



The Modest Scholar

The Official Newsletter of the Association of Graduate Students of Politics at UIC

Graduating in the time of economic recession

by Annika Marlen Hinze

There are many unpredictables in one's graduate school journey. Perhaps facing and wrestling with these very unpredictables is what prepares us best for our vocation.

When you're in it for the long Ph.D.-haul, you have committed yourself to a long time of learning, during which you are bound to question and re-question your decisions, abilities and possibly even your academic foci.

You may see your friends jump-starting careers that, at first sight, seem so much more rewarding because they promise quicker returns – especially in terms of socio-economic and professional upward mobility. Then, finally, when you seem to be seeing light at the end of the tunnel – the job market virtually collapses. A market that was tough to begin with even in years of economic bloom, all of the sudden seems unconquerable.

Welcome to the world of Political Science Doctorates, class of 2010. In the brave new academic world of 2010, virtually every magazine, every newspaper, and basically everyone in the field is going to tell you that you might as well pack it up and pack it in because you just simply won't find a job.

Dear fellow graduate students, put on your pink glasses, climb on up to that castle in the sky – or better yet – build one out of sand at the shore of Lake Michigan, because we have worked too hard to just give this up. We have worked hard and are willing to work harder in the future, and we also have lives outside of school that require maintenance and finance. In a nutshell, when it comes to finding a job, most of us simply can't afford to take "no" for an answer.

If you really want a job, you will find one. It may take effort beyond simply sending out the

application materials. Inquiries with the department you are interested in, a targeted application, a polished cover letter, and personal contacts will make your application stronger. Ask for help – your supervisors have been on search committees, they know people in the field, and they know the code of conduct in these situations.

Going beyond the catastrophic academic job market will increase your chances for getting a job in general. But most importantly - in the midst of the whole world telling you that you can't do this – just keep telling yourself that you can.

Keep in mind that putting up a little bit of a fight will make you a fantastic academic because you will be guaranteed a first-hand experience of battle for social upward mobility that most academics only have written about. Your first book project or future autobiography might actually become a bestseller.

The Hiring Squad by John French

Graduate students are perhaps more affected by the hiring of new faculty than anyone else in the department. More than the question of who will teach the classes we take, our progress through the program will center on close and continuous working relationships with particular faculty members. While the most fundamental criterion for choosing a new hire may be his or her research potential, graduate students are also looking for teachers and, ultimately, mentors.

The recent round of interviews for a new American Politics hire demonstrated that graduate students in the department recognize and take seriously the impact that each

addition to the faculty will have on their graduate experience. Significant numbers attended both job talks and student meetings with each of the four candidates—often defying stereotypes by showing up at early morning events.

Moreover, our participation went beyond our mere presence. In addition to the meetings themselves, many of the students devoted significant time to preparation and planning, thinking through priorities and developing questions in a way that both allowed us to evaluate each candidate individually and to draw clear comparisons between them.

Finally, after meeting with each of

the candidates, we convened again to rank each of them and to agree on an approach for drafting a joint letter to Professor Simpson and the hiring committee, expressing our choice and the reasoning behind it.

While the graduate students have no formal power over the process of hiring new faculty, the time and effort that we put into the process, as well as the number of students participating, reflects our awareness that we have much at stake in the choice that is ultimately made. We also have good reason to believe that our recommendations ultimately did have an impact—a recognition by the faculty of the time and thought that we devoted to producing them.

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TMS graciously accepts all comments, critiques, and suggestions. Please contact TMS via email at the.modest.scholar@gmail.com

If you would like to submit news to future issues of TMS, we ask that you complete the appropriate application, available in several ways:

- (1) You may complete the form on the back of this issue, or (2) retrieve one from the newsletter mail slot located in 1129 BSB. Alternatively, (3) you may email the address above for a form to be sent to you electronically.

All current and past issues of TMS are available through the AGSP website: http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gov/agsp/

Editor: Nawojka Lesinski

Easter 1916 Yom Kippur 2009
An occasional poem for the inaugural season of

Soccertes by William Butler Yeats
(lost draft found and recovered by Abe Singer)

Too long a sacrifice
Can make a stone of the heart.
O when may it suffice?
That is Heaven's part, our part
To murmur name upon name,
As a mother names her child
When sleep at last has come
On limbs that had run wild.
What is it but nightfall?
No, no, not night but defeat;
Was it needless defeat after all?
For UIC may force our retreat
For all our bruises and shin splints we were cost.
We know their dream; enough
To know they dreamed but still they lost;
And what if excess of love
Bewildered them on the field or on the bench?
I write it out in extended poem-
Nereida, Amy, and French
Nawojka, Armel and Owens
Hearts with one purpose alone,
Betül, James, and Heidi,
Enchanted to a stone
Patrick, Abe and Stephanie
Now and in time to be,
Wherever pages from nerdy journals are torn,
All are changed, changed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.

(Soccertes finished the season with a record of 2-3 with two games won by default. Goals were scored by John "This is my house" French, and Armel "Pass the gravy" Yver. MVP honors go to the goalkeeper, James "Yes I Kahn" Hopkins)

POLS Dept. Holiday Party

If you missed it, you missed out. Organized by Visiting Prof. Michael Fortner and Prof. Sultan Tepe, this year's holiday/end of semester shin-dig took place mere blocks from the department at Little Joe's on Taylor Street. In addition to several graduate students, the professors also made an impressive show in numbers. The local watering hole was overrun by rowdy political scientists eager to sing their hearts out in a cathartic farewell to the term. That's right, karaoke was the name of the game and the players were eager. Beginning with a few bold crooners (Prof. Fortner and Mrs. Stephanie Whitaker), the night quickly devolved into a series of sing-a-longs. All in all, it was an excellent way to end the semester and bid the year adieu. —Nawojka Lesinski

Photos courtesy of Annika Marlen Hinze

From the AGSP President's Desk

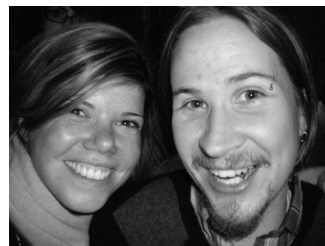
by Clifford Deaton

Spring semester is here, and while it always begins in the depths of winter, we can count on it ending with the sunny days of May. It is critical to light a fire in our community to keep us warm until then. Fond memories, like the bowling defeat of our arch-rivals the History Department and the karaoke sing along holiday party, recall how we can pull together and make the most of any time, troubled or otherwise.

For those who weren't there, we faced off against the History graduate students in mid-October over at the UIC bowling lanes. They talked a talk, but could not perform to match: we beat them soundly in two consecutive games. Our own John French was the undisputed MVP, scoring almost 200 points in one game! Though we take our competition seriously, afterwards our bowlers and theirs bonded over beers at George's Bar. We talked shop on proposal writing and being teaching assistants. The outing was a double success, though we need to keep limber for next fall's game.

Professor Simpson was kind enough to buy us beers at the end of last semester, so we thought we would sing him a song, or twenty. Getting together for an end of semester party was a fabulous idea, one to be repeated. I distinctly remember myself, Abe, and professor Judd getting down on Bob Dylan's "Baby Blue" and almost the entire group going wild on the Red Hot Chili Peppers' "Under the Bridge". In my opinion there is nothing better to release the tension of a long semester than in the company of friends, and a little healthy merriment.

I hope that the semester ahead is as full of community as was the last. We need to draft and ratify a new constitution, and hold new elections, the book club is throwing tradition to the winds and reading a novel on New York in the jazz age, and we will get together for popcorn and two fantastic movies presented by our own graduate students. Make sure to participate and share your good feelings with your peers.



Publications

A paper **Sultan Tepe** and **Betul Demirkaya** coauthored will be published in *Religion and Politics*.

In this analysis the authors expand the debate on the place of religion in political science by taking the predictions of Wald and Wilcox (2006) as their starting point. Following in Wald and Wilcox's footsteps, they ask *how* political scientists have studied Islam since 2002 and identify the studies on Islam and Muslims at the flagship conference of the discipline, the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. In order to gauge the balancing of roles (or lack thereof) between the discipline and area studies, they also take a closer look at the Middle East Studies Association, the largest association focused on the Middle East, and its annual meetings during the same period. As a result their conclusions offer a thorough evaluation of not only the quantity but also commonly applied *approaches* by drawing on an exhaustive content analysis of 1800 papers.

French, John Mark and **Annika Marlen Hinze**. 2010. "From the Inside Out: Citizenship and Democracy in Multinational States." *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*. (forthcoming)

Hinze, Annika Marlen. 2010. "Between Crosses, Headscarves, and Secularism. Review of *Hijab and the Republic: Uncovering the French Headscarf Debate* by Bronwyn Winter". *The Review of Politics*, Vol. 72 (No. 1) (forthcoming)

Lesinski, Nawojka and Mariana Menezes Neumann. "Problemas globais requerem soluções globais: novas estratégias da sociedade civil". *Relações Internacionais no Mundo Atual*, Faculdades Integradas Curitiba, Curitiba. (Under review)

Research Progress + Intellectual Musings

Clifford Devin Deaton is serving on the paper selection committee for the 2010 UIC War/Peace conference.

Anthony DiMaggio was recently a guest on Chicago's WCEV 1450 AM, Radio Islam with Imran Husain,

(16 December 2009). The theme of the interview was: "President Barack Obama and the War in Afghanistan". Listen to the interview at: <http://www.radioislam.com/>

John French, Annika Marlen Hinze

and **Abe Singer** recently launched a blog, entitled "Political Currency" via Blogspot. Read their musings at <http://politicalcurrency.blogspot.com>

Jamie Smith successfully defended his dissertation in December.

Zachary Gebhardt has completed his Master's Research requirement, entitled, "Geopolitical Distribution Patterns and Party Government in the United States, 1983-2008."

UIC POLS Graduate Placement + Teaching Stints

Daniel Bliss has accepted a tenure-track position at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Beginning August 2010, he will be serving as Assistant Professor of Political Science, specializing in Comparative and Urban politics. The program is currently undergraduate only, but likely to add a Master's program in the next couple of years.

Anthony DiMaggio is teaching several courses this year at Illinois State University. The classes covered include: "Citizens and Governance 101", and "Interdisciplinary Studies III: Peace Studies, Social Justice, and Ecology"

Northeastern Illinois University has retained the services of **Wael Haboub** for another semester. This term he is

teaching a course on the Politics of the Middle East, and one American Government course.

Nawojka Lesinski is teaching the "Social Movements in Latin America" course (LALS 380) for the Latin American and Latino Studies Program at UIC.

Jason Stodolka is teaching a

course entitled "American National Government" at Northeastern Illinois University this semester and will be teaching an upper-level course on Congress this summer.

Andris Zimelis is leading the "Model UN" political science course this semester at UIC.

Presentations and Conferences

Clifford Deaton presented his paper, "Resistance in Iran, Power in Russia: Reinterpreting Foucault and Lenin on Revolution", at the 2009 Illinois Political Science Association Conference (IPSA).

Anthony DiMaggio will be presenting at the May 2010 American Association of Public Opinion Research Conference. His paper is entitled: "Ideology, Polarization, and American Media Consumption: An Examination of Public Opinion Formulation".

Several graduate students have been accepted to participate in the 2010 Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA). Below is a list of presenters and their project

titles:

Clifford Deaton, "Resistance in Iran, Power in Russia: Reinterpreting Foucault and Lenin on Revolution"

Anthony DiMaggio, "Iran, Nuclear Weapons, and the Politics of Fear." and "Public Rationality, Elitism, and Opposition to War"

John Mark French, "A Working Knowledge: Identity, Discourse, and Native Peoples in European Settler Colonies"

Zachary Gebhardt, "Divided Government and Distributive Outcomes: Evidence from Federal Spending in U.S. Counties 1983-2008", and

"The Federal Spending Two-Step: Exploring the Impact of Federal Spending on Social Inequality." with Prof. Rundquist, and UIC POLS alum, Gregory Holyk.

Vanessa Guridy, "Immigrant Political Incorporation in Four Chicago Suburbs"

Wael Haboub will be serving as Chair and Discussant for the "Religion and Politics in Turkey" panel, and as Discussant for the discussant on "Challenges to Realism" panel.

Annika Marlen Hinze, "Bringing the Polis Back In: Turkish immigrant-women and identity formation in Berlin - 'Kreuzkoelln'"

Nawojka Lesinski, "Global Civil Society and Social Capital"

Elisabeth Muhlenberg, "Institutions and Social Implications: A Comparison of School-Firm Partnerships in Chicago and Berlin"

Amy Schoenecker, "Economic Development and Democracy: A Gendered Approach"

Abraham Singer, "Public Art and Democratic Action in Divided and Contested Cities: Reading the Political Murals of Chicago and Belfast"

John Mark French, "Native Narrative, and Nation: The Construction of Self and Other in European Settler Colonies"

I examine the development of national identity in three European settler colonies: the United States, South Africa, and Australia. Understanding the ways in which new national identities form in settler colonies provides important insight into national identity more generally, because in the settler situation processes and problems common to all nationalities are thrown into relief. I focus on the various ways in which settler nationalisms account for the prior claims of native peoples, and with how native policies reflect the problematic relationship between settler and native identity. As these three cases demonstrate, there is a mutually constitutive relationship between settler identity and native policy, despite differences in policy outcomes and historical experience. By looking at key policy choices, the connection between policy and particular discourses or sets of images of native peoples, as well as the connection between these representations and the national identities of European settlers, is made clear.

Annika Marlen Hinze, "Integrating Difference? Urban space, identity and Turkish immigrants in Berlin"

In my dissertation, I investigate the dynamics between local policy-makers and the Turkish immigrant community in Berlin, identity formation and the contestation of ethno-national identity, as well as the role which urban space plays in this process. The contestation of identity and immigrant rights in the urban space of Berlin, Germany's largest and most diverse city, is a vital indicator of the status of debate over the properties of national and ethnic identity as well as immigrant integration in Germany at large. To better understand the contestation of the urban space, I conducted interviews with local policy makers, bureaucrats, parliamentarians, Turkish community representatives, and Turkish immigrant women in Berlin. These women are the foci in the contestation of ethno-national identity in Germany. Turkish immigrant women are at the center of Berlin's 'integration debate' and thus play a central role in the contestation of identity in the urban space. They function as a key signifier of the political debate on immigrant rights among the general public, local policy makers, and the Turkish community. Thus my dissertation project highlights the importance of local urban policy processes for national approaches to immigrants and their rights, suggesting both practical policy implications and theoretical insights into the changing social status of minorities.

Wael Haboub, "Grievance Is What Islamists Make of It: Islamist Political Discourse in Egypt and Indonesia"

Why do Islamist movements adopt different strategic positions towards the state despite their shared socioeconomic and political structural conditions? Does state structure define the nature of Islamist opposition? Do Islamist groups position themselves similarly across different countries regardless of their political contexts? Do political contexts define the positions of Islamists? Why do Islamist movements change their positions? Guided by these broad questions this dissertation examines the complex interaction between the state and Islamist movements in Egypt and Indonesia. Each country hosts Islamist movements that are defined as moderate and extremist. Comparing these movements allows us to assess how and why different Islamist movements adopt different strategic positions towards the state *both* under the same and different socioeconomic and political structural conditions as well as how and why these movements alter their positions. This case selection enable us to control for structural factors that are presumed to have a causal effect on the likelihood of violence and delineate why different groups react differently under the same structure. To analyze these cases, I use the *comparative historical method* and fit my cases to a *most different system design*. This design affords me the opportunity to look for variations across political systems and to identify critical historical junctures that lead to the transformation of the strategic positions of Islamist movements. To study the interaction between agency and structure, I center my inquiries on the *discourses of the Islamist movements and their leaders* and *trace their transformation* by analyzing specific historical junctures that lead to the shift in both political discourse and strategy. Islamist politics like all politics is by nature discursive and understanding it requires not only to study Islamists practice but also to unpack Islamists' political narratives that privilege either *jihad* or *dawa* (proclamation).

Nawojka Lesinski, "Global Civil Society and the (Re)creation of Social Capital"

Contemporary social science seeks to explore how people participate in a globalized world, how they envision their community and their place in it, as well as the role the state and institutions play in influencing international arrangements by non-state actors. Social capital lies at the center of all these debates, and more often than not, the traditional understandings of the concept are inadequate frames for understanding the complexity of these various interactions. This research explores the element that binds many of these inquiries together, and seeks to understand the ways in which an emerging global civil society shapes debates on social capital, democratic consolidation and democratic expansion. Specifically, it focuses on Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer (LGBTQ) groups in Warsaw, Poland and Buenos Aires, Argentina to explore two themes: how social capital is both a cause and an effect for political mobilization of global civil society; and how the projects and relationships formed by these actors have helped to expand a limited "consolidated" democracy through the proliferation of multiple publics.

John Van Benthuyzen, "A System Level Approach to State Failure"

Does the structure of the international system lead some states to failure? Contemporary understandings of state failure rely heavily upon the domestic processes that foment violent political instability. This perspective argues, often compellingly, that the essential factors leading to state failure are to be found within the state itself, at the domestic level of analysis. Yet all states exist in an international system of increasing interconnectedness through diverse processes of globalization and international interactions. While debate persists on whether or not the net effects of these system level phenomena are inherently positive or negative for nation state viability there is consensus that they do in fact exist and are increasingly omnipresent in their effects. This study seeks to advance our understanding of state failure by approaching the issue from a system level of analysis. Processes of globalization, international cooperation and interaction cannot be dismissed as incidental to the study of state failure.

Oil as Material Modernity: Joint Reflection on Timothy Mitchell lecture

by Amy Schoenecker and Clifford Deaton

On January 26th, Dr. Timothy Mitchell delivered a lecture at the Institute of Humanities as part of their spring series. Currently a professor of Middle Eastern Studies at Columbia University, Mitchell's lecture addressed the contemporary representation of oil, and its relationship to the gap between politics and nature. As we reach and surpass peak oil, Mitchell claims that we will be forced to revisit the distinctions between the human political world, on one hand, and the natural world on the other.

For roughly the last 50 years, eco-

nomics has viewed oil as an unlimited resource--a never-ending cornucopia of energy. In Mitchell's view, economics has created a space between politics and nature which allows humanity to objectify nature which legitimizes our exploitation of oil. Mitchell argues that the transformation from oil to a sustainable energy economy must also change the relationship (and hopefully bridge the illusionary divide) between nature and politics.

Given that 'conventional' methods of extracting oil are producing far less than expected or needed to maintain current levels of growth, economic

rational attempts to redefine new ways of extracting oil as conventional. For example, in redefining 'oil sands' and shale as 'conventional' oil deposits, economics again characterizes nature in objectified terms: This only perpetuates our reliance on quantifying nature in order to strip it of any kind of subjectivity.

It seems to us that this lecture was quite consistent with Mitchell's overall body of work which attempts to deconstruct power relations, in this case specifically the power of economic rational to intercede and perpetuate the bogus distinction between politics and nature. Not entirely clear is the

potential ramification of maintaining, or deconstructing this boundary. Like his work on the state, he points out problematic relations and concepts, but does not give clear direction on how to overcome these newly illuminated boundaries.

Despite this, Mitchell's lecture was the intellectual highlight of the semester, so far. As Professor Englemann suggested while introducing Mitchell, the goal of a university should be to provide lectures and create opportunities to share theories, research, and ideas. Mitchell's lecture has done just this.

Schedule of Events

February

- 17: AGSP meeting, 12.00–12.30pm (1171 BSB)
 19: Book Club, 5.00pm (McCormick & Schmick's on Wacker Dr.) - Timothy Mitchell's "Carbon Democracy" (available at <http://cmes.hmdc.harvard.edu/files/Mitchell%20Paper.pdf>)
 24: Film Club, 6.00pm (BSB 1151) - *Army of Shadows*

March

- 10: AGSP meeting, 4.30pm (1151 BSB) - Constitutional Convention (+ potluck dinner)
 19: Book Club, 5.00pm (McCormick & Schmick's on Wacker Dr.) - *Manhattan Transfer* by John Dos Passos

April

- 4: Paper submission deadline (see below)
 7: White House Fellowship Info Session (see below)
 14: FROLPATH workshop (Forum for Law, Politics, and the Humanities), 3.00pm (Institute for the Humanities, basement Stevenson Hall). Paper by Nicholas Brown, "Reading Resistance: Three Options and a Choice of Numbers" (registration required via lvavra@uic.edu).
 21: AGSP Elections, 12.00-1.00pm (1151 BSB)
 21: Film Club, 6.00pm (1151 BSB) - *Bamboozled*
 22: Announcement of prize recipients

May

- 11: End of Semester Soiree

POLS Dept. Best Paper Awards - Call for Papers

The Department invites all graduate students to submit research papers with original ideas and reviews for the end-of-the-year student awards. This year's awards will include:

- John Echols Memorial Award: 1 graduate prize of \$1,000.00 for best Comparative paper
 Rakove Memorial Fund: 1 graduate prize of \$1,000.00 for best Urban or International paper

Those interested in the awards should submit two copies (one with name and one without any name) to sultant@uic.edu and CC it to jnell@uic.edu by **April 4, 2010**. Decisions will be announced on **April 22, 2010** and the prizes will be awarded during the first week of May.

AGSP "Constitutional Convention"

This year the AGSP will be convening at an extra meeting in order to ratify the Association's current (and outdated) constitution. As the Association has been blooming, it has outgrown some of its earlier uses,

and adopted new responsibilities in the process. We will be revising our missions and eliminating some roles while formally instituting others (such as TMS Editor and Graduate Student Website

Editor). Graduate student participation is crucial as the Association exists solely for our benefit. Please plan on attending and helping to shape the future of the AGSP.

For more information or to suggest topics for the agenda, please contact Clifford Devin Deaton (cdeato2@uic.edu)

Book Club and Film Club

The Book and Film Clubs return with full force this semester armed with a battery of eclectic texts and films for our reading/viewing/analyzing pleasure. The Book Club

will begin by reading and discussing Timothy Mitchell's article, "Carbon Democracy", and later in the semester deviate from strict political-science material by div-

ing into *Manhattan Transfer* by John Dos Passos. The Film Club has selected to screen two films. First, the 1969 French film, *Army of Shadows* (*L'armée des*

ombres), directed by Jean-Pierre Melville. The second screening will be of the 2000 satire *Bamboozled*, directed by Spike Lee.

Political Science Brownbag and Professional Development Series

The POLS Dept. will be hosting a White House Fellowship Information Session on Wednesday, April 4. The session will include a presentation that explains the program and

will allow student meet with two WHF alumni to discuss their experiences. All inquiries about the session can be directed at Prof. Sultan Tepe (sultant@uic.edu)

Please keep your eyes peeled for future departmental events. If you have any suggestions for speakers please contact Prof. Yue Zhang (yuezhang@uic.edu) who is orga-

nizing Brownbag meetings this semester.

The Modest Scholar NEWS SUBMISSION FORM

The Official Newsletter of the Association of Graduate Students of Politics at the University of Illinois, Chicago

Submission Deadlines and Instructions:

For September issue, please submit by last Monday in August

For February issue, please submit by last Monday in January

Please return to mailbox in 1129 BSB or submit electronically to **the.modest.scholar@gmail.com**

Your Name _____ Today's Date _____

Major Subfield _____ Minor Subfield _____

Please complete all relevant areas (by reflecting on the five months prior to issue month and/or upcoming events). Please provide a brief description for each completed section (150 words or less).

1. Research breakthroughs/progress (defenses, prelim completions, field research, etc).

2. Awards (fellowships, grants, distinctions)

3. Placement news (have you recently been hired? Where, when, position, field, title, etc.)

4. Publications (title of the journal/book, title of your piece, issue/volume/no.)

5. Presentations/conferences (name of conference, location, title of presentation)

6. Other announcements? Story Ideas?