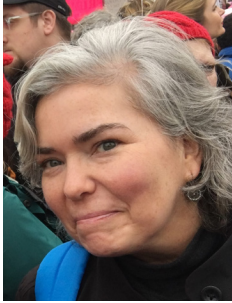


Political Science & International Relations

DECEMBER 2020



Goodbye, Fall 2020... Hello 2021?

By Kathleen M. Dowley, Associate Professor and Chair, PSIR

It was a long year. Between the pandemic and the switch to largely online learning, the summer protests following racially charged episodes of police violence, and the exhausting presidential election, it really was a long year, and I think I have more comparative memory than many of you. Fall 2020 was a successful term at New Paltz, because we largely kept the campus COVID cases to a minimum with a mix of seated, hybrid and online course offerings. I taught all term in person, my favorite *Introduction to Comparative Politics* class. We sat at socially-distanced intervals, 35 of us in a cavernous one hundred person lecture hall, all of us in masks, and I had to greatly limit the small group work we could do. In the end, I was proud we made it work.

Scholars will analyze the election and its fraught aftermath for years to come. The U.S. had the best turnout ever, with President-elect Biden winning more votes than any prior president-elect, but also with President Trump winning the second most votes ever recorded. We remain a polarized country, and the election did not deliver the decisive political outcome most of us were hoping for as the events of last week so clearly demonstrate. Political scientist Adam Przeworski notes that democracy requires that political parties (and governments) can lose power through elections.

The PSIR Department calls upon the President and the insurrectionists to accept his electoral defeat as legitimate and condemns the violent attempt to overturn the election results. The Department also condemns the white supremacist beliefs that appear to have inspired Wednesday's events. They are incompatible with both democracy and rule of law. For more, see the American Political Science Association's statement at (<https://politicalsciencenow.com/statement-on-the-insurrection-at-the-us-capitol/>).

The advent of a New Year, and with it a new administration was meant to usher in a period of renewed hope for a less divisive politics, and a chance for calmer heads to prevail. The events of the past week seem to have dashed those hopes and further fanned the flames of the extremists. In our already more isolated existence, we await the inauguration on January 20, nervously. My husband is a local doctor, and he remains cautiously optimistic that vaccines will be widely available by summer, enough to make a difference next fall. But we will begin our new semester remotely, amidst the continued spread of the virus. We remain hopeful that this longer break will allow everyone to slow down, stay home, and get our local numbers down again so we can resume some in person work on February 1. Until then, all of us here in the PSIR Department urge you to stay safe.

SPRING 2021 IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 1

May Graduation
Application deadline

Jan. 19

1st Day of (Online) Classes

Jan. 19–25

Add/Drop Period

Feb. 9

No Classes | Mind, Body, Spirit Day

Feb 24

No Classes | Mind, Body, Spirit Day

Mar. 8

Mid-Point of Spring 2021

Mar. 11

No Classes | Mind, Body, Spirit Day

Mar. 15

August Graduation
applications due

Apr. 9

No Classes | Mind, Body, Spirit Day

Apr. 12

Fall Registration Begins


Apr. 19

No Classes | Mind, Body, Spirit Day

May 3

Last Day of Classes

Fall PSIR Programming: A Virtual Reality



WHAT JUST HAPPENED?


A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE 2020 ELECTION

Join our distinguished panelists for a conversation about the 2020 election, as they present their thoughts from a variety of different disciplinary perspectives. There will be a Q & A session afterwards.

Host
Kathleen Dowley, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science

Panelists
Lee Bernstein, Professor of American History
Tyrell Connor, Assistant Professor of Sociology
Nancy Kassop, Professor of American Politics
Scott Minkoff, Associate Professor of American Politics

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5 • 5 PM
Webex link: <https://newpaltz.webex.com/newpaltz/j.php?MTID=m0ebb1b531005605f12b9e9504fcbcedd>



The Department maintained active programming for Fall 2020, despite the challenges of doing so remotely. In September, our annual Constitution Day event asked “Is the Constitution Up to the Challenge?” and featured American Politics Professors Scott Minkoff, Nancy Kassop and Emeritus Professor Gerald Benjamin, fielding questions from our students about the presidential election, the electoral college, federalism, malapportionment of the Senate, and the Supreme Court.

Two days after the election, we sponsored, along with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the multidisciplinary panel “What Just Happened?”, where we reflected on the pending results.

Access a recording of this panel and ensuing discussion here:

<https://newpaltz.webex.com/newpaltz/ldr.php?RCID=4b404aba3edc33ff76852e28370424b6>

And finally, on December 4, the Benjamin Center hosted the 3rd annual Gary King Visiting Lecture in Applied Social Research, named for Political Science alum Gary King ('80), the current Albert J. Weatherhead III University Professor at Harvard University. This year's visiting lecture was delivered by Christopher J. Clarke, Associate Professor of Government at UNC-Chapel Hill. The talk focused on the policy implications of increasing descriptive representation for Black Americans in state legislatures.



Congratulations to our Outstanding Fall Graduates!



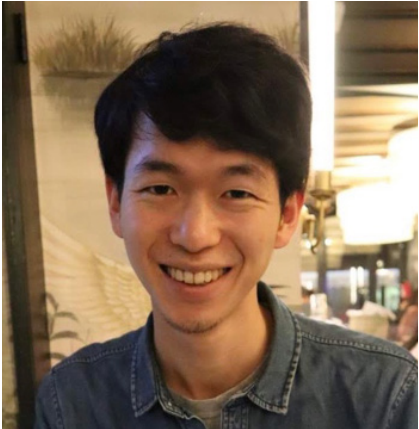
Sylvie Sherlach (*Political Science*)

Although I am sad to be leaving SUNY New Paltz, I am so excited to be starting my career in government and politics. Last year, I decided to push back my graduation date to take on an extra semester and gain the experience of interning for the New York State Senate as a 2020 Session Assistant for Senator Biaggi. Not only did I have a lot to learn being immersed in state government, but quickly as COVID became prominent I saw what working as a public servant meant during crisis. I was soon hired on as a legislative assistant for the office, and now work on policy research, public facing correspondence, and advocacy outreach/scheduling. I have been so lucky to work for an elected official that shares in my personal policy interests and was able to draft and introduce two bills this last session—S8297 and S8298B—the latter of which has passed the Legislature and will likely be signed by the Governor in the coming days! I'm grateful for the opportunity that SUNY New Paltz afforded me with the Session Assistant program, and writing and researching skills that I was able to hone here to prepare me for the professional world.



Nicole Castillo Guiracocha (*IR*)

I will always cherish my time here at SUNY New Paltz. As a transfer student, I'm truly grateful that I was welcomed by the PSIR faculty and students with open arms. Thank you to my advisor Professor Kassop, GEP advisor Professor Özler and every faculty & staff that has pushed me to be outstanding! Wishing you all a safe and happy holidays!!



Kiichi Shiraiwa (*IR*)

I am a Japanese international student and transfer student from Butte College, California. My major is International Relations and minor is Latin American and Caribbean Study. When my college education started, I underwent the 2016 presidential election, and the victory of Trump dragged me into the field of International Relations. After researching a great program of IR, I thought New Paltz was the best option for me, and I still have the same feeling at the end of my time in New Paltz. I am very honored to be recognized as one of the outstanding graduates, and would like to appreciate all professors and students that supported me. I have not decided where I will go next, and this pandemic has made me nervous for the future. However, the experiences at New Paltz gives me the confidence to know I can go through this.



Mary Gasparian (*Political Science*)

I'm honored to be recognized as one of the Outstanding Graduates in Political Science for the Fall 2020 semester, especially being the first in my family to be born in the U.S. and attend college here.

Living in Queens my whole life, the transition to SUNY New Paltz was challenging, yet I looked forward to what this campus had to offer. Prior to college, I was told that professors didn't care about their students and that I'd end changing my major multiple times before committing to one. However, neither of those things ended up becoming a reality during my time here. From the get-go, I found a supportive system of faculty and peers alike through the Scholar's Mentorship Program and the Honors Program. The professors of my poli-sci courses connected me with internship opportunities, both within our campus community and outside of it. The mere thought of studying abroad wasn't fathomable

until becoming reacquainted with Spanish in a G.E. course and declaring it as a second major. I've had the most memorable undergraduate experience due to the amazing people I've met along the journey and who have encouraged me to constantly strive outside my comfort zone. SUNY New Paltz helped me become a better version of who I was 3.5 years ago which I'm immensely appreciative of. I can't wait for what the next chapter has in store!

In-Person Learning in Fall 2020, What It Looked Like: Professor Dowley's POL 229 Comparative Politics Class in LC 100



First three rows, Erica Dubie (left), Katherine Manzueta (POL), Nina Monteleone, Trent Cline Larsen, Anthony Simon (POL), Johanna Wilson (POL).

Celebrating our Fall 2020 Global Engagement Program Graduates!



At the SUNY Global Center in Manhattan, from top to bottom: (right) Andrew Zenker (New Paltz), Nate Long (Geneseo), Africa Kogno (Potsdam), William Dratch (New Paltz), Brandon Ramirez (Cortland), Nicole Castillo (New Paltz), Rama Muhammed, (left) Liz Rakowski (Buffalo State), Odessa Quinonez (New Paltz), Griffin Stockton (New Paltz), Professor İlgi Özler, Cesia Hernandez (Oneonta), Alondra Urena (Oneonta), Lenna Georgiadis (New Paltz) and Noorjahan (Mimi) Aktar (New Paltz).

The SUNY Global Engagement Program in New York City provides students with the opportunity to spend a semester immersed in international affairs in the world's most important global city. Enrolled students do an internship with one of many international organizations along with an integrated class and research program providing a full semester's worth of credits and a truly unique educational experience. Housed at the SUNY Global Center and coordinated by SUNY New Paltz Center for International Programs and the Department of Political Science and International Relations, this program offers options to undertake work and study in many fields. While many of the internships were virtual or remote this term, students still managed to do some amazing things. New Paltz senior Odessa Quinonez worked for the European Delegation to the United Nations in their Human Rights Section. She notes, "Throughout my internship, which was in-person but limited at times during this pandemic, I have gained valuable experience about how the UN institutions function, and learned so much about the EU and its role at the UN, and the internal structure of the EU Delegation, including its relationship with the EU as a whole. I am lucky to have gone to the UN a handful of times, as most of the meetings are online now!" Students additionally interned with CIANA, Foreign Policy Association, PEN-American, Human Rights First, and the United Nations Development Program.

Their virtual graduation ceremony took place December 10, via zoom.

For more information on Fall 2020 in the GEP Program, check out their newsletter:

https://d31hzhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20201106/18/72/c2/4c/3a580c1188b99f8d299f960c/GEP_Newsletter_Article_.pdf?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=here&utm_campaign=20201103_GEPNewsletter.

THE PROFESSOR IS IN:



The complex issues of the twenty-first century cannot be addressed by disparate actors in the global arena. There is a strong moral and ethical

imperative to act multilaterally through the United Nations when responding to global challenges. This has become even more apparent in 2020, as we celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the UN and have witnessed the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has put the UN system to the test, and its impacts go well beyond the direct health crisis to include disastrous social, economic, and political implications globally. These repercussions demand a coordinated international response.

The global response to the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated weaknesses in the UN system in the three core mission areas of the organization: peace and security, sustainable socioeconomic development, and human rights. This can be attributed in part to the tension between the liberalism associated with the UN's human rights and socioeconomic development agendas

Is the United Nations Passing the Covid Test?

Excerpts from the Essay titled: "The United Nations at Seventy-Five: Passing the COVID Test?"

By Professor Ş. İlgi Özler [forthcoming in *Ethics & International Affairs*, December 2020.]

and the sovereign nationalism of its member states. Liberal values and state sovereignty do not necessarily contradict each other, but they always involve some degree of tension. The recent rise of nationalist strongman leaders in many countries has elevated the tensions between liberalism and sovereignty, putting the UN system to the test.

While the UN and its affiliated agencies, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), are still able to foster cooperation, their success is limited by the UN's inability to establish some form of authority and command. The ability of strong states to thwart collective action in favor of their own perceived national interest weakens the whole system's capacity to respond.

Despite these challenges, there is much to celebrate at the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. The United Nations has developed a strong infrastructure to address global problems in the past seventy-five years and most states today recognize the benefits of cooperating through the multilateral arena to achieve mutual gains. Much progress has been made over the years in all three areas of the UN's focus. World war has been prevented; there is broad agreement on the rights to which all humans are entitled; and sustainable development has been recognized as a global effort that gives responsibility to all states, "leaving no one behind." But the full achievement of any of these goals is

far off and flaws within the structure of the international system hinder progress. When confronted with a global pandemic, the results have been mixed, as with the UN's record generally. Improvements must be made to the international governing system if we are to do better over the next seventy-five years.

Want More? Take the UN Semester Class this Spring!

Professor Özler is offering the **POL 370 United Nations Semester** Course Spring 2021. The class meets in person on Tuesdays 3:30–6:20 p.m. The Friday sessions will be linked to the United Nations virtually where students will hear from UN officials, country missions and NGOs working at the UN. These synchronous meetings will leave time for students to ask questions and engage with officials. The sessions will be 10–11 a.m. and 11:15–12:15 p.m. The class will meet again at 12:20–1 p.m. to discuss and react to the day's briefings and ask clarifying questions. The course is highly recommended (but not required) for students planning on participating in the SUNY Global Engagement Program (www.newpaltz.edu/gep).

Spotlight On Faculty Research:

Dowley, Kathleen M. "Parties Courting Muslim Voters in Belgium's Local Elections: Electoral Incentives and Ideological Tensions," [Forthcoming] *Local Government Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03003930.2020.1864331>.

Kassop, Nancy. "Legal Challenges to Trump Administration Policies: The Risks of Executive Branch Lawmaking that Fails to 'Take Care,'" in Charles Lamb and Jacob Neiheisel, eds., *Presidential Leadership and the Trump Presidency: Executive Power and Democratic Government* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), pp. 41-90.

Kassop, Nancy. "Pro: Resolved, Presidents Have Usurped the War Power that Rightfully Belongs to Congress," in Richard Ellis and Michael Nelson, eds., *Debating the Presidency: Conflicting Perspectives on the American Executive*, 5th ed. (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage/CQ Press, 2021), pp. 179-189.

Özler, S. İlgi. "The United Nations at Seventy-Five: Passing the COVID Test?" [Forthcoming] *Ethics & International Affairs*, December 2020.

Pampinella, Stephen. "The Way of Progress and Civilization: Racial Hierarchy and US State Building in Haiti and the Dominican Republic (1915-1922)." [Forthcoming] *Journal of Global Security Studies*. Online First.

Muh-Yong Yen and Jonathan Schwartz. "Recommendations for protecting against and mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic in long-term care facilities," *Journal of Microbiology, Immunology and Infection* (Online, April 2020). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmii.2020.04.0>

Muh-Yong Yen and Jonathan Schwartz. "Interrupting COVID-19 transmission by implementing Enhanced Traffic Control Bundling: Implications for Global Prevention and Control Efforts," *Journal of Microbiology, Immunology and Infection* (Online: March 2020). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmii.2020.03.011>

Schwartz, Jonathan, Chwan-Chuen King, and Muh-Yong Yen. "Protecting Health Care Workers during the COVID-19 Coronavirus Outbreak—Lessons from Taiwan's SARS response" *Clinical Infectious Diseases* (March, 2020). <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaa255>

CURRENT SENIORS
Don't forget to apply
for **May graduation**,
by **January 1, 2021!**

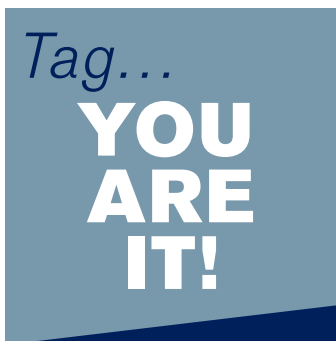
Where Are They Now? Checking in with our Alumni:



Sarah Greenberg
(Political Science, 2003)

For the last 15 years, I have been working at MSCI in our ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) product line. Today, MSCI is a \$35bn market cap financial services/fintech company. ESG is our fastest growing product line, and MSCI is the largest ESG Research and ESG Index provider globally. ESG Investing is the incorporation of Environmental, Social, and Governance considerations into the investment and risk management process. It is a capital markets solution to address climate and sustainable development considerations. ESG Investing traces back 40 years to faith-based organizations as a tool to screen out and/or influence companies that were involved in apartheid South Africa. Today, the largest holders of capital (public pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, individual investors) are increasingly focused on understanding how macro factors like climate risk can impact their portfolios and how they can use their invested capital to influence companies. My role is an Executive Director based in our New York headquarters where I run the NY-based ESG Client Coverage team. I also serve on three MSCI strategy groups focused on Wealth Management, Private Equity, and Sell Side, and am involved in networking groups including Women Investing for a Sustainable Economy and Women in ETFs.

I am so grateful for my education at SUNY New Paltz where I majored in Political Science and minored in Economics. At SUNY New Paltz, I focused on sustainable development, political economy and women in politics. I did two study-abroad programs, one in New Zealand and one in China. After graduating, I was hungry for a career where I could help create environmental and social benefits. In 2006, I joined a boutique ESG Research company (Innovest), which was ultimately acquired by MSCI in 2010. I also completed my MBA at NYU Stern in 2014. Thank you to my professors and SUNY New Paltz for preparing me for a rewarding and meaningful career.



Fellow PSIR Alums!

Write and tell me what you are up to, at dowleyk@newpaltz.edu

