

# Political Science and International Relations



## IMPORTANT FALL DATES & DEADLINES:

**August 23rd: First Day of Classes**

**August 23-29th: Add/Drop Period**

**August 30th-September 5th:  
Late Registration/Course Drop**

**September 5th: Fall Registration Ends**

**September 6th: Labor Day-No Classes**

**September 6th-October 29th:  
Course Withdrawal Period**

**September 7th-8th: Rosh Hashanah-  
Classes in Session**

**September 16th: Yom Kippur-Classes in  
Session**

**September 21st: Constitution Day Guest  
Speaker 4:30-6:00 pm, Science Hall 181**

**October 8th: Mid-Point of Fall 2021**

**October 11-12: Fall Break**

## WELCOME BACK!

And welcome to our new first-year and transfer students.

As I write this, we still expect to be back in person this fall, for 90% of our classes. The resurgence of COVID in our area, in the form of the highly contagious Delta-variant, has resulted in the reimposition of a mask mandate on campus, in all classes and buildings, but we remain hopeful that the high rates of vaccination among our students and staff, combined with the use of masks indoors, will keep us safe enough to continue in person. We will, however, remain flexible and adapt to conditions as they evolve over the term. It's been a particularly busy summer here in New York for observers and scholars of New York politics, with the resignation of Governor Andrew Cuomo after the release of a damning report concluding he sexually harassed multiple young women with whom he worked. As a result, New Yorkers will finally have the first woman in the Governor's office with former Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul serving out the remainder of Cuomo's third term. As a representative of this State University, I know I echo the thoughts of many in wishing her well as she prepares to inherit one of the most challenging roles in the country, in the midst of a pandemic.

On a more local level, this newsletter contains some information about what our faculty have been up to since you last saw them, and details about our upcoming annual Constitution Day programming later this month. It also includes information about faculty offices/availability/office hours for the fall term. And finally, a heart-felt congratulations to S. İlğü Özler, who was promoted this summer to Full Professor of Political Science. A very deserving honor!

If you have questions or need to speak with, you can always reach me at [dowleyk@newpaltz.edu](mailto:dowleyk@newpaltz.edu), or during my office hours (**Tuesdays 1-3 and Wednesdays 2-4**) in JFT 816 (best to call **ext. 3540** to make an appointment with Department Administrative Assistant Jen Freer during those times).

**Kathleen M. Dowley, Chair, PSIR Department**

# The Professor is In: Comparative Pandemic Politics in India

By Professor Jonathan Schwartz, International Relations and Asian Politics

The COVID-19 pandemic is a continuing challenge for us all. I am in the unusual situation of not only experiencing the pandemic, but also researching it. Indeed, my research for the past 15 years has focused on understanding why some jurisdictions (e.g. countries) more effectively respond to pandemics than others. My interest lies in understanding the non-pharmaceutical side of pandemic response such as government policies and state-society cooperation on mask wearing, education, hand hygiene and more. COVID-19 has provided the opportunity to test many theories that have long driven research on this issue.



As part of my research, and well prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, I applied for a **Fulbright** grant to conduct research on pandemic preparedness and response in India. I had conducted similar work in China and in Taiwan and thought it would be valuable to compare preparedness and response issues in these countries to that in India. Happily, those who allocate Fulbright awards agreed. And so I began preparing for an eight month sojourn conducting field research in the slums of **Bengaluru, India**. In addition to engaging in preparatory research (ably assisted by **Kailas Ferrari** – a student in our department), I also established a collaborative relationship with an Indian NGO called **the Foundation for Research in Health Systems** (check it out [here](#)) and with the political science department at **Bangalore University** (check it out [here](#)). And then COVID-19 erupted and all Fulbright awards to do research in India were put on hold.

A quick look at conditions in India over the past year make clear that the decision, while disappointing, is justified. Just

in terms of mortality rates, India has suffered more COVID-19 deaths (over 400,000) than all other countries in the world other than the US (over 616,000). Actually, many analysts reject India's official figure, instead estimating India's death toll from COVID-19 at over 4 million! You can find updated numbers across the world on the Johns Hopkins [COVID tracker](#).

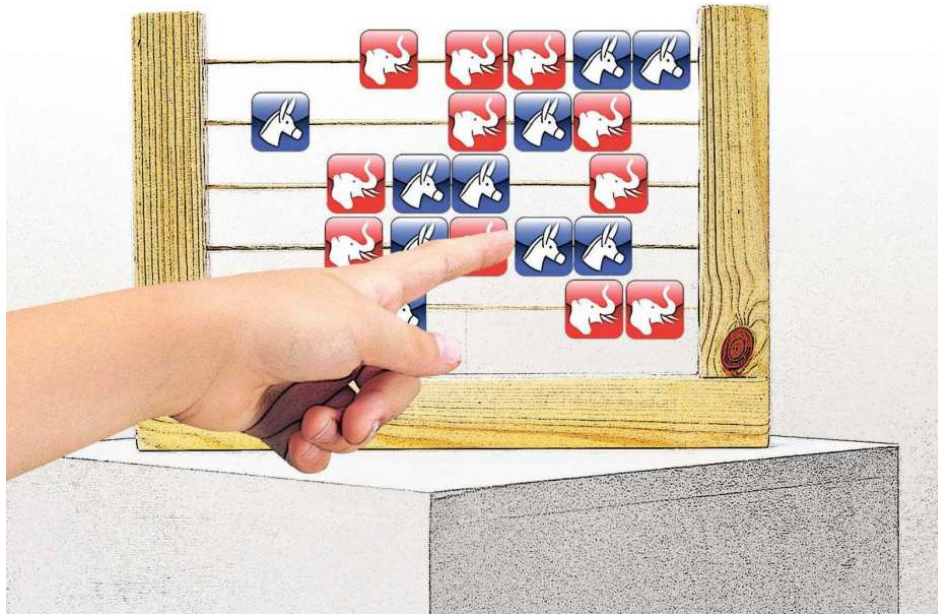
While I hope I will still have the opportunity to conduct my planned study in India in Spring 2022, the more important issue from the perspective of political science is to deepen our understanding of the various factors that influence relative success responding to pandemics in general (not just COVID-19). Are theories that argue state-civil society cooperation is critical to effective non-pharmaceutical responses supported? Can we learn lessons from the current pandemic that strengthen our response effectiveness in the face of inevitable future pandemics? Since we know that politicians tend to have short time horizons, it is safe to assume that the current intense interest in pandemic response effectiveness will pass soon after COVID-19 fades from the headlines. It is therefore critical that we in the academic community “strike while the iron is hot” – applying for funding, conducting research and engaging the policy community in our efforts to protect ourselves in the future.

- Professor Schwartz is currently teaching the “Politics of China and India” for us this fall.



# Faculty Op-Ed in the *Albany Times Union*: State loses representation

By Professor Joel K. Lefkowitz  
Aug. 1, 2021



Does this seem fair to you? Since the last census, New York's population grew by 700,000 more than Montana's. But under current procedures, New York will lose a seat in the House of Representatives and Montana will gain one.

New York will have 26 representatives, the fewest in the last 200 years. Montana will have two representatives, one per 540,000 people. At that ratio, New York's population would merit 37 seats, an increase of 10. But unless Congress makes changes, instead of gaining seats, New York (and six other states) will lose a seat.

Why? Because of three political decisions made long ago: changing the apportionment formula; Republican manipulation of statehood; and freezing the House of Representatives at 435 seats.

The first apportionment formula led to the first veto. President George Washington vetoed only one bill in his first term, the 1792 apportionment. Thomas Jefferson showed that "instead of a single common ratio or divisor, as prescribed by the Constitution, the bill has applied two." In the current reapportionment, Montana has a divisor of 500,000 compared to 750,000 for New York. Washington and Jefferson considered that unconstitutional.

Congress used Jefferson's reapportionment formula for the first 50 years, followed by methods proposed by Alexander Hamilton and Daniel Webster. Since the 1940s, reapportionment has used a complicated formula based on the geometric mean, more biased toward small-population states than any method used previously. The Supreme Court upheld the current formula, justifying it with comparison to two methods — even more biased toward small population states — that have never been used.

Different reapportionment methods could change Electoral College results. In 2000, Al Gore would have gained one electoral vote with Webster's method, two with Hamilton's (tying the Electoral College), and four with Jefferson's, winning both the electoral as well as the popular vote.

Partisan statehood decisions more than a century ago have continuing consequences. After the 1888 election, with a president who lost the popular vote and narrow congressional majorities, Republicans rushed an unprecedented partisan packing of the Senate, adding six states in nine months. Before that, it had taken 30 years to add six states; after that, 69 years.

Have you ever wondered why we have states of North Dakota and South Dakota? In partisan votes Republicans split the Dakota Territory into separate states to get two more senators and two more electoral votes.

In the 1880 census, Idaho and Wyoming *combined* had fewer people than the average congressional district, fewer than either Albany or Troy. Republicans made Idaho and Wyoming, previously part of the same territory, into separate states. This partisan maneuver got Republicans two extra senators, two extra electoral votes, and an extra representative that New York would have gained.

In the 1880 census, Washington, D.C., had many more people than the *combined* population of territories admitted as four different states in that decade (Montana, North Dakota, Idaho and Wyoming). Put another way, the city could have been admitted then as four different states.

In 1841 William Henry Harrison gave the longest inaugural address, in the rain, and died of pneumonia a month later. That story is better known than what he said: Harrison contrasted rapid statehood for territories with the unfair, unconstitutional denial of political rights to Washington, D.C. residents. That unfairness continues. Republicans oppose D.C. statehood for partisan reasons.

Then there's the question of why the House has 435 Representatives. The writers of the Constitution intended the number of seats in the House, initially 65, to increase each decade. It did, rapidly, during their lifetimes. It has been frozen at 435 for a century. In 1920, for the first time, most people in the United States lived in cities. Congress then stopped adjusting the size of the House to benefit rural representatives and small population states.

The 1929 Permanent Apportionment Act froze the House at 435 seats and made reapportionment automatic. That shielded unfair reapportionment and made it almost invisible. Congress should repeal it. Fairly applying Montana's representation ratio would expand the House to 611 seats. That would be smaller than the United Kingdom's House of Commons, which has 650 members representing 65 million people. Improving the reapportionment method, grant D.C. statehood, and expanding the House are steps toward a more representative republic, and a more perfect union.

*Joel K. Lefkowitz is an associate professor of political science at the State University of New York at New Paltz. He authored the chapter, "New York and the National Government," in The Oxford Handbook of New York State Government and Politics. <https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/State-loses-representation-16354704.php>*

## SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL CONSTITUTION DAY TALK!

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE ANNUAL CONSTITUTION DAY EVENT  
SPONSORED BY THE POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT AND THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

# CRISES AND RECONSTRUCTIONS: #BLM, CIVIL WAR MONUMENTS, AND THE MEANING OF THE CONSTITUTION

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21  
4:30 PM  
SCIENCE HALL 181

**KIMBERLEY JOHNSON**

Professor of Social & Cultural Analysis; Professor of Wilf Family Department of Politics;  
Director of Programs in the Department of Social & Cultural Analysis, New York University

Author of *Reforming Jim Crow: Southern Politics and State in the Age before Brown*, Oxford University Press, 2010; *Governing the American State: Congress and the New Federalism, 1877-1929*, Princeton University Press, 2007 and most recently, "The neo-Redemption Era? APD in the Age of #Black Lives Matter," *Politics, Groups and Identities*, and "From Politics to Protest: African American Voting in Virginia in the pre-Civil Rights Movement Era, 1940-1951" *Studies in American Political Development*, Vol. 31, Issue 2 (October 2017): 218-237.

If you have accessibility questions or require accommodations to fully participate in this event, please contact Professor Kathleen Dowley, Chair at [dowleyk@newpaltz.edu](mailto:dowleyk@newpaltz.edu) at least two weeks prior to the event.





FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE PLANNING ON GRADUATE  
SCHOOL NEXT YEAR!



CENTER FOR WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY  
ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

## **2022 FELLOWSHIP ON WOMEN & PUBLIC POLICY Application Deadline Extended September 15, 2021**

Are you a graduate student or a mid-level professional seeking to strengthen your leadership skills and broaden your public policy knowledge?

Are you committed to positive social change and to furthering the well-being of women and their families?

### **The Center for Women in Government & Civil Society invites you to apply for its 2022 Fellowship on Women & Public Policy**

The Fellowship on Women & Public Policy is a unique opportunity at the  
Center for Women in Government & Civil Society  
Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy  
University at Albany

**Submit your application on September 15, 2021 to  
Dr. Dina Refki at [Drefki@albany.edu](mailto:Drefki@albany.edu)**

**Learn More about the [Fellowship on Women & Public Policy](#), the [Women's Leadership Academy](#) and the [Center for Women in Government & Civil Society](#).**

Since 1983, the program has prepared public policy leaders by instilling the knowledge and cultivating the skills needed to become effective advocates and public policy leaders.

<https://www.albany.edu/womeningov/programs/fwpp.shtml>

# WHERE AND HOW TO FIND US!

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