The Political Science Faculty

Ethan Bueno de Mesquita—formal theory, terrorism and political violence, legislative politics
Randall Calvert—game theory, American politics
Marvin Cummins—political sociology
James Davis—American politics, defense policy
Lee Epstein—American and comparative politics, judicial politics
Mikhail Filippov—comparative politics, political economy, formal theory
James Gibson—American and comparative politics
Nathaniel Jensen—international political economy
Jack Knight—modern social and political theory, formal theory, legal theory
Victor LeVine—comparative and international politics
William Lowry—American politics, public policy
Andrew Martin—political methodology, American politics
Andrew Mertha—comparative and international political economy
Gary Miller—American politics, political economy
Sunita Parikh—comparative politics
David Park—political methodology, campaigns and elections
Andrew Rehfeld—political and social theory
Norman Schofield—formal theory, comparative politics
Itai Sened—comparative politics, formal theory
Steven Smith—American and comparative politics
Andrew Sobel—international relations, political economy
Lester Spence—American politics, race politics

Political Science at Washington University in St. Louis

The Graduate Program and Research Community

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Write: Graduate Program
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One Brookings Drive, Campus Box 1063
Washington University, St. Louis, MO 63130
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Studying Politics at Washington University

The Political Science graduate program at Washington University is among the best in the country. The department has a remarkable faculty. Graduate students pursue research interests that span the discipline of political science and find many opportunities to pursue interdisciplinary interests in fields such as law and economics. About forty Ph.D. students are in residence at any one time in the graduate program. All Political Science Ph.D. students receive financial support including tuition, fees, and competitive stipends.

The University

Washington University is a private research university located on the west side of St. Louis bordering Forest Park and the well-established suburbs of Clayton and University City. Over 12,000 students attend the University and nearly 600 doctoral degrees are awarded each year. In recent years, the University has received more federal research dollars than MIT and Yale. The University’s endowment of $4.3 billion ranks in the top ten in the country. Fifteen programs or schools rank in the top 10 in the country and over thirty programs or schools rank in the top 25. The 2004 U.S. News and World Report “America’s Best Colleges” ranks Washington University ninth in the country.

The Ph.D. Program in Political Science

Our graduate program is designed to prepare students for academic careers in research and teaching at the nation’s top universities. Graduate seminars are small and emphasize both technical research methods and substantive analyses. Our goal is to train students to master innovative work in Political Science and to participate in scholarship. To facilitate learning, collaboration between students and faculty is common. Additionally, the department encourages students to take part in teaching opportunities and explore individual research interests. Recent student research has included studies of Supreme Court decision-making, legislative institutions in the United States, transitions to democracy in Africa, and the effects of globalization on the international political economy.

Our faculty excels in the most dynamic and promising areas of political science today. The department maintains a national reputation for excellence in formal theory and positive theories of politics. We have developed a curriculum to provide all graduate students with a solid foundation in quantitative political methodology. In the subfield of comparative politics, our faculty combine theoretical expertise on political institutions, social movements, and political violence with geographical expertise spanning many regions of the world. We also offer strong programs in American politics, international political economy, and political philosophy. In addition to specific expertise, many of our faculty have research and teaching interests that transcend subfield and disciplinary boundaries.

Related Topics

Most political science faculty and Ph.D. students participate in one or more of the following interdisciplinary research and training programs.

Center in Political Economy
The Center sponsors a Ph.D. concentration, dissertation research, and scholarly conferences in the study of political economy.

Center for New Institutional Social Sciences
Founded by Nobel Laureate Douglass North and directed by Professor The Success, the Center sponsors graduate programs on economic and political institutions.

Harris Institute for International Legal Studies and the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies
Political science faculty and students work closely with these research centers in the School of Law.

The Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy
The Center supports research in political science, economics, and related fields and sponsors many workshops and conferences in which political science faculty and graduate students participate.

The Center hosts public affairs programs in Washington, D.C., St. Louis, and other locations. Recent conferences addressed the White House process of reviewing regulations, the fallout of the Enron scandal, the politics of international trade policy, and the political economy of major league baseball.

National Science Foundation Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models Summer Institute
The Political Science department and the Weidenbaum Center host a summer institute on the Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models of politics that trains junior faculty and advanced graduate students from around the country. The institute is designed for advanced graduate students and junior faculty whose research and teaching would benefit from understanding the link between methods of empirical analysis and theoretical models. All Washington University graduate students are invited to participate in the institute.

For more information about the Political Science Graduate Program at Washington University in St. Louis, visit our website at: http://polisci.wustl.edu