One-of-a-Kind Educational Institution

WHAT DO THE PRACTICES of staffing the Imperial Chinese court and the new health organizations created under President Obama’s health care law have in common? No, this is not a trick question—there is something common in these disparate practices: concerns with political legitimacy and accountability.

But perhaps only our students, faculty, and community members who attended the lectures sponsored by The Murphy Institute could discern these connections. In this year’s Yates lecture, internationally known political scientist Francis Fukuyama discussed how employing eunuchs in Imperial China served to undercut nepotism, thereby making the state more legitimate and accountable. Meanwhile, Mark McClellan, the former head of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid and one of our distinguished lecturers on economic and public policy, spoke of how the new Accountable Care Organizations created in the health care legislation could potentially lead to efficiencies in the provision of health care and reduce costs. Despite these diverse topics, these talks shared similar underlying themes.

Tulane’s Titan Hall on St. Charles Avenue is home to The Murphy Institute.
This past year we formally launched our Center for Public Policy Research with a series of lectures titled National Perspectives on Local Issues, announcing to the university community and beyond that The Murphy Institute was adding a new dimension in public policy. Our new public policy center both integrates with and builds upon our existing programs.

For many years, our Yates lecturers in political economy have delved into current policy issues for our undergraduates as well as the general community. Our lectures and seminars for the Center for Ethics and Public Affairs often touch on policy-related themes as well. For example, this year Norman Daniels, a philosopher and one of the country’s premier experts in medical ethics, delivered one of the Center’s public lectures on the right to health care.

Our students and faculty seem to make the connections between these lectures seamlessly, generating their own intellectual associations as they experience the breadth of our programs. The overlaps between our programs and the constant interplay among policy, ethics, and political economy make The Murphy Institute a one-of-a-kind educational institute. Philosophers, political scientists, and economists routinely interact with one another as they teach courses for our programs, supervise our graduate and undergraduate students, attend public lectures and seminars, and exchange ideas that lead to academic and policy research.

Our programs this year proved vibrant in all dimensions. Our undergraduate major in Political Economy continued to engage in the serious study of economics, politics, and philosophy. Three of our undergraduate students were invited to a workshop at the University of North Carolina to join their peers, from institutions such as Yale and Penn, who are also studying political economy. At our Center for Ethics and Public Affairs, our faculty, students, and Faculty Fellows explored the ethical dimensions of public affairs with an emphasis on the scholarly discussion of ethics, and moral and political philosophy. Our three Faculty Fellows, interviewed in this issue of The Exchange, all brought their unique perspectives to the Center. Our public policy efforts this year extended beyond our speaker series to include the founding of an active Working Group in Health Policy and the continuation of our seed grant programs, which foster new grants for faculty in political economy and public policy.

As we look ahead to next year, we have many exciting activities on the horizon. These include a new initiative on “Agency and Responsibility” which will bring a mix of philosophers and legal scholars to Tulane for a biennial workshop that will produce a regular series of volumes for Oxford University Press, new postdoctoral programs in public policy with the Department of Economics, and a visiting assistant professor with the School of Law. We expect our activities for the coming year to be as impressive as those we describe in this year’s Exchange.

Steven M. Sheffrin, Executive Director
August 2011
POLITICAL ECONOMY UNDERGRADUATES GO INTERNATIONAL

The undergraduate program maintained its popularity and strength this year as the number of students majoring in Political Economy increased to eighty-seven. Many of our students travelled abroad for study, internships, conferences, and research trips. This was truly a year for global learning and adventure for our students.

MATTHEW FREIMUTH ’13 is spending the summer of 2011 in Bosnia, working for Builders for Peace. Mat is teaching English to grammar school and high school students, as well as participating in the physical repair and restoration of deteriorating buildings and historic sites, including mosques and libraries. Mat is exploring his interests in human rights and international peace and conflict resolution while helping others. Mat writes, “In my education in political economy, my desire is to understand what the concepts of political economy translate to on a human level, specifically in areas of conflict and strife.”

MATTHEW TURNER ’12 spent his junior year at the University of Edinburgh. For him, this was a great opportunity to expand his study of political economy in an international context, while enjoying the challenge of academic work abroad.

ANN DAVIS ’12 spent her spring semester studying in Spain and is now pursuing a summer internship with Pemon Health in Urman, Venezuela, where she will aid in the effort to design, implement, and help secure funding for innovative and sustainable public health projects. Ann writes, “I am especially interested in observing the implementation and sustainability of the projects the organization has added to the village, as well as their relationship with community members.”

Our most intrepid world traveler must be LAURA WHITE ’12. In the past year alone she has visited China, Denmark, Holland, and France in her quest for models of social innovation curricula and to advance her research in student-directed learning. Laura’s research trip to Europe allowed her to interact with education innovators at Aflatoun and KaosPilot, two of the leading organizations in curriculum development for social innovation. Her work in international learning communities has brought together students from all over the world and allowed them to engage each other across multiple learning platforms. Her work in the political economy of education has been greatly enhanced by these experiences.

The generosity of our alumni in the form of contributions to the Judith K. Schafer Summer Internship Fund has made many of these opportunities possible. You who have contributed can be sure that your local giving is creating a global impact.
SEVENTEEN NEWCOMB-TULANE COLLEGE SENIORS were awarded B.A. degrees in political economy at the May 2011 University Commencement. Several received high academic honors: JENNY O’CONNELL and EMILY KARWAT graduated summa cum laude. Other members of the class of 2011 include AUSTIN BLOOM, WILLIAM D’AVELLA, CLAIRE DRAKE, ELIZABETH FITZSOUSA, KYLE GREGORICKA, ANNIE GRUENBAUM, JORDAN KABBANI, NATHANIEL LAVIN, NAOMI MARTIN, THOMAS NEWHOUSE, WILLIAM NEWTON, KRISTEN PREVITO, AARON SALTMAN, JEFFREY SILBERMAN, and SAM WORTH.

The Charles H. Murphy Prize in Political Economy was awarded to ELIZABETH FITZSOUSA, EMILY KARWAT, and JENNY O’CONNELL. The Murphy Institute Award for Public Service was presented to LUKE GALFORD.

JENNY O’CONNELL graduated with a major in Political Economy and minor in Spanish. She was recognized as the Senior Honors Scholar for Political Economy. Her honors thesis was “The Political Economy of Urban Environmental Policy in the United States.” Jenny was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. She participated in the undergraduate PPE Colloquium hosted by Duke University and the University of North Carolina. She will be working at ICF International, a consulting firm, as a Research Assistant for the Energy, Environment, and Transportation team. EMILY KARWAT graduated with a double major in Political Economy and Economics. Her honors thesis was “Competition in the Biosimilar Market: Predicting Number of Entrants and the Impact of FDA Regulations on Entry.” She also participated in the undergraduate PPE Colloquium hosted by Duke University and the University of North Carolina. Emily will pursue an MPH degree in Health Policy Effectiveness and Outcomes Research at Columbia University. LUKE GALFORD is a double major in political economy and urban studies. He has served in both leadership and support roles for the Tulane University Community Advancement Network, Tulane Riversphere, Massachusetts Green Jobs Coalition, Spannochia Farm and Foundation, Desire Initiative, Alliance for Affordable Energy, Hollygrove Market and Farm, and several other local, national and international organizations. ELIZABETH FITZSOUSA was a research intern at the Institute for Policy Studies and a volunteer for the Louisiana Latina Health Coalition. KRISTEN PREVITO completed internships with the Urban Conservancy and Habitat for Humanity and will join AmeriCorps. AARON SALTMAN will begin a career in music management with an internship at Red Light Management in Los Angeles. JEFFREY SILBERMAN will attend law school at New York University.

SAM WORTH will work as an agent for Beau Box Commercial Real Estate. NAOMI MARTIN will continue her career in professional journalism. She has worked as an intern, editor, writer, and reporter for a number of print and web-based media outlets, including The Tulane Hullabaloo, The Lens, USA Today, The Daily Get Up, WTUL, and WDSU TV.

[ UNDERGRADUATE ]
The Undergraduate Program in Political Economy Continues to Flourish

In May 2011, eighty-seven students were majoring in the program. Fifty-nine finished the year with grade point averages above 3.4; thirty-seven with 3.6 or higher; twenty-one with 3.8 or higher. Five seniors graduated with grade point averages of 3.6 or higher.

Ashley Motta '11 is the Bicycle Valet Manager for Bike Easy and is in Tulane EcoREPs. She is a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon economics honor society and she received the Community Involvement Award for Environmental Change during National Volunteer Week in April 2011.

Ann Davis '12 won the Gulf South Young Leadership Award. She is executive director of Swim 4 Success. Sean Douglass '12 is the president of the Tulane University Political Economy Society and the president of the Tulane University Video Game Society. Ratelyn Smalley '12 is a member of TUchangers. She completed a research internship in Neonatology at Morristown Memorial Hospital, and she serves on the advisory board for Wholesome Conception, a maternal health project in Nigeria. Elizabeth Thullen '12 is executive director of WYSE: Women and Youth Supporting Each Other. Erik Tugel '12 plays on the Tulane Club Ice Hockey team. Laura White '12 was an invited speaker at the National Youth Leadership Conference and won the Gulf South Summit Award for Outstanding Student Contributions to Service-Learning. She is a member of TUchangers, Citizen Circles, and serves on the Center for Public Service Student Advisory Board. Laura volunteers at Barnett Elementary School and Lusher Elementary School.

Mathew Freimuth '13 is a member of TU PAC: Tulane University Peace Action Committee. Jessica Wasserman '13 is a member of Phi Eta Sigma and Alpha Lambda Delta honor societies and plays on the Tulane Club Lacrosse team. Hillary Donnell '13 is the president of Women in Politics and plays alto saxophone in the Tulane Jazz Combo.

Cayla Murphy '14 is the Human Rights in Crisis Committee Chair for the Global Service League and is a member of the Tulane Equestrian team.

The Judith Kelleyer Schafer Summer Internship Grant Program

Funds from the Judith Kelleyer Schafer Summer Internship Grant Program were used to endow eight fellowships in the amount of $2,000 each for Summer 2011. The students receiving the funds, along with their graduating class, hometown, and internship placements, are as follows:

Jacob Boyd '12 from Wilmette, Illinois, will intern at Beacon Consulting Group in Washington, D.C. Ann Davis '12, from Pewaukee, Wisconsin, will intern at Pemon Health in Urman, Venezuela. Sean Douglass '12 from Sugar Land, Texas, will intern at Storm Enterprises LLC in Savannah, Georgia. Eric Peterson '12 from Woodstock, Illinois, will intern at Storm Enterprises LLC in Savannah, Georgia. Stephanie Stefanski '12 from Fishkill, New York, will intern at OurEarth.org, Inc. in Durham, North Carolina.

Mark Strella '12 from Bethesda, Maryland, will intern at Operation REACH, Gulf South Youth Biodiesel Project, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Laura White '12 from Johns Creek, Georgia, will intern at New Foundry Ventures in San Francisco, California, and New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mathew Freimuth '13 from Manchester, Tennessee, will intern at Builders for Peace in Gracanica, Bosnia.
1987

NAOMI GARDBERG is Associate Professor of Business at Baruch College–CUNY. She is continuing her research in the areas of intangibles, non-market competition, and international strategy with several recent papers: “Who Boycotts Whom? Marginalization, Company Knowledge, and Strategic Issues” in Business & Society; “RepTrak Pulse: Conceptualizing and Validating a Short-Form Measure of Corporate Reputation” in Corporate Reputation Review; and “Mattel’s Misfit Toys” in the textbook Strategic Management.

H. ALEXANDER STILLPASS lives in Cincinnati and is a Board Member at Centerpoint Health and a structured finance specialist for Ross, Sinclaire, & Associates LLC.

1988

DALE MILLER is Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Americas at Credit Suisse Private Banking Americas.

1989

GREGORY MADDREY is a Principal at the Chartis Group, an advisory firm that provides management consulting and applied research to leading health care organizations.

1991

PABLO E. CARRILLO is Republican Counsel at the United States Senate, Committee on Armed Services.

1992

DAVID STRAITE is a Partner at Sianni & Straite LLP in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1994

ANTON DUPELSSIS is Curator of the Mexican Colonial Collection and Director of the Los Primeros Libros Project at the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives at Texas A&M University.

1995

WESLEY M. JONES is Vice President of Operations at Grassroots Campaigns, Inc. in Washington, D.C. MOLLY WRIGHT SULLIVAN graduated from Tulane Law School in 2009, and was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 2010. She is now the Assistant Director for Planned Gifts in Tulane’s Office of Development.

1998

JENNIFER LUCAS is Marketing Program Manager at Russell Investments in Seattle, Washington.
1999

SCOTT WAGNER is a Partner at Bilzin Sumberg in Miami, Florida.

2004

MOLLY ELGIN-CROSSART is Chief of Staff at the Center on International Cooperation and a consultant at Dalai Lama Fellows, where she was previously the Director of Programs and Partnerships. EVAN HERMAN is Director of Business Development at Marengo Hampshire Partners in Chicago, Illinois. PAUL WALSH is a Trader at JP Morgan in New York City.

2005

LILY RUBIN is Associate Director of Corporate Strategy & Development at Corporate Executive Board, and Vice-chair of the Board and Chief of Staff at Generation Enterprise. She previously worked for McKinsey & Company and was an independent consultant to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She is also currently working with George Mason University and the Phoenix Project to help develop the new George Mason Center for Social Entrepreneurship.

2006

JOHANNA KASPER is an MBA student at the A. B. Freeman School of Business at Tulane University. She is a Business Development Analyst Intern at Equitas Capital Advisers, LLC.

2007

LISA FRANKEL is Marketing Manager, Tostitos at Frito Lay.

2008

MARTA DEHMLOW currently works for the US House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations as Communications Assistant and New Media Director. She is engaged to fellow Tulane alum Tyler Hernandez. They are planning an April 2012 wedding in New Orleans. JADE HARRY graduated from the London School of Economics in 2009 with a master’s degree in the History of International Relations. She will begin law school at Cornell University in Fall 2011, and in Summer 2012 she will be an intern in the Media Department for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. ANGELA SEALY is a Senior Associate at Devex in Washington, D.C.

2009

JACQUELINE MABRY is a Development Officer for the Center for Public Service at Tulane University.

2010

JOSEPH LUFT is Director of Online Marketing and Web Sales at Shoefly.
RONNA BURGER, Professor and Chair of the Department of Philosophy, was appointed to the Catherine and Henry J. Gaisman Chair of Judeo-Christian Studies. Professor Burger presented an invited paper in June 2010 at the Carl Friedrich von Siemens Foundation in Munich. An expanded version of the paper, “Making New Gods: The Problem of the Holy in Plato’s Euthyphro,” will be published by the Siemens Foundation as a monograph in English with a German translation.


Palgrave Macmillan will publish Associate Professor of Philosophy ALISON DENHAM’s edited volume, Plato on Art & Beauty, in 2011. In addition, Professor Denham gave a series of four lectures titled “Cognition, Perception & Emotion in Musical Experience” at Oxford University in the summer of 2010.

ERIC MACK, Professor of Philosophy, contributed “Nozickian Arguments for the More-Than-Minimal State,” to the Cambridge Companion to Nozick’s Anarchy, State and Utopia, forthcoming from Cambridge University Press. He also wrote “Friedrich Hayek on the Nature of Social Order and Law,” which will appear in Political Philosophy in the Twentieth Century, also forthcoming from Cambridge University Press.


GRAHAM OWEN, Associate Professor of Architecture, published an edited volume, Architecture, Ethics and Globalization (Routledge, 2009).
At a year-end dinner, The Murphy Institute’s undergraduate student group, the Tulane Political Economy Society, honored MARY OLSON, Associate Professor of Economics, for excellence in teaching. As director of graduate studies in Economics, Professor Olson admitted the first class of Ph.D. students into the new interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Economic Analysis and Policy.


For complete information on research published by Murphy Institute faculty in 2010-2011, please visit our website at http://murphy.tulane.edu/people/.


MARTYN THOMPSON, Associate Professor of Political Science, was elected Chair of the Department of Political Science in 2010. He published an essay on the state of “Political Theory in the USA” in the 18th annual volume of Politisches Denken Jahrbuch (Duncker & Humblot, 2010), which he has co-edited with German colleagues since 1991.


RICHARD VELKLEY, Celia Scott Weatherhead Professor of Philosophy, completed a book, Heidegger, Strauss, and the Premises of Philosophy: On Original Forgetting, which is forthcoming from the University of Chicago Press in 2011.
WHAT IS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT?
This spring The Murphy Institute welcomed renowned political scientist Francis Fukuyama to Tulane to discuss themes from his latest book, *The Origins of Political Order*. During his lecture Fukuyama traced the history of political development from pre-history through the 18th century, outlining the core dimensions of political development: state building, rule of law, and accountability.

He noted that these three elements are essential to creating and maintaining political order. Using examples from China, Europe, and the Middle East, Fukuyama addressed the complexities involved in achieving political development, citing the numerous social and economic obstacles that worked at cross purposes to prevent such progress. He highlighted how the transition from tribalism, or paternalism, to a merit-based system contributed significantly to the development and success of the modern state.

This lecture drew over 200 guests from the University’s campus as well as the New Orleans community. A reception and book-signing followed Dr. Fukuyama’s remarks.

Dr. Fukuyama is the Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University. He is also a frequent consultant to the World Bank, a senior fellow at the Johns Hopkins SAIS Foreign Policy Institute, and a non-resident fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
GLOBAL MIGRATION:
ECONOMICS, POLITICS, POLICY

The Murphy Institute; CESifo, a European Economic think tank; and the Leverhulme Centre for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy, University of Nottingham, co-sponsor an annual workshop designed for experts in the fields of political economy, public policy, and trade policy. The conference location rotates among the co-sponsors. This year’s conference was held in New Orleans.

RICHARD UPWARD
Associate Professor of Economics, University of Nottingham
Do Foreign Workers Reduce Trade Barriers?
Microeconomic Evidence

ANNA MARIA MAYDA
Associate Professor of Foreign Service and Economics, Georgetown University
South-South Migration and the Labor Market: Evidence from South Africa

MADELINE ZAVODNY
Professor of Economics, Agnes Scott College
Chinese Immigrants in the U.S. Labor Market: Effects of Post-Tiananmen Immigration Policy

PHILIP MARTIN
Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics, UC Davis
Trade and Migration: Comparing Mexico-US and Turkey-EU

PETER EGGER
Professor of Applied Economics, ETH-Zürich
How Many Migrants Do We Need for Import Networks to Succeed?

CAGLAR ÖZDEN
Senior Economist, World Bank
Migration Data Challenges

JAY WILSON
Professor of Economics, Michigan State University
The Optimal Tax Treatment of Remittances

GIOVANNI FACCHINI
Professor of Economics, Erasmus University Rotterdam
The Rhetoric of Closed Borders: Quotas, Law Enforcement and Illegal Migration

MICHAEL HISCOX
Clarence Dillon Professor of International Affairs, Harvard University
IMPALA: A New Cross-Country Database on Immigration Law and Policy

JENS HAINMUELLER
Assistant Professor of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Do Concerns about Labor Market Competition Shape Attitudes toward Immigration? New Evidence

YOTAM MARGALIT
Assistant Professor of Political Science, Columbia University
Skills, Industries, and Attitudes toward Trade and Immigration

SPIROS BOUGEAS
Associate Professor of Economics, University of Nottingham
On the Political Economy of Skilled Migration and International Trade
national perspectives on local issues

Fall 2011 Lecture Series

Mark McClellan
The Future of Health Care Reform
Over the past two years the topic of health care has captured the nation’s attention, but what will the new federal health care law really accomplish, and will it last? Mark McClellan, a medical doctor and economist, explored these issues in his lecture which he delivered to an audience composed of academics, students, and medical practitioners. McClellan detailed how certain changes in the new bill could potentially have significant effects on the health care industry in reducing costs over the long term, while acknowledging that other parts of the bill could increase costs. He dismissed the notion that the bill would be repealed quickly in the current political climate, but he also noted that constitutional challenges to the mandatory health care coverage law will require a decision by the Supreme Court to be fully resolved. Mark McClellan served as commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration and administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and currently directs the Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform at the Brookings Institution.

Gilbert Metcalf
Climate Change Policy and Oil Drilling in the Gulf of Mexico: What’s the Connection?
According to economist Gilbert Metcalf, efforts to reduce offshore drilling and curtail domestic use of oil and gas would have little significant impact on overall environmental conditions. He showed that carbon emissions from coal pose a much larger threat than petroleum production and usage. Metcalf concluded by arguing that government leaders must have the political will to enact strong pollution-reduction policies in order to prevent catastrophic results. Only effective emissions-reducing mandates, on both the national and global level, will have any meaningful effect on improving environmental quality. Gilbert Metcalf is Professor of Economics at Tufts University and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economics Research.

Audrey Singer
Immigration, Local Reception, and the Prospects for Federal Reform
In light of Arizona’s new immigration law, many state and local legislators are demanding their right to regulate immigration issues. But how far will they go? Demographer Audrey Singer researches the immigrant-related demographic shifts that have put this question at the forefront of state and local debates. Singer illustrated that over the past twenty years immigrants have increasingly moved to emerging gateway cities with little history of immigration, such as Dallas, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta. Within these cities, immigrants are more likely to live in the suburbs, outside the city limits, forcing places with little familiarity with immigrant needs to confront this demographic change head-on. Audrey Singer is a Senior Fellow at the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution.

David Figlio
The Consequences of Accountability and Choice for Urban Schools
New Orleans has embarked on an ambitious charter school plan based on school choice, but are we making the right move in the right way? In addressing these questions, education economist David Figlio highlighted the benefits of choice, but he also emphasized that choice must be accompanied by accountability. Many factors, such as a family’s socio-economic status, neighborhood, and educational levels of parents, can limit a family’s ability to make a well-informed decision regarding school choice. For the New Orleans public school system, Figlio argued that without significant improvements in accountability and information access, the benefits of choice may be limited. David Figlio is the Orrington Lunt Professor of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economics Research.
HEALTH POLICY WORKING GROUP

MARK DIANA
Assistant Professor of Health Systems Management, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
Health Information Systems Outsourcing and US Hospital Performance

ALAN BARRECA
Assistant Professor of Economics
The Impact of Migration and Malaria in the Early 20th Century United States

CHAO ZHOU
Post-Doctoral Fellow in Economics
The Use of Patient Navigation to Eliminate Cancer Disparities: Experience from Boston Medical Center

MARCO CASTANEDA
Assistant Professor of Economics
The Effects of Organizational Form on the Adoption of New Medical Technologies in the Hospital Industry

KAREN DESALVO
Professor of Medicine, Tulane School of Medicine, and New Orleans Health Commissioner
Evaluating Community Health Clinics

CLAUDIA CAMPBELL
Professor of Health Systems Management, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum: Quality Initiatives and Opportunities for Research

MARY K. OLSON is Associate Professor of Economics at Tulane and leader of the Health Policy Working Group. The goal of this policy group is to produce interdisciplinary research that addresses critical healthcare policy issues. The working group has established a network of professionals who are beginning to collaborate on research projects.

PATRICIA TURNER
From the Superdome to the Oval Office: The Story Folklore Tells of Race in the 21st Century

In her lecture Pat Turner explored the role that rumors play in politics and periods of crisis. She discussed how “Birthers” created rumors about Mr. Obama’s birth location as a way to discredit or delegitimize the president. She argued that such rumors arose out of fears about shifting balances of power, particularly in terms of race. She pointed to a similar situation during Hurricane Katrina, when ugly rumors regarding the behavior of the storm’s victims swirled about, raising the question in some people’s minds about whether or not federal money should be used to help “those people.” Turner is Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies, Professor of African-American & African Studies at UC Davis, and author of I Heard It Through the Grapevine: Rumor in African-American Culture.

CONTROLLING DEBT, TAXES, AND SPENDING THROUGH CONSTITUTIONAL METHODS: THE SWISS AND US EXPERIENCE

CLAUDIO LEONCAVALLO, Panelist and Commenter
Consul General of Switzerland in Atlanta

MICHAEL BERNSTEIN, Moderator
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Professor of Economics and History, Tulane University

WERNER WEBER
Deputy Head of Financial and Economic Affairs, Embassy of Switzerland, Washington, D.C.
The Swiss Experience

JAMES ALM
Professor and Chair of Economics, Tulane University
The Experience from the United States

STEVEN SHEFFRIN
Executive Director of The Murphy Institute and Professor of Economics, Tulane University
Issues at the Federal Level for the US

Would Albert Gallatin’s 18th-century fiscal management philosophy of balanced budgets and limited government spending work in the 21st-century political arena? The Swiss are betting on it. Gallatin, a Swiss citizen, US Congressman, and the longest serving secretary of the United States Treasury, was a committed hawk when it came to government spending. It seemed the Swiss channeled their countryman when they wrote tax rates into the constitution in an effort to cap government spending, only to be disappointed later that it didn’t go far enough. It wasn’t until the Swiss amended their constitution via referendum in 2001 to keep long-term spending in balance with tax revenue that they saw improvement. Should the US follow Switzerland’s lead? Steven Sheffrin pointed out the improbability of a US constitutional balanced-budget amendment, arguing that the US did not have the political will for such a strict law that would have potentially disastrous effects by eliminating the necessary flexibility required for the government to adjust to economic downturns. James Alm agreed with Sheffrin’s assessment, adding that the US public is wholly unprepared to fully dismiss the unfunded liabilities that such a law would prohibit. This roundtable discussion was held in honor of Albert Gallatin’s 250th birthday.
seminars

PETE R STONE
Center Faculty Fellow
Lotteries, Education, and Opportunity

SIMON MAY
Center Faculty Fellow and Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Virginia Tech
Democratic Legitimacy and the Meaning of Religious Establishment

LARRY TEMKIN
Professor of Philosophy, Rutgers
On the Nature of Moral Ideals

MICHAEL ZUCKERT
Nancy R. Dreux Professor of Political Science, University of Notre Dame
Sparta: Polybius and Classical Constitutionalism

PAUL WEITHMAN
Professor of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame
Legitimacy and the Project of Political Liberalism

SHAUN NICHOLS
Professor of Philosophy, University of Arizona
Debunking Ethics

DANIEL JACOBSON
Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan
Moral Dumbfounding and Moral Stupidity

JOSHUA GERT
Professor of Philosophy, College of William & Mary
Response-Dependence, Harms, and Objective Practical Reasons

MIKHAIL VALDMAN
Center Faculty Fellow and Associate Professor of Philosophy, Virginia Commonwealth University
Autonomy: Incoherent or Unimportant?

The Center’s Faculty Seminar is designed to bring Tulane faculty and graduate students together for scholarly discussion of ethics and public affairs. The seminar is led by Bruce Bower, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Center for Ethics and Public Affairs Event Advisory Committee.

2011 PPE CONFERENCE:
ON HAPPINESS

MARC FLEURBAEY
Research Director, CNRS, L’Université Paris Descartes
The Importance of What People Care About

DAN HAYBRON
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Saint Louis University
What Matters in Measures of Well Being for Policy

BERNARD VAN PRAAG
Emeritus University Professor, School of Economics, University of Amsterdam
Can Happiness Economics Provide Tools for Normative Economics?

CAROL GRAHAM
Senior Fellow and Charles Robinson Chair, Brookings Institution and Public Policy Professor at the University of Maryland
What Do We Mean by Happiness? Towards a Theory of Agency Well-Being
lectures

GREGORY CLARK
Professor of Economics, UC Davis
Was There Ever a Ruling Class?
800 Years of Social Mobility in England, and Its Implications for Modern Social Policy

BARBARA HERMAN
Griffin Professor of Philosophy and Professor of Law, UCLA
Being Helped and Being Grateful: Puzzles about Imperfect Duties and the Ethics of Possession

NORMAN DANIELS
Mary B. Saltonstall Professor of Population Ethics and Professor of Ethics and Population Health, Harvard School of Public Health
Is There a Right to Health Care, and, If So, What Does It Entail?

conferences

NOISE: NEW ORLEANS INVITATIONAL SEMINAR IN ETHICS 2011

JUSTIN D’ARMS
Professor of Philosophy, Ohio State University
Value and the Regulation of Attitudes for Correctness: The Case of the Sentiments

BEN BRADLEY
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Syracuse University
Asymmetries in Benefiting, Harming and Creating

JEFF MORIARTY
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Bentley University
On Desert’s Role in Theories of Distributive and Retributive Justice

ERIC CAVE
Associate Professor of Philosophy
Courtship and Conceptions of Unsavory Seduction

CONNIE ROSATI
Professor of Philosophy, University of Arizona
Autonomy, Morality, and Personal Good: Lessons from Frankenstein’s Monster
For SIMON MAY the attractions of both New Orleans and The Murphy Institute’s Center for Ethics were manifold: riding the streetcar to work, running in Audubon Park, enjoying local food, and, above all, engaging in the intellectual life of the Center—all of which served to enhance his fellowship year. May reports that his fellowship gave him the time he needed to focus on his own research, all the while providing him with the opportunity to “exchange ideas with people who are also dedicated to studying political problems.” The Center’s Faculty Seminar, the reading group organized by Tulane professor Bruce Brower, as well as the Center’s many lectures and conferences all contributed to this scholarly exchange which May found to be “extremely useful.”

May’s work presently focuses on conflicts of moral conviction in politics and the significance of moral disagreement for liberal democratic politics and social ethics. In one of the articles he completed during his fellowship year, “Liberal Feminism and the Ethics of Polygamy” (forthcoming in Exploding the Nuclear Family Ideal from Bloomsbury Academic), May discusses two quite different ways in which liberal feminists could regard the cultural practice of polygamy as inherently objectionable. In another article, “Democratic Legitimacy, Legal Expressivism, and Religious Establishment” (forthcoming in the Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy as well as the Routledge volume Justice, Legitimacy, and Diversity), he considers whether it is necessary for a liberal state to be secular in order to respect the equal status of religious minorities.

During his fellowship year, May also edited a symposium on Corey Brett Schneider’s Democratic Rights (published as a special issue of the journal Representation in 2011). In addition, he presented his research at a number of venues. May delivered papers on moral compromise at the Joint Colloquium in Bioethics at the NIH and at the American Philosophical Association, and he gave a paper on state secularism at the University of Copenhagen. This fall he returns to Virginia Tech where he is Assistant Professor of Philosophy.

An aficionado of traditional jazz and an academic with a well thought-out book project, MIKE VALDMAN needed little inducement to move to New Orleans for a year in order to take up residence at the Center for Ethics and Public Affairs.

Valdman first conceived of his book project, Liberalism without Apology: Why Government Should Spread the Wealth Around, during the 2008 presidential campaign. He was amazed that, when Obama was accused by his critics of wanting to spread the wealth around, no prominent liberal political pundit came to this idea’s defense, despite the fact that wealth redistribution has long been a central pillar of liberal political thought. This struck Valdman as yet another instance of liberals running from their ideological convictions, and he had had enough. So he set out to write a book defending wealth redistribution for a general audience, written in plain language, without jargon, formulas, or graphs. It aims to explain why everyone, no matter his or her ideological convictions, should want there to be at least some wealth redistribution. Whether you place the most value on fairness, justice, freedom, or overall welfare, he argues that you should want government to spread around at least some of the wealth.

In addition to working on his book, Valdman also completed two papers on autonomy. The first, “Autonomy, History, and the Origins of our Desires,” is forthcoming in the Journal of Moral Philosophy, and the second, “Autonomy: Incoherent or Unimportant?”, is now under consideration. He was also an avid participant in the Center’s Faculty Seminar, in Bruce Brower’s reading group, and in the other events organized by the Center.

Valdman also found the time to enjoy traditional jazz and swing dancing with his wife, Lisa Lutton. While he knew he would encounter some of the world’s best jazz in New Orleans, he was nevertheless astonished by the level of musical talent New Orleans has to offer. He found the city to be the perfect place to spend a year. In the fall, Valdman returns to Virginia Commonwealth University where he is Associate Professor of Philosophy.
By any measure, PETER STONE’S fellowship year at the Center for Ethics was time well spent. He came to the Center with two book projects in hand: to finish his monograph on lotteries in public life, and to edit an anthology of seminal works on the same subject. Time off from teaching gave him the chance to complete both. The Luck of the Draw: The Role of Lotteries in Decision Making is now available from Oxford University Press, and Lotteries in Public Life: A Reader is forthcoming from Imprint Academic in 2011.

Stone also found the time to work on papers dealing with the equality of educational opportunity, the Condorcet Jury Theorem, the problem of defining political constituencies, and the role of rationality in social explanation.

In addition to participating in the Center’s Faculty Seminar and the Center’s Annual PPE conference, Stone also enjoyed attending The Murphy Institute’s public policy lecture series, “National Perspectives on Local Issues.” Not all of his time was spent on academics, however. Stone also took advantage of the Lindy Hop classes offered by Tulane’s Reilly Center and spent time discovering the historic French Quarter. In the fall, Stone leaves New Orleans for a very different but similarly enchanting city. Effective Fall 2011, he is Ussher Lecturer in Political Science at Trinity College Dublin.

In The Luck of the Draw, Peter Stone surveys the variety of arguments proffered for and against lotteries and argues that they have only one true effect relevant to decision making: the “sanitizing effect” of preventing decisions from being made on the basis of reasons. While this rationale might sound strange to us, Stone contends that in many instances, it is vital that decisions be made without the use of reasons.

By developing innovative principles for the use of lottery-based decision making, Stone lays a foundation for understanding when it is—and when it is not—appropriate to draw lots when making political decisions both large and small.

For information about the 2012-2013 faculty fellowship opportunities, please visit our website at http://imurphy.tulane.edu/center/.
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