



# Politics Newsletter

Fall & Spring 2023

## News from the Department...

The State University of New York at Potsdam is proud to announce its first fully online baccalaureate program: a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. The program is the first to be offered 100 percent virtually in the field in the SUNY System. The program will kick off in Fall 2023, and faculty have been hard at work preparing courses and preparing the applied learning experiences for the first cohort of fully online students. All coursework can be completed asynchronously, so students can work on their own schedules.

Students will be able to take advantage of applied learning opportunities like internships, service projects, study abroad and career services support as well. They can even take part in real-world research projects. The Loughheed Center for Applied Learning is available to support our online majors in finding internship placements wherever they are located, from legal fields to international affairs.

Online students will also be able to take advantage of the department's career-ready joint programs. The 3+3 BA/JD program with the University at Buffalo School of Law allows students to complete an accelerated course of study and complete both their undergraduate education and their law degree in just six years total (instead of the seven years it would typically take).

The department also has joint programs with the University at Albany's Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, allowing motivated undergraduates to go straight from their undergraduate studies in political science into either Rockefeller's Master of International Affairs (MIA) or Master of Public Administration (MPA) programs. Both options allow eligible undergraduates to enroll at UAlbany early, without taking the GRE—saving a semester of coursework and tuition and fees.

# Honors and Awards

*The Department of Politics offers several awards to students.  
Please join us in congratulating the following students.*

## Departmental Scholars

Politics: **Daniel Mariano**

International Studies: **Simisola Macaulay**

## David E. Brown Pi Sigma Alpha Paper Award

**Durias Rivers**

## Noreen M. Canfield Scholarship

**Timothy Petty**

## Dr. Poeliu Dai Scholarship

Renewal: **Nicole Luciano**

Renewal: **Daniel Mariano**

## Allen J. Danks Scholarship

**William Jadlos**

**Jack Rice**

Renewal: **Matt Ford**

## Richard Del Guidice Scholarship

**Nicholas Alfieri**

**Kaylee Johnson**

## The International Studies Award

**Simisola Macaulay**

## The Dr. Philip Neisser Award

**Emma MaGaugh**

## The Rebecca R. Pratt Scholarship for Excellence in Politics

**Daniel Mariano**

Renewal: **Nicole Luciano**

## Senior Pre-Law Award

**Megan Sigismonti**

# **Pi Sigma Alpha Spring 2023 New Inductees**

**Matt Ford**

**Daniel Mariano**

**Jack Rice**

To be eligible for induction into the SUNY Potsdam chapter Political Science National Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha, a student must have completed a total of 5 Politics courses (at least 2 of these courses must be at the upper division level) and have a GPA of **3.5** or higher in Politics Department courses.

*We thank our donors for their generous support for these awards and scholarships.*

## Student News

### SUNY Potsdam Students in Dr. Robert Hinckley's Lab Lead National Survey on Impact of COVID on Public



*From left to right: Robert Patterson IV, Daniel Mariano, Anna Mohammed, faculty member Rob Hinckley, Jack Rice, Jessica Perez and Frankie Brown (Absent: Delaney Aubertine).*

A group of hard-working SUNY Potsdam undergraduates are spending the next few months conducting a national sample survey on the impact of COVID on public opinion. Led by Dr. Robert Hinckley, an associate professor and chair of SUNY Potsdam's Department of Politics, the students are earning academic credit and valuable firsthand experience in public opinion research.

The students range from freshmen to seniors and come from different academic majors, but all are working together on the ongoing survey project. The project has been funded through the College's Kilmer Labs program, which funds faculty-led research with students.

"The students and I have decided to focus on identifying lasting effects of the COVID pandemic on public opinion," Hinckley said. "We plan future press releases and academic presentations of the resulting data."

The student research team includes:

- ♦ Delaney Aubertine '22, a history and politics major and Pre-Law minor from Cape Vincent, N.Y.
- ♦ Frankie Brown '24, a music education major from Jordan, N.Y.
- ♦ Daniel Mariano '24, a politics major from Massena, N.Y.
- ♦ Anna Mohammed '22, an international studies and anthropology major from the Bronx, N.Y.
- ♦ Robert Patterson IV '24, a politics major from Mount Vernon, N.Y.
- ♦ Jessica Perez '22, a biology major from the Bronx, N.Y.
- ♦ Jack Rice '24, a politics major from Westport, N.Y.

The SUNY Potsdam research team is utilizing a standing online panel approach to their survey, using a contract through Qualtrics. This allows the group to build a nationally representative panel from approximately 1,500 respondents.

"The online panel is the cutting edge of sampling designs since most people will not answer their landline or mobile phone when they don't recognize the number," Hinckley said. "Surveys have become commonplace in our society, but response rates have gone down dramatically. These students will learn the common pitfalls and how to avoid them. They will also build valuable skills in data analysis and the communication of survey results."

Hinckley has plenty of experience in polling to share with the students, having led public opinion surveys for numerous regional municipalities over the past decade. The new approach will allow him to share the latest best practices with his students and the next generation of researchers—and to share the resulting information with the public.

The Kilmer Labs program is sponsored by SUNY Potsdam's Lougheed Center for Applied Learning, with support from the Kilmer Fund, which was established by an anonymous donor to honor Dr. Frederick Barnett Kilmer, a physician and analytical chemist, who was the director of scientific affairs for the Johnson & Johnson Company from 1889 to 1934.

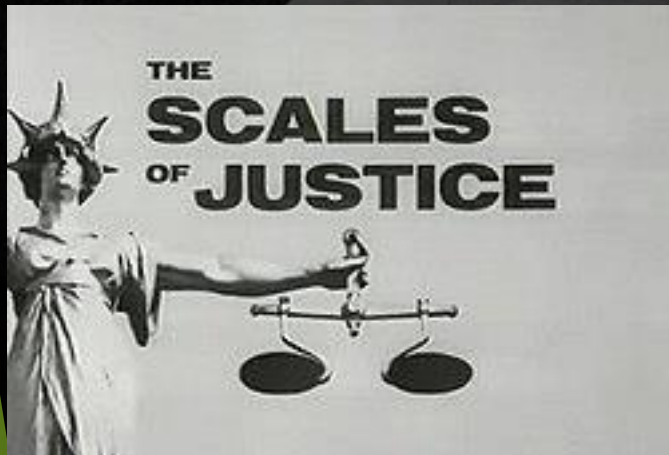
"Kilmer Labs is an initiative to expand research opportunities for undergraduates by supporting faculty research 'lab' projects (usually team-based in format). Faculty members agree to sponsor and employ a certain number of student research assistants over the term of the grant," said Dr. Tom Baker, associate director of the Lougheed Center for Applied Learning. "The 'labs' in question can take many forms, depending on the nature of the research project. Pilot projects include labs in special education, environmental studies, politics, and at the cross-section of music and human performance. The aim is to provide students with high-impact research experiences under the guidance of faculty mentors. The program also has the collateral benefit of supporting our faculty members' research agendas."

# Student News Continued

Pre-Law minor Megan Sigismonti is interning with the Public Defender's Office in Canton.

Pre-Law minor Collin Carey is serving as editorial assistant for the *Law and Courts Newsletter*, published by the American Political Science Association's Law and Courts Section, which is edited by Prof. Lempert

Politics major and Pre-Law minor Nick Alfieri is interning with the Conflict Defender's Office in Canton.



Through the Presidential Scholars Program, motivated & talented SUNY Potsdam students are given the opportunity to create their own independent project and to more fully develop their interests and intellect.

The Presidential Scholar's Program provides recognition and additional financial resources to students who have achieved academic excellence and who demonstrate a commitment to their own academic progress. Students selected for the program are required to draft an educational plan and complete a project that will lead to fulfillment of their academic goals. Presidential Scholars are supported in the design and implementation of their project by individual faculty mentors. Students who wish to explore possibilities beyond the limits of traditional classroom experiences are strongly encouraged to apply to the Program.

## *Title: The Economic Indignations of Authoritarian Populism*

In liberal democracies worldwide, an increasing percentage of those with socially conservative attitudes are supporting politicians disseminating populist rhetoric and authoritarian values. In the book *Cultural Backlash: Trump, Brexit, and Authoritarian Populism*, Norris and Inglehart argue that grievances pertaining to economic issues, such as globalization, often reiterate a perception of societal changes as threatening amongst the socially conservative. These grievances motivate them to support authoritarian populist politicians who appeal to their economic concerns (18). To what extent do economic grievances motivate socially conservative populations to support authoritarian populist parties and politicians in liberal democracies globally? Where do economic grievances rank amongst the variables that contribute to their support for these parties and politicians?

The intention of this project is to measure the extent to which economic grievances influence social conservatives' support for authoritarian populist parties and politicians. To achieve these intentions, the project will conduct a comparative analysis. This project will compare individual countries around the world that are experiencing a surge in authoritarian populist sentiment using data from various sources, such as the World Values Survey, to reveal the similarities and differences between them. These similarities and differences identify relevant variables that may contribute to socially conservative populations' increasing support of authoritarian populists. The project will compare the presence and magnitude of several variables, including economic grievances, among several different cases. This project builds upon the work of sociologists and political scientists such as Seymour Lipset, Daniel Bell, Pippa Norris, and Ronald Inglehart. It expands on their research on topics such as modernization, democratization, authoritarianism, and populism. Specifically, the premise of this project is rooted in Seymour Lipset's economic theory of democratic development and Ronald Inglehart's generational replacement theory (134).

## Faculty News

Professor Daniel Lempert presented two papers at the 2022 American Political Science Association's Annual Meeting in Montreal, "The Importance of Importance in Certiorari" (with Gregory Caldeira) and "Writing Style and Persuasion at the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals" (with Jeffrey Budziak). He has recent or forthcoming articles in *Journal of Law & Courts*, *Political Science Research & Methods*, and *Review of Law and Economics*, which can be viewed on his website, [dlempert.github.io/publications](https://dlempert.github.io/publications).



SUNY Potsdam Professor Robert Hinckley works with students on a Kilmer Lab-funded national public opinion project. This project is an ongoing national sample survey on COVID's impact on public opinion.

## Comparative Public Opinion

Edited by CAMERON D. ANDERSON and MATHIEU TURGEON



Professor Robert Hinckley published a chapter with co-author Prof. Allison Harell titled, "Racial attitudes and opposition to immigration," in the edited volume, *Comparative Public Opinion* (2023, Routledge).

## Alumni News

Conor Callan '22

Conor graduated last May ('22) with a major in Political Science and minors in Public Policy and Administration, Pre-Law, and History. After graduation, he interned at the Manhattan Institute in their Research and Publications Department. In this role, he undertook projects on varying topics including civil society, education policy, and immigration reform, where he worked directly with senior fellows on shorter commentary pieces and long-form research reports.

Currently, Conor is working at Debevoise & Plimpton as a Corporate Legal Assistant in the Investment Management Group, where he assists in working with their clients in the private equity and investment banking spaces. In the past month, he has worked on an M&A deal with a Fortune 500 company, a pro-bono asylum case, and mentorship with high school students competing at the state mock trial competition. In the future, Conor aspires to attend law school and continue working at a corporate law firm.

Windila Balbone '21

Windila completed a Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellowship and will be attending Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in the fall of 2023. Windila is a recipient of the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Graduate Fellowship, which is one of the most competitive and prestigious graduate fellowships in international affairs and guarantees a career in the State Department after completion. Windila graduated with honors as an International Studies major with a minor in French.

Ramatu Muhammed '21

Rama has received multiple national awards, scholarships, and fellowships, such as the U.S. Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship and the National Security Education Program David L. Boren Fellowship, which have helped her advance her preparations for a career in diplomacy. Rama received the equally prestigious and competitive Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Graduate Fellowship and is attending Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, currently studying on their campus in Bologna, Italy. Rama graduated with advanced honors as an International Studies and Political Science double major.

You can learn more about Rama here: <https://www.potsdam.edu/news/RamatuMuhammedAward>

Please email Dr. Robert Hinckley, Dept. Chair, at [hincklra@potdam.edu](mailto:hincklra@potdam.edu) or Laurie Peary, Dept. Secretary, [pearyll@potdam.edu](mailto:pearyll@potdam.edu) with any information that you would like to add to a future newsletter. Let us know what you are doing and how things are going. Also, please scan the following QR code to find out more about us.



Please consider Giving to the SUNY Potsdam's Department of Politics.

We offer many programs and experiences for students that would not be possible without your support. Through scholarships, department programming and more, your generosity provides opportunities for students to excel as scholars and citizens. Supporting the Department of Politics is easy through SUNY Potsdam's online giving form at [www.potsdam.edu/giving](http://www.potsdam.edu/giving). To designate your gift, select "Other" in the designation field and type "Department of Politics."

For assistance as you make your gift, contact the College Advancement Office at (315) 267-3253 or [invest@potdam.edu](mailto:invest@potdam.edu). Thank you for joining with other alumni and friends to ensure the continued growth of our students and department!

Sincerely, With Thanks,

*~The Faculty and Staff of the Department of Politics*