Peaceful Greetings!

This year has been a challenging one for all of us and the significance of working for peace and justice increases each and every day. With the ongoing pandemic, we continued to hold many of our activities online. Many of our affiliated programs, like the Workshop on Arab Political Development, the Program on Inequality and the Bobst-AUB collaborative initiative held several virtual events. Though this year has brought many challenges, we have continued to work to bring our communities together and to provide an intellectual space that promotes peaceful exchange and dialogue.

This year also marks my ninth and final year as Director of the Bobst Center. It has been a spectacular journey and it truly has been an honor and privilege to serve in this position. Under my leadership, the Center has inducted many new sub-programs and initiatives, led by multiple faculty. We have expanded our global and on-campus reach and now co-sponsor dozens of undergraduate initiatives each year. We have also enhanced and augmented our graduate student funding to help students conduct fieldwork across the globe.

The Center is in excellent standing and it brings me much joy to be handing over the reins to my esteemed and wonderful colleague, Rafaela Dancygier. Under Professor Dancygier’s capable leadership, the Center is poised to further its advancements and achievements. We are very fortunate to have her at the helm during these trying times, as calls for peace and justice abound, and effective remedies and strategies still painfully lack and lag in their ability to address local, national and global injustices.

Our programming for FY 2022, under Professor Dancygier’s leadership, will continue to build on our programs and progress. I will continue to direct the Bobst-AUB Collaborative Initiative and the Workshop on Arab Political Development at Bobst. I look forward to staying in touch with all of you, continuing to support our Bobst community, and working to promote peace and justice everywhere!

I am deeply honored and humbled to take on the role of Bobst Director. My colleague and good friend Amaney Jamal has done an incredible job growing the Bobst Center and enhancing its presence on campus and around the world. Thanks to Professor Jamal’s vision, energy, and enthusiasm, the Center is flourishing as a facilitator of global intellectual exchange and academic support, and it does so in the service of promoting the causes of peace and justice. These are very big shoes to fill!

As Director, I very much look forward to continuing the implementation of the Center’s mission around peace and justice. To do so, I plan on expanding the Center’s efforts to develop programs that aim to produce academic communities that are more representative and inclusive of the world we live in today. I am very excited to broaden our outreach to students and faculty in the United States and abroad, while maintaining the initiatives that Professor Jamal has so successfully spearheaded.

Though the current moment poses difficult challenges, particularly around issues of justice, it also opens up many opportunities to make change. I am extremely grateful to be offered the chance to be part of this change, and I look forward to working with students, faculty, and staff to pursue our shared mission.

Rafaela Dancygier
Professor of Politics and Public and International Affairs
Mission and History

The Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice was the brainchild of the late Mrs. Mamdouha S. Bobst (widow of Elmer Holmes Bobst) who, together with her husband, promoted philanthropy in the areas of education, health research and human rights. A think tank and research support entity affiliated with the Princeton University Department of Politics, the Center’s mission is “to advance the cause of peace, mutual understanding, respect for all ethnic traditions and religious faiths, and justice, both within countries and across national borders.” The activities of the Bobst Center therefore focus on the study of peace and justice. The Center sponsors, on its own and jointly with other departments and programs, panel discussions, conferences, seminars and workshops directed toward issues such as conflict and reconciliation, cultural and religious dynamics, nationalism, regime stability and change, pathways for political self-expression, and more.

The Center also serves as an intellectual hub for scholars and policymakers to exchange ideas and interact with one another. A special feature of the Bobst Center for Peace and Justice is its collaboration with the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, which provides fertile ground for faculty and graduate student exchanges, summer teaching opportunities for Princeton faculty at the AUB, and research on issues linked to peace and political life in the Arab World.

New Faces at Bobst

Abdullah Aydogan (aaydogan@princeton.edu) received his PhD in Political Science from the University of Houston. His research primarily focuses on representation, political parties, parliaments, democratization, and Middle East politics. His methodological interests are in text analysis, social media research, expert surveys, public opinion surveys, roll-call vote analysis, and duration/survival models. Abdullah’s appointment is shared in equal parts by the Bobst Center/Bobst-AUB and Tali Mendelberg. He is skilled in R, PYTHON, MYSQL, STATA, QUALTRICS, LATEX, ARCGIS.

MaryClare Roche (mcroche@princeton.edu) received her PhD in Political Science from the University of Rochester. MaryClare’s thesis work involved creating game theoretic models to explain the conditions that allow democratic institutions in authoritarian regimes to simultaneously create coordination problems for regime opposition and solve them for regime allies. MaryClare works jointly with the Bobst Center and the Arab Barometer and is situated in the Arab Barometer’s D.C. office. She has expertise in web scraping, text analysis in English and Arabic, and game theory. She is fluent in R, python, and LaTeX.

Jeremy Roth (jeremy.roth@princeton.edu) received his PhD in Biostatistics from the University of Washington. He is a statistician with a background in developing and adapting statistical learning methods to make interpretable predictions from messy data. Jeremy has implemented statistical methods in R packages, R Shiny web apps, and a Python module. He is also very familiar with Stata and LaTeX. Before joining the Department of Politics, he worked for the United Nations Population Fund on developing the technical capacity of national statistics offices in the Middle East and Latin America to analyze census and civil registration data using R. Jeremy splits his time with the Program on Identity and Institutions, the Bobst Center and the Arab Barometer.
Executive Committee

The main directive of the Bobst Center executive committee is to advise and support the Director and the Center’s mission. We are grateful for their service and value their counsel.

**Mark Beissinger**  Henry W. Putnam Professor of Politics

Mark R. Beissinger’s main fields of interest are social movements, revolutions, nationalism, state-building, and imperialism, with special reference to the Soviet Union and the post-Soviet states. His work has received multiple awards, including APSA’s Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award presented for the best book published in the United States in the field of government, politics, or international affairs, and the Mattei Dogan Award presented by the Society for Comparative Research for the best book published in the field of comparative research. Professor Beissinger was also the founding director of the University of Wisconsin’s Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia. In 2017, Professor Beissinger received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship for his work in political science on social movements and imperialism in Russia and the post-Soviet states.

**Carles Boix**  Robert Garrett Professor in Politics, Professor of Politics and Public Affairs


**Rafaela Dancygier**  Professor of Politics and Public and International Affairs

Rafaela Dancygier is Professor of Politics and Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, specializing in the comparative politics of advanced democracies. Her research examines how social and economic divides interact with party politics and shape electoral alignments in Europe and the United States. Her first book, *Immigration and Conflict in Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), was awarded the Best Book Award by the European Politics and Society Section of the American Political Science Association (APSA), and it was also named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title. Her second book, *Dilemmas of Inclusion: Muslims in European Politics* (Princeton University Press, 2017) examines how minority groups are incorporated into politics and explores the consequences of this inclusion for party politics, gender equality, and electoral cleavages. It won the 2018 Stein Rokkan Prize for Comparative Social Science Research and the 2019 APSA Luebbert Prize for the best book published in comparative politics. Her articles cover topics such as hate crime, immigrant political incorporation, radical right populism, gender equality, and housing crises and gentrification.

**Tali Mendelberg**  John Work Garrett Professor of Politics


**Helen Milner**  B.C. Forbes Professor of Public Affairs, Professor of Politics and International Affairs

Helen V. Milner is the B. C. Forbes Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University and the director of the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance at Princeton’s School of Public and International Affairs. She was the chair of the Department of Politics from 2005 to 2011. She is currently president of the International Studies Association (ISA) for the 2020-2021 term and was president of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) from 2012-14. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Council on Foreign Relations. She has written extensively on issues related to international and comparative political economy, the connections between domestic politics and foreign policy, globalization and regionalism, and the relationship between democracy and trade policy.
Alan Patten


Grigore Pop-Eleches

Grigore Pop-Eleches is Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University. He has worked on the politics of IMF programs in Eastern Europe and Latin America, elections and voting in Eastern Europe, and on the role of historical legacies in post-communist political attitudes and regime change. His most recent book, “Communism’s Shadow: Historical Legacies and Contemporary Political Attitudes” (joint with Joshua A. Tucker) was published in 2017 at Princeton University Press. His articles have appeared in a variety of journals, including The Journal of Politics, World Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, Journal of Democracy, and East European Politics and Societies. His research has been supported by grants from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research, and the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies. He is an associate editor of *World Politics*.

### Honors and Awards

The Bobst Center for Peace and Justice celebrates the recognition that our many talented scholars of every stage receive from other organizations in their fields of study. Below are a few of the honors.

**Haeley Ahn ’21**, research assistant with Bobst Center director Amaney Jamal, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Election to this honor society at Princeton is based on superb scholastic standing.

**Chantal Berman Ph. D. ’19**, Post-Doctoral Fellow at Harvard University and Assistant Professor with Georgetown University, received an honorable mention for Best Dissertation from the APSA MENA Politics for her work entitled “Protest, Social Policy, and Political Regimes”.

**Megan Brand** was selected for the Hans Morgenthau Fellowship in Grand Strategy at Notre Dame’s International Security Center for the upcoming 2021-2022 academic year. Through this appointment, Megan will further pursue her research.

**William Freeman, Dela Kpo, and Derek Wakefield** received the Graduate School Teaching Award. These awards honor those graduate students who have made a significant contribution to undergraduate teaching.

**Alexander Kustov Ph.D. ’19**, is finishing a postdoctoral appointment with the Leitner Program on Effective Democratic Governance in the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs at Yale University and will then join the University of North Carolina-Charlotte as Assistant Professor of Political Science and Political Administration.

**Helen Milner**, B.C. Forbes Professor of Politics and International Affairs and director of the Niehaus Center, delivered the Presidential Keynote Address for the International Studies Association (ISA) convention as part of her role as President of ISA.

**Steve Monroe Ph.D. ’19**, Assistant Professor at Yale NUS College, received the award for Best Dissertation from the APSA MENA Politics for his dissertation work entitled “Varieties of Protection: Ethnic Politics and Resistance to Neoliberalism in the Arab World”.

**Susanne Schwarz** has been awarded the Princeton University Graduate School’s Harold W. Dodds Fellowship for the 2021-22 academic year. She will be using the fellowship to support the completion of her dissertation, which studies the political development of Southern carceral states after the Civil War.
Daniel Tavana, completed a prestigious appointment this year as Postdoctoral Fellow in Modern Middle East Studies at the Council on Middle East Studies at Yale University. For this upcoming year, Daniel will join the Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse (IAST) as a Research Fellow, and in Fall 2022, he has accepted an appointment with Pennsylvania State University as Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science.

Deborah Yashar, Professor of Politics and International Affairs, has been elected as a member of the distinguished American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Her research focuses on the intersection of democracy and citizenship.

Yang-Yang Zhou, Ph.D. ’19, has been accepted into the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program. This two-year program is awarded to top-tier researchers.

Graduate Research Support

The Bobst Center along with the Center for the Study of Democratic Politics (CSDP) and the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance (NCGG) support the Multi-Center Graduate Grant Program to provide Princeton Politics graduate students awards of up to $15,000 to support larger or more ambitious research projects. The selection process for a Multi-Center Graduate Grant is more competitive than other grants offered and is intended to prepare students for larger grant competitions. The excerpts below highlight how some of the students are using their funding.

Carolyn Barnett Spring 2020 Multi-Center Graduate Grant Recipient

Carolyn’s dissertation explores how the enactment of different kinds of women’s rights reforms in conservative societies may create conditions conducive to further advances for gender equality, impose limits on further change, or inspire backlash. Her research brings insights from the study of policy feedback into the domain of women’s rights, theorizing how the design and enactment of different policies that affect gender equality shape subsequent political change at the macro- and micro-levels. She is using her Multi-Center Graduate Grant to conduct an original survey of Moroccans to test arguments about how government and civil society messaging and experiences with state institutions influence individuals’ attitudes and perceptions of social norms around gender issues. This research has important implications for understanding what happens in the wake of successful policy reform for gender equality, which is increasingly common around the world.

Stephanie Chan Spring 2020 Multi-Center Graduate Grant Recipient

Stephanie’s dissertation examines how race influences immigrants’ political incorporation with a particular focus on political participation. The research argues that the political participation of immigrants and their descendants is influenced by race. More specifically, Asian American and Latinx immigrants are less likely to feel like they belong politically in the United States and to receive encouragement to participate in politics from their interpersonal networks, so they participate in politics less than white immigrants. Stephanie is using the Multi-Center Graduate Grant to field experiments. These experiments provide a causal test of the impact of an immigrant network’s political participation norms on their own political participation. This project seeks to better understand why some voices are muted in democratic politics and how to amplify those voices.

Zenobia Chen Spring 2020 Multi-Center Graduate Grant Recipient

Zenobia’s dissertation research combines the domestic politics of foreign policy, political psychology, and behavioral economics to explain whether and how positive economic statecraft—such as foreign aid, loans, and investment and support for foreign currencies—work in influencing preferences and behavior of elites and public abroad. With the support of the Multi-Center Grant, Zenobia has conducted over 200 interviews with officials from aid donor and recipient countries, as well as bureaucrats in international organizations and the European Union. In the Spring of 2021, she will be using the Grant to conduct four original survey experiments in Estonia, Mauritania, Taiwan, and the U.S. for testing how cost contingency, time horizon, and baseline expectations impact the effectiveness of positive economic statecraft.
Haosen Ge  Spring 2020 Multi-Center Graduate Grant Recipient

Haosen’s dissertation comprehensively examines the effect of asset mobility on host government-foreign investor negotiations. The research advances an alternative view that emphasizes how low asset mobility helps foreign investors get government support, challenging the canonical wisdom. Haosen uses the Multi-Center Graduate Grant to conduct two original survey experiments in China, recruiting 3,000 foreign firm managers and 30 local government officials. These experiments provide direct causal evidence of the proposed mechanisms and their scope. His dissertation has important implications for understanding government-business interactions and the politics of foreign direct investments in a new globalization era.

Mohammad Isaqzadeh  Spring 2020 Multi-Center Graduate Grant Recipient, Spring 2020 Bobst Dissertation Graduate Grant Recipient

Mohammad Isaqzadeh will use the grants he was awarded in the spring 2020 to conduct a second round of phone survey in Kabul, Afghanistan. The survey will be administered to 1570 respondents who participated in the first round of the survey in summer 2020, also funded by the Bobst pre-dissertation grant. The survey focuses on the reverse causal relationship between religiosity and political violence: how exposure to violence leads to religious intensity as a psychological coping mechanism. In addition, the second round of the survey will examine whether the intensified religiosity, driven by exposure to violence, contributes to religious radicalization and support for Islamist militant groups among affected civilians.

The Bobst Center also provides dissertation and pre-dissertation funding to help facilitate graduate student training and research. Doctoral students who have been successful in securing Bobst Center dissertation and pre-dissertation grants have submitted proposals that are rigorous for their intellectual merit and research designs.

Yutian An  Fall 2020 Bobst Dissertation Graduate Grant Recipient

Yutian plans to use her Bobst grant to study whether authoritarian courts like China’s — a perceived “weak” institution of the regime — can engage in meaningful judicial review of conduct by the police (the regime’s chief repression agency), and if so, under what contexts. With Bobst funding, she will collect judgment data of administrative cases in which citizens challenge police decisions and hire research assistants to help code the judgments. By unpacking the legal dynamic underlying many popular contentions, this project seeks to shed additional light on the microfoundations of authoritarian resilience.

Fin Bauer  Fall 2020 Bobst Dissertation Graduate Grant Recipient

Fin is using his Bobst dissertation grant to study how moral image concerns affect individual attitudes toward territorial disputes. With Bobst funding, he is conducting a survey experiment in Israel assessing how Israelis’ willingness to compromise on the issue of Jerusalem is mediated by the perceived moral stigma associated with compromise.

Richard Gagliardi  Fall 2020 Bobst Dissertation Graduate Grant Recipient

Richard used his grant to study how stereotypes about a state’s people and leaders affect the ability of states to build reputations for keeping assurances. With his Bobst dissertation grant, Richard will conduct an original survey experiment. The survey tests his core claim that, even when two states behave in identical ways, negative stereotypes make it more difficult to attain a reputation for keeping assurances.

Susanne Schwarz  Fall 2020 Bobst Dissertation Graduate Grant Recipient

Susanne used her Bobst dissertation grant to study how black political empowerment during Congressional Reconstruction after the Civil War affected incarceration in the postbellum American South. With Bobst funding, Susanne has worked with a team of research assistants to collect novel incarceration data from original, handwritten convict ledgers from the 19th and early 20th century. The resulting database will document individual-level convictions across seven Southern states between 1817 and 1920.

Xiaoxiao Shen  Fall 2020 Bobst Dissertation Graduate Grant Recipient

Xiaoxiao used her Bobst dissertation grant to study the development and effectiveness of propaganda in authoritarian countries. With Bobst funding, she has carried out a series of surveys and lab-in-the-field experiments to examine the heterogenous propaganda effects and the mechanisms behind the propaganda phenomenon.
Graduate Student Conference Support

PRESS Experimental Workshop
Bobst provides annual funding for the Princeton Research in Experimental Social Science (PRESS) workshops which are also supported by the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance (NCGG), the Center for the Study of Democratic Politics (CSDP) and the Department of Politics. This May, PRESS hosted an Ethics Workshop led by Douglas MacKay, Assistant Professor, UNC Center for Bioethics. Through PRESS, a forum is provided for workshopping and giving feedback to graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty on their experimental programs in-progress. It also serves as an important source of small-grant support to graduate student and postdoctoral experimental research projects.

South Asia Graduate Student Conference
The Program in South Asian Studies at Princeton virtually convened the ninth annual Princeton South Asia Conference in April. This year’s conference, entitled Writing the Region: Knowledge, Practice and Power in South Asia, welcomed keynote speaker, Lisa Mitchell, Associate Professor of South Asia Studies, University of Pennsylvania.

Bobst Center Programs

Program on Inequality
The Program on Inequality is led by director Tali Mendelberg, John Work Garrett Professor of Politics. This program organizes events that enhance research on inequality and politics. In May, the program hosted a book workshop for Efren Perez and Margit Tavits with discussants from Princeton University as well as University of Michigan, Berkeley, and University of California, Riverside. The title of the book is called “Voicing Politics: How Language Shapes Public Opinion”.

The program is also pleased to be supporting the women’s mentoring workshop led by the initiative of the APSA Presidential Task Force on Women’s Advancement in the Profession. This effort is jointly funded by the National Science Foundation, APSA and the Program on Inequality. Professor Tali Mendelberg is leading this initiative.

Additionally, the Program on Inequality also organizes the Race, Ethnicity and Identity (REI) workshop in which Princeton faculty present cutting-edge work and receive feedback early in the publication process. This year research was presented for discussion by Christopher Achen and Jeremy Darrington.

Bobst-AUB Collaborative Initiative
The Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice proudly continues its collaboration with the American University of Beirut (AUB) with the generous support of the Bobst Foundation. With the ongoing crises in Lebanon, the Bobst-AUB Collaborative Initiative was pleased to shed light on various aspects of the situation through the unique lens of our partners at AUB. In October, the Bobst-AUB Collaborative Initiative held a panel discussion to explore complex issues facing Lebanon, including the economic crisis, the global pandemic, and the most recent explosion in Beirut. The panel was moderated by Nisreen Salti, Associate Professor of Economics at AUB and Faculty Coordinator for the Bobst-AUB Collaborative Initiative. The panel speakers were composed of faculty from different areas of expertise at AUB, including Nuhad Yazbik-Dumit, Associate Professor of Nursing, Mona Fawaz, Professor of Urban Planning, Samer Frangie, Associate Professor of Political Studies, Sara Mourad, Assistant Professor of Media Studies.

The Collaboration also partnered with The Arab Barometer project, and the AUB-Issam Fares Institute (IFI) to host a webinar announcing the findings of the most recent Arab Barometer survey results in Lebanon. Abdul-Wahab Kayyali, Senior Research Specialist with the Arab Barometer, moderated the December webinar with panelists from the AUB-IFI Joseph Bahout, Associate Professor of Practice and Director of IFI and Karim Merhej, researcher and Google policy fellow at the Governance and Policy Lab of IFI.
Finally, the Bobst Center partnered with AUB to deliver unique experiences to the students at AUB. One of the Bobst Center’s new Senior Research Specialists, Dr. Abdullah Aydogan, led a two-day virtual experiential workshop to introduce the R program. This R workshop was for students at AUB majoring in Economics. R is a free statistical analysis and programming software that is becoming increasingly popular among researchers, particularly social scientists. The example data sets that were analyzed during the workshop were those from daily topics including the COVID-19 pandemic and Middle East politics.

To further support the experiential learning for the students, Professor Amaney Jamal was a guest lecturer for the AUB course, Gender and Statistics, taught by Alice Ashkar, Instructor, Department of Mathematics, as part of the MEPI TLS Gender Scholars Program. Professor Jamal spoke about her own research experience using statistics and dealing with gender bias. She and the students looked at data collected by the Arab Barometer project.

Beyond programming efforts, the Bobst-AUB Collaborative Initiative provides funding opportunities for faculty at AUB to further pursue their research. This year we were pleased to have supported the following projects:

- Dr. Carmen Geha and Dr. Najat Saliba, “Collaborative Action Research: Local Recovery with Global Implications”
- Dr. Hiba Khodr and Dr. Tania Haddad, “Towards Creating an Index for Civil Society in the MENA region: A multiple case study of policy responses to political, health and economic crises in Lebanon”
- Dr. Lina Khalil, “Lebanese schools response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises: Lessons learned”
- Dr. Livia Wick, “How cancer patients and their families manage illness and livelihoods amidst the collapse in Lebanon”
- Dr. Blake Atwood, “Creative Work, Care, and Crisis in Beirut”

**Workshop on Arab Political Development (WAPD)**

The Workshop on Arab Political Development (directed by Amaney Jamal) sponsors public lectures by faculty, scholars and policy makers who study issues of the Middle East and North Africa. In April, the WAPD Public Lecture welcomed Marwa Daouady, Associate Professor of International Relations at Georgetown University. Professor Daouady presented her latest book, “The Origins of the Syrian Conflict: Climate Change and Human Security”, for discussion. This book explores the assertion made by others in the field that the Syrian uprising originated from climate change.

The WAPD also provides graduate students with a forum to present their research projects under the general guidance of director Amaney Jamal. Through this graduate seminar, students gain experience in presenting their work and critically engaging the audience about their research. The graduate students and post-doctoral students who presented this year were Daniel Tavana (“The Origins of Opposition: Elections, Identity, and Order in the Middle East”), Kathy Ingram (“Competitive Intervention and Sabotage in Civil Wars”), Tiffany Simon (“Dimensions of Authoritarian Control”), Christiana Parreira (“The Art of Not Governing: Local Politics and Regime Consolidation in Postwar Lebanon”), Carolyn Barnett (“Policy Feedback in Women’s Rights: Findings from Morocco”), and Erin York (“Cooptive Institutions: How ‘by the books’ politics works — and when it doesn’t — under autocracy”).

**Workshop on Post-Communist Politics**

In July, the Workshop on Post-Communist Politics hosted a book workshop for co-director, Mark Beissinger. The one-day virtual workshop welcomed some of the comparative politics faculty of Princeton University to review and provide feedback for Professor Beissinger’s upcoming book. Discussants included Amaney Jamal, Rafaela Dancygier, Jennifer Widner, Rory Truex, Deborah Yashar, Andreas Wiedemann, Carles Boix, and Grigore Pop-Eleches.
Bobst Center Workshops

Conversations About Peace Lecture Series

Conversations About Peace Lecture Series is a project coordinated by S. Daniel Abraham Professor of Middle Eastern Policy Studies Dr. Daniel Kurtzer from the School of Public and International Affairs, former Ambassador to Egypt and Israel, and Edwards S. Sanford Professor of Politics, director of the Bobst Center, Amaney Jamal, to bring representatives of both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian struggle in a way that emphasizes efforts towards peaceful coexistence. In November, we welcomed a virtual talk from Ambassador Hesham Youssef (United States Institute of Peace) entitled “The Middle East: Is there a way out of this chaotic disorder”. This event hosted over 100 participants who engaged in a robust dialogue after the presentation.

Again, in March, the series hosted another talk about the Palestinian elections, moderated by Dylan Shapiro ’23, president of Princeton’s J Street U chapter. For this conversation, both Dr. Kurtzer and Professor Jamal served as panelists providing their unique professional expertise to critical elections in Palestine. They also explored what the various election outcomes could mean for Palestinians. This particular conversation was also co-sponsored by the Carl A. Fields Center, the Center for Jewish Life, and J Street U Princeton.

Post-Doctoral Program

A special feature of the Bobst Center’s programs includes the Post-Doctoral Research program, run by Professor Carles Boix, Robert Garrett Professor of Politics and Public Affairs in the Department of Politics and the School of Public and International Affairs. Offered jointly with the Department of Politics, post-doctoral research appointments are one-year positions designed for scholars of comparative politics with a special focus on empirical democratic theory and comparative institutions. For the 2020-2021 academic year, Laura Garcia Montoya joined the Bobst Center and Department of Politics as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate after completion of her PhD in Political Science from Northwestern University. After completion of her post-doctoral program, Laura will continue her research efforts as Visiting Fellow in the Kellogg Institute for International Affairs at Notre Dame.

Bobst Sponsored Workshops & Conferences

Throughout the year, the Bobst Center provides financial assistance for workshops and conferences that work toward the pursuit of peace, justice, tolerance and mutual understanding.

Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom Annual Conference

Though it was held virtually this year, the 7th annual conference for the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom offered a robust program for its attendees. The conference theme this year was Together, We Rise (Online). The organization works to grow relationships and mutual understanding between Muslim and Jewish women to fight hate, build bridges and combat negative stereotypes and prejudice. This year, the conference welcomed two keynote speakers: Raheemah Abdulaleem, Esq. and Yavilah McCoy. Raheemah Abdulaleem currently sits on the Board of Directors of KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights. Yavilah McCoy CEO and Executive Director of DIMENSIONS Inc, a nonprofit that provides training and consultancy on equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Queer Politics Workshop

The Bobst Center is pleased to support the start of the Queer Politics at Princeton program, led by director and founder, Andrew Reynolds, Research Scholar and Lecturer, School of International and Public Affairs. Queer Politics @ Princeton offers weekly workshops and discussions led by preeminent scholars in the field.
Undergraduate Research & Internships

The Bobst Center with the Department of Politics continued to support eight-week summer internships for qualified undergraduate students. This past year, students conducted their internships in a virtual format due to the ongoing pandemic. Seven students participated in this internship opportunity and were granted funding to support their pursuits.

The funding that Lily Olsen received from the Bobst Center and Department of Politics allowed her to undertake an internship with the AND Campaign this summer. AND is a nonprofit organization that equips Christian communities across America for social justice advocacy. During this internship Lily was able to learn about grassroots activism through helping Chapters mobilize support in their cities. Her research projects included topics such as prayer and protest during the Civil Rights Movement, the politicization of COVID-19, the school-to-prison pipeline in New York City, and institutional racism in Dallas public schools. Lily is thankful for the opportunity to both deepen her personal understanding of civic engagement and support an organization that is addressing crucial issues at the intersection of Christianity and politics.

Alonso Perez-Putnam served as an intern for the CAPEL (Center for Electoral Advice and Promotion) at the IIDH (Interamerican Institute of Human Rights) in San Jose, Costa Rica. This internship allowed Alonso to gain insight into the center’s election monitoring processes while working extensively on data collection projects. These projects focused on in-depth written analysis, synthesizing international news to create an extensive report on every national election worldwide conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, to that point. Further, Alonso worked to make a database of funding sources for the institute. This internship experience gave Alonso insights into the workings of this important institute, along with more experience working in Latin American politics and in the Spanish language in particular. He was able to apply the written and data skills he had gained from his time in the Politics department.

Lauren Sanchez used her internship opportunity as an expansion intern for Preface, an innovative 501c(3) philanthropic initiative with the mission of empowering high school students to foster early childhood literacy—with a focus on children from multilingual and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Lauren collected demographic data on different school districts in South Carolina and New York, in order to target school districts where Preface would be a valuable addition. This involved working through various data sets from the Department of Education and the Census. She helped finalize three partnerships with schools in South Carolina. Lauren learned that she had been accepted to Harvard Law School through a two-year deferral program which will allow her to continue her collegiate rowing career.

Isabel Ting interned with the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office for the Intake and Policy Units. She spent her first half of the summer in the Intake Unit with the Assistant District Attorney where she conducted research on (a) how to reduce prison populations in the face of COVID-19 and (b) the drawbacks of the office’s Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program. She then pivoted to the Policy Unit and worked with the Director of the Safety and Justice Challenge to form policy recommendations on how to reduce domestic violence recidivism rates. By the end of the summer, she produced over 40 pages of policy recommendations regarding various criminal justice areas for the office’s attorneys to use. Not only did Isabel learn to critically analyze social policies and better understand the justice system from a macro-level, but she also practiced memo- and report-writing styles. She is grateful that this internship opportunity, funded by the Bobst Center, has further prepared her for a future career in civil rights and/or criminal justice.

Michael Watson served as a pro-bono consultant for DIFFvelopment, a nonprofit organization aiming to address gaps in financial and entrepreneurial literacy specific to Black communities. This project not only presented an invaluable opportunity to support a Black-owned business, but also enabled Michael to enhance a number of essential communication skills. Michael co-authored a 20 page consulting report to 1) propose growth opportunities amenable to the client’s business model and 2) critically evaluate social media engagement. Michael led and prepared visualizations for weekly Q&A sessions. While he conducted research throughout the advisory period, Michael’s favorite contribution was citing his use of social science literature to restructure the client’s fundraising approach. Michael discovered a passion for helping businesses realize their full potential throughout the summer and is eager to collaborate with socially conscious initiatives in the future.
Mallory Williamson served as a summer-long personal research assistant to Mark Jia ’10, a Rhodes Scholar and Harvard Law School graduate who served as a clerk to the U.S. Supreme Court. Mallory worked to prepare preliminary research for one of Mr. Jia’s academic research projects, which concerns state sovereign immunity in the United States and China. For the position, she compiled and reviewed court history in the U.S. and in China regarding sovereign immunity, and prepared a comprehensive summary of existing literature on the topic. Ultimately, she prepared a 62-page report for Mr. Jia with her findings on the topic, which she hopes will someday make a meaningful contribution to an under-researched legal phenomenon. Mallory relished the opportunity to learn from Mr. Jia, and is extremely grateful to the Bobst Center and the Department of Politics for providing her the ability to do so.

UG RA Program

Undergraduate students who are majoring in politics or related areas are given the opportunity to work as a Bobst Undergraduate Research Fellow to assist Politics faculty members in research projects which focus on social justice, equality or other aspects of the Bobst mission. In this way, faculty receive extra support while students learn firsthand valuable research skills. This year, students worked with professors Jennifer Widner, Faisal Ahmed, Amaney Jamal, Andreas Wiedemann, and Rafaela Dancygier.

Undergraduate Event Support

The Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice proudly supports Princeton University Undergraduate Student Events that contribute to the Bobst mission. While this year proved challenging for the student organizations, they were still able to offer thought-provoking virtual programs to their peers. The following are some of the events that the Bobst Center has funded this past year:

Asian American Student Association: Helen Zia ’73 Speaker Event

In October, AASA hosted a virtual event led by Helen Zia ’73, to highlight nontraditional career paths within the APIDA community. She spoke about her experience as an Asian American woman in the journalism and activism fields, as well as how the APIDA community can be an ally to other communities during this period of social change.

Students for Prison and Education Reform (SPEAR):


This exhibition featured paintings and sculptures, Kenneth Reams, an incarcerated activist and artist, and Isabelle Reams, an artist and activist. The exhibition, “Who Lives? Who Dies? Who Decides?” raised awareness for the history of the American prison-industrial complex, the death penalty, and solitary confinement in particular, addressing its ties to racial capitalism.

Black Student Union: Black Representation in the Media

Students sought to explore the questions about what it means to represent blackness, partially for entertainment? Students watched the film “Horror Noire” which discusses black representation in horror films and then participated in a reading group of Barack Obama’s “Promised Land” to discuss internalized/externalized identities that are pervasive in the American psyche.

Asian American Student Association: Cynthia Dewi Oka Speaker Event and Workshop

AASA welcomed Cynthia Dewi Oka, an Indonesian-American poet and instructor at Bryn Mawr College, to perform a poetry reading/workshop. Her upcoming book, “Fire Is Not A Country”, will address indigenous genocide in Indonesia. She is a founding member of Pejuang: Indonesian Coalition for Social Justice. Her writing and workshops cover topics such as migration, Indonesian history, empire and nation-building, militarism, reproductive labor, and craft as self-determination. Cynthia also explored the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes.
Orange represents focal areas for recent Bobst-funded research.