



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,  
SANTA CRUZ

# PROSPECTIVE STUDENT GUIDE

For more information:

[https://politics.ucsc.edu/graduate/  
program-information/index.html](https://politics.ucsc.edu/graduate/program-information/index.html)



# Politics Department

## Ph.D Program

### *UCSC OFFERS*

A welcoming space for Politics research with diverse Graduate students.

An inclusive space that allows for more open, interdisciplinary, and activist work than is common in many traditional Political Science programs.

### *ABOUT THE POLITICS DEPARTMENT*

- Founded in 1965, the Department is known for its distinctive traditions and novel approach to the study of politics. Faculty and students emphasize politics in diverse contexts, skeptical of grand or formalistic theorizing that lies far removed from empirical realities or textual support
- We address a variety of topics central to political life, such as democracy, freedom, justice, power, conflict, social movements, labor, health, punishment, and institutional reforms.
- The department is also home to the interdisciplinary Legal Studies Program.

### *WE PUT THE SUBSTANCE OF POLITICS FRONT AND CENTER*

We are the "Politics Department" for a reason. We study politics through historical, philosophical, cultural, conceptual, and other perspectives.

We also put diversity into practice. Many of our professors and Ph.D. students identify as people of color, queer, or first-generation college graduates.

We are especially eager to receive and support Ph.D. applications from underrepresented students.

### *APPLICATIONS*

Apply by **January 5th, 2023**

Visit: [politics.ucsc.edu](https://politics.ucsc.edu)  
or Scan QR Code



### *FINANCIAL SUPPORT*

Admitted students are offered a five-year funding package through a combination of teaching assistantships and fellowships. Including, Chancellor's, Regents, and Cota Robles diversity fellowships

### *WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?*

Please send an email to our Graduate Program Coordinator, Nathalie Espinoza  
<Pol-phd@ucsc.edu>



# Politics Faculty



**Elizabeth Beaumont**  
**Associate Professor**  
 Constitutionalism; Civil Rights & Civil Liberties; Citizenship and Democracy; American Political Thought & Development; Constitutional Theory; Social Forces and Political Change; Rights, Law, and Social Change; Constitutional Meanings and Movements Inequality and Law



**Eva C Bertram**  
**Associate Professor**  
 Social policy and the welfare state, The changing character of work and labor markets in the United States.



**Yasmeen Daifallah**  
**Assistant Professor**  
 Political Theory, Middle East Studies



**Kent Eaton**  
**Professor**  
 Latin American and Latino Studies, Comparative Politics, Political Science, Politics



**Jacqueline Gehring**  
**Teaching Professor**  
 Legal Studies, Comparative Politics, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Discrimination and Inequality, European Politics, Human Rights, Law and Policy



**David Gordon**  
**Associate Professor**  
 International and Global Affairs, Environmental Policy, Urban studies, Climate Change, Comparative Politics



**Mark Massoud**  
**Professor**  
 Law and Policy, International and Global Affairs



**Dean Mathiowetz**  
**Associate Professor**  
 Political Theory, History of Philosophy, Capitalism, Democracy



**Scott Newsome**  
**Lecturer**  
 Politics, United States Politics and Government, Political Science



**Shawn Nichols**  
**Continuing Lecturer**  
 International Development, Politics, Political Economy of Development, Comparative Politics, Critical Theory



**Sara Niedzwiecki**  
**Associate Professor**  
 Politics of Social Policy, Latin American Politics, Latin American Social Policy



**Eleonora Pasotti**  
**Professor**  
 Comparative Politics, Democracy, Electoral Politics, European Politics, Urban studies, Labor and Social Movements



**Benjamin L. Read**  
**Professor**  
**Department Chair**  
 Comparative politics, focusing on China and Taiwan.



**Roger Schoenman**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Director of Graduate Studies**  
 Political Economy of Development



**Vanita Seth**  
**Associate Professor**  
 Postcolonial and Postmodernist Theory, Histories of Racial Discourse, Histories of Modernity, and Histories of the Body.



**Matt Sparke**  
**Professor**  
 Capitalism, Border Studies, Critical Theory, Disease and Immunity, Death/Mortality Studies, Discrimination and Inequality, International and Global Affairs, Political Economy of Development



**Melanie Springer**  
**Associate Professor**  
 United States Politics and Government, Politics, Electoral Politics, US History



**Megan Thomas**  
**Associate Professor**  
 Political Thinking, History, and Southeast Asia, especially the Philippines.



**Anjuli Verma**  
**Assistant Professor**  
 Expertise Law and Policy, Politics, Legal Studies, United States Politics and Government, Discrimination and Inequality, Philosophy of Science, Drug Policy



**Daniel Wirls**  
**Professor**  
 Politics, United States Politics and Government, Political Science

# Alumni & Current Graduate Students' Reflections on the UCSC Politics Department

We see UCSC as a welcoming space for politics research by diverse graduate students. It is an inclusive space that allows for more open, interdisciplinary, and activist work than is common in many traditional political science programs.

## RECRUITMENT

"In my short time with the department, I have witnessed both the faculty and students' openness and professionalism. They have gone out of their way with open houses, welcome events and orientations to make sure we adjusted well to campus. As a Mexican-American from a working class community, I know many of our communities are facing complicated issues that can sometimes stretch outside the bounds of traditional Political Science. From my interactions with the faculty, I have seen that they are willing to explore new ideas and approaches on the forefront of the field. Faculty welcome their students working with other departments. I have experienced nothing but encouragement from the professors as I explore my ideas and work through my research."

-- Anthony B., 2018 Cohort

## INCLUSION AND ACTIVISM

"Here at UC Santa Cruz I've witnessed firsthand a real commitment to inclusive teaching and pedagogy. As part of the Center for Inclusive Teaching & Learning (CITL) Inclusive Teaching Certificate Program, I have learned all about teaching to cultural strengths; implementing Universal Design for Learning; embracing identity in the classroom; and promoting active and collaborative learning. Additionally, I am grateful to be part of an institution that not only understands scholarly activism but actively embraces it. The interdisciplinary openness of our program has allowed me to explore my research in different fields and methods like participatory action research (PAR) that allows my research to stay grounded in the communities that mean so much to me. "

-- Randy V., 2017 Cohort

## FLEXIBILITY

"Before coming to UCSC, I had nearly a decade of professional experience overseas that I wanted to engage critically with my doctoral work. The Politics faculty have always viewed this as a strength. They have helped me leverage this experience into determining the types of research questions I want to ask, always guiding me as to how I can expand my intellectual community and academic training outside the department. It is truly a collaborative environment that takes into account all backgrounds and experiences while encouraging interdisciplinary endeavors. "

-- Ellie F., 2017 Cohort

## SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH

"I'm very appreciative of the Politics Department faculty's support of my research. I've had research and publishing opportunities with various faculty in the department that helped me refine and develop my knowledge of various literatures, as well as learn how to conduct and produce research. My advisors and committee members have allowed me to choose a topic that I'm passionate about, and have been supportive as I chose between various pathways to develop my dissertation. My dissertation research on imaginations of sustainable futures, local politics, and climate change is an interdisciplinary project; it draws on the political science of social movements, and science and technology studies literatures. I've presented and conducted research both in the United States and in Europe. Faculty have supported me through independent studies, 1 on 1 meetings, by giving written and in-person feedback on my work, and writing recommendation letters for various applications. Their guidance and support has allowed me to develop a research project I enjoy developing, and one I think is meaningful for grassroots activists, policymakers, and academic scholarship. "

-- Dominique D., 2014 Cohort

## Ask Politics Faculty: How Do You Study "Politics in Context?"



**Liz Beaumont**

"My research centers around problems of unequal citizenship, struggles for equality and rights, the ideals and tensions of democracy, and the limits and future possibilities of law and constitutions. I am interested in these issues in all contexts, but my work focuses on the U.S., looking at them in relation to past developments and contemporary challenges, and thinking about the complex relationships between political ideas, social forces, and the institutions of constitutional democracy. In different projects, these interests have taken me from the Tea Party of the 18th century to the modern T.E.A. Party; from the Black Abolitionists and Equal Rights Leagues of the 19th century to Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and Movement for Black Lives; from the early suffrage activism to modern feminist movements and new goals of gender equality; from the influence of KKK after the Civil War to modern resurgences of white nationalism; from questions about rights to dissent and protest, to what it means to educate for democracy. My approach is interdisciplinary, but different facets of my work connect with the fields of American political thought and development; law and social movements; constitutionalism; democratic theory, civic engagement and civic education."



**Eva Bertram**

"I study economic inequality, poverty, social policy, and the changing character of work and labor markets in the U.S. For me, understanding "politics in context" means close attention to how political ideas and action in a given historical moment are shaped by the social hierarchies, institutional arrangements, and power relations in which they are situated. I'm particularly interested in how contemporary debates and conflicts are shaped by political choices made in the past."



**Yasmeen Daifallah**

"I study how anti-colonial thinkers understand the process of decolonization. I often think of my work as addressing a set of questions about the texts I read: What does decolonization mean for thinkers situated in different times, places, and intellectual traditions? What does it mean to live in, and write for, societies whose economies, politics, and cultures have been thoroughly reshaped by colonization? What intellectual and political labor is required to grasp the rapid and violent transformations undergone by those societies, and to chart their political future, all while bearing in mind their pre-colonial and colonial pasts? What light can these texts shed on the persistent imperialism and global injustice in our time?"



**Kent Eaton**

"In my research, contextualizing politics means resisting the tendency to privilege national arenas and focusing instead on subnational dynamics. I study territorial phenomena like decentralization, federalism, and autonomy, asking how each of these institutional practices might either promote or undermine outcomes such as democracy, development, and security."



**Jacqueline Gehring**

"I study the regulation of the body, especially racism and anti-racism, in various countries and regions. Although racism is a transnational project, it is often conceptualized, deployed, and resisted in very different ways in different localities. My research attempts to situate particular constructions of race and experiences of racism within local political, legal, and cultural systems, while also making broader comparisons among regions."



**David Gordon**

"I study transnational initiatives, especially those of cities, at responding to issues of global environmental crisis and pursuing transformative change. My research explores how cities operate at both local and global scales, and interrogates how power works to shape emerging terrains of urban accountability, power, and participation."



**Ruth Langridge**

"My research focuses on social and environmental relationships between climate change, drought, and water and land use; and the legal-institutional dimensions that affect water sustainability."

## Continued: How Do You Study "Politics in Context?"



**Mark Massoud**

"I study the politics of law. Who makes the rules? Whom do legal systems serve? And have legal rules come to replace religious doctrines? I put people's lived experience of law in political, historical, cultural, and religious context. I have conducted fieldwork on these questions in Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia/Somaliland, and the United States, as well as historical research in colonial archives in the UK."



**Dean Mathiowetz**

"I approach political theorizing as an exercise in seeing the democratic possibility and action at the margins of political life. For me, this takes the form of exploring marginalized concepts or marginalized figures in political discourses — big-name texts of political theory, but also lesser known or rarely studied debate or commentary too. The marginalization of certain concepts and figures indicate, to me, attempts to keep ways of living and knowing—including the people who so live and know—from the central currents of power. Some of my work is historical (eighteenth-century European political discourse is a special area of focus for me right now) and some of it engages directly in democratic theories of power, action, and resistance, that speak to the roles of marginalization and the marginal in political life."



**Sara Niedzwiecki**

"I study the role of politics and social policies in improving living conditions among underserved populations in Latin America. I have conducted field research among politicians, social movement leaders, immigrants, and social policy recipients in both metropolitan centers and provincial towns in Argentina and Brazil."



**Eleonora Pasotti**

"I study urban politics and protest in a wide set of cases around the world. For me studying politics in context means that my research is first of all accountable to the communities who generously and often bravely share their stories with me. As I try to interpret and contextualize their experience, I recognize them as the primary experts."



**Ben Read**

"For me, 'politics in context' captures something essential about what I strive for. In much of my research on local politics in China and Taiwan, I rely extensively on fieldwork and use a mix of ethnographic and interview methods. What a person says even in a seemingly straightforward interview emerges from a rich, complex, interconnected backdrop of that person's experiences, family and friends, culture, education, institutional environment, media influences, conceptual world, and more. By gaining insight into the context of what we study, we don't just obtain better answers to specific research questions, we learn what questions might be asked and what is most worth learning about. Whether working with qualitative or quantitative data, if we are ignorant of context we risk going far astray."



**Roger Schoenman**

"I study the politics of money and development in countries where the rules of the market exchanges are still fluid. Specifically, my work is focused on post-communist Europe, an area where historical legacies of communism, state ownership and the social networks established during that time continue to have a deep impact on politics and society today. Given the rapid and continuing social change that is taking place, understanding both the formal and informal context is critical. To that end, I rely on fieldwork and interviews with informants who have a deep understanding of the context. My job is to interpret and assemble the insights they share to answer questions of interest. Language and archival skills as well as a strong understanding of their history, culture and society are critical to my work."



**Matt Sparke**

"I study politics on the frontiers and margins of citizenship, looking at places as diverse as national borders, refugee camps, urban protests, and global health programs for what they tell us about political struggles over and against the injustices of sub-citizenship."

## Continued: How Do You Study "Politics in Context?"

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**Melanie Springer**

"My approach to studying American politics aims to contextualize present day events with a deep appreciation of the past. Throughout my research and teaching, this approach is applied to questions regarding voting restrictions, electoral participation, partisanship, and inequality moreover. In each instance, my commitment to understanding the context of, and possibility for, political change demonstrates the perpetual forward movement and backward slip-sliding emblematic of American political development."



**Megan Thomas**

"I study political thinking, history, and Southeast Asia (especially the Philippines). I'm interested in trying to recover historical political thinking that falls outside of what is often thought to constitute political theory. Sometimes that means considering the actions of those who didn't write, to try to imagine how they may have imagined their world and possibilities within it; sometimes that means reading works that aren't overtly about political life to see what political visions they conjure; sometimes it means reading works written by people who aren't well known in political theory. I'm also interested in much that is more easily recognizable as political theory, and often teach it, always with an eye toward understanding how a way of thinking made sense and seemed urgent in its context."



**Anjuli Verma**

"I'm trained as a criminologist, but rather than study causes and prevention of crime, I study punishment—why we punish the way we do, how we come to accept what modes of existence are illegal and punishable in our present time, and what gives us the power to punish. In other words, the politics of punishment. To study this politics in context means pivoting to research questions about criminalization as a political process rather than crime as an individual act, and doing embedded on-the-ground forms of research that allow me to observe, interpret, and better understand law-making—not law-breaking—and sociopolitical responses to law-breaking. Can we have justice without punishment? Scholars often approach this as a philosophical question, but I don't think it can be meaningfully answered without putting the politics of punishment, and of justice, in social, historical, empirical context."

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**For more information:**

<https://politics.ucsc.edu/faculty/index.php>

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## NATURAL SCIENCES

The UCSC Arboretum is home to plants from Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, as well as California natives, cactus and succulents, and a world conifer collection. The Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems maintains a 25-acre working farm located on the west side of campus. The four-acre Alan Chadwick Garden is located just below Merrill College. Fruit trees, vegetables, herbs, berries, and other crops are used to study organic methods of sustainable agriculture. Produce is sold at the main campus entrance late spring through early fall.

The Seymour Marine Discovery Center at Joseph M. Long Marine Laboratory is a major research facility for UC Santa Cruz's Institute of Marine Sciences located three miles from campus. Visitors can learn about marine life in Monterey Bay and the Pacific through aquaria, exhibits, and touch tanks. On view is the skeleton of an 87-foot blue whale, the largest on display in the world.

Students and faculty at UC Santa Cruz are able to utilize the UC Natural Reserves system - "classrooms without walls." Several nearby Reserves offer different ecosystems and a diverse array of flora and fauna, providing excellent field study sites for researchers, experiential class visits, and open spaces to inspire and excite academics of every stripe.

## GRADUATE STUDENT COMMONS

The goal of the Graduate Student Commons (GSC) is to bring all graduate students together in a sense of community. Located adjacent to the Bay Tree Bookstore, the GSC offers graduate students a place to stop between classes where they may check email, hold office hours, attend or hold a meeting, or join a homework study group. Several community events are held throughout the year, and you can follow the GSC calendar of events online.

Graduate Student Commons



## LIFE AT UCSC



[gradadm@ucsc.edu](mailto:gradadm@ucsc.edu)

## UC Santa Cruz is a lively hub of culture and recreation

Located on California's Central Coast, 75 miles south of San Francisco and 30 miles southwest of San Jose, Santa Cruz is a medium-sized (population 56,000) town with a vibrant personality. Since UC Santa Cruz was established here in 1965 on the site of the former Cowell Ranch, the university and the town have influenced each other to create its current diverse population of artisans, scientists and scholars, outdoor enthusiasts, students, and computer industry professionals.

With a moderate climate, 300 sunny days a year and low humidity, Santa Cruz is a popular vacation destination. Travelers come to enjoy the county's 29 miles of beaches, mountains covered with redwood trees, picturesque seaside vistas, and the laid-back ambience of the town nicknamed "Surf City."

The eastern side of campus offers stunning views of the city of Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay.

Santa Cruz has a prominent cycling community, and many parts of the UCSC campus are connected via an extensive network of bikeways and walking paths. There is an extensive Bike program operated by UCSC with bike rentals, shuttles, maintenance and parking. The Santa Cruz city Metro bus system is free to registered students with an active student identification card.

## ACTIVITIES & SPORTS

UC Santa Cruz offers a full range of recreation and athletic programs:

- NCAA Division III collegiate teams
- Athletics clubs
- Intramural leagues
- a recreation program that has been called one of the best in the world by Outside magazine

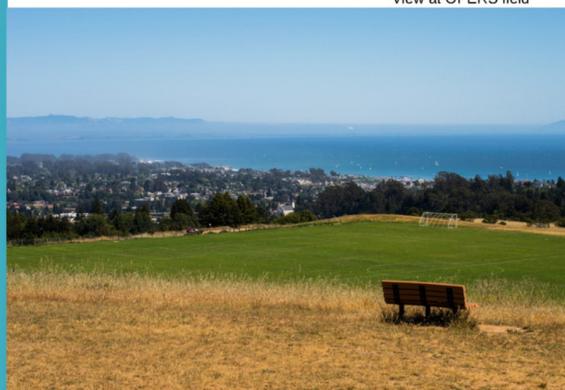
Facilities maintained by OPERS (Office of Physical Education, Recreation, and Sports):

- Olympic-sized pool
- Grass-covered playing fields
- Jogging track
- Fitness center with views of Monterey Bay
- Tennis, racquetball, and basketball courts
- Boating facilities

Recreational sports include:

- Backpacking
- Badminton
- Dancing
- Table tennis
- Volleyball
- Martial arts.

View at OPERS field



## PERFORMANCE & VISUAL ARTS

UC Santa Cruz sponsors numerous public theater, dance, and musical performances throughout the academic year in venues both on and off campus.

There are two primary art galleries on campus: the Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery at Porter College, and the Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery at Cowell College. Open during the academic year, both schedule exhibitions of work by contemporary artists and important collections of historic interest.

Visit the Arts Division calendar for current and future shows and exhibits.



# AVERAGE RENTAL COST IN SANTA CRUZ

RENTAL TYPE	COST
Room/double room in Household	\$942
Studios/Efficiencies	\$1186
1 Bedroom House/Duplex	\$1744
1 Bedroom Apartment/Condo	\$1697
2 Bedroom House/Duplex	\$2674
2 Bedroom Apartment/Condo	\$2444
3 Bedroom Huse/Duplex	\$3488
3 Bedroom Apartment/Condo	\$3135
4 Bedroom House/Apartment	\$4169
5-8 Bedroom House/Apartment	\$5420

More information at [communityrentals.ucsc.edu](http://communityrentals.ucsc.edu)

## COMMUNITY RENTALS OFFICE

### CONTACT US

(831) 459-4435  
communityrentals@ucsc.edu

### LOCATION

104 Hahn Student Services  
(North Entrance)

### HOURS

Monday-Friday  
8:00am-5:00pm



## MOVING TO SANTA CRUZ



## COMMUNITY RENTALS OFFICE

The Community Rentals Office serves as a resource for UC Santa Cruz students, faculty, and staff interested in seeking off-campus housing.



### RENTAL AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS

List of Rental agreements (month-to-month agreement, shared housing agreement, sublease agreement), along with rental application packets and other important documents

### RENTAL LAWS

List of California Rental laws (ie. security deposits, Landlord's obligations), Code compliance for tenants, etc.



### SEARCH RENTALS

UCSC Community Rentals partners with the Santa Cruz Housing Registry to provide community rental listings, accessible using your UCSC email

### RENTERS WORKSHOP

Free online training to make off campus housing search easier - learn about tenant rights and responsibilities

### RENTERS RESOURCES

List of resources for prospective renters, including: frequently asked questions, resources for rental search, tenant-landlord advising, and more

