreciated by right-leaning Latinos. In 2018, DeSantis lost Latinos by 10%, but now a majority supports him. Recently, DeSantis infamously sponsored flights that relocated Venezuelan migrants from San Antonio, TX to Martha’s Vineyard, MA. Well, 50% of Florida Latinos reported supporting the governor’s migrant flights. There’s sentiment among legally immigrated Latinos in Florida that migrants illegally crossing the border are doing it wrong and should be punished.

Working against Latinos in Florida is disinformation that is freely flowing in Spanish language media. It started with the GOP running ads comparing Biden to Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez that went unanswered by Democrats in 2020. In 2022, conspiracy theories about voter fraud and hyper-partisanship about the BLM movement and progressive policies like the Green New Deal are commonplace. Worst of all is *Americano Media*, a conservative Spanish-language network in Florida, spreading the “white nationalist conspiracy theory called ‘The Great Replacement,’ which claims immigrants are purposefully brought to the U.S. to saturate the electorate with people who will vote for Democrats” (Fernandez 2022).

Texas Governor Gregg Abbott also coasted to re-election by wide margins, surpassing Democrat Beto O’Rourke by over a million votes. Texas Democrats had their work cut out for them mobilizing voters: four million Texas Latinos

stayed on the sidelines in the 2020 election. Another 2 million were eligible but not registered to vote. Statewide, Texas Democrats did well mobilizing Latinos, winning 2 of 3 congressional seats along the border that were toss-up races. But the third went to a Latina Republican named Monica De La Cruz who gained attention in the campaign trail by praising God, invoking the singer Selena, and bashing the term “Latinx.” She effectively argued that Democrats have taken Latino voters for granted, telling supporters that Democrats disrespect Latino culture with progressive policies. Her appeal landed with Latinos that are primarily rural, distant descendants of immigrants, do not speak Spanish, and prefer “Tejano” to Latino or Mexicano. These are the Latinos that cost Texas Democrats a statewide victory.

You would think that deaths caused by the failure of the Texas power grid and the Uvalde School shooting would sour Republicans to Latinos, but Abbott won well over 45% Latino support. Latinos in Texas will listen to Republicans that come along and say that Democrats are more concerned about Washington than they are about Texas. This appeal is used on white voters too, but it is somehow a surprise to Democrats that it also works with Latinos. Democrats simply lack the infrastructure to understand Latinos in Texas that they do in Florida. There needs to be sustained voter engagement over years of grassroots work for Democrats to regain credibility there.

Implications for what it means to be Latino

The 2022 Midterm Elections were also a milestone for Latino voters because more Latinos than ever before were elected to Congress.

In the House of Representatives, there are 50 Democratic and 33 Republican Latinos. Descriptive representation for people of color is important because Black and Brown legislators are involved in oversight on issues of racial equity. Latino representation is the ideal vehicle for Latino voices to be heard and transferred to policy outcomes. To that end, the biggest class of Latinos going to Congress will be representing diverse Latino communities. As a result, the narrative of what it means to be Latino will broaden with implications on democracy.

Take for example, Maxwell Frost elected out of Florida. He is 25 and the first member of Gen-Z to be elected to Congress, where the average age is 53. He is also a Democrat who figured out how to get elected with Ron DeSantis running for governor. There’s a lesson to be learned here by Democrats. Frost is also Afro-Cuban, meaning he differs from Cuban Americans who trace their origins to Castro and the GOP. Also, consider Robert Garcia who was elected out of California and is a Peruvian immigrant who identifies as LGBTQ. He also brings to the table capable executive experience from being the former Mayor of Long Beach, CA. Locally, Delia Ramirez became the first Latina elected to Congress from Illinois down in the suburbs by Naperville and Joliet. Her voter outreach campaign displayed the work ethic that every Latino can be proud of. These Latinos read the handbook on getting elected and are rewriting it to pave the way for a truly multiracial democracy.

Joe R. Tafoya is Assistant Professor of Political Science at DePaul. He teaches courses on Latinx Politics, Immigration Policy, Race/Ethnicity Relations, and Public Opinion.

PSC Events

HOSTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Midterm Election Round Table

PANELISTS: BEN EPSTEIN, VALERIE JOHNSON, WAYNE STEGER, JOE TAFOYA
MODERATOR: SCOTT HIBBARD

PRE-ELECTION PANEL
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 4:30-6PM, VIRTUAL

POST-ELECTION PANEL
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 4:30-6PM, VIRTUAL

TO RSVP, REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE HERE:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/BD9ARZYF](https://tinyurl.com/BD9ARZYF)



DIALOGUE, DISCUSSION, AND Q & A WITH SPECIAL GUEST

Professor Almir Maljevic
Professor of Criminology
University of Sarajevo, Bosnia

Monday, October 24 @ 4:15 PM
Arts and Letters Room 305

SESSION SUPPORTED BY POLITICAL SCIENCE, ALBANIAN AND SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN STUDIES, PEACE STUDIES, CRIMINOLOGY

Coming Out of the Pandemic Years With a Clear Purpose to Serve

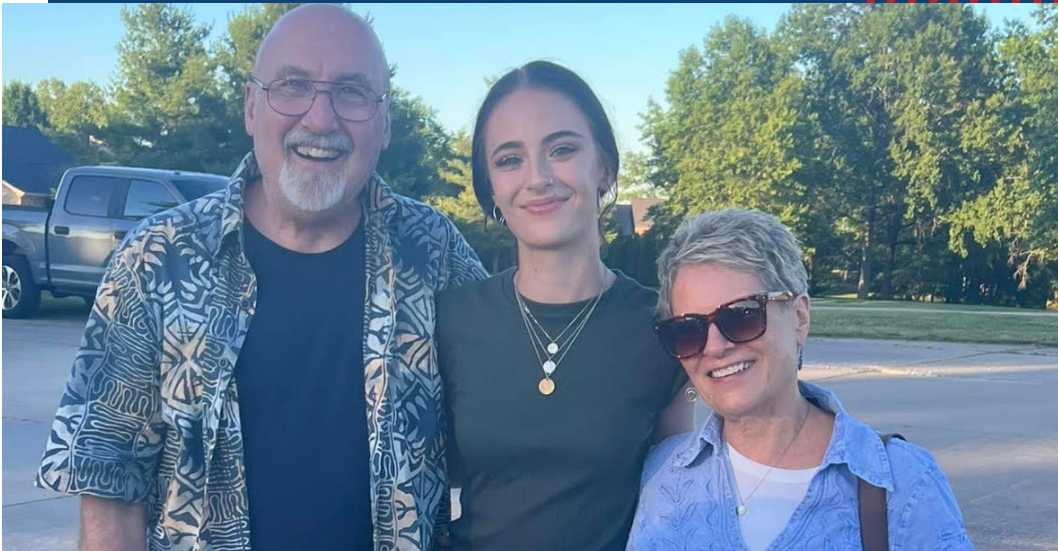
Reflection on My Student Experience

Rachel Kubicek

As a doe-eyed freshman taking her first walk through the Quad to officially being a DePaul alum, it is safe to say, “Where has all this time gone?” It’s easy to say that part of that time was lost to the pandemic. Yet, I have found that dwelling on the “what if”’s only keeps me in the past. It is peculiar to have my higher education experience be defined by a global epidemic, especially considering that my class and fellow peers can be defined by so much more. Resiliency and determination should be the key descriptions of students who are just now beginning to reflect on all that COVID had brought, both good and bad. Considering I was ready to drop out midway through my undergrad, it is quite surreal to be able to say I am graduating with a bachelor’s degree, and early! Like many during COVID, I felt incredibly lost. To go from exploring and experiencing the city of Chicago as a freshman to being stuck in front of a computer screen in my room for months at a time, like many others, I began to rethink everything. As a collective society, we were losing loved ones, losing memories, and losing time. With social and political upheaval leaving most of us uncertain and scared, how could one think about a discussion post when democracy was threatening to crumble before our very eyes?

Fortunately, my parents kept me grounded and supported as we took on this confusing reality. My mom especially pushed me to continue completing my bachelor’s rather than giving up and packing everything up and traveling (maybe more so wandering). My parents’ encouragement and support allowed me to persevere despite both the literal and existential threats that were constantly hovering over not only me but so many others. I knew I was already in a privileged position of being able to continue my education with the resources available to me throughout the pandemic. With this in mind, being pushed to complete my degree while also contemplating what I truly want to bring to this world through my work, I finally found my answer after being lost for what felt like forever. With all of the religious

explanations, philosophical interpretations, and self-help experts that seem to come in abundance, I boiled my life’s meaning and purpose into one simple idea. We are able to experience happiness (for whatever reason that may be) and it is a gift to be able to have that experience. Might as well live to be happy, make others happy, and leave the world better than when I entered it. I thank the professors, students, and faculty at DePaul and all of the people outside of the university that I have encountered along the way. If it weren’t for being introduced to new ideas, new ways of thinking, and new ways of experiencing, I would not have become the person I am right now. Whether the encounters were positive or negative, it has led me to continue to work in social justice and community service.



Rachel with her parents, Ken and Ruth Kubicek.

Student Feature

Brianna Ortiz



I am a Junior at DePaul studying Environmental Studies and Political Science. I started working with IL-PIRG my sophomore year, and it was an experience that was both challenging and informative. When I found IL-PIRG it seemed like the perfect thing for me to do as it allowed me to explore both of my interests. IL-PIRG was looking for students with an interest in public service, specifically in sustainability. In the beginning we were working on changes around campus. Things like compostable and reusable items in the student center dining areas. But in the winter quarter, we began to work on our campaign to pass a bill in the Illinois General Assembly. The

bill was a ban on polystyrene in the state of Illinois. With various other colleges around the state, we all met together on zoom and did what needed to be done to pass our bill. This was a bit difficult as it was only via zoom, but other students and I worked on social media accounts, petitioning, reaching out to restaurants for support, and call banking voters. Our sponsor representative was Representative Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, and her staff met with the students to talk about how our bill had passed in the IL House. We all worked for three months trying to get our bill to pass in the IL Senate. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful. Though we did not get the bill to pass, we had the foundation to continue our efforts for the next session of the General Assembly. This campaign was a

wonderful experience. I was able to learn so much about the inner workings of a campaign, being in a position of leadership on a campaign, and organizational skills as this was with students who were not in close proximity to each other. Prior to this experience, I was not really interested in campaign work. It seemed like something that was intense and stressful because of the fast-paced environment. But my experiences with the IL-PIRG campaign have opened up a world of opportunities going forward in my Political Science career. It has subsequently led me on to other campaigns and helped finding my place in the career world and a better understanding of what I want to do after I graduate from DePaul.



Brianna Ortiz and fellow students from other colleges in Illinois.



In The Footsteps of Vincent DePaul

The Vincentian Heritage Tour with Political Scientists Kathryn Ibata-Arens and Christina Rivers

Political Science professors Dr. Kathryn Ibata-Arens and Dr. Christina Rivers participated in the biannual “Vincentian Heritage Tour (VHT)” led by Mission and Ministry chaplain Tom Judge and Fr. John Rybolt. Drs. Rivers and Ibata-Arens joined more than 30 DePaul faculty and staff, the largest DePaul group in VHT history, as well as members of the Vincentian family in the United States and Europe. The trip to sites throughout France was two-weeks long and introduced participants to the mission of Saint Vincent over time and space. For example, St. Vincent, with the support of the Daughters of Charity, was instrumental in establishing a number of the first hospitals in France which served in the poorest communities and rescued orphaned children. Drs. Ibata-Arens and Rivers were inspired by what they learned and look forward to incorporating St. Vincent’s message of service and social justice in their courses and service to DePaul University.

The VHT emphasized how St. Vincent recognized the need to serve those who were marginalized both spiritually and materially. This included his 20 years of ministry to those who were sentenced to work on galley ships (who were essentially prisoners in their time) and to his collaboration with Louise de Marillac and the Daughters of Charity on what we’d now call re-entry services after their release. It also emphasized his and Louise’s organizational innovations in serving those in need most efficiently and effectively--thus getting at that second part of the Vincentian question: ‘What must be done, and how do we do it well?’



Rivers and Ibata-Arens in front of the home in Dax where Vincent lived while attending school as a child.



Faculty News & Announcements



Professor **Molly W. Andolina** has recently published *“Reset this: Change how we teach civics in America”* in *The Hill*. Her field of expertise includes public opinion and youth political engagement. She teaches courses in American government, political socialization and culture, and public opinion. She is the recent recipient of a three-year Teagle Foundation Award that supports the creation and teaching of a multi-disciplinary civics course in DePaul’s Liberal Studies Program.



Katy Arnold is the 2022 recipient and honoree of DePaul’s **Excellence in Public Service Award**. The award honors the meaningful and significant contributions of faculty during their time at DePaul to the communities in which they are involved. Arnold was presented with the award at the Academic Convocation on September 1, 2022. She is senior professional lecturer in the Political Science Department, Director of the Refugee and Forced Migration Program, and Co-Director of Sanctuary Now! She teaches courses in political theory and refugee and immigration issues.



Susan Burgess was a guest speaker on *WBEZ Reset* with Sasha-Ann Simons to discuss The Respect for Marriage Act, which had passed a test vote in the Senate in November in a step toward enshrining same-sex marriage and interracial marriage in federal law. Burgess is senior professional lecturer at DePaul and distinguished professor emerita of political science at Ohio University. She teaches courses on law and the courts, gender and sexuality, popular culture, and radical politics.



In April 2022, **Scott Hibbard** participated in a conference on the relationship between religion, state and nationalism held at Valparaiso University. Hibbard’s presentation focused on religion and politics in the American context. The talk was subsequently written up for Notre Dame University’s Contending Modernities website this past Fall and posted [here](#). In the paper, Hibbard discusses the historical context of American secularism, the more recent culture war conflicts, and the paradoxical nature Donald Trump’s embrace of Christian nationalism.



Valerie C. Johnson was appointed Interim Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Office of Academic Affairs. Her appointment started on December 1, 2022. Johnson is Associate Professor of Political Science and Endowed Professor of Urban Diplomacy in the Grace School of Applied Diplomacy. She served as the 2021-22 Presidential Diversity Fellow and is the inaugural recipient of the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.



Rose J. Spalding published “*Transnational Movements (Central America)*” in the 2nd edition of the *Encyclopedia of Social and Political Movements*. Spalding is Professor of Political Science and Vincent DePaul Professor and specializes in the study of Latin American politics. Her research focuses on problems of inequality, democracy, environmental rights, migration, and social movements. She currently serves as the Interim Director of the Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies Program at DePaul for 2022-2023.



Phillip Stalley participated in the 2022 Ironman 70.3 World Championship event in St. George, UT, October 28-29. An Ironman 70.3 is a long distance triathlon race consisting of a 1.2 mile swim, 56 mile bike ride, and 13.1 mile run. Stalley successfully finished the race with one minute one second over the 5 hour mark. He is Associate Professor of Political Science and Endowed Professor of Environmental Diplomacy in the Grace School of Applied Diplomacy at DePaul. He teaches courses on Chinese politics and foreign policy, environmental politics, and international relations.



Joe R. Tafoya published “Nationalism in the ‘Nation of Immigrants’: Race, Ethnicity, and National Attachment” in *The Forum: A Journal of Applied Research in Contemporary Politics*. His book chapter “The Politics of Marijuana, Immigration, and Latinos” was published in *Stoneover: The Observed Lessons and Unanswered Questions of Cannabis Legalization*. A follow-up analysis piece appeared in *The Washington Post* in December: “[Biden’s marijuana policy may change attitudes toward immigrants.](#)”



David Lay Williams recently discussed his forthcoming book *The Greatest of All Plagues: Economic Inequality in Western Political Thought* on [Podopticon](#). This episode is available on Apple Podcasts. In addition, Williams published “The Wall Street Journal Resurrects Mandeville: Do Poor Americans Have too Much?” in [Public Seminar](#). Williams is Professor of Political Science at DePaul and teaches and conducts research in political theory, especially the history of political thought.



Cathy R. May Funds

With the support from several very generous donors, two funds were created in the name of Cathy May. The first fund is the Cathy R. May Endowed Fund and the second is the Cathy R. May Experiential Fund. Both funds will provide support to political science students with financial need and will provide stipends for internships, study abroad expenses, and help cover such basic costs as books and tuition. To date, we have raised over \$190,000. More on the funds (including how to contribute) can be found at: <https://give.depaul.edu/cathymay>

Information for students on how to apply for support is available here: <https://depaul.academicworks.com/opportunities/38027>.

Internships

Do you know that you can earn academic credit for your internship? An internship experience with a congressional office, government agency, law firm or non-profit organization can be deeply rewarding and provide insight into possible career tracks. Working with specific organizations during college can also lead to a permanent position after graduation.

To receive academic credit through the Department of Political Science, students must request enrollment for PSC 392 during the Quarter of their internship and have a minimum of 100 hours of work experience with an organization (though this can be spread over more than one quarter). To find out more about how to obtain an internship, internship places, and requirements, check our website [here](#) or contact Professor Susan Burgess for more details at sburgess3@depaul.edu



NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Steve Schwartzberg

Steve Schwartzberg is a former director of undergraduate studies for International Studies at Yale, a former candidate for Congress in the Illinois 5th District in 2018, and, most recently, an instructor in Political Science for a fall quarter class at DePaul on “Ethics and World Politics” and is preparing for a spring quarter class on “Nationalism, Imperialism, and Decolonization.”

“There are three sets of learning objectives in all of my courses,” he says to his students: “First, understanding the ideas, debates, history, and theory that we will examine together. Second, improving one’s reading, writing, and analytical skills, including one’s ability to fairly present another’s point of view. Third, while my courses will not help you to make normative judgments about the ‘morals and quarrels’ we will examine, they will help you understand some of the assumptions behind the positions of others and hopefully cast some light on the assumptions behind your own positions as well.”

Steve grew up in Lincoln Park—which he remembers as “much more rough and tumble in those days”—where he attended Oscar Mayer for grammar school and then the Chicago Public High School for Metropolitan Studies (https://youtu.be/hgjXTlCc_vY). He has watched DePaul flourish over the decades and—despite a variety of health challenges—has done reasonably well himself over these same years. He received a BA in economics from Reed College, an MA in international

relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and a PhD in history from Yale.

In addition to Yale, Steve has taught at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in a department he describes as “wonderful” and in a city he describes as “strange.” He gambled once with a single quarter in an airport slot machine on the way out of town and won \$1.25 and so can claim to have beat the odds with lifetime winnings against the “house” in Vegas of 5 to 1.

The author of a number of scholarly books and articles (many of which can be downloaded for free (https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Steven_Schwartzberg), he is particularly grateful to have been able to produce a manuscript—*Arguments over Genocide: The War of Words in the Congress and the Supreme Court over Cherokee Removal*—which will be published by a British publisher of scholarly works, Ethics International Press, in 2023. In that book, he shows how the entire structure of “federal Indian law” is built on premises and precedents that are repugnant to the Constitution and that were adopted in a despicable and ongoing effort to deny the Native Nations their treaty-guaranteed and treaty-relationship guaranteed right to their own dominion over their own lands.

Steve maintains that most Americans simply do not realize that it is the arguments of the advocates of the genocide of the 1830s and their appeasers that have determined the law, policy, and conduct of the United States to this day while the arguments of

the opponents of what came to be known as the Trail of Tears have largely been forgotten, at least among non-Native people.

The choice that Steve insists is still before the American people, he illustrates with two quotes. The first is from Senator John Forsyth of Georgia on 15 April 1830: “All Christendom seems to have imagined that, by offering that immortal life, promised by the Prince of Peace to fallen man, to the aborigines of this country, the right was fairly acquired of disposing of their persons and their property at pleasure.” The second is from Senator Asher Robbins of Rhode Island a few days later: “Is the Indian right less a right because the Indian is a savage? Or does our civilization give us a title to his right? A right which he inherits equally with us, from the gift of nature and of nature’s God. The Indian is a man, and has all the rights of man.” For all non-Indigenous Americans, and especially for all Christians, Steve claims, the choice between these two positions is a choice that cuts to the very innermost fibers of the fabric of our identities—of who we are, who we want to be, and why.

Steve is a parishioner at a number of churches in Lincoln Park, including St Pauls, and also describes himself as “blessed” to attend the monthly meditations and Dharma talks led by the Zen Buddhist priest Rev. angel Kyodo williams. He says he is, “in many ways, Vincentian without being Roman Catholic and more spiritual than religious.”



NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Burcu Degirmen Dysart

My name is Burcu Degirmen Dysart, and I currently serve as an instructor for PSC 150: Introduction to Comparative Politics and HON 201: States, Markets & Societies. I hold a Ph.D. degree in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma, with Comparative Politics and International Relations as my fields of concentration. My research focuses on authoritarianism and popular protests in post-Soviet states and Turkey, examining primarily the questions about the non-material sources of regime legitimacy.

I am an immigrant, a first-generation college student, and the first in my family to earn a Ph.D. I grew up in Turkey where politics is part of everyday conversation. After completing my bachelor’s degree in International Relations at Ankara University, I received a government scholarship to study in Russia. While pursuing a year of language education at the People’s Friendship University in Moscow, my interactions with both ethnically Russian and non-Russian people increased my interest in identity politics. During my master’s research at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, I subsequently focused on the question of national identity in post-Soviet Russia in relation to its diasporas. The Fulbright scholarship at the University of Oklahoma allowed me to pursue my interest in the region further.

The highlight of my doctoral studies was the time I spent doing fieldwork in Kyiv, Lviv, Moscow, and St. Petersburg. During sixty-two interviews with local activists, journalists, politicians, and ordinary protest participants, I asked Ukrainian respondents to reflect on their participation in the anti-regime protests of 2013-2014 and Russian respondents on their participation in the anti-regime protests of 2011-2012. These interviews encouraged me to consider how contestation over national identity might factor into people’s support for authoritarian regimes and their opponents. Perhaps most importantly, this fieldwork allowed me to develop invaluable friendships with many brave people whose lives have now been upended by Russia’s war in Ukraine.

Upon completing my doctoral studies, and as a requirement of the Fulbright scholarship, I was planning to return to my home country. However, after the failed military coup in Turkey in July 2016, when the Justice and Development Party’s creeping authoritarianism led to mass purges of its opponents in Turkish academia, including many professors from my alma mater, I had to instead embark on an immigration journey in the U.S. Chicago’s multicultural and diverse environment persuaded me to move to the city.

I have been fortunate to teach a range of courses in Comparative Politics, International Relations as well as American Politics at various colleges in Chicago. As an educator, who comes from a diverse background and has taught international and domestic students from many different backgrounds, I am committed to reaching and engaging with all students to further help developing their knowledge and analytical skills. My experience of being a student, educator, and researcher across four different countries has impressed upon me a sense of responsibility for cultivating respect and tolerance for different cultures and perspectives within my students. I am thrilled for the opportunity to collaborate and share my expertise with the diverse student population of DePaul.



NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Monika Okitipi

Assistant Director & Academic Advisor of Political Science

My name is Monika Okitipi, and I am the new Assistant Director & Academic Advisor in the Department of Political Science.

I am so happy to be here at DePaul University and look forward to working with each one of you! I have over ten years of experience in Higher Education (mostly in Advising), and I come from the University of Chicago. I've previously worked at UIC, among other institutions of Higher Education in Chicago. I spent the bulk of my career at UIC advising students in the College of Liberal Arts & Science. In that role, I served various populations and co-founded a department dedicated to First Generation College Students. I also assisted in establishing a mentor-based program for staff within the college.

Before I became a Professional in Higher Ed., I was a student. I was a First-Generation College student who majored in Sociology and minored in African American Studies, at Western Illinois University. At Western, I also became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc, and I was an active student employee on campus and there I found my passion for Higher Education. I also met my then boyfriend/now husband at WIU and we now share 3 beautiful children together, 2 boys and 1 girl. We also have a soon to be 1-year old Mini-Goldendoodle, T.J. At the beginning of my career, I began graduate school at Lewis University. There I received a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership in Higher Education-Student Services.

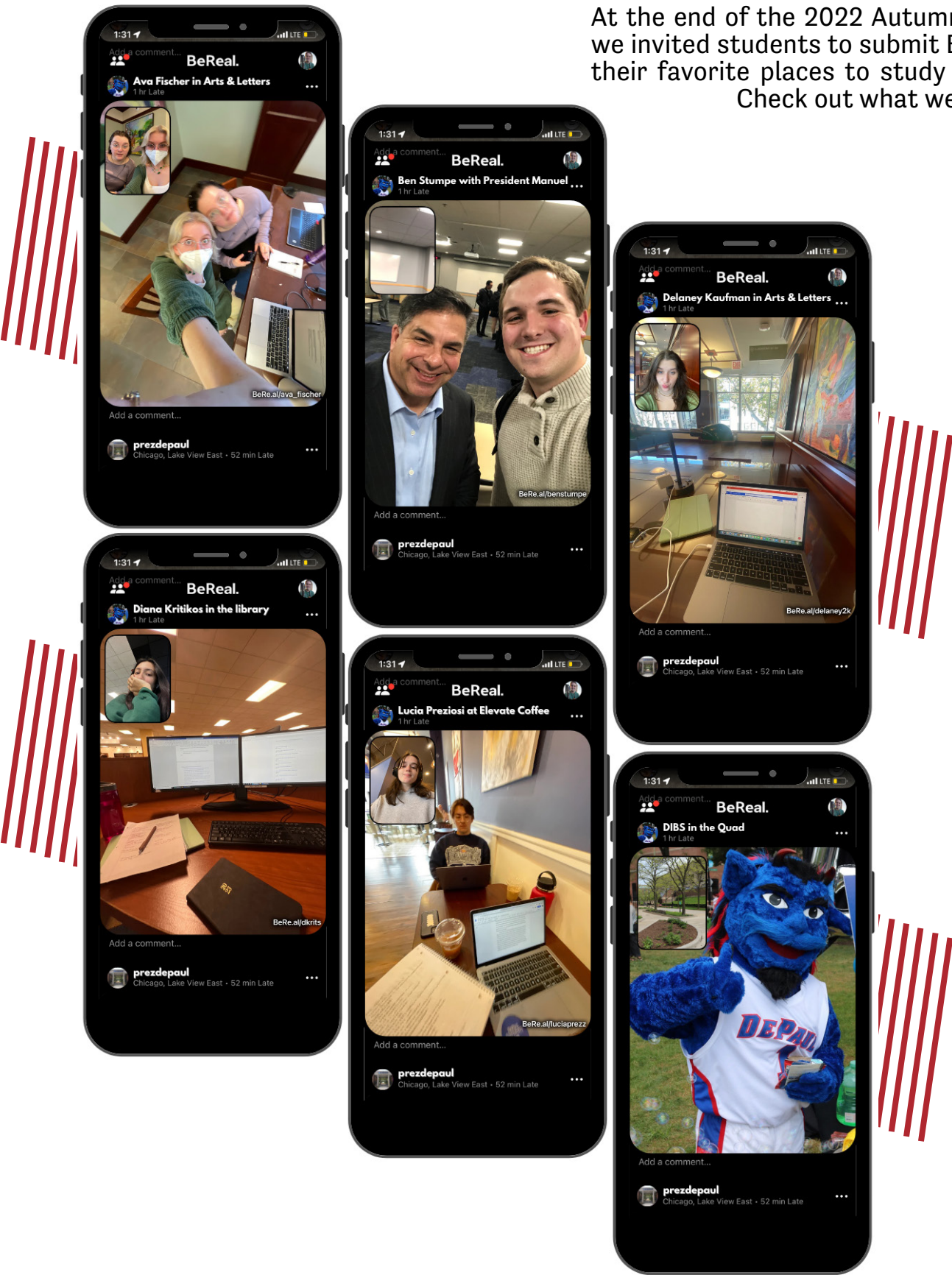
I look forward to meeting with everyone and working with each of you, as well.

Fun Facts about me:

- Guilty Pleasure: Reality TV. I love *Real Housewives of: Atlanta, Beverly Hills, & Potomac* and *Married to Medicine*. *Married at First Sight* has recently caught my attention too!
- My favorite color is blue.
- I really enjoy spending time with my family, taking vacations, going to the nail salon, and music.
- Favorite Quote: "Your education is one of the few things in life that no one can take away from you!"

⚠️Time to BeReal.⚠️

At the end of the 2022 Autumn Quarter, we invited students to submit BeReals of their favorite places to study for finals. Check out what we received!





Faculty Spotlight

Kathryn Ibata-Arens, PhD

Kathryn Ibata-Arens has had an extremely productive year and a half. Her many accomplishments over these past months include:

- 1
- Ibata-Arens published her latest book, *Pandemic Medicine: Why the Global Innovation System Is Broken, and How We Can Fix It*, with Lynne Rienner Publishers in September 2021. The book is part of their Advances in International Political Economy series. *Pandemic Medicine* was subsequently awarded the prestigious Andrew Price-Smith best book prize in global health by the International Studies Association (ISA) in March of 2022. A press release for the award can be found [here](#).
- 2
- Ibata-Arens also served as the executive chair of the Society of Vincent de Paul Professors, a respected organization of faculty within the University which is dedicated to enhancing the educational mission of the institution and promoting the ideals of Vincentian personalism, social justice and service.
- 3
- Ibata-Arens was awarded a Research and Innovation Leadership Fellowship in the Provost office, where she designed and developed a university-level study to map the scholarship of DePaul faculty.
- 4
- Ibata-Arens was a coauthor of a bilingual (English-Japanese) policy brief published by the Pacific Forum, a leading Asia-Pacific national security think tank. The policy brief, *21st Century Technologies, Geopolitics, and the US-Japan Alliance: Recognizing Game-changing Potential*, was published in April 2021 and focused on a range of strategic and security issues that have emerged as a result of technological innovation.
- 5
- Ibata-Arens has developed a new Study Abroad course with Jim Montgomery in Environmental Studies, entitled “The Politics of Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship in the Pacific Islands, Water, Mountain, Climate” which ran this past Fall (with coursework continuing in the Winter). The overall program is driven by the themes of environmental security in the face of climate change and the importance of indigenous practices to environmental sustainability. More on this program is on the opposing page.
- 6
- Ibata-Arens has won an international election for a seat on the global “Executive Council” of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-economics (SASE) (winners in alpha order). SASE, based at the prestigious Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG), is the world’s leading social scientific organization supporting scholarship and activism in researching the socio-political embeddedness of market activity. For the past three years, Ibata-Arens has co-organized and hosted a special mini-conference on health and medicines for SASE.

Aloha from Hawai’i Kai, Oahu!

Inaugural December 2022 Study Abroad to Hawai’i explores themes of environmental security and sustainability

As part of a new study abroad to Hawai’i in December 2022 led by political science professor Dr. Kathryn Ibata-Arens, DePaul students visited the East-West Center at the University of Hawai’i, Manoa. The study abroad explored issues about Pacific Island environmental security and sustainability and how local communities are responding to climate change. DePaul students had the opportunity to engage in policy dialog with local experts and serve community organizations working to build resiliency and food sovereignty through sustainable agriculture and aquaculture practices.

The students worked hard and were engaged every step of the journey. One of the events was hosted by the prestigious East-West Center (EWC) affiliated with the University of Hawai’i, Manoa, and PSC student Zoe Bragado moderated a Q&A session with guest speaker Dr. Tammy Tabe. Here is what Zoe had to say about her experience:



PSC student Zoe Bragado moderating a Q&A session with guest speaker Dr. Tammy Tabe



“It was an absolute honor and pleasure to have had the chance to speak with Dr. Tammy Tabe at the East-West Center in Hawaii. As a political science major and a Senator in the Student Government Association, I strive to effectively advocate for minority groups. Dr. Tammy Tabe gave me advice on how to build authentic and meaningful connections with indigenous communities in order to gain trust and have the chance to work with them in solidarity on pressing issues. In addition, this moderated discussion opened my eyes to gender-related topics within indigenous communities with comments from DePaul students and East-West Ph.D. students. I hope to take this advice with me throughout the rest of my academic career at DePaul. I also look forward to more opportunities to moderate more important discussions such as these.”

For questions about this study abroad, please contact Dr. Kathryn Ibata-Arens at k.ibata-arens@depaul.edu.



Kathryn Ibata-Arens with her latest book *Pandemic Medicine: Why the Global Innovation System Is Broken, and How We Can Fix It*

Cathy R. May Funds: Scholarships for Study Abroad and DePaul to DC Program

In the 2020-21 academic year, two funds were set up to honor the memory of our long-time colleague, Cathy May. The impetus behind this effort was a very generous grant from an anonymous donor who contributed \$50,000 to set up an endowed fund in Cathy's name. This was augmented by a matching grant from DePaul University and a second contribution, which was split between the newly created endowed fund, and a second "expendable" fund. The latter fund pays out over the course of three to five years. Other donations were forthcoming, both from Cathy's family and from former students. To date, we have raised over \$190,000 in Cathy's name.

The scholarship funds are modeled on a similar endeavor set up by Cathy several years ago to provide financial support to students in need. Like Cathy's earlier effort, the two scholarship funds (the Cathy R. May Endowed Fund and the Cathy R. May Experiential Fund) provide support to political science students with financial need.

Priority is given to those students who are seeking help to cover fees for a Study Abroad Program or to allow them to take an unpaid internship, though other needs – including books, travel, or other expenses – area also eligible for support.

The first round of applications were received this past Spring, with eight students receiving funding from the Cathy May funds. The total distribution was \$20,000, which went to support students studying in Ireland, participating in the Washington DC program, and working in a Summer internship.

More about Cathy and the funds can be found [here](#). If you are a student, and would like to apply for financial support, please click on this [link](#) and fill out the application. The next deadline for applications is February 15. If you are an alumni or friend who would like to contribute to one of the two Cathy May Funds, please click on this [link](#).



Felicia L. outside Leinster House with Senator Maria Byrne



“

This past Quarter in Dublin, Ireland has been a dream. All of us have had so much fun learning about the Irish culture and working in the Irish Parliament... Over the past three months I have also had the incredible opportunity to travel around Europe and see so many wonderful things. This was all possible because of the Cathy May scholarship. I have seen and experienced so many amazing things, and for that I will always be grateful.

-Felicia Lemmon

DePaul to DC Program

This Fall marked the beginning of a new program in Washington DC that is being run in conjunction with the University of Illinois. Like our earlier collaborations with Georgetown and Catholic University, this one will allow students to spend a semester in the nation's capital. The students work as interns during the week and take classes at night and on Fridays. The program is being run through the Study Abroad Office. It is an exciting opportunity for students to gain valuable work experience in a unique professional environment and to think about career tracks in the Washington DC policy community. This past Fall, we had students working in the RNC, the White House and for members of Congress, among other places.

The PSC Department will also be running a short-term program in Washington DC over Spring Break. This shorter program is focused on careers in public service and will provide students an opportunity to meet congressional staff members, State Department officials and alumni who work in a variety of capacities in the nation's capital.

Felicia L. at the Cliffs of Moher in Ireland





Autumn 2022 Quarter in Pictures

Photos courtesy of Mihaela Stoica, Scott Hibbard, and Phillip Stalley



Academic Convocation | September 1 | St. Vincent de Paul Church
Blue Demon Welcome | September 6 | DePaul Quad
Ironman 70.3 World Championship | Phillip Stalley
Oct 28-29 | St. George, UT

Model UN

PSC 281 is offered in the Winter 2023 quarter, and students will represent Croatia and Germany at the Midwest Model United Nations Conference. Please contact Professor Erik Tillman, etillman@depaul.edu, with any questions about this course or Model UN at DePaul.

Mock Trial



The DePaul Mock Trials competed this fall at Drake U (Oct. 21-23), Illinois State (Nov. 4-6), Indianapolis (IUPUI) Mock Trial Invitational (Nov. 11-13) Next, they will compete in the Mock Trial Regional in Evanston, February 11-12, 2023 at Northwestern University.



Parveen Mundi won an outstanding attorney award at the Illinois State competition.

Winter 2023 Courses

PSC 281-801: Model UN

Are you interested in learning more about diplomacy and some of the major issues facing the world while developing your practical writing, public speaking, and collaborative skills? If so, then consider taking PSC 281 (Model United Nations) in the Winter Quarter. It will introduce students to the practice of Model UN in preparation for conference participation. This course meets on Wednesday evenings and fulfills the JYEL credit. Participation in a weekend Model UN conference is required. Past participation in Model UN is encouraged but not required. For further information and to enroll in the course, please contact Prof. Erik Tillman at etillman@depaul.edu.

Erik Tillman, PhD | Winter 2023 | Wednesdays 6-9:15PM



PSC 393 HONORS SEMINAR TOPIC: POLITICS OF GLOBAL HEALTH

This course examines the power and influence behind actions, policies, and practices governing inclusion, equity, and access in public and private health worldwide. Who gets access to healthcare and medicine and how, is always political, across countries and within international organizations. Is there a better way to structure and govern global health that would result in new drug and treatment discoveries for illness and disease as well as more effective responses to global health crises in the future? Using the lens of case studies in Asian health diplomacy, open innovation in social entrepreneurship in the Global South, and biodiverse ecosystems sustaining life, students will gain experience theorizing and applying theory in practice.



DR. KATHRYN IBATA-ARENS, VINCENT DE PAUL PROFESSOR
WEDNESDAY, ONLINE HYBRID, 2:40PM-4:10PM
CROSS-LISTED WITH AAS 290 AND DPL 395



The Winter 2023 Course Schedule is available here:

[Class Search](#) | [Political Science](#) | [Academics](#) | [College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences](#) | [DePaul University, Chicago](#)

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