

NEWSLETTER

Department of Political Science
Marquette University



Letter from department chair, Dr. Paul Nolette:

On behalf of the Department of Political Science at Marquette, I welcome you to our first-ever department newsletter. The goal for this semi-annual publication is to be a venue for sharing exciting news and updates about our Political Science and International Affairs faculty, students, and alumni. I hope it also serves as an invitation for you to reach out and reconnect with the members of the Political Science Department. Our alumni are engaged in many interesting endeavors across the world, and we want to hear about it!

As we all know, this past year was uniquely challenging. The global COVID-19 pandemic upended daily life in numerous ways both large and small. I am proud of our students who persevered through this stressful and trying moment and adjusted to the changed environment. I am also appreciative of the many innovative ways our faculty connected with students over the past months, both in socially distanced classrooms and via new avenues of online learning.

Through this last year, we maintained our status as one of the largest majors in the College of Arts and Sciences and, indeed, across all of Marquette University. Currently, the department has nearly 275 majors in Political Science, 80 majors in the interdisciplinary International Affairs program, and approximately 55 minors. Additionally, 25 students are currently pursuing Master's degrees in our Political Science and International Affairs graduate programs.

Despite the challenges brought on by COVID-19, our students continued their engagement in politics and policy outside of the classroom. Many students participated in internships, including virtual opportunities at the Les Aspin Center for Government in Washington D.C. and

through the Kleczka Program in Milwaukee. Many students were involved in voting and civic engagement efforts throughout the fall semester, supported in part by a grant from the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition. Other students worked the polls on Election Day, which was as needed as ever given the poll worker shortage this year.

In other news, we bid adieu to one of our longest-serving faculty members, Dr. Duane Swank, who retired after 35 years. Dr. Swank taught many hundreds of students in political economy and European politics at Marquette, and he continues to be a leading light in the discipline through his research.

Several of our faculty achieved significant recognitions and accomplishments over the past year, which you can read about below. Crucially, our faculty continue their dedication as teacher-scholars by incorporating their research into their teaching, student mentoring, and service in the community. Their expertise has been recognized via prestigious appointments outside of academia, including recently with the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the Modern War Institute at West Point (Dr. Risa Brooks), and the National Association of Attorneys General (myself). Our faculty also regularly appeared in local, national, and international media to provide expertise on contemporary political events, and you can read some excerpts below.

I hope that you find this inaugural newsletter informative, and we certainly welcome any feedback and updates. We would love to hear from you!

Faculty awards and honors

Drs. Amber Wichowsky and **Philip Rocco**, were awarded a large grant to study the policy challenges of addressing agricultural pollution in rural Wisconsin. Along with two of their colleagues in the College of Education (Dr. Jill Birren) and the Department of Computer Science (Dr. Shion Guha), the interdisciplinary research team received \$20,000 from the American Political Science Association's Research Partnerships on Critical Issues, which supports collaborative, research-based projects that tackle critical issues concerning citizens across the globe. Their project will examine and evaluate how communities in Kewaunee County address water pollution from agricultural runoff. Upon completion of their project, the team will bring together key stakeholders in the area to share their findings and discuss lessons learned.

Dr. Noelle Brigden was awarded the 2021 Way Klingler Sabbatical Award. The university-wide award, which is given to one faculty member per year, pays for two semesters of teaching leave, plus additional financial support for the summer. Dr. Brigden's work during her sabbatical will focus on two research strands: borders and bodies, both as sites of violence and resistance. First, she will be finishing fieldwork for a research project on gang borders in El Salvador and their impact on the experience of citizenship. Second, she will be launching a new project on how the body wears trauma, and how daily fitness practices potentially resist structural violence. This research contributes to the development of programming for an empowerment project (see Department News below). Dr. Brigden is the second political science professor to win the award in the last three years. The 2019 award went to Dr. Amber Wichowsky.

Dr. Karen Hoffman was awarded the 2020 John Allen Pace Setter Award for Administrative Volunteer of the Year from the Milwaukee Justice Center. The award recognizes "volunteers who have distinguished themselves through their service, commitment, care, and kindness."

Dr. Lowell Barrington was awarded the 2020 Excellence in Faculty Advising award from the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences. The annual university-wide award recognizes one professor who demonstrates the "ability to inspire students to see the ideals of the University and to cause them to grow in knowledge and scholarship for the glory of God and the good of others." In a statement from the College, one advisee said: "Dr. B has left an indelible mark on my academic training and career. I firmly believe he empowers all those he advises and makes us better both professionally and personally, all while serving as a reminder of how we can embody our core Marquette and Jesuit values. I truly cannot express my conviction that he deserves the Excellence in Faculty Advising Award enough." Barrington joins two colleagues from the Political Science Department, Dr. Barrett McCormick and Dr. Karen Hoffman, as recent winners of the Excellence in Faculty Advising award.

Faculty in the news

Selected sound bites

On the political divide surrounding the pandemic:

"There was already a wealth of suspicion toward government and institutions around things like vaccines, and I think the [Trump] administration's flip-flopping or undermining of some of these organizations like the CDC reduces and erodes public trust."

- Susan Giaimo on KUT-FM Austin TX, Sep. 9, 2020

On Brazil's response to the pandemic:

"Behind the scenes, a hidden army of bureaucrats has been working diligently to prepare Brazil for the pandemic...If Brazil avoids some of the worst-case predictions, the national public health system will be to thank."

- Jessica Rich in The Washington Post, May 4, 2020

On the role Republican attorneys general will play under a Joe Biden presidency:

"Republican AGs in general are going to be a real thorn in the side of a Democratic administration, much like Democratic AGs have been for the Trump administration. For partisans, it's an appealing avenue. It doesn't force the two sides to come to a compromise."

- Paul Nolette on NBC News, Nov. 1, 2020

On President Trump's reelection strategy:

"This has really never been a majority-focused administration. In some ways it's been an administration focused on mobilizing a particular segment of the American electorate, which is sort of strategically located throughout the states that are important in the electoral college. It's a very uphill strategy."

- Julia Azari in The Guardian, July 25, 2020

On how criticism of the military's actions during the summer's racial justice protests help explain its response during the Capital insurrection:

"The lesson they took away was: 'We got caught in the middle of a political firestorm and how do we keep ourselves out of that? The best thing to do is be on the low down, keep a low profile, let's not get in the mix and let the civilians handle it.'"

- Risa Brooks in The Washington Post, Jan. 11, 2021

On the Wisconsin Supreme Court's ruling that blocked Dane County from delaying in person schooling due to COVID-19:

"What effect does this have on recruitment and retention of talented officials to lead in public health departments? Because if you are hired as a public health official, and your job is, among other things, to control the spread of disease, and now you have an institution that basically prevents you from fulfilling the job that you were hired to do — how many people are really going to want to do that job?"

- Philip Rocco in the Wisconsin Examiner, Sep. 12, 2020

On China cutting ties with the NBA following a pro-Hong Kong tweet sent out by the Houston Rocket's General Manager:

"The NBA though I think is really between a rock and a hard place on this. On this side you have the money and on this side you've got American and human values and I think the NBA has to make a decision there."

- Barrett McCormick on WDJT-TV (CBS 58), Oct. 9, 2019

On social media as a tool for political organizing:

"While campaigns can really get going and go viral, kind of sustaining them in a way that these movements can actually influence politics and kind of work through and have a long-lasting change, you still need the organizational infrastructure. It can't just be organizing without organization

- Amber Wichowsky on WUWM, Sep. 16, 2020

MU Political Science faculty have been quoted or cited in the following media outlets over the past year:

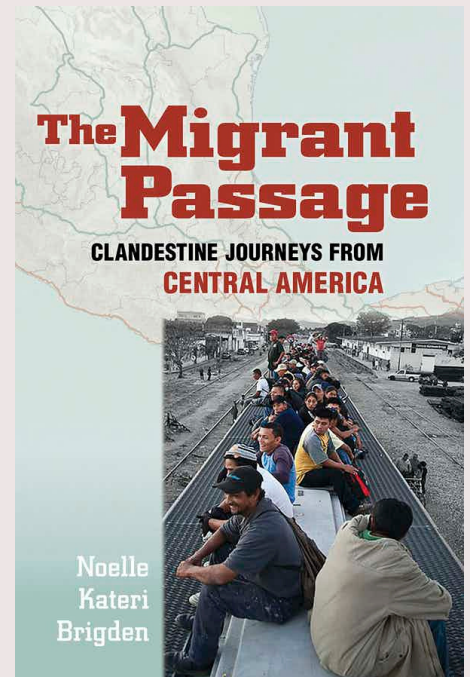
The American Prospect, Al Jazeera, BBC, Bloomberg, Business Insider, Catholic News Service, CBS 2 Chicago, CNBC, CNN, Courthouse News Service, Detroit Free Press, The Economist, FiveThirtyEight, Fortune Magazine, Fox 6 Milwaukee, The Globe and Mail, Governing, The Guardian, The Hill, KUT-FM 90.5 Austin, La Crosse Tribune, LawnStarter, Los Angeles Times, MarketWatch, Military Times, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Milwaukee Magazine, The Nation, NBC News, New York Times, NPR, Politico, PolitiFact, Reuters, Spectrum News 1, US News and World Report, Vox, Washington Post, Well News, WhoWhatWhy, Wisconsin Examiner, Wisconsin Public Radio, The World, WDJT-TV (CBS 58), WGN Radio (Chicago), WISN-TV (ABC 12), WJLA ABC 7, WNYC, WTMJ-AM (620), WTMJ-TV (NBC 4), WUWM

New books by faculty

Noelle Brigden

***The Migrant Passage:
Clandestine Journeys from Central America***
(Cornell University Press)

The Migrant Passage analyzes how people from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala navigate the dangerous and uncertain clandestine journey across Mexico to the United States. Based on over two years of in-depth, multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork along human smuggling routes from Central America across Mexico and into the United States, Dr. Brigden shows how migrants' mobility reshapes the social landscape of Mexico, while exploring the implications for the future of sovereignty and the nation-state.



Jessica Rich

***State-Sponsored Activism:
Bureaucrats and Social Movements in Democratic Brazil***
(Cambridge University Press)

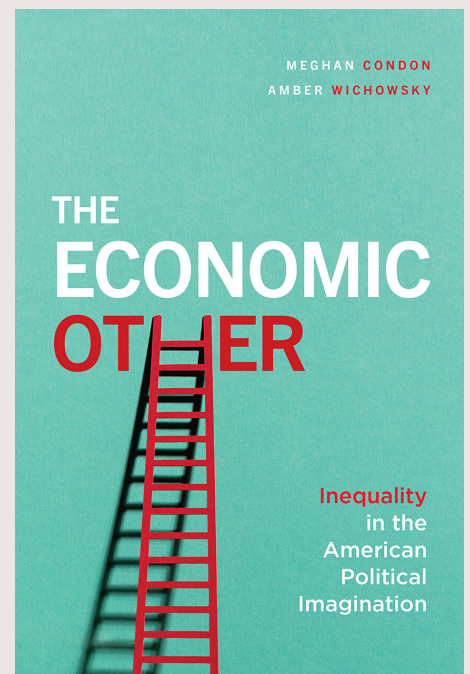
State-Sponsored Activism provides the most complete history to date of Brazil's AIDS movement, using the case as a lens to offer new insight into state-society relations in democratic and post-neoliberal Latin America. Dr. Rich traces the construction of a powerful new advocacy coalition between activist bureaucrats and bureaucratized activists, showing how NGOs help to sustain policy successes through hidden forms of political advocacy.



Amber Wichowsky (with Megan Condon)

***The Economic Other:
Inequality in the American Political Imagination***
(University of Chicago Press)

The Economic Other explores the paradox that even though economic inequality in the U.S. is at a record high, public demand for redistribution is not rising with it. Using a combination of experiments and surveys, Drs. Wichowsky and Condon show that people tend to compare their own situation with those who are less advantaged, and such frames of reference affect their attitudes about redistribution and feelings of political power.



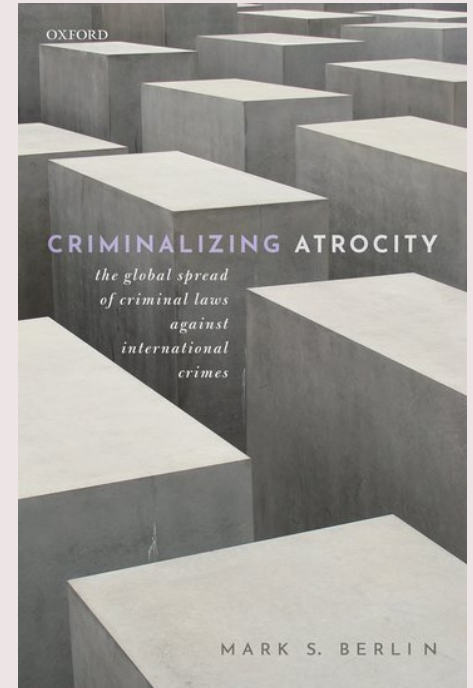
New books by faculty

Mark Berlin

Criminalizing Atrocity: The Global Spread of Criminal Laws against International Crimes

(Oxford University Press)

Criminalizing Atrocity is the first book to analyze how and why countries adopt national criminal laws against genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, laws that enable countries to prosecute their own or other countries' government and military officials for human rights violations. To do so, Dr. Berlin combines in-depth case studies of Guatemala, Poland, Colombia, and the Maldives with statistical analyses of a new, comprehensive dataset tracking the global spread of atrocity laws since World War II.

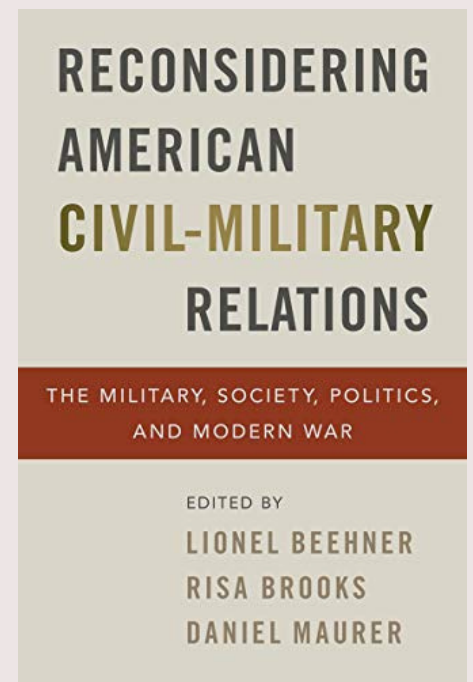


Risa Brooks (with Lionel Beehner and Daniel Maurer), editors

Reconsidering American Civil-Military Relations: The Military, Society, Politics, and Modern War

(Oxford University Press)

This volume explores contemporary civil-military relations in the United States in light of various political and technological changes of recent years. Leading scholars of civil-military relations examine the implications of issues such as breakdowns in democratic and civil-military norms and conventions; intensifying partisanship and deepening political divisions in American society; as well as new technology and the evolving character of armed conflict.

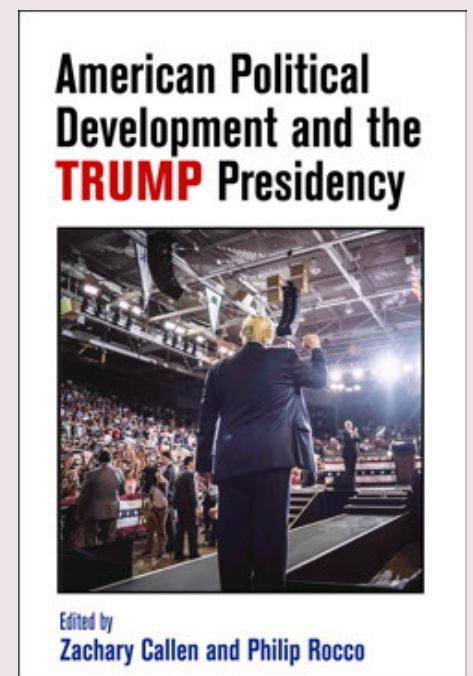


Philip Rocco (with Zachary Callen), editors

American Political Development and the Trump Presidency

(University of Pennsylvania Press)

This volume brings together leading scholars of American political development to explore how preexisting historical processes contributed to the election of Donald Trump and have shaped his presidency. Instead of viewing Trump's election as a singular moment in American politics the book's essays consider how his election coincides with larger changes in democratic ideals, institutional structures, long-standing biases, and demographic trends.



Department news

Duane Swank retires after 35 years in department

Dr. Duane Swank has been named Professor Emeritus after retiring at the end of 2020. Dr. Swank joined Marquette Political Science in 1984 after getting his Ph.D. from Northwestern University, and would go on to spend his entire professional career here. During his decades in the department, he built a reputation as one of the foremost political scientists studying political economy and public policy. He has published dozens of articles in the top journals in political science, and two books, including the award-winning *The Political Construction of Business Interests*. He also served in top leadership positions in the department and the profession, including department chair (2003-2006) and president of the Comparative Politics section of the American Political Science Association, the organization's largest section. At Marquette, Dr. Swank's courses have been staples of the Political Science and International Affairs undergraduate and graduate curricula, including Comparative Politics, Comparative Public Policy, European Politics, and the Politics of Inequality.

Poli Sci Faculty Help Marquette Vote

Marquette Votes was a university-wide initiative created by Political Science professor **Dr. Amber Wichowsky** to increase student engagement in the 2020 election. With the help of a grant from the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition and a team of Marquette students, Marquette Votes led a variety of efforts to increase turnout and educate voters. The program produced a website that served as a comprehensive source for all voting and voter registration information for the Marquette Community. Other work included an Early Voter Walking Buddies system



that helped escort voting students to the early voting location in downtown Milwaukee. Marquette Votes also used social media to promote registration and voter education in the Marquette community. Finally, Marquette Votes collaborated with other community groups to disseminate information about polling locations, voting deadlines, and vote-by-mail procedures.

Powerlifting and Empowerment in El Salvador

Dr. Noelle Bridgen founded a project called *Pesas y Poder* ("Weights and Power"), that uses fitness education to promote gender empowerment and healing from trauma in El Salvador. The gym provides powerlifting instruction at a community gym for marginalized neighborhoods on the outskirts of San Salvador. This community, like many in El Salvador, has long suffered from poverty and high rates of gang, police, and domestic violence. These challenges have harmed public health in the country, leading to high rates of chronic health conditions, such as diabetes. *Pesas y Poder* promotes health awareness and body positivity, while also self-consciously cultivating social spaces for women's leadership. In so doing, it aims to subvert entrenched gender norms, revaluing women's bodies as a source of strength and offering men a safe space to express their own vulnerabilities. To implement the project, Dr. Bridgen has teamed up with local civil society organizations in El Salvador, while also receiving support from Milwaukee-area groups, including the Marquette Powerlifting Team and the Retired Peace Corp Veterans of Wisconsin.

The program accepts donations at its website: pesasypoder.org



Changes to Political Science Major give students more flexibility, more attention to writing skills

Beginning in the Fall 2019, a new set of requirements for Political Science majors took effect. Under the new requirements, students no longer declare a concentration. Instead, students now have the flexibility to fulfill the required credits for the major with courses in any of the discipline's subfields. The Department also introduced a new required 3000-level course on writing and argumentation, which is meant to help cultivate the skills students need to transition from lower-division to upper-division coursework. The course has small class sizes, and students work closely with the instructor and each other on drafting and editing writing projects related to the substantive topic of the course, which differs from section to section based on the instructor's choosing. Recent course topics have included: Nongovernmental Organizations and Advocacy; Numbers, Policy, and Democracy; Politics of Food; Campaigns and Elections in 2020; and Law, Lawyers, and Society.

Alumni profiles

Leah Costik '19

Leah Costik recently completed an M.A. in International Affairs at Marquette, and she is now pursuing a Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Minnesota. Originally from rural northwestern Pennsylvania, Leah studied philosophy at Millersville University and served in Zambia with the US Peace Corps before coming to Marquette. At Minnesota, Leah studies critical approaches to international relations, with a focus on medical care in conflict zones. Leah says her time at Marquette helped prepare her for her Ph.D. studies in a number of ways. She cites the mentorship she received from her professors and her position as a research assistant with helping to improve her writing and increase her confidence as a researcher. Leah said she also appreciated the attention the Marquette faculty pay to public scholarship and policy relevant research. "I think I approach a lot of my work now with wondering how it is applicable 'in the real world' or why it ultimately 'matters,'" she said.



Mary Cordes, '17

Mary Cordes, a native of Texas, graduated in 2017 with a B.A. in Political Science and History. She went on to get a M.S. in Energy from Texas A&M University. Upon completing her M.S. she moved to Washington D.C. and worked in the House of Representatives and as a Government Affairs Analyst for the Huntsman Corporation. She recently accepted a job at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in DC as a Special Assistant. Mary keeps in touch with Marquette and says she is grateful to her professors for a great educational experience. One of her favorite memories occurred during her senior year when her professors allowed her to leave for two weeks to work on the 58th Presidential Inaugural Committee in DC.



Attention Political Science and International Affairs alumni!

Let us know what you're up to!

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

Undergraduate awards, 2019-2020

Political Science and International Affairs awards:

Virgil C. Blum, S. J. Award: **Sean Jettner** and **Liam Bower** (co-winners)

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

James M. Rhodes Political Science Student Citizen Award: **Ariana Chiapas**

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

International Scholar of the Year Award: **Hannah Denis**

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

In the last three years, our B.A. graduates have gone on to work for the following employers:

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| • AmeriCorps VISTA | • Mueller Communications |
| • Baird | • National Democratic Training Committee |
| • Banner & Witcoff | • National Interest Foundation |
| • Bronx County District Attorney's Office | • Nevro |
| • Catholic Relief Services | • Peace Corps |
| • City of Milwaukee | • Safe & Sound |
| • Congressman Mike Coffman | • Seyfarth Shaw LLP |
| • Congressman Mike Gallagher | • Sidley Austin LLP |
| • CURA Strategies | • Snell & Wilmer |
| • Foley & Lardner LLP | • State of Maine |
| • Foley Hoag LLP | • Town of Saukville |
| • FPI Strategies | • U.S. Chamber of Commerce |
| • Fragomen | • U.S. House of Representatives |
| • Governor Scott Walker | • U.S. Senate |
| • JB Pritzker for Governor | • Venn Strategies |
| • Kirkland & Ellis LLP | • Walther Law Offices |
| • La Causa | • Wilson Elser LLP |
| • Mayor Tom Barrett | • Wisconsin Department of Justice |
| • MB Financial Bank | • Wisconsin State Assembly |
| • Melnick & Melnick S.C. | • Wisconsin Supreme Court |
| • Milwaukee Public Defender's Office | |