

Political Science & International Relations

September 2024

Welcome to all new and returning Political Science & International Relations students. I hope you enjoyed a restful and productive summer and are ready to re-engage with your studies and the many opportunities available on our campus.

This fall we will be without Professors Miller and Pampinella who are on Sabbatical leave. Returning to us is Professor Minkoff who was on leave over the 2023-24 academic year. We also welcome our new colleague, Rifat Lutful who is teaching two sections of the Introduction to International Politics. You can find a listing of the PSIR faculty, their office hours and contact information on page 14 of this newsletter.

Happily, there is a lot going on this semester that we anticipate will engage your interest. Some events are still in the planning stages, but you will find information on others in this newsletter. Keep an eye out for updates on our Constitution Day event as well as an information session about the Peace Corps by a recent Peace Corps volunteer. If you are interested in becoming more engaged, you might want to contact Aidan Arcadi, the head of our Political Science and International Relations club. His email address is arcadial@newpaltz.edu.

Finally, should you have questions about our majors or minors, you can always contact your PSIR advisor or me via email (schwartj@newpaltz.edu), phone (845-257-2627) or during my office hours (M 12:30-2:30; W 1:00-3:00, or by appointment). You can find me and the department office in the JFT building on the 8th floor (JFT814).

Have a great semester!

Jonathan Schwartz, Chair PS & IR



FALL 2024 Important Dates

September 25

Constitution Day talk

October 1

Spring '25 & Calendar '25
Study Abroad applications
due AND Summer '25
applications open

October 13

Mid-point of semester

October 14-15

Fall Break - No classes

November 1

Fall '25 & Academic Year
Study Abroad applications
open

November 1

Last day to request course
withdrawal

November 4

Black Solidarity Day

November 11

Spring registration begins

November 27-29

Thanksgiving recess

December 9

Last day to request S/U

December 9

Last day of classes

December 13-19

FINAL EXAMS

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Meet Professor Daniel Lipson

By Sadie Leia Watkins



Daniel Lipson has been a professor in the Political Science and International Relations department for 16 years but has been teaching for 22 years. His career began as an assistant professor at Kalamazoo College in Michigan. He completed his undergraduate studies at Cornell University (majoring in Sociology and concentrating in Women's Studies) and his Ph.D. in Political Science at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Professor Lipson teaches a wide array of courses, including Intro to American Government and Politics, American Environmental Politics, Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties. He enjoys teaching all of his courses but none more than American Environmental Politics. He mainly enjoys it simply because he loves the material, but also because the students in that course tend to be particularly engaged in the material. In his classes, he prompts lots of discussion and assigns material that is fundamentally directed to understanding exactly what is going on in politics today. To incorporate modern political events into his classes, he assigns journalists analyses of recent events that appear in editions such as the New York Times or Atlantic monthly to be read throughout the semester.

Professor Lipson has two main research areas: affirmative action/civil rights law and environmental politics. In affirmative action and civil rights law, he studies a very broad range of processes rather than specific court cases. This includes questions such as, "When do activists succeed in getting voters to ban affirmative action through ballot measures?" or "How do universities try to restore the racial and ethnic diversity that is at risk?" His other research area consists of convincing social scientists and citizens to consider Predictive Theory, a theory that explains the ecological limits to ecological growth.

Outside of the classroom, Professor Lipson is involved in multiple service projects and organizations. He has served as Co-Chair of the

Environmental Taskforce (ETF) on campus for the most of his time at SUNY New Paltz. The ETF is a coalition of student and community members with an interest in getting environmental projects "done." This includes starting the student micro-farm, getting the ban of bottled water on campus, and so on. This year, he joined as one of four Co-Coordinator of the Sustainability Faculty Learning Community led by Sustainability Coordinator Lisa Mitten. The Co-Coordinator guide the new and returning Faculty Fellows by planning and leading several morning trainings each semester plus one two-day retreat each semester. Most recently, Professor Lipson has taken on the role of faculty liaison for the New York State Assembly and Senate Internship Programs, where students earn credits spending a semester in Albany interning for a state legislator. Finally, he is the Chair of the Joint Village/Town of New Paltz Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee, a committee of volunteers who advocate for safer crosswalks, separated trails, bicycle lanes, signage, traffic speed limits and signals, and public education.

Professor Lipson feels incredibly grateful to have landed here in the Hudson Valley broadly, at SUNY New Paltz specifically, and especially in the Political Science and International Relations Department. He cherishes working in a department with colleagues who excel as teachers, who set demanding standards for their students, and who remain active with engaging, relevant scholarship at a tumultuous moment in U.S. and global politics. He feels right at home at our teaching-oriented, public university with small class sizes filled with diverse, engaged, curious, wonderful young adults.

LET'S DISCUSS NEW YORK STATE'S PROGRESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

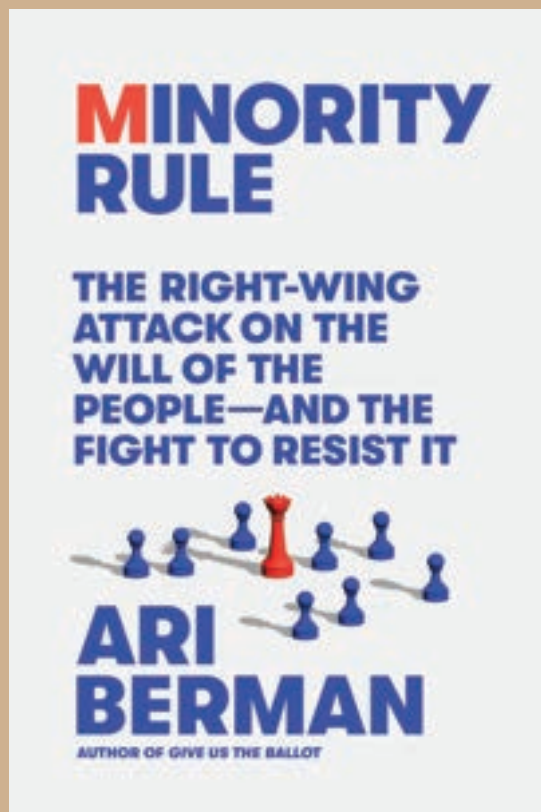
With NY State Assemblymember
Sarahana Shrestha
Co-Sponsored by the UUP



New York State has passed some of the strongest climate legislation in the country. But is the state taking the action necessary to meet these goals? Come learn what the state is doing and not doing and what needs to happen if we are to avoid the most devastating impacts of climate change.

Tuesday, September 17
6:30pm
Lecture Center 108

Constitution Day Lecture



Ari Berman: "Minority Rule and the Fight for Voting Rights and American Democracy"

Please join the Political Science and International Relations Department for a timely conversation with journalist and voting rights expert Ari Berman on threats to democracy and how to combat them

Wednesday, September 25th at 5pm
Room to be determined



At Elon University, where we host the Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics, we are already working towards the next issue to be published in early 2025!

We are now accepting submissions until September 15th. You can submit your work online at <https://www.elon.edu/u/academics/arts-and-sciences/political-science/psa-journal/>

If you have any questions, contact Barış Kesgin at 336-278-6436 (office) or at bkesgin@elon.edu.

Previous issues of the journal can be found at <https://pisigmaalpha.org/about-the-journal/>



The internships we are offering provide a unique chance for students to gain firsthand experience in the political arena, learning about campaign management, field work, policy-making processes, and will assist in developing valuable professional skills. It would be a great addition to any student's resume and could potentially open doors to future opportunities in the field of politics.

Responsibilities

include but are not limited to:

- Direct voter contact, including door-to-door canvassing and phone banking
- Volunteer recruitment and engagement
- Data input, research, and event planning

APPLY NOW!

Visit

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSche_dgz7jPqwOVfuv1YN1ZApg2fomkZ1YTtoNikRkrlDo_Xw/viewform



Intern for James Skoufis re-election campaign!

**This is a perfect opportunity to get
involved and see how the election
process works!**

**Students' applications will be accepted
on a rolling basis.**

**Visit <https://skoufisforny.com/contact/>
for information about applying.**

**Still have questions? Contact
skoufisforny@gmail.com**

**YVETTE
VALDÉS SMITH**
FOR STATE SENATE

CAMPAIGN INTERNSHIP

Join the campaign trail with Yvette Valdés Smith, an experienced county legislator and former public school teacher, who is running to flip the 39th State Senate District from red to blue and bring real representation to the Hudson Valley in Albany. Our team is seeking energetic campaign interns who are passionate about fostering change and helping us win one of New York's most competitive State Senate races!

Interns will:

- Gain a hands-on experience in campaigning
- Work a minimum of 9-12 hours a week
- Engage with voters
- Help plan events
- Attend exclusive workshops with political professionals

APPLY NOW!

Visit

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwsHblZsvF1pJ6KsT33pVXXgdmdD8pJ0jJx5IFkO2QKGVdhQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>



**SUNY
BROCKPORT**

Washington D.C. Internship Program

Participate in your own learning outcomes to broaden your perspective on the world and open doors to new career possibilities.

Employers and graduate programs view internships as a positive indicator of future success in work and professional environments. The experience will prepare you for whatever comes next, from career to advanced study.

Deadlines:

Spring 2025 Internship: October 1, 2024

Summer 2025 Internship: February 1, 2025

Interested students should review the information and application details on the website. Zoom session with SUNY Brockport Washington Program Internship Coordinator Casey Cappelletti to be scheduled soon. Watch for details!

**For more information about applying, visit
<https://www.brockport.edu/academics/washington/apply/>**

INTERESTED IN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS?



APPLY FOR CSEA'S LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM!

OUR INTERNS

- Learn to write and analyze legislation
- Learn the ins and outs of New York State Government and the legislative process
- Meet elected officials, legislative staff, and lobbyists to build your professional network



OUR ORGANIZATION

- The Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) is one of New York's largest labor unions
- CSEA's Political Action Department works to advance beneficial legislation, stop harmful legislation, and is active in political campaigns



PAID POSITION



CREDIT ELIGIBLE



FULL TIME



JANUARY - JUNE

Email your resume and cover letter to alex.george@cseainc.org.
Applications must be received by **Friday, October 18th at 5:00PM**

**About Chris McCreight for State Assembly:**

Chris McCreight is a committed community advocate who is running to represent the 46th Assembly District (the South Brooklyn neighborhoods of Bay Ridge, Coney Island, Brighton Beach, Sea Gate, Dyker Heights and Bath Beach) as a Democrat. His campaign is dedicated to strengthening public services, advancing reproductive rights, and ensuring equitable economic opportunities for all residents. As a grassroots campaign, we are deeply rooted in the community, aiming to engage and empower voters throughout the district. Chris is running against sitting Republican Assemblyman Alec-Brook Krasny. The race is one of the most competitive in New York State.

Position Overview:

The Chris McCreight for State Assembly campaign is seeking passionate and driven individuals to join our team as Field Organizing Interns and Fellows. This role is integral to our campaign's success, focusing on direct voter contact, volunteer recruitment, and community engagement. Interns/Fellows will work closely with the Field Director and other team members to implement the campaign's field strategy, ensuring that our message reaches every corner of the district. Interns and fellows can join the campaign in-person, hybrid or remotely.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Voter Outreach:** Engage directly with voters through door-to-door canvassing, phone banking, and text banking. Effectively communicate Chris McCreight's platform and motivate voters to participate in the electoral process.
- **Volunteer Recruitment and Training:** Identify, recruit, and train volunteers to participate in field activities. Organize and lead volunteer training sessions, ensuring they are equipped to represent the campaign effectively.
- **Community Engagement:** Build and maintain relationships with local organizations, community leaders, and stakeholders to broaden the campaign's reach. Attend community events and represent the campaign positively and professionally.

Generally, the campaign asks high school students to commit to working at least 6 hours per week, college students for 10 hours per week and recent graduates for 16 hours per week.

Qualifications:

- **Passion for Grassroots Organizing:** A strong commitment to grassroots political campaigns and community engagement.



- **Excellent Interpersonal Skills:** Ability to connect with people from diverse backgrounds, with strong communication skills both in person and over the phone.
- **Organizational Ability:** Strong organizational skills with the capacity to manage multiple tasks and work under tight deadlines in a fast-paced environment.

Benefits:

- **Field Experience:** Gain hands-on experience in grassroots organizing and political campaigning.
- **Skill Development:** Enhance your skills in voter engagement, volunteer management, and data-driven campaigning.
- **Meaningful Impact:** Contribute directly to efforts winning a highly competitive election and delivering true representation to South Brooklyn.
- **Professional Development and Networking:** Receive professional mentorship and networking
- **Course Credit (if applicable):** Eligible college students may receive credits for completion of internship

Application Process:

To apply, please fill out this short form. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until November 5th.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXjekZx8HQrcju58xICR6Pdo5LZt_XO2EL58jceQn1gIFMfw/viewform



PSIR Faculty Office Hours-Fall 2024

Welcome to the Department of Political Science and International Relations!

PROFESSOR	PHONE/EMAIL	DAYS	TIMES	OFFICE
Jonathan Schwartz Chair	845 257 2627 schwartzj@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Wednesdays	12:30pm-2:30pm 1:00pm-3:00pm or by appointment	JFT 816
Kathleen Dowley	845 257 3558 dowleyk@newpaltz.edu	Tuesdays Fridays	12:15pm-3:15pm 12:15-1:15pm	JFT 808
Nancy Kassop	845 257 3544 kassopn@newpaltz.edu	Tuesdays Wednesdays	10:00am-12:00pm 11:00am-1:00pm	JFT 812
Joel Lefkowitz	845 257 3792 lefkowij@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Thursdays	12:30pm-2:30pm 12:30pm-2:30pm and by appointment	JFT 400
Daniel Lipson	845 257 3543 lipsond@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Thursdays	10:00am-12:00pm 12:00pm-2:00pm and by appointment	JFT 810
Jeff Miller	845 257 3934 millerj@newpaltz.edu		On Leave Fall '24 & Spring '25	JFT 920
Scott Minkoff	845 257 3541 minkoffs@newpaltz.edu	Wednesdays Thursdays	2:00pm-3:30pm 10:00am-11:30am	JFT 1016
S. Ilgu Ozler	845 257 2635 ozleri@newpaltz.edu	Wednesdays	3:30pm-5:30pm	JFT 912
Stephen Pampinella	845 257 3549 pampines@newpaltz.edu		On Leave Fall '24	JFT 522
Eric Bein*	beine@newpaltz.edu	virtual	Email for appointment	
Rifat Lutful*	lutfulr@newpaltz.edu	Fridays	9:00am-11:00am or by appointment	JFT 806

The Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Freer can be reached via email at freerj@newpaltz.edu

