



GRADUATE STUDY *at*



RICE

We are proud to offer a high quality political science Ph.D. program that trains students in cutting edge methods of social science research. Class sizes are small, allowing faculty to give students individualized attention. Graduate students typically participate in research beginning in their first year of study, often allowing them to make presentations at academic conferences during their second year. The program is designed to prepare students for academic careers, although our graduates have also found the skills they acquire to be useful in pursuing careers outside academia.

Graduate students may specialize in American Politics, with a focus on political institutions, political behavior, public policy, and representation; Comparative Politics, with emphasis on the cross-national, quantitative study of political institutions and electoral behavior in democracies; and International Relations, with emphasis on the quantitative study of international conflict and cooperation.

The department offers a variety of methodology courses, including advanced statistical techniques, formal and mathematical modeling, survey research, and experimental design. Students with a special interest in methodology can enroll in a joint Ph.D./M.A. program with the Department of Statistics to receive further training in quantitative analysis and an added credential.

The department's size allows only for the admission of students whose interests match the expertise of the faculty. Please review the faculty's research interests and determine whether the program meets your needs. Students are required to begin in the fall semester for proper course sequencing. Because graduate study in political science is a rigorous and challenging course of study and entails many obligations outside of the classroom, students are not expected to work outside the department and those admitted to the program normally receive a full tuition waiver and a generous monthly stipend to meet living expenses.

### WHERE POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATES GO

In recent years, Rice Ph.D.s have been placed in tenure-track positions at the following institutions: University of Aarhus, Boise State University, Fudan University, Kansas State University (two), Universidad EAFIT, University of California–Merced, University of Essex, University of Illinois, University of Kentucky, and University of South Carolina. In addition, Rice Ph.D.s currently hold tenured positions at Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Florida Southern College, Kobe University, Louisiana State University, Sam Houston State University, Temple University, Texas A&M University, University of California–Berkeley, University of California–San Diego, University of Dayton, University of Idaho, University of Missouri–Kansas City, University of Nebraska–Omaha, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, University of Pittsburgh, University of Texas–Arlington, and University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. Recent graduates who have chosen non-academic jobs hold positions with such diverse organizations as Airbnb, Civis Analytics, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and USAA.

### TEACHING

Graduate students generally serve as teaching assistants for at least two semesters, and most advanced graduate students who plan to pursue a teaching career are given the opportunity to teach their own courses. The Center for Teaching Excellence at Rice offers an accredited graduate certificate program in pedagogy that provides interested students with formal pedagogical training, exposure to scholarship on teaching and learning, and practical experience.

## GRADUATE STUDY IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

RICE UNIVERSITY

[POLITICALSCIENCE.RICE.EDU](https://politicalscience.rice.edu)

FOR ADMISSION  
IN 2023

## FACULTY

### AMERICAN POLITICS

**John R. Alford.** Professor. B.S. (1975), M.P.A. (1977) University of Houston; M.A. (1980), Ph.D. (1981) University of Iowa. Dr. Alford's major areas of study include American politics, Congress, elections and voting behavior. Current research and areas of interest focus on the biology of political behavior, including brain science and genetics, and the role of evolution in shaping human political attitudes and behaviors.

**Jaclyn Kaslovsky.** Assistant Professor. B.A. (2015) New York University, Ph.D. (2020) Harvard University. Dr. Kaslovsky studies political representation, Congress, and women in politics. Her current work focuses on the changing relationship between local resources and roll call voting in the Senate, as well as analyzing issues of gender and diversity of representation in American government.

**Melissa J. Marschall.** B.A. (1990) Florida State University, M.A. (1993) Bogazici University, Ph.D. (1998) SUNY at Stony Brook. Dr. Marschall's major areas of study include public policy, urban politics, education policy, representation, local elections, and Turkish politics. She is the Director of the Center for Local Elections in American Politics in the Kinder Institute and Director of the Social Policy Analysis Major in the School of Social Sciences.

**Erik Peterson.** Assistant Professor. B.A. (2011) Northwestern University, Ph.D. (2017) Stanford University. Dr. Peterson studies American Politics and Political Communication. His current research focuses on the political consequences of the decline of local media outlets in the United States and the growth of online news consumption.

**Robert M. Stein.** Lena Gohlman Fox Professor. B.A. (1972) Ohio Wesleyan University; MA (1974), Ph.D. (1977) University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. Major areas of study include state and urban politics, public policy, elections and voting behavior. Current research includes election administration, federal spending programs, and public responses to natural disasters and emergencies.

**Michelle Torres.** Assistant Professor. B.A. (2010) CIDE; M.A. Statistics, Ph.D. Political Science (2019) Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Torres' research focuses on political methodology, political behavior and public opinion. Her work mainly concentrates on the intersection of computer science, statistics, and social sciences. Methodologically, she is interested in computer vision, unstructured data, casual interference, and survey methodology. Substantively, she focuses on participation, social movements, race and identity, and psychological traits.

**Rick K. Wilson.** Herbert S. Autrey Professor of Political Science, Psychology, and Statistics. B.A. (1975), M.A. (1977) Creighton University; Ph.D. (1982) Indiana University. Dr. Wilson's current research interests include the use of laboratory experimental methods to test formal models of political processes, the role of neuro-cognitive constraints on social behavior, and the impact of institutional structure on individual behavior. His recent work has been on issues of trust, comparative cultural behavior, and legislative institutions.

### GRADUATE STUDY IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AT A GLANCE

**Degree awarded:** PhD

**Fields of study:** American politics, comparative politics, and international relations

**Faculty working with students:** 18

**Students:** 31 graduate students

**Number of applicants for admission fall 2022:** 138

**Number of incoming students fall 2022:** 8

**Percentage of graduate students receiving financial aid:** 100% in years one through five

**Degree requirements:** 54 semester hours of advanced coursework; successful completion of comprehensive exams in a major field and a minor field; and public oral defense of the dissertation.

**Doctorates awarded in 2021:** 2





### *COMPARATIVE POLITICS*

**Jonathan Homola.** Assistant Professor. B.A. (2011) Freie Universität Berlin; MRes (2013) University of Essex; Ph.D. (2018) Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Homola's research focuses on party competition, representation, political behavior, gender and politics, and immigration. His regional areas of expertise are Western democracies and Eastern Europe. Methodologically, he is interested in Bayesian research methods, survey methodology, and causal inference. His current research focuses on the role of gender in different stages of the political process, and survival models.

**Mark P. Jones.** Joseph D. Jamail Chair in Latin American Studies and Professor. B.A. (1989) Tulane University, Ph.D. (1994) University of Michigan. Dr. Jones's major areas of research are comparative political institutions (e.g., elections, electoral systems, legislatures, political parties), Latin American politics, and Texas politics. Dr. Jones also regularly advises United States government institutions and international organizations on Latin American politics and government.

**Leslie A. Schwindt-Bayer.** Professor. B.A. (1992) Virginia Tech; M.A. (1999), Ph.D. (2003) University of Arizona. Dr. Schwindt-Bayer's major areas of study include political institutions, comparative legislatures, political behavior, Latin America, and gender and politics. Her current research examines the nature of women's political representation both worldwide, and more specifically, in Latin America.

**Randolph T. Stevenson.** Radoslav Tsarnoff Professor of Public Affairs. B.A. (1991) Texas A&M University; M.A. (1994), Ph.D. (1996) University of Rochester. Dr. Stevenson's major areas of study include mass political behavior, cabinet formation, comparative political economy, and institutional design in Western democracies. His current research projects include studies of political knowledge, expectation formation, responsibility attribution, and strategic voting in multi-party systems, as well as a book project exploring the sources of cross-national differences in political knowledge and political interest. Dr. Stevenson also teaches a number of graduate courses in advanced statistical techniques.

### *INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS*

**Songying Fang.** Associate Professor. B.A. (1990) University of Science and Technology Beijing; Ph.D. (2006) University of Rochester. Dr. Fang's major research areas include international organizations, territorial disputes, and peacekeeping. She uses both game-theoretic and empirical analyses in her research. She teaches a graduate game theory course, and undergraduate courses on international organizations and US-China relations.

**Connor Huff.** Assistant Professor. B.A. (2010) University of California, Santa Cruz. Ph.D. (2019) Harvard University. Dr. Huff's major areas of study include civil war and terrorism. His current research focuses on why individuals decide to participate in political violence, and why they decide to stop.

**Brett Ashley Leeds.** Radoslav Tsarnoff Professor of Political Science. B.A. (1991) University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Ph.D. (1998) Emory University. Dr. Leeds's major areas of study include international conflict and cooperation, international institutions, and the influence of domestic politics on international relations. Her current research focuses on the design and influence of military alliances and on the impact of leadership change on foreign policy.

**T. Clifton Morgan.** Albert Thomas Professor. B.A. (1978) University of Oklahoma; M.A. (1980), Ph.D. (1986) University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Morgan's current research interests focus on the development and empirical testing of formal models of international conflict processes. He has published widely on international crisis bargaining, domestic political influences on conflict behavior, foreign policy substitutability and the effectiveness of economic sanctions.

**Richard J. Stoll.** Albert Thomas Professor. A.B. (1974) University of Rochester, Ph.D. (1979) University of Michigan. Dr. Stoll's current research interests include the study of naval arms races, explaining public opinion on whether war is sometimes necessary to achieve justice, and the use of Twitter to track public opinion.



## SUPPORTING RESOURCES

Facilitating the wide variety of independent and collaborative research projects in which department faculty and students are engaged are the university's library, centers, and computing infrastructure. Fondren Library houses a collection of 2.8 million volumes, 3 million microforms, 155,000 serial titles, and many electronic resources. Free computing resources are amply available for graduate students. The Center for Academic and Professional Communication provides significant support in the areas of written, oral, and visual communication, and the Center for Teaching Excellence provides consultations, reading groups, and a certificate program. The Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication provides instruction in ten languages.

## COLLABORATIONS

The Department of Political Science is involved with other institutions, both within and outside Rice. On campus, Political Science students and faculty frequently collaborate with the James A. Baker Institute for Public Policy, the Center for African and African-American Studies, the Center for Civic Leadership, the Chao Center for Asian Studies, the Doerr Institute for New Leaders, the Kinder Institute for Urban Research, and the Texas Policy Lab, as well as with the members of various other academic departments at Rice.

An average of 10 scholars visit the department each year to present their research and meet with faculty and students, offering particularly enriching experiences for graduate student training. We also frequently host conferences and workshops that bring many scholars to campus for in-depth discussion of a research topic.

## CAMPUS VISIT

We encourage you to visit Rice at any time for a firsthand look at the department and the beautiful, tree-lined campus near the heart of historic Houston. If you apply and are admitted, you may be invited to visit the campus later at departmental expense. During your time here, you will not only visit with faculty, but usually you'll meet current graduate students from whom you can learn more about graduate life and lifestyles in Houston. In the meantime, feel free to contact the department with any questions you may have.

## ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Students applying for admission to the graduate program are asked to submit the following:

- Use our online application process to submit your application
- Transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- Statement of purpose
- The results of the GRE, taken within the last three years\*
- If English is the second language, test scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) are required\*
- Three letters of recommendation from faculty who are familiar with the applicant

More information is available at: <https://politicalscience.rice.edu/graduate/group/apply>

The deadline for sending completed applications to the department is January 5. Rice will send a notification of acceptance no later than April 1.

\* For inquiries regarding the GRE or TOEFL exams, contact:

Educational Testing Service  
Rosedale Road  
Princeton, NJ 08541 USA  
609-921-9000  
[etsinfo@ets.org](mailto:etsinfo@ets.org) or [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)



## ABOUT RICE AND HOUSTON

Rice is a leading American research university—small, private and highly selective—distinguished by a collaborative, interdisciplinary culture and a global perspective. Only a few miles from downtown Houston, it occupies an architecturally distinctive, 285-acre campus shaded by nearly 4,000 trees. State-of-the-art facilities and laboratories, internationally renowned centers and institutes and one of the country's largest endowments support an ideal learning and living environment.

The university attracts a diverse group of highly talented students and faculty with outstanding graduate and professional programs in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, architecture, music and business. With just 3,027 graduate students and 3,962 undergraduates, it offers an unusual opportunity to forge close relationships with eminent faculty scholars and researchers and the option to tailor graduate programs to specific interests.

Houston offers all the expected educational, cultural and commercial advantages of a large urban center, and more. In addition to being the fourth largest city in the U.S., Houston is also the most racially and ethnically diverse of the country's 10 most populous metropolitan areas. It is the home of the Texas Medical Center, the largest concentration of medical schools, hospitals and research facilities in the world, as well as several other universities. Rice has cooperative programs with the University of Houston, Baylor College of Medicine, the University of Texas Health Science Center and Texas Southern University.



Houston is one of the few U.S. cities with resident companies in all four major performing arts—drama, ballet, opera and symphony. It also boasts a museum district featuring exhibits of national and international prominence.

As urban as it is, Houston also is a surprisingly green city. Houstonians enjoy the outdoors in more than 300 municipal parks and 120 open spaces, and many frequent the beach at Galveston Island, only a 45-minute drive away. Other short trips include Austin, the state's capital, and historic San Antonio, both of which are a little more than three hours away.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Please indicate on your application whether you wish to be considered for financial aid. Most students accepted into the program will receive some degree of financial assistance. Rice provides financial aid in four ways: tuition waivers, graduate fellowships, research assistantships based on merit, and need-based aid such as federally insured loans. Tuition waivers are granted in an amount equal to Rice's tuition, which is \$54,100 for 2022–23. Graduate fellowships currently provide \$28,050 per year. Additional funding for the summer is typically available. In addition, a number of graduate students have been recipients of external fellowships. All financial aid decisions are made shortly after the January 5 application deadline.

## HOW TO APPLY

Use our online application process found under the Apply link in the Graduate Studies section of our website. Further information may be obtained by contacting:

Graduate Advisor  
Department of Political Science—MS 24 Rice  
University  
P.O. Box 1892  
Houston, TX 77251-1892  
Phone: 713-348-4842 • Fax: 713-348-5273  
E-mail: [poli@rice.edu](mailto:poli@rice.edu)  
Web site: [politicalscience.rice.edu](http://politicalscience.rice.edu)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Rice University homepage:  
[www.rice.edu](http://www.rice.edu)  
Rice University Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral  
Studies homepage:  
[graduate.rice.edu](http://graduate.rice.edu)  
Graduate Student Association homepage:  
[gsa.rice.edu/](http://gsa.rice.edu/)  
City of Houston homepage:  
[www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov)  
Houston information from the *Houston Chronicle*:  
[www.chron.com](http://www.chron.com)  
Houston information from the Greater Houston  
Partnership:  
[www.houston.org](http://www.houston.org)  
Houston information from Citysearch:  
[houston.citysearch.com](http://houston.citysearch.com)

