Congratulations to the eleven Political Science students who have completed the Honors Program. They will all be presenting their work on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at the Brown University Faculty Club

SAMUEL F. BERUBE: REGIONAL EMBEDDEDNESS AS A CATALYST FOR INCLUSIVITY: THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF POST-APARTHEID DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA’S WESTERN CAPE

This thesis explores the ways in which Western Cape’s provincial government has transcended South Africa’s post-apartheid developmental failures to promote patterns of labor-intensive, inclusive economic growth over the past five years. While the state’s legacy of racialized oppression has played a fundamental role in the continued marginalization of South Africa’s black and coloured populations, I argue that a combination of misguided state policy and limited governmental capacity to implement developmental reform has limited the emergence of inclusive growth for the majority of South Africans since the end of apartheid. Even still, the empirics of South Africa’s Western Cape suggest that sub-national modes of development can promote substantial instances of inclusive growth, particularly in cases where localized governance structures effectively and transparently embed themselves with private actors to stimulate economic growth in regionally-specific, high-impact economic sectors.

Thesis Advisor: Professor Patrick Heller, Lyn Crost Professor of Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology and International Studies
Reader: Professor Nancy Jacobs, Professor of History

AIDAN G. CALVELLI: EQUAL PARTISAN CONSIDERATION: A THEORY OF CONSTITUTIONAL PARTISANSHIP

The Constitution established a system of representative government that purposefully excluded political parties. Today, however, political parties are integral to representative government. In this thesis, I build an ideal of Equal Partisan Consideration that protects citizens’ partisanship but limits how partisanship can motivate legislation. Legislators must work in the public interest and uphold citizens’ associational and equal protection rights. So, electoral laws that burden some citizens’ democratic participation based on their partisan views unconstitutionally violate representational rights. Partisan gerrymandering and ballot access restrictions provide real-life examples of partisan discrimination and suggest how Equal Partisan Consideration analysis can protect representational rights.

Thesis Advisor: Professor Corey Bretschneider, Professor of Political Science
Reader: Professor Alexander Gourevitch, Associate Professor of Political Science
**CAMILLE S. DI BELLA: REPRESENTATION AND STATE ABORTION POLICY; MEASURING THE RELATIONSHIP OVER TWO PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIONS**

This thesis explored state-level abortion restrictions under Republican and Democratic presidential administrations. After collecting data on gender representation, partisan representation, and partisan division in 16 states from 2001 to 2016, I created regression models to quantify the impact of these factors on abortion restriction severity. Ultimately, I found that presidential administration was inconsequential in predicting abortion restriction severity at the state level. However, partisan representation and partisan division proved to be strong predictors of severity. State case studies further demonstrated that ideology often supersedes party loyalty on abortion votes, and that female legislators tend to align with their party on abortion.

*Thesis Advisor: Professor Wendy Schiller, Professor of Political Science, International & Public Affairs*
*Reader: Marie Schenk, PhD Graduate Student, Department of Political Science*

**GWEN J. EVERETT: FINANCIAL MEDIA FRAMING OF TURKEY UNDER THE AKP, 2000-2017**

My thesis sought to uncover the messages the financial media sent its readers about which qualities of the Justice and Development Party’s (AKP) regime were relevant in determining the viability of the Turkish growth and reform story from 2000-17. The empirical component was a content analysis of the Wall Street Journal’s market coverage of Turkey from that time period. That work built on priming theory, which says that the media impacts its consumers by directing their attention to particular issues or valuation metrics over others. I use the content analysis to argue that the financial press failed to fully incorporate political risk into their valuation of Turkey. Though institutional weakness in the country was clear during the period of study, the press under-emphasised the financial implications of this institutional illegitimacy throughout the AKP’s tenure.

*Thesis Advisor: Stephen Kinzer, Senior Fellow in International and Public Affairs*
*Reader: J.N. Ziegler, Professor of International and Public Affairs (Research)*
**TAL S. FRIEDEN: BUILDING FREE PALESTINE: TERRITORIALITY, FREEDOM, AND SOVEREIGNTY IN RAWABI**

Tal’s work addresses questions of freedom and sovereignty in the occupied West Bank. Specifically, the thesis aims to address how Rawabi, the largest private real estate development in Palestine, is able to appropriate and remix traditional conceptions of freedom and sovereignty, and forces us to rethink these ideas. The city enacts this vision discursively, and also by exercising territoriality, or acting on the land to enforce a political reality. Tal uses in-person interviews, Rawabi promotional materials, and Arabic and Hebrew media sources to construct a comprehensive view of the city’s ideological position, and places this position in conversation with traditional political theory surrounding freedom and sovereignty.

*Thesis Advisor: Professor Sharon Krause, Royce Family Professor of Teaching Excellence, Professor of Political Science
Reader: Professor Parker Van Valkenburgh, Assistant Professor of Anthropology*

**ISABEL GENSLER: CONSOLIDATING NATIONAL IDENTITY: HOW THE TREATMENT OF RUSSIAN ETHNOLINGUISTIC MINORITIES IMPACTS DEMOCRATIZATION IN ESTONIA AND UKRAINE**

When Estonia and Ukraine declared independence from the Soviet Union, both states had large Russian ethnolinguistic immigrant populations. This thesis aims to uncover how the treatment of Russian ethnolinguistic minorities impacted democratization. By looking at democracy rankings and citizenship policy, I found that the state deemed more democratic, Estonia, excluded its minority population from its citizenry, while the less democratic country, Ukraine, did not discriminate based on ethnolinguistic characteristics. Estonia’s exclusionary approach has not threatened democratization while Ukraine’s inclusionary approach has undermined national identity and nation building. These findings call into question whether the guarantee of minority rights is a threat or corrective to democracy.

*Thesis Advisor: Professor Linda Cook, Professor of Political Science and Slavic Studies
Reader: Anthony Levitas, Senior Fellow in International and Public Affairs*
CLAIRED Y. PANG: OF STATE INTERVENTIONS IN CHILDCARE AND FEMALE LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION IN SOUTH KOREA, JAPAN AND TAIWAN

Since the 1990s, Korea, Japan, and Taiwan have expanded their welfare services dramatically; in particular, Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) policies have been enacted at an unprecedented rate. Despite welfare scholars categorizing these countries under the singular category of “conservative” or “familialist” welfare states, the states’ ECEC policies differ significantly in both focus and scope. Noting this policy mix, this thesis analyzes the social and political elements that have driven this divergence in policy, further exploring the implications of said divergence on working mothers’ labor force participation.

Thesis Advisor: Professor Jordan Branch, Assistant Professor of Political Science
Reader: Professor Samuel Perry, Associate Professor of East Asian Studies

MADELEINE R. THOMPSON: THE ARAB UPRISINGS: NEW VOICES OF RESISTANCE IN ARAB CINEMA

When protests broke out across the Middle East and North Africa in 2010 and 2011, the Arab world became a center-stage for the production of radical culture. This thesis examines the ways cinema lent itself to the politics of resistance during the Arab Spring. The masses of people taking to the streets and public squares in Tunisia first, then Egypt, and then all over the region, galvanized Arab filmmakers, who attempted to translate the protesters’ energy into visual symbols of resistance, be it fiction or documentary films. Social media increased the dimension of film’s political power and reconfigured traditional spaces for artistic production, distribution and consumption. However, the Arab uprisings also constrained film production. Cinema did not shift political circumstances on its own, but participated in the generalized disruption and reordering of power.

Thesis Advisor: Professor Bonnie Honig, Nancy Duke Lewis Professor of Modern Culture and Media and Political Science
Reader: Professor Alex Winder, Visiting Assistant Professor in Middle East Studies
Natalie R. Ullman: Millennials in America: An Analysis of Polarization Within a Politically Distinct Generation

Political polarization – the vast divide between Democrats and Republicans – is a phenomenon at the center of modern American politics. Ideological-partisan alignment is fundamental to political polarization. At the congressional level, the Republican Party is comprised almost exclusively of conservatives, whereas liberals make up the Democratic Party. That the Democratic and Republican parties in government are ideologically homogenous and polarized are accepted facts. However, whether this ideological homogeneity within, and distance between the two parties is reflective of the political preferences of the American electorate, is a topic of debate on which this thesis focuses. This thesis concentrates on the Millennial generation, first identifying how members of this cohort form their political preferences, and then determining the extent to which these preferences diverge from those of older generations. Through an analysis of public opinion across generations within five issue spaces – gun control, same-sex marriage, U.S. role in the world, access to education, and immigration – this thesis finds that the political spectrum for Millennials has shifted left from that of their predecessors. Further, by identifying the generational characteristics that are unique to the Millennial cohort and understanding how these cohort effects shape the public, this thesis argues that similar shifts in public opinion will persist with Millennial successors.

Thesis Advisor: Richard Arenberg, Visiting Professor of the Practice of Political Science, Senior Fellow in International and Public Affairs
Reader: Daniel D’Amico, Associate Director, Political Theory Project, Lecturer in Economics

Nicholas P. Wey: Campaign Finance and Political Polarization: Using Data Science and Machine Learning to Explore the Influence of Partisanship on Congressional Fundraising and Policymaking

With the onset of extreme polarization in Washington, DC and beyond, this thesis explores the relationship between party affiliation and PAC contributions in Congressional elections over the past two decades. By leveraging both econometric and computer science frameworks to analyze this dynamic, such as multiple regression and machine learning, this work bridges multiple disciplines and encourages new academic approaches to the area of campaign finance. Ultimately, the research finds a declining ability for party to predict PAC contributions over time, but this this trend is primarily driven by the giving patterns of traditionally Democrat-aligning PACs.

Thesis Advisor: Richard Arenberg, Visiting Professor of the Practice of Political Science, Senior Fellow in International and Public Affairs
Reader: Professor Jesse M. Shapiro, George S. and Nancy B. Parker Professor of Economics
Degrowth theorists make a powerful argument that dangerous climate change cannot be averted if the industrial nations of the world continue to pursue economic growth. Unfortunately, their visions of a non-growth-based economy are messy and riddled with substantial theoretical problems. In this thesis, I argue that the lens of productive justice can help uncover many of these theoretical problems as well as provide a theoretical foundation for modeling a more just and rigorous degrowth economy.

Thesis Advisor: Professor Alex Gourevitch, Associate Professor of Political Science
Reader: Jeffrey Feldman, PhD Graduate Student, Department of Political Science