

August 24, 2018

Welcome – and welcome back – to the Department of Political Science at Case Western Reserve University. This fall we are pleased to welcome our new Visiting Assistant Professor Matthew Hodgetts (PhD, Brown University). Professor Hodgetts received his BA degree in Philosophy and Political Studies (Honours, with Distinction), from Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario, and his MA degree from McGill University, writing his master’s thesis on *G. A. Cohen, Global Justice and the Global Ethos*. His dissertation, *We Are All In This Together: Addressing Climate Change Through Our Global Ethos*, uses an interdisciplinary approach, grounded in international relations and political theory, to examine the issue of inaction on climate change; he is currently working to develop his dissertation into a book manuscript. A smaller, related project concerns “the potential of the ‘We Are Still In’ movement, spurred by climate activists, to fulfill America’s Paris pledge, [a project] that has potential for undergraduate involvement in the research.” This fall semester, Professor Hodgetts will offer two courses: POSC160 Introduction to Comparative Politics and POSC172 Introduction to International Relations. In the Spring 2019 semester, Professor Hodgetts will offer POSC388 Politics, Policy, and the Global Environment. Feel free to stop by his office in Mather House 222 to welcome him to campus.

Professor Joseph White has returned from his sabbatical in Lyons, France, and Rotterdam, The Netherlands, where his research focused on comparative health policy in West Europe, as the context for analyzing the US healthcare system. More specifically, Professor White’s research concerned whether “electronic health records” (EHR), “pay for performance” (P4P), and “integrating” care work any better in Europe than in the US. During his sabbatical, he gave talks – at the London School of Economics and the Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management (Rotterdam), and to the Health Policy Group of the OECD – about how profit-seeking behavior by health care providers threatens further to undermine the US health care system and Americans’ access to healthcare. Professor White continues to direct CWRU’s Center for Policy Studies and to advise students who are working on a minor in Public Policy. This year he will serve as the Department’s Graduate Studies Director.

Professor Laura Tartakoff has also returned from a semester’s sabbatical, during which she traveled to Argentina and Paraguay. She has developed a Special Topics course, POSC389 Pathologies of Democracy: Argentina, Paraguay, Ecuador, and the USA, which will be offered in the spring semester of 2019. She continues to advise students organizing CWRU’s Constitution Day event.

Three faculty members will be on sabbatical in this academic year. Professor Elliot Posner will spend the entire academic year in Marseille, France, working on a project on soft law and international ordering, funded by the Institute for Advanced Study, Aix-Marseille Université. Professor Posner’s book, *Voluntary Disruptions: International Soft Law, Finance and Power*, with coauthor Abraham Newman (Georgetown University), was published this spring by Oxford University Press (2018). His chapter, “Financial Regulatory Cooperation: Coordination of Derivatives Markets,” was published in *Governing the World’s Biggest Market: The Politics of Derivatives Regulation After the 2008 Crisis*, eds., Eric Helleiner, Stefano Pagliari and Irene Spagna (Oxford University Press, 2018).

Professor Justin Buchler will be on sabbatical in the fall semester, working on a book manuscript

on *Irrational Choice Theory: Applications of Game Theory to the Study of Strategic Mistakes*. His book, [*Incremental Polarization: A Unified Spatial Theory of Legislative Elections, Parties and Roll Call Voting*](#), was also published this spring by Oxford University Press (2018). Professor Buchler continues to post political insights on major disciplinary websites, including on his own blog, [The Unmutual Political Blog](#).

Professor Kelly McMann will be on sabbatical in the spring semester, focusing on two projects: 1) the identification of the democratic factors that shape political economies, in terms of inequality, wealth, capitalism, and modernization, and to assess their impact on possibilities of further democratization and democratic survival, and 2) the development of a theory of democratic diffusion in post-democratic transition countries. She continues to direct CWRU's International Studies Program and to advise those students majoring in International Studies.

Professor Pete Moore is near completion of a book-length manuscript on the political economy of war in the Middle East and its consequences for Iraq and Jordan. This year Professor Moore will serve as the Department's Undergraduate Studies Director. This is a new position in our department, and Professor Moore will have responsibility for authorizing transfer credit, including study abroad course credit, registering students who declare their major in political science, and assigning academic advisors to our incoming new majors. Professor Moore is organizing the 2018 Careers Colloquium, our Department's program that brings our alumni back to CWRU to give a public lecture and to provide a workshop on career paths from a BA in Political Science.

Concluding her term as President of the International Political Economy Section of the International Studies Association in Spring 2018, Professor Kathryn Lavelle has had two scholarly pieces published this past year: "Constructing the Governance of American Finance: Timing and the Creation of the SEC, OTS, and CFPB," *Journal of Policy History*, 29 (3), Summer 2017: 321-349; and "Foreign Policy and Sovereign Wealth Funds," in the *Oxford Handbook of Sovereign Wealth Funds*, eds. G. Woods, D. Cumming, I. Filatotchev, and J. Reinecke (Oxford University Press, pp. 182-207). She continues work on her book manuscript, *The Challenges of Multilateralism*, under contract with Yale University Press, and is part of a research project concerning international relations of the Arctic, supported by the Danish Maritime Fund.

Professor Karen Beckwith's book manuscript, *Cabinets, Ministers, and Gender*, co-authored with colleagues at the Universities of Calgary (Canada) and of Sussex (UK), is under review at Cambridge and Oxford University Presses; she and her co-authors have blogged about the implications of their research in recent posts in [The Conversation](#) and in [Scholars Strategy Network](#). She is currently working on an article on "Political Ambition: Gender at the Intersection of Recruitment and Opportunity," for a Special Issue of the *European Journal of Politics and Gender*, and on a chapter on "Feminist Approaches to the Study of Executive Politics," for *The Oxford Handbook of Executive Politics*, ed. Robert Elgie (Oxford University Press). She continues to chair the Department of Political Science.

This is a just small subset of the various research and scholarly work that our faculty members are producing; please see our individual websites for further details of our ongoing research, professional commitments, and other published work.

New DA1

We also welcome Ms. Brook Sabin, who is our new department assistant for Political Science, Classics, and International Studies. Brook will support the work of our Department, under the supervision of our Department Assistant Ms. Jessica Jurcak. Brook is a recent graduate of Oberlin College, and has begun her post-BA graduate studies in a master's degree program in Public Administration at Cleveland State University. Please stop by the Department office in Mather House 111 to meet Brook and to welcome her to campus.

New Offices and a New Look

Over the course of the past summer, Mather House has been “refreshed.” The building, which had long been neglected, now has new carpeting throughout, fresh paint, new lighting, and a new look. All bathrooms have been renovated, as has the kitchen on the first floor of the building. Mather House 100 has had its original wood floor refinished, and has updated technology, including zoom room equipment. Please feel free to stop by to see the improvements in the building.

Forthcoming Activities

Throughout the year, the Department sponsors or co-sponsors lectures, workshops, and conferences open to the CWRU community. Several events are already scheduled for 2018. These include, but are not limited to, the Constitution Day event on *Encryption: Privacy v. Public Safety* (September 17), co-sponsorship of a public lecture by Brigadier General Stephen Cheney USMC (Ret), the CEO of the American Security Project (September 21) on climate change as a threat to national security, the Department's Careers Colloquium (November 2), featuring our alumnus Zachary Arace (BA, Political Science, 2014), and our Election Night Watch Party, as we analyze in real time the outcomes of the 2018 US midterm congressional elections, including a Senate race and six state-wide elections (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Auditor, and Treasurer) in Ohio.

More information about Department events will be available on our [POSC homepage](#) as the academic year unfolds. We can also be followed on Facebook at CWRU Department of Political Science and on twitter [@CWRU_Polisci](#).

As Chair, I write a weekly Newsletter, sharing information about the department, internships and volunteer opportunities, career and job notices, and grants and scholarship opportunities and deadlines. If you would like to receive this Newsletter, please send an email to Ms. Jessica Jurcak (jkj22@case.edu) and she will add you to our emailing list.

As always, I welcome comments and insights from our students, alumni, colleagues, and friends from around the world. I can be reached by email at karen.beckwith@case.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

With all best wishes,

Karen Beckwith

Flora Stone Mather Professor and
Chair of Department of Political Science
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio USA