

Fall 2023 Newsletter

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from the [Department of Political Science](#). The campus has settled into the fall academic term with midterms underway and cooler weather moving in. We hope the fall season finds you, your family and friends in good spirits and that you enjoy the news from our Department.

I am happy to share numerous achievements by our faculty and students at the campus, state, and national level. Our faculty have been recognized this year with both Distinguished Young Scholar and Career Achievement awards, demonstrating excellence throughout their professional careers. They continue to research and publish on perennial issues in political science, so we have stories on recent publications. Finally, we welcome new faculty members to our Department this academic year.

We are very proud of our distinguished faculty and the successes of our undergraduate, master's, and PhD students. We are grateful for the support of our alumni and friends that help us offer scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students, recruit excellent students, as well as maintain faculty and graduate student attendance at national and international research conferences. I hope you'll consider investing in our students and faculty by [making a gift](#) today. You may also connect with Christopher Scarpati, Director of Development, at (631) 632-1202 or Christopher.Scarpati@stonybrook.edu.

Please stay in touch and send us updates about your accomplishments. Also, consider following us on [LinkedIn](#) and X (formerly Twitter) [@SBUPoliSci](#) to keep up with all our department news.



Best wishes,

Leonie Huddy, PhD
Distinguished Professor and Chair
Department of Political Science



New Faces Around the Department

This fall we welcomed not one, or two, but three new faculty members to our Department. Their expertise in teaching and research come as welcome additions to support the research and training of our graduate and undergraduate students.

Brian Guay **Assistant Professor in Political Psychology**

Brian comes to our Department after completing a postdoctoral fellowship at MIT. He holds a PhD in political science from Duke University, a BA in psychology and political science from the University of Richmond.



Brian's research is at the intersection of political psychology, public opinion, and methodology, with a specific focus on political misinformation, polarization, and social

media. His research agenda centers on questions related to the origins and consequences of misinformation: What are the cognitive foundations of misinformation, what are its implications for an increasingly polarized political environment, and how can we slow its spread? Brian's work has been published in the *American Journal of Political Science*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and *Public Opinion Quarterly*.

Andrew Engelhardt **Assistant Professor in Political Psychology**



Before joining Stony Brook, Andrew was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. He also held a postdoctoral research associate position at Brown University's Taubman Center for American

Politics and Policy and an affiliation with The Policy Lab. He received his PhD in political science from Vanderbilt University and BA in Government from The College of William & Mary.

Andrew uses insights from political psychology to understand how multi-racial liberal democracies like the United States navigate challenges around fostering inclusion and addressing group-based inequalities. As part of this, he investigates how individuals' attitudes about social groups – particularly racialized groups – develop and change, and when, why, and among whom they influence political opinions and decision-making. His work has been published in the *American Journal of Political Science* and *Political Behavior*.

Saadet Konak Unal **Lecturer in Comparative Politics**



Prior to joining Stony Brook, Saadet was a Lecturer at the University of Houston, while she completed her PhD in political science. She specializes in comparative politics and methodology, with expertise in Turkish Politics. She has taught classes on Comparative Politics, International

Relations, Quantitative Methods, American Government, and Democratization.

Saadet's research areas are gender, political representation, identity politics, and legislative behavior. Her work primarily focuses on the political issues related to multiple social identities and representation in a comparative context, looking across different country settings where conventional models of representation do not apply. Specifically, Saadet's research examines the role those social identities such as gender, religion, and ethnicity play in both local and national politics in Turkey. Her work has been published in the *Journal of Legislative Studies* and *Turkish Studies*.

Celebrating Together: Departmental Convocation 2023!

On Thursday, May 18, 2023, we hosted our annual convocation and reception in the Bauman Center Ballroom. There were speeches by the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient **Kimberly Jean-Pierre '07, MPP**, and graduating senior **Jordyn Christophides '23**. The Martin B. Travis Award was



Jordyn Christophides

given to two graduating seniors with plans to attend law school: **Emily Bishop '23** and **Benjamin Joffe '23**. Additionally, the inaugural endowed **Irene 'Billie' Segal Award** was presented to **Andy Huang**, a rising senior who was selected based on his academic achievement

and potential in the field of political science. We recognized 125 students who completed their BA degree in Political Science, five for completing an MA in Political Science, twelve for completing an MA in Public Policy, and five for completing a PhD in Political Science.

Assemblywoman **Kimberly Jean-Pierre** of NY Assembly District 11, was selected as the 2023 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award for her work in civic engagement as an elected representative. In the Assembly, she is chair for the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs and formerly chaired the Libraries and Education Technology Committee. She sits on the Education, Children and Families, Corporations and Banks Committees in the Assembly. Jean-Pierre has spearheaded a variety of important legislative initiatives including legislation targeting housing discrimination, expanding access to mammogram



Kimberly Jean-Pierre

screenings, making waterways safer for boaters and expanding access to affordable, quality child care. She's a proud member of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus and chair of the bicameral, bipartisan Legislative Women's Caucus.



Convocation audience

She is a proud homeowner in Wheatley Heights where she and her partner are raising two young children.

It is always a privilege to be able to celebrate this milestone with graduating students, their friends and family, and faculty and recognize the culmination of their hard work at Stony Brook. We wish all our graduates all the best in their future endeavors and are excited to see what they will achieve!



From left: Peter DeScioli, Oleg Smirnov, Andrew Delton, Reuben Kline, Leonie Huddy, Gallya Lahav, Jason Rose



Excelsior! Three Majors Recognized with 2023 Chancellor's Award

This year, 14 Stony Brook University students were honored by the State University of New York (SUNY) as part of the 2023 [Chancellor's Awards for Student Excellence](#) (CASE) — the highest honor awarded to SUNY students who have best demonstrated academic excellence and leadership. The awards ceremony was held April 24 at the Capital Center in Albany, NY.

"There is a place at SUNY for every New Yorker, and each of the students recognized today is an example of our extraordinary student body and their rich and diverse 'SUNY stories,'" said SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. "Student success is at the core of everything we do, and I am honored to celebrate students from 63 SUNY campuses who are receiving this year's Chancellor's Awards for Student Excellence. Every student can find their community at SUNY, and I congratulate each of the CASE winners for making the most out of their college experience."

The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence was created in 1997, and acknowledges students for outstanding achievements that have demonstrated the integration of SUNY excellence within many aspects of their lives in areas such as academics, leadership, campus involvement, community service or the arts. This year, 193 students across the state were honored.

Congratulations, Stony Brook CASE winners:

Mary Brantley, Political Science, Oneonta, NY



Mary Brantley '23, BA political science major with minors in international studies and Russian studies, and plans to pursue a master's in public policy as she continues to strive toward her career goal of working as a public representative.

She served the SBU campus community through various leadership positions such as a resident

assistant, president of Leading Women of Tomorrow, vice president and captain of the Women's Soccer Club, and as a teaching assistant. Brantley has been inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Society, National Political Science Honor Society, and is a JFEW SUNY Global Affairs Scholar.

Jordyn Christophides, Political Science and Linguistics, Saint James, NY



Jordyn Christophides '23 BA political science and linguistics, plans to pursue her JD in international law, focusing on human rights and refugee protection. Some of her experiences include search and rescue work in the Aegean and working for the International

Rescue Committee to help refugees and asylums complete applications for their green cards, naturalization, and family reunification. Jordyn is on the executive boards of Friends of MSF and the Political Science Society and is the president of Pi Sigma Alpha. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in 2022.

Benjamin Joffe, Political Science, New York, NY



Benjamin Joffe '23, BA political science with pre-law ambitions, has served as vice president of the SBU Pre-Law Society for two years and has worked to engage and connect the pre-law community at Stony Brook. Joffe has also been an Undergraduate Student Government senator, a member of the SBU

Advocacy Corps, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and University Scholars.

Story credit: [Stony Brook University News](#)

Leaders in Political Science Education: Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter Earns Best Chapter Award

Stony Brook University's [Eta Theta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha](#), the National Political Science Honor Society, has earned the prestigious Best Chapter Award for the 2022-2023 academic year. Jason Rose, a lecturer in the Department of Political Science and the chapter's faculty advisor, has also received the Best Advisor Award. Recent graduate Mary Brantley won the Pi Sigma Alpha Penniman Scholarship Award for Graduate Study, which she intends to use for her studies in Stony Brook's Political Science Masters of Public Policy (MAPP) program.

The Best Chapter Award acknowledges the exceptional contributions of local chapters within their respective institutions and communities. These chapters must exemplify Pi Sigma Alpha's mission of fostering scholarship and intellectual curiosity in political science and its studies.

"The Best Chapter award is so meaningful to our hard-working students who appreciate getting this national recognition from Pi Sigma Alpha," Professor Rose said. "Our chapter E-Board has worked tirelessly for the past several years getting the honor society to where it is now."

While Professor Rose demonstrates outstanding leadership and commitment to the student leaders and members, he notes that the chapter's student officers, including Jordyn Christophides, Aisha Khwaja, Alec Waldman, and James Lopez-Perez, have played a pivotal role in achieving the group's remarkable achievements.

Rose also emphasized that SBU won this award because the department has supported and prioritized student activities, clubs, and the honor society.

Throughout the year, the chapter hosts a wide variety of activities and events, such as "meet the candidate nights" for both Republicans and Democrats, guest speakers in international relations, providing guidance to students interested in



Recipients of the Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter Award for Writing Excellence include from left to right: May Scanlon, Mary Brantley, Benjamin Joffe all seniors who graduated in May 2023

government internships and conducting workshops on research paper writing.

"The Best Chapter Award simply lets us know that our goals are being achieved!" Brantley said. "In regards to future hopes for the Eta Theta chapter, I hope that we can continue to inspire students and curate their interest in political science, and continue the expansion of our chapter across campus."

The award includes a cash prize of \$500 for the chapter and an additional \$200 awarded to the advisor in acknowledgement of their dedicated service. Furthermore, the winners will be announced on Pi Sigma Alpha's digital platforms and will be featured in the American Political Science Association's magazine, *Political Science Today*.

[Click here to read the full story](#)

Award-Winning Research: Professor Drew Engelhardt Earns APSA's Best Paper Award

Professor Drew Engelhardt received the 2023 Best Paper Award from the American Political Science Association (APSA) Political Psychology Section Distinguished Junior Scholar. Engelhardt co-wrote the award-winning paper, titled "From Protest to Child-Rearing: How Movement Politics Shape Socialization Priorities," with Allison Anoll from Vanderbilt University and Mackenzie Israel-Trummel from The College of William and Mary, so this achievement is a significant recognition of their work. The paper explores how movements can have long-term effects by influencing adults' beliefs about child socialization.

Using the context of the 2020 Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests, Engelhardt and his colleagues examined racial socialization preferences. They shed light on how the BLM has played a pivotal role in altering child rearing preferences, particularly in relation to race, racism, and diversity.

The Best Paper Award is given to the most outstanding paper in political psychology delivered at the previous year's APSA Annual Meeting. In addition to this incredible accomplishment, Engelhardt and his colleagues were awarded a \$500 reward. Currently, the paper is in the process of being revised and submitted to the *American Political Science Review*.

The paper delves into the differences in race socialization and experiences during early adulthood, which significantly shape attitudes about raising their children as they grow into young adults. Studies and surveys have shown that BLM's ability to shape agendas and provide information can lead to changes in the childrearing preferences of White people. This highlights the movement's role in race, racism, and diversity during the summer of 2020. These results allow Engelhardt and his co-authors to explain race and ethnic gaps in evaluations of the BLM protests, political psychology and child rearing.

Professor Engelhardt is a new assistant professor of Political Science. He received his BA in Government at The College of William and Mary and then attended Vanderbilt University and graduated with a PhD in political science. Since obtaining his PhD, Engelhardt held a postdoctoral research associate position at Brown University's Taubman Center for American Politics and Policy and an affiliation with The Policy Lab. He previously co-investigated the 2021-2022 University of North Carolina System [Free Expression and Constructive Dialogue](#) project.



Professor Engelhardt's research focuses on the application of political psychology insights to understand how multi-racial liberal democracies navigate challenges related to fostering inclusivity and addressing inequalities based on group identities. He investigates how individuals' attitudes toward social groups, particularly diverse racial groups, develop and change. His research provides regarding the circumstances, reasons, and individuals who are influenced by these strong opinions.



A Lifetime of Dedication: Professor Milton Lodge Receives Political Psychology Career Achievement Award



Professor Milton Lodge has been honored with the [Political Psychology Hazel Gaudet Erskine Career Achievement Award](#) this year. This award is given once every two years and celebrates a scholar whose lifelong dedication and service to

the profession has had a profound and exceptional impact on the field of political psychology.

Professor Lodge is a Distinguished University Professor and Professor Emeritus. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from Washington Square College in 1960 and then completed his Master of Arts in Political Science from New York University and a PhD in Political Science in University of Michigan.

He was selected for this prestigious award for his book, *The Rationalizing Voter*, published 2013 with co-author Charles Tabler, and the theory of motivated reasoning.

The book revolves around how political behavior is shaped by subtle influences that often go unnoticed, and how conscious thinking is a way to rationalize automatically triggered feelings and thoughts. It presents and examines a dual-process theory of political beliefs, attitudes, and behavior, claiming that all aspects of political thinking, feeling, reasoning, and action have both an automatic component and a conscious, deliberate component.

This theory is tested through various components, including the examination of cognition, automaticity, affect transfer, affect contagion, and motivated reasoning.

The theory of motivated reasoning centers around three hypotheses: the primacy of affect, the automaticity of affect, and the affective contagion effect. The primacy of affect means that when we form judgments or opinions about things like political leaders, groups, or issues, our emotional responses come before our logical or conscious thinking. The automaticity of affect suggests that our emotional responses to political figures, groups, or issues can be triggered automatically, without us consciously thinking about it. The affective contagion effect showcases how our surroundings can influence our feelings and reactions to political matters. Essentially, this concept shows how external cues can shape our emotions and decisions in politics.

“While the award is based on my research, specific to motivated reasoning, I see my contribution rooted in the Department’s Laboratory for Political Behavior which, in the late ‘70s/early ‘80s, turned our Department into a center for experimental research. This helped us recruit some really strong psychologists – Victor Ottati, Howie Levine, and Leonie — who all went on to illustrious careers but more importantly the Achievement Award forced us to stay au courant,” Lodge said.

In his ongoing research, Professor Lodge is engaged in the development and validation of a dual-process model of political beliefs, attitudes, and behavior. The model makes the claim that all forms of thinking, emotion, reasoning, and action encompass both an automatic, subconscious component, and a concise, cognitive element. His focus is essentially the impact of implicit emotions on political judgments and evaluations.



The Cost of Regulation: Professor Lahav Publishes, *Immigration, Security and the Liberal State*



Gallya Lahav has co-authored a book, *Immigration, Security and the Liberal State: The Politics of Migration Regulation in Europe and the United States*, with Anthony Messina from Trinity College. Lahav

has spent approximately 15 years working on the new book, during which she collected data, conducted research, and refined the thesis on human mobility in a post-9/11 world. Prior to the book's publication, she received a grant from the MacArthur Foundation, which became the foundational work for the book. Lahav continued her research at the European Institute in Florence, Italy, and continued as a visiting scholar at Stanford University for the Immigration Policy Lab (IPL), as well as at the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at the University of California, San Diego, where she gathered additional data and information.

Contemporary political discourse often frames migration in terms of its threat to a nation. Lahav and Messina lay out a more nuanced examination of changes to migration in the past two decades by laying out the "Migration Trilemma" of security, rights, and markets which each domain historically supported by political left or political right governments. Contextualizing the regulation of human mobility in a new security framework, this book offers an original perspective on the dominant mode of politics and evolving norms shaping the immigration policies of contemporary liberal states.

"The argument that we're making is that publics are more concerned about immigration that it's in the news more, the issue is much more visible, and so if you look at any of the news stories, it's just over time, it's grown dramatically across the board and that influences the types of policy outcomes that we're having," Lahav said.

Describing [recent new stories](#) concerning immigration in the European Union, Lahav's co-author Messina notes that immigration remains a political issue fueled by a highly engaged electorate. "It's not that anti-immigrant sentiment is historically high. It's quite the contrary, but it's energized a fragment or a segment of the electorate to a degree that is showing up in support for far-right or extreme-right parties."

Gallya Lahav is a past recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and holds graduate degrees in political science from the London School of Economics and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Her research specializes in Comparative Political Behavior, and she has pedagogical interests in European and EU politics, Immigration and Refugee Politics, Extreme-Right Politics, Public Opinion, Political Culture.

Lahav's co-author, Anthony M. Messina is John R. Reitemeyer Professor in the Department of Political Science at Trinity College. Messina specializes in the politics of immigration in Europe and is the author of multiple books on the politics of ethnicity and immigration within contemporary Europe.

Book description excerpts from:
[Cambridge University Press](#)

[U.S. News and World Report](#) quote from
Elliot Davis Jr.



Alumni Corner

Where has your degree taken you? Let us know! Send us your achievements and updates to polsci_alumni@stonybrook.edu.

Jeff Kruszyna '05, MPP '06, has started JMK Victory, a consulting firm. He was previously a junior partner at HSP Direct, a conservative direct mail fundraising firm.

Ed Reiner '77, has been publishing an e-newsletter to the humanities and social sciences community for a few years (previously) as part of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) called "Oh, the Humanities!" ("OTH"), which reaches about 18,000 faculty, librarians and other academics in the US and Europe each month. It is now independently published with a high readership and carries advertising from select academic providers.

Jonathan D. Salant '76, is now the Assistant Managing Editor, Politics, for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, covering Washington.



2023 Giving Day in Review

On March 29, 2023, SBU hosted its 5th annual Giving Day and the Department of Political Science participated for a third time. Our goal was to raise funds to prepare students for successful careers in government, law, and academia, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The funds we raise go toward professional development opportunities to help cover the costs associated with guest speakers, professional organizations, networking opportunities, and internship and job placement initiatives.

Our campaign raised **\$21,480.46** from a total of 24 individual donors. More than half of the gifts were from former department alumni from our BA, MA, and PhD programs. The remaining gifts came from current students, faculty, and staff. Thank you to all who contributed, and we look forward to continuing this tradition next spring.

Contributions can be made at any time by giving [here](#). If you are interested in supporting the department's mission with ongoing contributions, please contact Christopher Scarpati, Director of Development, at (631) 632-1202 or Christopher.Scarpati@stonybrook.edu.



Invited speaker Kyla Brooke, Diplomat in Residence for the NY Metro Area, presents to Prof. Rose's POL 313: Problems in International Relations class.