



FIRST ANNUAL HISTORICAL POLITICAL ECONOMY CONFERENCE

October 19–20, 2024

RALPH AND GOLDY LEWIS HALL 101

USC CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

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Historical Political Economy (HPE) is a rapidly growing interdisciplinary field, but it has not benefited from an annual conference where scholars can workshop cutting-edge papers on topics like state-building, economic development, colonialism, nationalism, and globalism. This 2024 conference – and planned conferences in succeeding years – will remedy this situation.

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OCT. 19 AGENDA

7:45 AM

REGISTRATION AND LIGHT BREAKFAST

8:15 AM

OPENING COMMENTS

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

PARALLEL FACULTY PANELS

Panel 1a (Room 100):

"Iron Fist of Development: Coercive Institutions and Public Services"

Aslı Cansunar (University of Washington)¹

"After the Commons: Economic Opportunity and Colonial Legacies of Land Privatization"

Allison Spencer Hartnett (University of Southern California)

Discussant: Jared Rubin (Chapman University)

Panel 1b (Room 308):

"Race and Representation in Local Legislative Politics: Evidence from the Great Migration"

Michael Olson (Washington University in St. Louis)²

"Electrifying Extremism? Rural Electrification and Democratic Backsliding in the Early 20th Century United States"

L. Jason Anastasopoulos (University of Georgia)

Discussant: Nicholas Napolio (UC-Riverside)

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

BREAK

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

PARALLEL FACULTY PANELS 2

Panel 2a (Room 100):

"Ideational Diffusion and the Great Witch Hunt in Early Modern Europe"

Steve Pfaff (Chapman University)³

"Bootstrapping Sovereignty: Petitions and Power in Nascent States"

Daniel P. Carpenter (Harvard University)⁴

Discussant: Jonathan Homola (UCLA)

Panel 2b (Room 308):

"Popular Support for Disenfranchisement during the Backsliding Era in American Politics"

Thomas R. Gray (University of Texas at Dallas)⁵

"Slave Revolts and the Abolition of Slavery in the British Empire"

Gabriel Leon-Ablan (King's College London)

Discussant: Francisco Garfias (UCSD)

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

LUNCH

(CONTINUED)

2

OCT. 19 AGENDA

(CONTINUED)

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

PARALLEL PHD STUDENT PANELS

Panel A (Room 100):

"European Settlements and Affirmative Action: The Long-term effects of Whitening Policies in Brazil"

Mateo Villamizar (Duke University)

"Diversity, Conflict and Agglomeration in African Cities"

Andre Gray (UCSD)

"Securing the Urban Frontier: State Legibility Projects in Post-Conflict Settings"

Shenali Pilapitiya (USC)

Discussants: Raul Aldaz Peña (Universidad San Francisco de Quito), Henry Thomson (Arizona State University), and Federica Carugati (King's College London)

Panel B (Room 308):

"Fear the Reaver: Roving Bandits and Urban Destruction in Eurasia, 1-1800 AD"

Daniel Smith (Ohio State University)⁶

"Rulers, Resistance, and Retreat: Flight as a Constraint on Predatory Rule"

Kimberly Renk (UCSD)

"One Question at a Time: The Impact of the American Civil War on Mobilization for Women's Suffrage"

Alice Calder (University of New South Wales)

Discussants: Svend-Erik Skaaning (Aarhus University), Daniel P. Carpenter (Harvard University), and Mirya Holman (University of Houston)

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM

BREAK

2:45 PM – 4:15 PM

PARALLEL FACULTY PANELS 3

Panel 3a (Room 100):

"Getting the Context Right in Quantitative Historical Analysis"

Svend-Erik Skaaning (Aarhus University)⁷

"Spatial Units of Analysis and Causal Inference in HPE"

Hillel David Soifer (University of California, Berkeley)

Discussant: Clayton Nall (UCSB)

Panel 3b (Room 308):

"The Social Origins of Democracy: Evidence from 17th Century England"

Aditya Dasupta (University of California, Merced)

"Parliamentary Representation and Right-Wing Violence: Evidence from Nazi Street Brawls in the Weimar Republic"

Henry Thomson (Arizona State University)⁸

Discussant: Sebastian Saiegh (UCSD)

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM

BREAK

4:30 PM

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION (ROOM 308)

"Building Generalizable Knowledge in HPE"

Sean Gailmard (University of California, Berkeley)

6:00 PM

RECEPTION (MORETON FIG)

3

OCT. 20 AGENDA

8:15 AM

PRELIMINARY COMMENTS

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

PARALLEL FACULTY PANELS 4

Panel 4a (Room 100):

"Writing and the Early State: Information and State Capacity in Mesopotamia"

Federica Carugati (King's College London)⁹

"State-Building or State-Weakening? The Consequences of Military Control in Medieval China"

Erik H. Wang (New York University)¹⁰

Discussant: Thomas R. Gray (University of Texas at Dallas)

Panel 4b (Room 308):

"Governing the Gilded Age City: A New Dataset on Local Institution Building During the Machine and Progressive Eras"

Christina Wolbrecht (University of Notre Dame)¹¹

"Descended from Immigrants and Revolutionists: How Family History Shapes Immigration Policymaking"

Benjamin Schneer (Harvard University)¹²

Discussant: Sara Wallace Goodman (University of California, Irvine)

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

BREAK

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

PARALLEL FACULTY PANELS 5

Panel 5a (Room 100):

"Unequal Burden: Colonial Taxation and Living Standard Disparities Within Minorities"

Jenny Guardado (Georgetown University)

"The Politics of Obsolescence: Deindustrialization and Economic Nationalism in Colonial South Asia"

Zuhad Hai (New York University)

Discussant: Tanu Kumar (Claremont Graduate University)

Panel 5b:

"Kingdoms of Their Own: County Creation and Black Political Power During Reconstruction"

Michael Greenberger (University of Denver)

"Inequality and Racial Backlash: Evidence from the Reconstruction Era and the Freedmen's Bureau"

Kareem Haggag (UCLA Anderson)¹³

Discussant: Hoyt Bleakley (University of Michigan)

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

LUNCH AND BUSINESS MEETING

1:00 PM

BOOK MANUSCRIPT REVIEW (ROOM 100)

"Why the Rush? An Institutional Economic Analysis of Homesteading and the Settlement of the West"

Bryan Leonard (University of Wyoming)¹⁴

¹Paper coauthors: Pablo Beramendi and Berfin Baydar

²Paper coauthor: Irene Gerrish

³Paper coauthors: Kerice Doten-Snitker and Yuan Hisao

⁴Paper coauthor: Sean Gailmard

⁵Paper coauthor: Jeffery A. Jenkins

⁶Paper coauthor: Thomas R. Gray

⁷Paper coauthor: Jørgen Møller

⁸Paper coauthors: Alexander de Juan, Felix Haas, and Daniel Bischof

⁹Paper coauthors: Giacomo BonaM and Gabriel León-Abian

¹⁰Paper coauthor: Joy Chen

¹¹Paper coauthor: Mirya Holman

¹²Paper coauthors: James Feigenbaum and Maxwell Palmer

¹³Paper coauthors: Eric Chyn and Bryan A. Stuart

¹⁴Book manuscript coauthor: Douglas W. Allen

ORGANIZERS



JEFF JENKINS

Jeffery A. Jenkins is Provost Professor of Public Policy, Political Science, and Law, Maria B. Crutcher Professor of Citizenship and Democratic Values, and director of the Political Institutions and Political Economy (PIPE) Collaborative at the University of Southern California. He is the founding editor of the *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy* and the *Journal of Historical Political Economy*. He is also editor-in-chief of *Broadstreet*, a blog that focuses on historical political economy, and hosts a podcast called *P.S. You're Interesting*, where he talks to political scientists about their research. His research interests include American political institutions and development, with a special emphasis on Congress and political parties. Jenkins was previously editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Politics* for six years. He has been a postdoctoral fellow at Princeton University and Michigan State University. Jenkins holds a PhD in political science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MS in mathematical methods for the social sciences from Northwestern University.

Read more: <https://priceschool.usc.edu/people/jeffery-a-jenkins/>



ALLISON HARTNETT

Allison Hartnett is an assistant professor of political science and international relations and Middle East studies at the University of Southern California (USC). Her research interests are in the fields of comparative and historical political economy, with a focus on inequality and redistribution, colonial legacies, rural politics, and state formation in the Middle East and North Africa. Hartnett's book project examines redistributive conflict and inequality in colonial and post-colonial autocracies, specifically the politics surrounding land reform in MENA states. Prior to joining the faculty at USC, she served as a predoctoral fellow at the Middle East Initiative at Harvard Kennedy School of Government's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. She was also a postdoctoral fellow in the Leitner Program on Political Economy at Yale University. Hartnett received her PhD in politics from the University of Oxford and holds an MPhil in Modern Middle Eastern Studies from St. Antony's College, Oxford.

Read more: <http://www.allisonhartnett.io/>

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



SEAN GAILMARD

Sean Gailmard is the Herman Royer Professor of Political Economy and vice chair of the Department for Personnel at the University of California, Berkeley. During his time at this university, he has been a faculty affiliate for the Institute of Governmental Studies, Institute of International Studies, Berkeley Center for Economics & Politics, and the Berkeley Center for American Democracy. Gailmard studies how political institutions operate, change, and affect governance quality. His work focuses particularly on the US executive branch, checks and balances across branches of government, bureaucratic capacity, and the evolution of US institutions. Gailmard applies strategic and historical perspectives to these issues, and has published many papers on historical political economy. He earned both his PhD and MS in economics and political science from the California Institute of Technology.

Read more: <https://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~gailmard/>

PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS



RAUL ALDAZ PEÑA

DISCUSSANT

Raul Aldaz Peña is an assistant professor at the School of Economics at Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ). As a mixed-methods political economist, he studies the policymaking process in resource-rich countries and the origins of state capacity. His current two research projects explore the connections between institutions and development. Prior to teaching at USFQ, Aldaz taught modules on Latin American Politics, Political Economy, and Methods as an LSE Fellow at Queen Mary, IDS (Sussex), UCL, SOAS, and KCL. Aldaz obtained his PhD in development studies from King's College London, and studied economics at Warwick, Baylor, and the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador.

Read more: <https://sites.google.com/view/raulaldazpena/>



JASON ANASTASOPOULOS

PRESENTER

Jason Anastasopoulos is the associate professor of Public Administration and Policy and Statistics (by courtesy) at the University of Georgia, a faculty fellow at the UGA Center for International Trade and Security (CITS), and a faculty affiliate at the Institute for Artificial Intelligence. He is also a fellow at the University of Southern California's Civic Leadership Education and Research (CLEAR) Initiative. Anastasopoulos' research examines how political institutions essential for maintaining democratic governance respond to technological changes and whether these responses strengthen or weaken democratic institutions. His work in political methodology focuses on improving causal inference with Bayesian and machine learning methods. Anastasopoulos earned his PhD and MA in economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

Read more: <https://anastasopoulos.io/>



HOYT BLEAKLEY

DISCUSSANT

Hoyt Bleakley is a professor of economics and research associate professor at Population Studies Center, both at the University of Michigan. He works on health, human capital, and intergenerational mobility. His recent work involves measuring the economic impact of slavery in the United States and tracking three generations in the 19th-century US South to follow up on participants in a large land lottery in Georgia. He has also investigated the impact of historical disease eradication efforts on economic performance in the US and Latin America. Before teaching at the University of Michigan, Bleakley was a senior investigator at Robert Fogel's Center for Population Economics at the University of Chicago. He achieved his PhD in economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Read more: <https://websites.umich.edu/~hoytb/>

PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS



ALICE CALDER

PRESENTER/DISCUSSANT

Alice Calder is a fourth-year PhD student in economics at the University of New South Wales and a visiting scholar at Boston University for the fall 2024 semester. Her research interests are in the areas of economic history, political economy, and institutional and cultural economics. Calder seeks to take an interdisciplinary approach to these topics and understand the effect of policy, history, culture and society on people's economic decisions and outcomes. She is particularly interested in women's suffrage across the globe, and worked as a consultant for the World Bank focusing on women's economic empowerment in the Pacific. Calder has an MA in applied economics from George Mason University.

Read more: <https://sites.google.com/view/alicecalder>



ASLI CANSUNAR

PRESENTER

Asli Cansunar is an associate professor of political science at the University of Washington. Concurrently, she is a faculty fellow at the Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies (AALIMS), UW Near and Middle Eastern Studies, UW Middle East Center, UW Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences, and UW Center for Environmental Politics. Cansunar is also on the editorial board of the *Journal of Historical Political Economy*. Her main research interests involve comparative political economy and historical political economy, focusing on the causes and consequences of economic, social, and ethno-religious inequality. In particular, Cansunar's research is concentrated in advanced industrialized countries and the Middle East. Before joining the University of Washington faculty, Cansunar was a postdoctoral research fellow at Nuffield College and the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Oxford. She holds a PhD in political science and an MA in economics from Duke University.

Read more: <https://www.aslicansunar.com/>



DAN CARPENTER

PRESENTER/DISCUSSANT

Daniel Carpenter is the Allie S. Freed Professor of Government and chair of the Department of Government in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University. He is a Guggenheim Fellow, a Radcliffe Institute Fellow, and fellow at the Stanford Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, as well as an elected fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. Carpenter's academic interests include bureaucracy, democracy, health policy and bioethics, institutions, legislatures, public policy, and state-society relations. His scholarship on petitioning, regulation and government organizations have been awarded various journalistic awards from political science associations. Prior to his professorship at Harvard, Carter taught at Princeton University and the University of Michigan. He received his PhD in political science from the University of Chicago.

Read more: <https://dcarpenter.scholar.harvard.edu/>

PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS



FEDERICA CARUGATI

PRESENTER/DISCUSSANT

Federica Carugati is a senior lecturer in history and political economy and the program director for the undergraduate major in history and political economy at King's College London. Her research focuses on two interrelated topics: first, the development of political, legal, and economic institutions in pre-modern, citizen-centered governments; and second, the lessons that the emergence, configuration, and breakdown of such institutions hold for the theory and practice of institution building in the modern world. Before joining King's, she was a program director at the Centre for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University and the associate director of the Ostrom Workshop at Indiana University, Bloomington. Carugati earned her PhD in classics and MA in political science at Stanford University.

Read more: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/federica-carugati>



ADITYA DASGUPTA

PRESENTER

Aditya Dasgupta is an assistant professor of Political Science and director of the Political Economy of Agriculture and Rural Societies (PEARS) lab at the University of California, Merced. His research is in comparative political and economic development, with a focus on technology, democracy, state capacity, and agriculture, among other topics. His book project and articles examine the historical and organizational roots of why parties succeed or fail at incorporating new groups in democratizing societies. Before working at UCM, Dasgupta was a national fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. A second set of projects investigates the politics of public service delivery failure in developing countries, including a series of surveys in India. He received his PhD in political science from Harvard University.

Read more: <https://sites.google.com/view/adasgupta/>



FRANCISCO GARFIAS

DISCUSSANT

Francisco Garfias is associate professor in the School of Global Policy and Strategy at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). He studies the political economy of development, with a focus on how states build capacity, consolidate authority, establish institutions, and navigate civil conflict in developing countries. His research examines why some states develop the ability to tax and implement policies while others remain unable to raise the minimum required to carry out even the most basic state functions. Garfias has a regional expertise in Latin America, with a particular focus on Mexico. Prior to his work at UCSD, he served as a visiting professor of political science at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México. Garfias obtained his PhD in political science and his MA in economics from Stanford University.

Read more: <http://franciscogarfias.com/>

PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS



SARA GOODMAN

DISCUSSANT

Sara Wallace Goodman is a Chancellor's Fellow and Dean's Professor of political science at the University of California, Irvine, where she currently serves as chair of the Department of Political Science. Goodman also contributes extensive service to the discipline, and currently serves as treasurer of the American Political Science Association (APSA) and chair-elect of APSA's European Politics & Society Section. She is also co-founder and co-editor of the Oxford University Press book series, *Oxford Studies in Migration and Citizenship*, and a research affiliate at the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (ICGG). Her research examines citizenship and the shaping of political identity and national belonging through state policy. Goodman earned her PhD and MA in government from Georgetown University.

Read more: <https://faculty.sites.uci.edu/sgoodman/>



ANDRE GRAY

PRESENTER

Andre Gray is a 5th-year PhD candidate in economics at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). He studies the political economy of urban growth and the impact of immigration on urban amenities. He has worked as a research specialist at the University of Southern California's Center for Economic and Social Research (CESR) doing data analysis and management for field and lab-in-the-field experiments in behavioral, health and education economics. Gray has also worked as a research assistant with UCSD Economics, using NORC data to study the effect of SNAP adoption on consumer welfare, measuring the effect of conflict on prosociality in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and assisting on a large-scale RD-design combining DHS and experimental data on the role of cultural factors on the economic decision making of women across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Read more: <https://andregra.github.io/>



THOMAS GRAY

PRESENTER/DISCUSSANT

Thomas Gray is an associate professor of political science in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas. Concurrently, he serves as the associate program head and director of graduate studies of Public Policy and Political Economy. He studies American political institutions, congress, judicial politics, and historical political economy. Prior to his professorship at the University of Texas at Dallas, Gray worked as a graduate teaching and research assistant at University of Virginia. At the Western New England University School of Law Gray earned his Doctor of Law degree, before achieving both his PhD and MA in government from the University of Virginia.

Read more: <https://www.thomasrgray.com/>

PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS



MICHAEL GREENBERGER

PRESENTER

Michael Greenberger is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Denver. He researches American politics with a focus on elections, American political development, geospatial research methods, and race and ethnic politics. Greenberger's research examines how federal and state policies interact with local politics to shape elections and representation. His book project, tentatively titled, "Mapping American Authoritarianism: Race, Geography, and the Making of the Jim Crow South," examines the role played by geography and electoral institutions in bringing about the end of Reconstruction and the rise of Jim Crow. Greenberger received his PhD in political science from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Read more: <https://liberalarts.du.edu/about/people/michael-p-greenberger>



JENNY GUARDADO

PRESENTER

Jenny Guardado is an assistant professor at the Center for Latin American Studies and Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Her research examines the political and economic mechanisms affecting armed conflict, corruption and economic development. She is currently working on a book manuscript tracing the long-lasting political and economic consequences of venality in the Spanish colonial administration. Prior to joining Georgetown, she served as a postdoctoral scholar at the Harris School of Public Policy in the University of Chicago, as well as a visiting scholar at the Department of Politics at Princeton University. Guardado received her PhD in political science at New York University.

Read more: <https://sites.google.com/site/jennyguardado/>



KAREEM HAGGAG

PRESENTER

Kareem Haggag is an assistant professor at the University of California, Los Angeles's Anderson School of Management. He is also a faculty research fellow in the Political Economy Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research. As an applied microeconomist, he studies topics at the intersections of economics, political science, and psychology. His research attempts to understand the roots and consequences of biases in the contexts of consumer choice, finance, education, voting and labor markets. He has most recently explored the effects of school racial diversity on political identity, studying the dramatic changes in schools' racial composition that resulted from a large North Carolina school district's busing policy reforms. Prior to joining the UCLA faculty, Haggag served as an assistant professor at Carnegie Mellon University. He received a PhD in economics from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business.

Read more: <http://www.kareemhaggag.com/>

PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS



ZUHAD HAI

PRESENTER

Zuhad Hai is an assistant professor of politics at New York University. She researches international political economy, with a focus on globalization, structural and technological change, and environmental politics. She states that transformative economic changes such as technological innovation, globalization, and climate change generate two political needs: the need to adjust economically, and the need to deal with uncertainty. Hai's research studies the political consequences of adjustment and uncertainty, as well as how political institutions and policies evolve to address these two challenges. Previously, she worked as a full-time predoctoral fellow at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. She later served as a postdoctoral fellow at the Niehaus Center for Global Governance at Princeton University. Hai received her PhD in political science at Stanford University, and obtained her MA in international relations from the University of Chicago.

Read more: <https://zuhadhai.com/>



MIRYA HOLMAN

PRESENTER/DISCUSSANT

Mirya Holman is an associate professor in public policy at the Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston. Her research interests focus on women and politics, local politics, research methods and environmental politics. In her most recent book, *Women in Politics in the American City*, she examines the effect of female mayors and city council members on urban politics. Holman also edited a volume on gender and political ambition – *Good Reasons to Run* – and writes a newsletter addressing academic success. Currently, she is researching locally appointed boards and commissions, children's political attitudes, how state legislatures make decisions about controversial policies such as climate change, firearms and sexual education, the partisan politics of #MeToo, the role of religious beliefs in political attitudes and actions and the pathways to political office. Holman received her PhD from Claremont Graduate University in American politics and public policy.

Read more: <https://sites.google.com/view/miryaholman>



JONATHAN HOMOLA

DISCUSSANT

Jonathan Homola is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He is a comparativist and a political methodologist. Most of his substantive research deals with questions of representation and electoral preferences. More specifically, his work mostly falls into two main fields of interest: xenophobia and (support for right-wing) extremism, and gender and politics. Homola's regional areas of expertise are Western democracies and Eastern Europe. Methodologically, he is interested in Bayesian research methods, survival models, survey methodology, and causal inference. Previously, he served as an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at Rice University and a visiting student followed by pre-doctoral research fellow at the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard University. Homola received his PhD from Washington University in St. Louis, and obtained a master's degree at the University of Essex.

Read more: <https://jhomola.com/>

PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS



TANU KUMAR

DISCUSSANT

Tanu Kumar is an assistant professor in the Division of Politics and Economics at Claremont Graduate University. She is also currently a faculty affiliate at the Center for Effective Global Action, and was a non-resident fellow in the Program on Governance and Local Development at the University of Gothenburg. Kumar co-organizes an annual conference on urban politics in the global south. Her research studies how everyday citizens can improve their local communities in India, focusing on when they will make demands along with the conditions under which government officials will respond. Previously, she has been named a Susan Clarke Young Scholar by the American Political Science Association's Urban and Local Politics Section. Kumar completed her PhD in political science at the University of California, Berkeley.

Read more: <https://tanukumar.com/>



GABRIEL LEON-ABLAN

PRESENTER

Gabriel Leon-Ablan is a professor in the Department of Political Economy at King's College London. He is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Peace Research*. His research focuses on social unrest such as riots and protests, slavery, and historical political economy. He has worked on a number of topics, including the diffusion of violence, the causes and consequences of riots, the causes of coups d'etat, and English political development. Before joining King's College, Leon-Ablan was the Bevil Mabey Fellow in economics at St. Catharine's College, University of Cambridge. He also worked as an associate consultant in the NYC offices of Bain & Company. Leon-Ablan studied for his PhD in economics at Oxford University and received his BA in applied mathematics at Harvard University.

Read more: <https://gabrieljleon.wordpress.com/>



CLAYTON NALL

DISCUSSANT

Clayton Nall is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science and an affiliate in the Department of Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). His research seeks to explain how policies that change geographic space change American politics, and his broader research interests encompass American political development, public policy, political geography, and political methodology. Nall's most recent book uses a range of new data sources constructed from public archives and databases to examine how the largest public works project in US history created Republican suburbs, increased the urban-suburban political divide, and worsened spatial inequality in the nation's metro areas. Currently, he is pursuing research broadly addressing the politics of housing, examining how the expression of economic self-interest in local politics interacts with Americans' nationally focused political ideologies. Nall earned his PhD in political science from the Department of Government at Harvard University.

Read more: <http://www.nallresearch.com/>

PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS



NICHOLAS NAPOLIO

DISCUSSANT

Nicholas Napolio is an assistant professor of political science at the University of California, Riverside. His research focuses on American political institutions, specifically the bureaucracy, Congress, and the separation of powers. In his work, Napolio uses modern tools of social scientific research – including causal inference and computational social science – on a range of contemporary and historical data to develop and test political scientific theories of substantive interest. In particular, his research examines whether and how bureaucrats achieve their preferred policy outcomes despite presidential or congressional opposition, and how formal and informal institutions within American legislatures shape policy outcomes in both the short and long terms. Napolio received his PhD in political science from the University of Southern California.

Read more: <https://www.nicholasnapolio.com/>



MICHAEL OLSON

PRESENTER

Michael Olson is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at Washington University in St. Louis, where he is also a resident fellow in the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy. Additionally, he is a faculty affiliate of the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Equity. His research focuses on the role that elections play in shaping representation in American politics. To explore how different electoral and legislative institutions shape representation, Olson uses a wide variety of data from across American history and different levels of government. He has previously served as a peer reviewer for many publications such as the *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, and *Political Science Research and Methods*. Olson completed both his PhD and MA in political science at Harvard University.

Read more: <https://www.michaelpatrickolson.com/>



STEVEN PFAFF

PRESENTER

Steven Pfaff is a professor of sociology at Chapman University. He is also a research associate with the Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics and Society. He conducts historical and comparative research on religion, politics and social movements. Along with Michael Hechter, he published *The Genesis of Rebellion: Governance, Grievance and Mutiny in the Age of Sail* (CUP, 2020). Prior to joining the faculty at Chapman University, he worked as a professor of sociology at the University of Washington at Seattle, where he also served as the director of the Center for West European Studies and EU Center within the Jackson School of International Studies. Pfaff acquired his PhD in sociology from New York University, and completed his MA at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Read more: <https://www.chapman.edu/our-faculty/steven-pfaff>

PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS



SHENALI PILAPITIYA

PRESENTER

Shenali Pilapitiya is a PhD student in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Southern California, and is originally from Colombo, Sri Lanka. She studies the fields of comparative politics and methods, and her areas of interest include social movements, evolving spaces of civil society, and non-party political processes against the context of democratic backsliding, nationalism, and the politics of development in South Asia. Particularly, Pilapitiya is interested in exploring the new discursive terrain forged by contemporary social movements in South Asia. Her current research focuses on urban protest through an interrogation of Sri Lanka's "Aragalaya" movement, but extends across the South Asia region to question how politics at the grassroots, and the processes of citizen mobilization, are shaping the wider political realities of South Asia. Pilapitiya received her MS in modern South Asia studies from the University of Oxford and her BA in political science from the University of California, Berkeley.

Read more: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/shenali-pilapitiya-3b4064203/>



KIMBERLY RENK

PRESENTER

Kimberly Renk is a PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). Her research examines the dynamics between autocratic rulers and the masses, with a focus on Latin America and Spanish colonialism. Prior to pursuing academia, Kimberly worked on international disputes as a lawyer in Washington, DC, led projects in the governments of the Dominican Republic and Liberia, and managed policy and training programs at the Harvard Kennedy School and Stanford University. Renk received her Master of Public Administration degree from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, and earned her Doctor of Law degree from New York University School of Law.

Read more: <https://t.co/RjXzbVcWik>



JARED RUBIN

DISCUSSANT

Jared Rubin is a professor of economics at Chapman University, where he serves as the co-director of the Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Society as well as president of the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture. Rubin serves on the editorial boards of *Journal of Economic History*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *Explorations in Economic History* and *Essays in Economic and Business History*. He is an economic historian interested in the political and religious economies of the Middle East and Western Europe. His research focuses on historical relationships between political and religious institutions and their role in economic development. His recent book project explores the role that Islam and Christianity played in the long-run "reversal of fortunes" between the economies of the Middle East and Western Europe. Rubin graduated with a PhD in economics from Stanford University.

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PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS



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Sebastian Saiegh is a professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). His research interests cut across the fields of comparative politics, positive political theory and political economy. They include the study of institutional design and change, and of the effects of political institutions on policy outcomes. Saiegh has a regional focus on Latin America, and is an expert on Argentine politics. His work addresses a number of different topics, including political risk and asset prices, statutory policy-making, legislative politics, sovereign borrowing, electoral forensics, civil war exposure, and sports analytics. Prior to his professorship at UCSD, he taught at the University of Pittsburgh. Saiegh earned his PhD from the Department of Politics at New York University.

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Benjamin Schneer is an assistant professor of public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School within Harvard University. His research is in American politics and focuses primarily on political representation: how citizens express their preferences, how the government responds to them, and what may shape and distort these processes. His most recent papers have studied just how much of an effect the media has on the national political conversation, the role that petitioning has played in American political development, and the returns to elected office based on future earnings from corporate board service and lobbying. Prior to joining the Kennedy School, Schneer was an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at Florida State University. Schneer received his PhD from the Department of Government at Harvard University and earned his MA in economics from Stanford University.

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PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS



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Daniel Smith is a PhD candidate specializing in comparative politics and political methodology at the Ohio State University (OSU). During his time at OSU, he has served as a delegate for the Political Science Graduate Student Council and is currently a peer reviewer at the *Journal of Historical Political Economy*. His primary research interests are pre-modern political systems, autocracy, and state formation. Smith has been a lecturer for courses discussing the politics of the developing world as well as democracy and dictatorship. Prior to joining the political science program at OSU, Smith worked at the University of Maryland's National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. He received a BA in foreign affairs and an MA in comparative politics from the University of Virginia.

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Hillel David Soifer is associate professor of political science, specializing in comparative politics and research methods at the University of California, Berkeley. His empirical work has mainly been centered in Latin America, writing books and a series of articles on the historical political development of the Latin American state and the conceptualization and measurement of state capacity. Soifer's research also explores issues in research design and qualitative methodology. He has published on critical junctures, the use of shadow cases in empirical research, and subnational comparison. He is currently working on a book manuscript on the challenges entailed in studying spatial aggregate units, focusing on the modifiable areal unit problem and its implications for political science scholarship. Before coming to Berkeley, he held tenure-track positions at Bates College and Temple University. Soifer received his PhD from Harvard University.

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Henry Thomson is an associate professor in the School of Politics and Global Studies at Arizona State University (ASU). He is also a faculty honors advisor in the School of Politics and Global Studies. Thomson is a political economist with a research focus on economic development, authoritarian rule, and transitions to democracy. He teaches classes on democratization, political economy, international political economy, and social science research design. He has been a visiting scholar at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, at Australian National University, and at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies in Berlin. Before joining ASU, Thomson was a postdoctoral prize research fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford. He completed his PhD in political science at the University of Minnesota.

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PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS



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