

POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
COLLEGE OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES



Update From Department Chair, Dr. Ping Xu

Welcome to another exciting year in the Department of Political Science, one of the University's most vibrant and engaged academic communities, where innovative research, engaged learning, and public service come together to create a dynamic academic experience. With more than 500 undergraduate majors in Political Science and International Studies and Diplomacy (ISD), over 120 graduate students in our MA in International Relations program and nationally ranked MPA program, and plans underway for a new Ph.D. program in Computational Social Science, our department is expanding in both size and impact.

Our award-winning faculty produce internationally recognized research on many of today's most important political and global issues, while our two active centers, the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies and the John Hazen White Ethics Center, foster meaningful public engagement and community partnerships. Our students benefit from exceptional experiential learning opportunities through internships and partnerships with organizations such as the Rhode Island State Government, the State Attorney General's Office, the U.S. Naval War College, the World Affairs Council, and Cornell University's Gender and Security Lab. From mock trial club and pre-law programs to research internships and public service initiatives, our students are developing the knowledge, experience, and leadership skills to make an impact far beyond the classroom.

We look forward to another exciting year of growth, discovery, and connection with our students, alumni, colleagues, and community partners!

Student Success, Inside and Outside the Classroom

- Three PSC graduates to attend Ph.D. programs this fall
- **Jack Maynes** publishes class project on FIFA merchandise in the *Boston Globe*
- **Christina Chakar** teams up with two faculty members to win multiple awards for research on strategic technologies
- **Kuranda Ruggiero** awarded multiple scholarships and fellowships to study Farsi in Tajikistan
- **Amanda Queiroz** awarded Fulbright fellowship to teach English in Uruguay
- MPA student **Dennis Haggerty** presents at national conference on U.S. elections
- Security Forces, Rights, and Society (SFRS) Student Fellows present research on Societal Militarization
- PSC students present research at Women and Politics Symposium
- URI Political Science class creates Magna Carta playlist

Awards

- Seven URI students receive PSC senior awards
- URI PSC recognizes departmental award winners
- URI PSC celebrates undergraduate honor society inductees
- URI MPA program celebrates honor society inductees



Department Faculty in the News

- **Professors Izadi and Mark** were featured in a *Boston Globe* story for their research on The Global Rights Project
- **Professor Carrigg** was featured in *NBC 10 News* stories on increasing gas prices and the Revolution Wind project
- **Professor Rundlett** was interviewed by multiple news outlets, including the *Rhode Island Current* on the Rhode Island Survey Initiative
- **Professor Frost** was quoted in a *Washington Post* story on U.S. aid to Venezuela
- **Professor McLaughlin** was interviewed for a *Fortune* story on defense spending legislation

Research Achievements

- **Professors Rundlett and Krueger** win Amazon Web Services + Institute for Advanced Computing Research (IACR) Quantum-Humanities Award
- **Professor Parker** wins research grant from the Institute for Humane Studies
- **Professors Xu and McLaughlin** appointed as editors of leading interdisciplinary journal
- **Professor Mark** publishes op-ed in The Conversation on the definition and measurement of atrocities
- **Professor Izadi** speaks at International Peace Institute panel
- Research led by **Professor Xu** and Political Science student, **Erika Danielson**, featured in the London School of Economics' USAPP blog
- **Professor Petro** featured in many publications and outlets for his research on Eastern Europe and U.S. relations

Published Research

PSC faculty have published innovative research across a wide range of topics in American politics, public law, public administration, comparative politics, human rights, and international relations. Visit our **research page** for more information!

New Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Ying Liu joins the Master of Public Administration Program after earning her Ph.D. in Public Administration at Rutgers University–Newark. Her research focuses on public and nonprofit management, social equity, local governance, and human resource management, with particular attention to issues of gender representation and women’s nonprofit organizations.

“What excited me most about joining URI is the opportunity to work with amazing colleagues and brilliant students in such a supportive department,” said Liu. “I especially appreciate the MPA program’s emphasis on social equity and practice-oriented public administration, and I look forward to contributing through my research on gender equity and my commitment to bridging research, teaching, and practice.”



**Professor
Ying Liu**



**Professor
Qin Huang**

Dr. Qin Huang joins the Computational Social Science Program after completing his Ph.D. in Political Science at Northwestern University. A scholar of comparative politics and political economy, his research examines institutional change, bureaucratic politics, and economic development, with a particular focus on China and comparative historical analysis. He is also interested in applying computational and machine-learning methods to the study of complex political and social phenomena.

“I am very excited to join the department as it launches the new interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Computational Social Science,” said Huang. “This is an exciting moment for social science, as AI is opening new possibilities for both research and teaching. I look forward to working with colleagues and students to explore these possibilities together.”

New Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Jean-Claude Ndong joins the Master of Public Administration Program after earning his Ph.D. in Public Administration at Florida Atlantic University. He has an extensive background in the private sector and local government, specifically in investment management, financial planning, banking, and public procurement. He has considerable experience teaching public administration, procurement, budgeting and finance, and business-related courses.

"I am excited to join the department and contribute to our students' success. As a teaching professor in the MPA program, I have the unique privilege of combining knowledge I have gained through my eclectic professional career with my academic training to create memorable learning experiences for our student body. I look forward to working with my wonderful colleagues, our dedicated students, and the entire URI community."

We welcome Professors Liu, Huang, and Ndong to the department!