Research Apprenticeship Program 2018-2019
Project Descriptions

How to Apply:

[1] Read the project descriptions below

[2] Download and complete the preference form.

[3] Prepare a cover letter and resume. Read the guidelines about the cover letter.

[4] Print your academic record.

[5] E-mail the completed form with a cover letter, resume, and copy of your academic record to the Mentor of each project to which you are applying.

Deadline for First Consideration: Exact date for 2018-2019 cycle TBD

First and Last Name	UCSD Email	Title of Research Project	Brief Description of Project
Abigail Vaughn	alvaughn@ucsd.edu	**Geopolitics of Currency Swap Agreements**	My research centers on international financial governance. Over the last two decades, the international financial landscape has witnessed a massive shift in its lending architecture. One of these monumental changes has been the rapid proliferation of bilateral currency swap agreements since 2008. Curiously, the spread of these swap agreements has simultaneously produced a significant shift away from multilateral means of obtaining short-term funding such as through the IMF or regional reserve pools. In just under 10 years, over 70 agreements have been formed, many of which include developing countries. While these agreements provide recipients quick access to funds that can stymie balance of payments crises, they place an unnecessary burden on the providers of the agreements given alternative funding arrangements already in existence. The project explains why and under what conditions provider countries are willing to offer these swap agreements despite the potential risks. More broadly, the project examines how countries use currency swaps as a tool for monetary statecraft and examines the implications for a potentially discriminatory international lender of last resort. Student(s) will be expected to participate in data collection efforts and will have an opportunity to generate summary analyses.

Andrew Janusz	ajanusz@ucsd.edu	**Women's Political Representation in Brazil**	Women comprise less than 15% of those elected to Brazil's Congress. While a growing body of research examines why Brazilian women do not attain elected office, relatively little is known about the actions of the women that are elected. This project explores the role of women in the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies. It examines the extent to which elected women introduce legislation, what their legislative priorities are, and whether the legislation they propose becomes law. As a part of this project, students will engage in background research on women's representation in Latin America and Brazil, assist in the development of a legislation classification system, and work on both qualitative and quantitative analyses of legislative behavior. Knowledge of Portuguese is not required.
Andrew Janusz	ajanusz@ucsd.edu	**Discrimination and Campaign Finance in Brazil**	Females and people of African descent commonly run for political office in Brazil, but rarely win. One of the principal impediments to their success is limited campaign resources. Due to campaign finance laws in Brazil, political parties have considerable control over who they help. In this project, we will examine the extent to which Brazilian political parties discriminate against female and Afro-Brazilian candidates in their distribution of campaign resources and how this affects electoral outcomes. This project will involve coding, review of published scholarship on the topic, and data analysis. Knowledge of Portuguese is helpful, but not required.
Charles McClean	cmcclean@ucsd.edu	**Young People in Government**	Why aren't more young people running for political office, and does the election of young people matter for policy outcomes? In this project, we will study these questions in comparative perspective, with a particular focus on the United States and Japan. Students will help collect data on the activities of younger politicians and learn about designing social science experiments. Experience with Japan/Japanese is a bonus, but not required.

Christina Cottiero	ccottier@ucsd.edu	**African Military Deployment Dataset**	Research assistants will work on locating missing information and "cleaning" my new datasets on where African countries deploy troops and whose troops they host covering 1990-2017. Research assistants will learn about the level of source documentation required prior to publishing a new dataset. Once the information in the datasets is verified (time permitting), research assistants will learn how political scientists go about merging and reformatting large data in such a way that permits hypothesis testing in R. Qualifications: I am looking for research assistants who have strong attention to detail, willingness to follow procedural guidelines throughout, and are conscientious about meeting agreed upon deadlines without cutting corners. Data is currently in Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, so students should not worry if they are unfamiliar with R.
Duy Trinh	ddtrinh@ucsd.edu	**Target of elite purges in authoritarian regimes**	In this project we use biographic data and text analysis to identify the targets of disciplinary investigations within the Chinese OR Vietnamese Communist Party. The apprentice will assist in scraping data from Chinese-, Vietnamese- and English-language website, cleaning data, and performing preliminary statistical analyses. The ideal apprentice will be proficient in technology, have an eye for detail and an interest in the politics of the world beyond the US. Experience in programming and/or proficiency in Chinese/Vietnamese highly desirable but not required.
Huchen Liu	hul045@ucsd.edu	**Entrepreneurial Lobbyists and the Regulatory Environment of Businesses**	How do entrepreneurial lobbyists in American politics exploit changes in the regulatory environment facing businesses in order to win new clients? In trying to answer this question, we will mainly look at several sources of information on what governs businesses in different economic sectors - congressional law, agency regulations, and company reports submitted to the government. We will also undertake training in data manipulation, visualization, and analysis in useful software for undergrads' benefit.
Inbok Rhee	idrhee@ucsd.edu	**Legislative Attention and Democratic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa**	Scholars and observers alike often assume that legislators are irrelevant in Sub-Saharan Africa where politics is dominated by presidents and votes are often bought. This project challenges this view by presenting various data on variations in legislative strength and further seeks to explain the sources of such variations. Research Apprentices will assist with the collection, processing, and analysis of data to include online newspaper articles, twitter, parliamentary proceedings, and bills.

Kathryn Baragwanath	kbaragwa@ucsd.edu	**The Effects of Oil Royalties on Corruption: Do worse politicians run for office in the presence of oil shocks?**	This dissertation explores the effects of natural resource windfalls on political corruption. Resource windfalls change politicians' budget constraints, generate difficulties for voters to distinguish politician' integrity, and create incentives for corruptible candidates to enter politics, changing the pool of candidates that voters can use to replace incumbents. As such, the dissertation makes three contributions to the literature, one theoretical and two empirical. First the theory provides micro-foundations linking resource windfalls to corruption. By focusing on politician's incentives, I can account not only for the relationship between windfalls and corruption levels, but also the dynamic effects produced by price cycles. I will rely on structural estimation techniques to identify the effects of windfalls on decisions made by incumbents, voters and potential challengers. The incorporation of these three interrelated decision-making processes creates better estimates of the true impact of oil on corruption, and will allow me to establish a causal identification of the mechanisms involved. The structural model allows me to disentangle the sanctioning effect from the selection effect from the self-selection effect. It also makes it possible to run policy experiments on the welfare effects of changing the way in which royalties are distributed.
Kristy Pathakis	kpathakis@ucsd.edu	**False Ignorance and Hubris: The psychological drivers of the gender gap in political opinion reporting**	Women's views are less accurately documented because they express substantially fewer opinions than men on public opinion surveys. My project demonstrates and explains the higher propensity of women to give non-opinion responses (e.g., "don't know", "neither favor nor oppose") on public opinion surveys. Using data from a wide array of questions and surveys, including the ANES, CCES, and survey experiments, I show that traditional explanations like education, level of information about a given topic, or partisanship don't explain the gender gap in opinion reporting. I run experiments where I ask fictitious policy questions, and men give many more opinions than women. I develop a new theory that this has roots in socialization and leads to differences in the way men and women approach expressing their opinions: men, feeling they must have all the answers, are more likely to give opinions, while women, socialized from a young age to be more reserved, are not confident enough to express their opinions, even at the same levels of information as men. During the apprenticeship, I will be working on extensions in two directions: linking this theory to other forms of participation (running for office, engaging in campaign activities, etc.) and to other marginalized groups (racial and ethnic minorities, including immigrant groups, and low income groups). I'm excited to have a research apprentice engage with my project.

Liesel Spangler	lspangle@ucsd.edu	**Plural Governance: Race, Ethnicity, and Representation in the United States**	Congressional districts where there is no racial/ethnic majority group are the fastest growing type of congressional district in the US. They are likely to be the future of political representation in the United States as the country continues to diversify. I examine how House members alter their representation in response to changing to one of these hyper diverse districts. This project looks at the changes in the way legislators communicate with their constituents via Twitter, how they staff their district offices, and how they acquire funding for their district. I am in search of Research Assistants who want to work on qualitative case studies and/or quantitative/programming tasks and can teach you how to do either/both depending on your goals and skills.
Lucas de Abreu Maia	ldeabreu@ucsd.edu	**Liberal or Democrat? Conservative or Republican? Ranking Political Identities**	This project seeks to examine whether polarization has changed how Americans think about politics. Traditionally, political scientists believe that party identification is the most important form of political identity. I argue, instead, that polarization has lead voters to put their ideological identification first (e.g., they see themselves first as liberals and secondly as Democrats. Empirically, this project will have three legs: (1) will examine campaign media data to see if the use of the terms "liberal" and "conservative" has increased overtime; (2) we will analyze survey data to see how the importance of ideological self-identification has changed; and (3) we will conduct experiments to further understand the association between ideological labels and voting.
Mariana Carvalho	macarval@ucsd.edu	**Political Economy of Violence**	Despite the disturbing murders of candidates and elected politicians, few studies investigate the causes of these assassinations and their consequences for democratic politics. What conditions make murders of politicians more likely to occur? What types of politicians are most likely to kill their competitors? What consequences do such murders have for democratic accountability? This project examines the causes and consequences of political assassinations in Latin American democracies.

Stan Oklobdzija	stano@ucsd.edu	**Buying the Ballot: Political Actors and Official Ballot Initiative Language**	At the time of their inception in the Progressive Era, ballot initiatives were intended as a way for citizens to wrest control of the policy making process away from politicians corrupted by special interests. However, this measure of popular sovereignty may not be as immune to meddling these same special interests as either the founders of direct democracy or the literature suggests. Many voters learn about initiatives only from the titles and summaries appearing on ballots, which are themselves written by elected politicians. We study the influence that special interest groups have over the wording of these official ballot initiative summaries.
Todd Levinson	tslevins@ucsd.edu	**Moral Values, Community, and Political Attitudes**	What do the people within a community owe to their members morally? This project will investigate how and why individuals vary in their answers to this question - whether the community being focused on is the town, state, nation, or world. The project will research how social divisions, such as race, ethnicity and class, affect this sense of morality as well as how these moral beliefs and their related moral emotions impact political attitudes.