

PPOL Students and Faculty:

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1--New Director Search to Begin

The time has finally come for me to step down as director of the PPOL program. While directing is not something I want to stop doing, I have been doing it for almost seven years now. This program, to which I am so attached, will benefit from new leadership with fresh ideas on taking the program to ever-greater heights.

The Governance Committee has met and decided on a process for selecting the next director. In a few days, I will send out an announcement for faculty to express their interest in serving as director and the committee will work on deciding on a new director beginning in March.

The new director will take over on July 1. I will do whatever I can to help in that transition before and after the official change. I suspect the students and faculty will be equally helpful to the new director.

2--PPOL Candidate Job Talks

Many of you have heard that Dr. Steve Billings is moving from Political Science to the Department of Economics on July 1. He will continue teaching with us in the PPOL program and Economics is in talks with PPOL to expand their participation in the program!

In the meantime, Drs. Leland and Szmer are working with me on a search committee to hire a new professor for Steve's position in Political Science. We are extremely excited to have three excellent candidates coming to campus to interview starting tomorrow. We are working on their schedules in order to facilitate student participation in this important position.

The first candidate will be making his job talk at 2:00 this Wednesday (Feb. 8th) in the Friday Building 117. The talk is entitled "The Fiscal Impacts of Residential Land Use Characteristics." As part of your doctoral training, PPOL students are expected to attend these jobs talks. It's a great opportunity to see how academic job talks are conducted and to learn about a policy area.

Furthermore, we have set up a time for the PPOL students to meet with the candidate later that afternoon at 4:00 in the Political Science conference room. Again, this is an excellent opportunity to speak with someone slightly ahead of you on the job market. Your feedback on the candidates is part of our evaluation of the finalists when making our final determination.

The other two candidates will be on campus the week of February 20th. We will share more of the details later, but you can pencil in their job talks. The first is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 21st at 1:30 (location TBD) and the second will be Thursday, Feb. 23rd tentatively at 2:30 (location TBD).

Attending and participating in these candidate visits is an important part of the doctoral process.

3--PPOL and the Democratic National Convention

As you know, next year Charlotte will be hosting the Democratic National Convention. This is a significant event and will bring a national spotlight on Charlotte. You may have heard of some of the activities in which the university is engaged in preparation for this event, generally part of the 49er Democracy Experience.

Several of us on the faculty are also working on a funding proposal with Duke Energy to fund a much larger project on which students will have the opportunity to work. And as you also know, Third Year students in the seminar course will be doing team projects again. Given the size of this class, we will actually be splitting this into two projects. Both projects will be working on this DNC study. While the event itself will take place the week of September 3rd, our teams will be working on this project the rest of the semester after the event; analyzing economic data, interviewing key players, etc. Other students will have the opportunity to get involved in this project even if you aren't a 3rd year student. We ***hope*** that the reports and studies coming from all the projects Duke is thinking of funding will be pulled together in an edited book. We are talking with publishers already about their interest in such a book.

The planning for this event is monumental for the university, the city and the state. Planning has already been under way since the original announcement was made. Public administrators are the ones that have to organize this and make it work on the ground (our street level bureaucrats).

Next Thursday, the local ASPA Chapter meeting will be focusing on this event. The details about the time and place and RSVP info for this meeting are below. I strongly encourage anyone interested in the preparations for the DNC to join us for this meeting, especially our current year two students. This will be a good opportunity to develop an appreciation for the scope of what is going on in terms of the preparation for this convention.

Take a look at the information below. The meeting is in Uptown. Be sure to RSVP by the 7th if you want the lunch so we know how much food to buy. RSVP instructions are below.

If you have any questions, let me know.

“Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 9th, 2012, 11:45am-1:00pm at Charlotte Fire Department Headquarters located at 228 E. 9th St.

The meeting topic is the upcoming Democratic National Convention and what Charlotte can expect in September.

We are still striving to increase our membership, so as always; you are encouraged to invite a student or co-worker to this meeting.

Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP to Tracey Keys (tkeys@charlottenc.gov) by Tuesday, February 7th if you plan to attend and indicate if you are bringing a guest.”

4--Who's going to NCPSA?

Each year, we encourage PPOL students to attend the North Carolina Political Science Association meeting. This is a relative small conference and very student friendly, usually lasting only one day. PPOL picks up the costs of registration for students going to present. In addition, we also arrange for transportation by carpooling in a university van.

Several of you have already indicated that you are attending this year. If you have not told me you are going, please let me know NOW so we can take care of the registration and transportation planning.

5--Campus Lecture Feb. 9th

International Speaker Series

Dr. Katherine Bliss

“Global Health Challenges: Emerging Trends in Policy, Governance and Diplomacy”

Thursday, February 9

3:30-5:00pm

Halton Reading Room, Atkins Library

Dr. Katherine Bliss, Director, Project on Global Water Policy; Deputy Director and Senior Fellow, Global Health Policy Center; and Senior Fellow, Americas Program with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.D, will present Global Health Challenges: Emerging Trends in Policy, Governance and Diplomacy.

6--Game Theory Opportunity

Many of you were unable to take the Game Theory course we offered this semester. However, if you are interested in learning more about Game Theory, two professors from Stanford University are offering an online course on the subject (but for credit, but it is for free). The course begins in late February and is asynchronous.

If you are interested in learning more about game theory, feel free to sign up. Go to:

<http://www.game-theory-class.org/>

7--Student and Faculty News

PPOL student Reid Wodicka has a new piece out in the latest issue of *Fire Engineering* (a peer-reviewed magazine) entitled "Key to Fighting Turnover: Loyalty". Congrats to Reid on this publication!

We had several PPOL students and faculty participate in this year's Southern Political Science Association meeting in New Orleans. Here's a listing of their works that they presented:

PPOL student Yudo Anggoro and Dr. Claudia Avellaneda: "Government Performance in Latin America: A Longitudinal Study"

PPOL student Karen Okhoya and Dr. Claudia Avellaneda: "Assessing the Performance of Kenyan Constituency Development Fund Committees"

PPOL student Jason Giersch: "Standardized Content Area Tests and College Success"

PPOL student Mary Jo Shepherd: "How Plain Language Affects Candidate Understanding of Campaign Finance Regulations"

Dr. Martha Kropf and Jacqueline Blackwelder: "Does U.S. Foreign Aid Foster Democracy in the Recipient Country?"

Dr. John Szmer, Martha Humphries Ginn, and Erin Kaheny: "The Effects of Solicitor General Oral Arguments as Amicus Curiae"

We also had some faculty involved in media interviews recently.

Drs. Bobby Brame and Michael Turner (CJUS) participated in the WFAE "Charlotte Talks" panel "Youth Arrests in the United States" on February 2nd.

Dr. David Swindell (POLS) participated in the WFAE "Charlotte Talks" panels "S.C. Primary Wrap and What's Ahead for the Election" (1/23/12), "The N.C. Governor's Race After Perdue" (1/30/12), and "Homeowners Associations in North Carolina" (1/31/12).

8--Summer Internship Opportunity with Political Conventions

As we come closer to the national political convention season, there are several opportunities for students to get involved through some great internships. When I finished my undergraduate degree before starting my graduate work, I was fortunate to have participated in one of these programs at a national political convention. The opportunity to get to work “behind the scenes,” see the process behind this spectacle, and meet numerous political figures (which led to several job opportunities!), is a rare chance and I encourage you to look into participating in one of these this summer.

Scholarships for The Washington Center academic seminars during Republican and Democratic National Conventions-Deadline February 20—These scholarships are a \$4,000 value and we have several of them dedicated for UNCC students (with surprisingly few applications so far!).

Charlotte in 2012 Host Committee Internships for Summer-Deadline February 20

DNC Committee and Charlotte in 2012 Host Committee Internships-Deadline March 13

Additional information is available through our 49er Democracy Experience web site at:

<http://career.uncc.edu/students/service-learning-civic-engagement-and-washington-internships>

9--Fellowship Opportunity (Due March 14)

2012-2013 FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY
U.S. EMBASSY POLICY SPECIALIST PROGRAM (EPS)

Deadline: March 14, 2012

IREX is pleased to announce the competition for the 2012-13 U.S. Embassy Policy Specialist Program (EPS). The U.S. Embassy Policy Specialist Program provides funding for U.S. scholars and professionals to travel to Eurasia and serve U.S. Embassies or USAID Missions as policy specialists on a research topic proposed by the Embassy/Mission. Researchers are able to directly contribute to the formation of U.S. public policy by conducting research on topics vital to the policy-making community, as well as increase their understanding of current regional issues and develop and sustain international networks. The fellowship provisions include: logistical support, international airfare, visa support, in-country housing and workspace, a living expenses stipend and emergency evacuation insurance.

For 2012-13, applicants may apply for placements in the following countries and fields. Detailed information on each of the topic areas can be found in the application instructions on the IREX website.

Armenia

USAID Mission, Yerevan: Media; Politics; Think Tanks; Migration

Azerbaijan

U.S. Embassy/USAID Mission, Baku: Youth/Civil Society

U.S. Embassy, Baku: Economics/Banking Sector; Agriculture; Economics/Tax Code

Georgia

U.S. Embassy, Tbilisi: Media; Public Administration; Public-Private Partnerships

Kazakhstan

U.S. Embassy, Astana: Economics; Religion

Kyrgyz Republic

USAID Mission, Bishkek: Public Health/Business; Governance; Migration

Russia

USAID Mission, Moscow: Islam/North Caucasus Conflict Mitigation; Gender/North Caucasus Conflict Mitigation; Youth/North Caucasus Conflict Mitigation

U.S. Embassy, Moscow: International Trade; Economic Growth

Tajikistan

U.S. Embassy, Dushanbe: Education/Religion; Education/Governance; Youth; Agriculture

Turkmenistan

U.S. Embassy, Ashgabat: Islam; Rural Life; Clan Structures

Ukraine

USAID Mission, Kyiv: Health Reform; Anti-Corruption; Energy

U.S. Embassy, Kyiv: Law Enforcement; Property Rights; Public Health

*Technical Eligibility Requirements: Scholars and professionals who hold **advanced degrees** (PhD, MA, MS, MFA, MBA, MPA, MLIS, MPH, JD, MD) and are **US citizens** are eligible to apply for the this program.

*Application Materials and Information: <http://www.irex.org/application/us-embassy-policy-specialist-program-eps-application>

*Deadline: **5 p.m. EST on March 14, 2012**

*Contact: By email at eps@irex.org or by telephone at 202-628-8188

We encourage all applicants to read our recommendations for writing successful international research proposals, found here: <http://www.irex.org/news/10-tips-writing-successful-international-research-fellowship-proposal>

EPS is funded by the United States Department of State Title VIII Program

Connect with us online!

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2200735>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/289874284381696/>

10-- Jobs

Research Associate in Politics and International Relations
College of Social Science
Department of Politics and International Relations
University of Leicester

Salary Grade 7 - £31,020 to £35,938 per annum Open Ended Contract, subject to Fixed Term Funding. Funding is available for 24 months from appointment date (which will be by 1st September 2012).
Ref: SSC00248

The Department of Politics & International Relations is seeking to appoint a post-doctoral researcher to join the team of the European Research Council-funded RESPONSIVEGOV project, led by Dr Laura Morales (<http://www.responsivegov.eu/>). We welcome applications from excellent candidates in the fields of political science or political sociology to undertake independent and collaborative research, and to provide research support to the project Principal Investigator. The appointee will join a project team that will also include two PhD students and a Project Administrator. Candidates should hold a PhD, awarded within the last 5 years, or be close to completion, and have strong skills in research methods and quantitative analysis (using STATA or R, and with training or experience in agent-based modeling, time series analysis, and/or event data/history analysis). The successful candidate will have a strong research record, commensurate with career stage, in one or more of the following areas: political behavior, public opinion, collective action, policy-making and comparative politics. Language skills in German, Dutch or any of the Scandinavian/Nordic languages are essential.

The appointee will perform various tasks related to data gathering, processing and analysis, and will contribute to the dissemination and publication of project results, jointly with the PI. Whilst the project direction is the responsibility of the PI, it is hoped that the successful candidate will help shape the intellectual direction of the project. The researcher will also be able to pursue their own research agenda where this is relevant to the remit of the project, broadly conceived. Research output should primarily be aimed at leading peer-reviewed academic journals.

Research expenses will be available through the ERC grant. The post-holder will have no teaching obligations, but will be allowed to engage in a limited amount of teaching---in agreement with the PI and the Head of Department---if it is judged appropriate for their academic development.

Job details (including qualifications and skills required) can be found in the Further Particulars to the post (which prospective candidates are encouraged to read) here:

http://ig5.i-grasp.com/fe/tpl_UniversityOfLeicester01.asp?s=EXgflfLQnAyPBgDdPyv&jobid=72999,8774765983&key=44262309&c=984548254656&pagestamp=seuqwnkfrerdyfufpe

The closing date for this post is midnight on *2nd March 2012*.
We anticipate that interviews will take place on 19th March 2012.

Applications should be sent through the online system of the University of Leicester and should include: a one-page cover letter explaining how your experience and qualifications match the needs of the project, a CV, and one single-authored writing sample (dissertation chapter, article or conference paper). Applications without these documents will not be considered for short-listing.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service Two Positions

Just wanted to share two job vacancy announcements we currently have open. We are looking to add a few people (GS12 level) to our Research and Development Division here. We have lots of interesting projects either underway or in need of someone excited to work on them. This includes topics in non-response reduction, the impact of interviewers on survey error, the use of technology such as iPad and tablets in data collection, the use of graphics in data display, time series modeling, small area estimation, statistical techniques in model based designs, and reweighting methods.

The first position announcement is focused on research in survey methods and data collection, the second is focused on survey statistics.

Full details are at the links below.

<http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/307786100>

<http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/307963400>

Both jobs are open for applications until February 10.

Northern Illinois University Public Opinion Laboratory Research Associate

The Public Opinion Laboratory conducts custom survey research (45-station CATI telephone center, Internet surveys, mail surveys, focus groups) regarding health, social, economic, and business-related issues. Clients include the State of Illinois and local governmental units, nonprofit organizations and corporations as well as Northern Illinois University.

Research Associates manage research projects from study design through presentation of final results, including designing questionnaires, training telephone interviewers, analyzing data, conducting focus groups, writing written reports, and making oral presentations of results.

Candidate requirements include a Master's Degree in a social science or a Bachelor's Degree with relevant experience, working knowledge of SPSS and/or SAS as well as Microsoft Office software, knowledge of survey research methods and data analysis, experience conducting surveys and writing technical reports, and excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

This is a full-time professional staff position at Northern Illinois University. NIU offers an attractive package of benefits and educational opportunities and participates in the State Universities Retirement System.

Submit a cover letter, resume, and list of three references to: Lorayn Olson, Ph.D., Public Opinion Laboratory, Northern Illinois University, 148 N. Third St., DeKalb, IL 60115-2828.

Review of complete applications will begin on February 16. However, applications will be considered until the position is filled. AA/EEO

**NC Association of REALTORS®
Government Affairs Department
Political Specialist and Local Government Affairs Director**

The NC Association of REALTORS® is seeking a dynamic political specialist and local government affairs director to provide professional service and expertise to all political programs of the Government Affairs Department and provide basic government affairs representation for specified local REALTOR® associations. Provide fundamental government affairs services such as educating and mobilizing members, policy development, and developing an action plan to implement the same. The successful candidate will have three or more year's experience, preferably in political campaigns, local governments or government affairs.

Candidates should have a basic knowledge of the political process and experience with campaigns and/or politics. Organizational skills, ability to meet deadlines and work with limited supervision are a must. Dedication to customer service, problem resolution and working together as a team to achieve goals and objectives will enable a person to have success in this role. Excellent written and verbal communication skills required, as well as basic Microsoft office skills required. Some database management and mining experience is beneficial.

Salary is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. This position can be in maintained in either the Greensboro or Raleigh office of NCAR but travel will be required at least once a week. Interested candidates should send cover letter, resume and references to CThomas@NCRealtors.org. The position will remain open until a suitable candidate has been found.

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