

Political Science majors have been involved in numerous research projects with Political Science faculty members throughout the 2018-19 academic year, including presenting on April 13, 2019 at the “Week-End of Excellence” sponsored by Loyola’s Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (LUROP). These projects are in all five subfields of the Department of Political Science, including Political Theory, American Politics, International Relations, Comparative Politics, and Methods.

The lead photo captures the research project of Amy Al-Salaita, “The Biblical Inspiration behind Locke’s Theory of Property,” carried out under the mentorship of Professor Martin Claar. This project falls under the Political Theory subfield of Political Science, exploring the relationship between Locke’s theory of property rights and the Bible. Amy is a rising senior who is a double major in Political Science and Global and International Studies and a minor in Arabic Language and Culture. This project was funded by a Provost Fellowship.

Within the American Politics subfield of Political Science, Tim Platten carried out a project under the mentorship of Professor Twyla Blackmond Larnell, entitled “Social Identities Impact on Perceptions of Crime and Stance on Crime Policy.” Tim is pursuing a major in Advocacy and Social Change in the School of Communication. Tim’s project explores how various social identities – white, black, woman, man, wealthy and impoverished – play a vital role in a person’s perception of crime, its solutions, and local government’s place in implementing those solutions. Professor Blackmond Larnell is a specialist of urban politics (including the City of Chicago) and race in American Politics.

Claudia Gago Ostos is carrying out a project on the “Global Longevity of Political Leaders” under the mentorship of Professor Peter J. Schraeder. Her project falls under the International Relations subfield of Political Science, and especially focuses on how changes in the international system affect leadership in three major regions of the world: Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and Latin America. Claudia is a graduating senior (2019) and international exchange student from Colombia who is double majoring in Political Science and Global and International Studies and minoring in Latin American Studies. She also spent the fall 2018 semester studying and interning at Loyola’s new Washington DC program.

Another project that falls under the Political Science subfield of International Relations, “China’s Efforts to Shape International Organizations: Causes and Consequences,” is being carried out by Theresa Colston under the mentorship of Professor Alexandru Grigorescu. Theresa is majoring in Political Science and Global and International Studies and minoring in Chinese Language and Culture. Her project was funded by a Provost Fellowship, and she spent the spring 2019 semester studying Beijing, China. Professor Grigorescu is an internationally renowned scholar of international organizations. China is the perfect case study for this project, in that the scholarly consensus is that the country is on the path of becoming the globe’s next superpower, with the ability to shape international organizations such as the United Nations.

Within the Comparative Politics subfield of Political Science, Caleigh Judd carried out a project under the mentorship of Professor Tofigh Maboudi, entitled “Constitutional Legitimacy under Authoritarian Transition: Evaluating Constitutionalism in Turkey.” This project, which is

funded by a Rudis Fellowship, grew out of a class that Caleigh took with Professor Maboudi, who is a specialist of constitutions and the Middle East and North Africa. Turkey is an ideal case study for studying transitions and authoritarianism, as the country is located at the crossroads of Asia, Europe, and the Middle East.

Kathryn Hansen's project, "The Influence of Statistical Presentation on Political Perceptions," is representative of the Methods subfield of Political Science. Her project was carried out under the mentorship of Professor David Doherty, who is a specialist of statistical analysis and American Politics. Kathryn is a double major in Economics and Statistics whose project is jointly funded by the Carroll and Adelaide Johnson Scholarship, Mulcahy Scholars Program, and a Provost Fellowship. "In an age of hyperpartisanship," explains Kathryn, "my research attempts to explore if and how we can better present political facts to everyday Americans."

The above projects are but the tip of the iceberg of research that undergraduates carry out every academic year under the mentorship of Political Science faculty. For the full range of research opportunities available to undergraduate students across the University, please refer to the LUROP website: <https://www.luc.edu/lurop/fellowships.shtml>