

15th Journeys in World Politics, October 1-3, 2026

Sponsored by the University of California, San Diego

Draft schedule as of September 29, 2026

On-site contact information: Christina Schneider – 858-703-7535, Christine Kerns – 714-869-8936 or Galina Isayeva – 650-276-9194

Zoom: <https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/7579868428>

Thursday, Oct. 1	Travel to UC San Diego; check in to La Jolla Shores Hotel, 8110 Camino Del Oro, La Jolla, CA 92037
5:30-8:30pm	Dinner Osteria Romantica 2151 Avenida De La Playa, La Jolla, CA 92037 Introductions, Goals, and Group Discussion about Thriving as a Female-Identifying Scholar of IR <i>[Please remember to read the list of professionalization readings below before the workshop starts]</i>
Friday, Oct. 2	Take ride share to Social Sciences Public Engagement Building PEB 721 (MC 0305, 9625 Scholars Dr N, La Jolla, CA 92093) * text if you have trouble finding us.
8:45-9:15am	Breakfast
Chair: Sara Mitchell	
9:15-10:00am	Natalie Playford: "From Gender Rhetoric to Lending Rules: Adoption and Strength of Gender Clauses in Multilateral Development Bank Lending" Discussants: Anna Kowalski, Isabella Bellezza, Leah Windsor

10:00-10:45am	Wendy Wagner: "Informal Cessation and Post-Civil War Trajectories" Discussants: Do Young Gong, Letitia Roman, Kathleen Cunningham
10:45-11:00am	Short Break Visit http://womenalsoknowstuff.com/ and add your name as an expert! Become a member of Women in Conflict Studies and the APSA Women's Caucus for Political Science (it's free!)
11:00-12:00	Strategies for Research Productivity (Kathleen Cunningham, Aila Matanock, Lauren Prather) <i>[Please remember to read the list of professionalization readings below before the workshop starts]</i>
12:00-1:00pm	Lunch, Senior Autobiography and Q&A session with Leah Windsor
1:00-1:15pm	Short Break
1:15-2:00pm	Betul Ozturan: "Ally or Rival? Explaining Cooperation and Conflict Among Rebel Groups" Discussants: Kathleen Cunningham, Wendy Wagner, Isabella Bellezza
2:00-2:45pm	Letitia Roman: "Fault Lines: How Rapid-Onset Disasters Reshape Insurgent Behavior in Intrastate conflicts" Discussants: Sara Mitchell, Chaelin Kwon, Fiona Bare
2:45-3:00pm	Short break
3:00-3:45pm	Erica Yunyi Huang: "Who Wrote the Treaty? Expertise as a Lever for State Influence in International Negotiations" Discussants: Soyeon Park, Natalie Playford, Leah Windsor
3:45-4:30pm	Do Young Gong: "Getting Over the Coup: Rebuilding Stability and Ending Civil Wars" Discussants: Betul Ozturan, Galina Isayeva, Kelly Kadera

4:30-5:30pm	<i>Free time</i>
5:30pm	Dinner at La Jolla Shores Beach <i>* You can walk from the hotel</i> Discussion: Strategies for Self-Care, Mental Health, and General Survival (Kathleen Cunningham, Kelly Kadera, Christina Schneider) <i>[Please remember to see the list of professionalization readings below, and to complete before the workshop starts]</i>

Saturday, Oct. 3	Take ride share to Social Sciences Public Engagement Building PEB 721 (MC 0305, 9625 Scholars Dr N, La Jolla, CA 92093)
8:30-9:00am	Breakfast
Chair: Kelly Kadera	
9:00-9:45am	Isabella Belleza: "Social Capital in Complex Regimes: Network Position & Access to Multilateral Climate Finance" Discussants: Fiona Bare, Erica Huang, Christina Schneider
9:45-10:30am	Anna Kowalski: "Who Complies? Using Self Reports to Measure Compliance with CEDAW" Discussants: Soyeon Park, Galina Isayeva, Sara Mitchell
10:30-10:45am	<i>Short Break</i>
10:45-11:30am	Chaelin Kwon: "African Solutions to African Voices? The Impact of Transnational Peace Protests on African-led Conflict Management." Discussants: Letitia Roman, Wendy Wagner, Kathleen Cunningham
11:30-12:15pm	Fiona Bare: "The Political Economy of Climate Finance: Information, Incentives, and Institutional Delay" Discussants: Callista Chim, Natalie Playford, Christina Schneider

12:15-1:15pm	Lunch, Senior Autobiography and Q&A session by Kathleen Cunningham
1:15-1:30pm	<i>Short Break</i>
1:30-2:15pm	Soyeon Park: "Selecting Justice: Strategic Forum Choice among Overlapping Human Rights Institutions" Discussants: Olivia Ortega, Anna Kowalski, Sara Mitchell
2:15-3:00	Galina Isayeva: "Choosing Alignment: Domestic Explanations for Post-Soviet States' Foreign Policy" Discussants: Erica Yunyi Huang, Do Young Gong, Kelly Kadera
3:00-3:15	<i>Short Break</i>
3:15-4:15	Go Around the Professional World Panel Navigating academia as a parent (Kathleen Cunningham) Networking as a junior scholar (Kelly Kadera) Publishing books & articles (Christina Schneider) Navigating the academic job market (Sara Mitchell)
4:15-6:30pm	*Journeys 15 Photo* Then free time until dinner.
6:30pm	Dinner at the home of Christina Schneider (4906 Ladera Sarina, Del Mar, CA 92014) <i>* We will coordinate rides on Saturday</i> Discussion: Navigating Less-Than-Inclusive Environments, and What Can We Take Away? Group Discussion and Reflection <i>[Please remember to read the list of professionalization readings below before the workshop starts]</i>

Professionalization readings:

Required (note: this might look like a long list, but each reading is short. All readings are also available on the shared google drive.)

[Improving Women's Advancement in Political Science: What We Know About What Works.](#) Argyle, Lisa, & Mendelberg, Tali. (2020). PS: Political Science & Politics, 53(4), 718-722.

[Explaining Gender in the Journals: How Submission Practices Affect Publication Patterns in Political Science.](#) Djupe, Paul A., Amy Erica Smith, and Anand Edward Sokhey." 2019. PS: Political Science & Politics 52(1): 71-77.

[Gendered Dynamics of Academic Networks*](#). Elliott, Jamie, Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, et al. 2023. International Studies Perspectives 24, no. 2 (2023): 189-229. *Please read the introduction and skim the rest.

[The Impact of Working in Academia on Researchers' Mental Health and Well-being: A Systematic Review and Qualitative Meta-synthesis.](#) Nicholls, Helen, et al. 2022. PloS one 17.5: e0268890.

[Disproportionate Service: Considering the Impacts of George Floyd's Death and the Coronavirus Pandemic for Women Academics and Faculty of Color.](#) Simien, Evelyn, & Wallace, Sophia Jordan. 2022. PS: Political Science & Politics, 55(4), 799-803.

[Women in Academia Burdened with Student's Gendered Expectations: Women are Nurturing, Men are Assertive.](#) Lin, Jessica. SexGenLab.

[Building a Supportive Mentoring Network.](#) Mendoza, Mary Anne S., and Samantha A. Vortherms. 2022. APSA Preprints.

[Not a leaky pipeline! Academic success is a game of chutes and ladders.](#) Windsor, Leah Cathryn, Kerry F. Crawford, and Marijke Breuning. 2021. PS: Political Science & Politics 54.3: 509-512.

[How to Conference.](#) Turner, Kimberly, Christina Boyes, Elizabeth Bennion, and James Newman. 2022. APSA Preprints. (Mainly relevant to those with little conferencing experience; not specific to gender issues).

Suggested further reading:

General

[2023 Symposium on "Diversity and Inclusion in Political Science as a Profession".](#) PS: Political Science and Politics.

[Strategies for Navigating Graduate School and Beyond \(ed\).](#) (chapters on everything from financial precarity to academic isolation to mentoring to publishing to networking to teaching your first class; draft chapters all available free online)

[Implicit Bias, Microaggression, and Bullying.](#) Ghosh, Cyril, & Wang, Hongying. 2023. PS: Political Science & Politics, 56(2), 285-290.

[Women and Pre-Tenure Scholarly Productivity in International Studies: An Investigation into the Leaky Career Pipeline.](#) Hancock, Kathleen J., Matthew A. Baum, and Marijke Breuning. 2013. International Studies Perspectives 1-21.

[Presumed Incompetent.](#) 2013. Reviewed on Inside Higher Ed.

[The Social Underpinnings of Women's Worth in the Study of World Politics: Culture, Leader Emergence, & Coauthorship.](#) Kadera, Kelly. 2013. International Studies Perspectives 14: 463-475.

[5 Things I Wish Someone Had Told Me in Grad School.](#) Johnson, Tana. 2021. Duck of Minerva Blog.

Gender and Publishing/Research Productivity:

[The Publication Gender Gap, Collaboration, and an Index of Inclusion for Scholars Publishing Peer-Reviewed Research.](#) Williams, Unislaw M. 2023. PS: Political Science & Politics 56.1: 128-132.

[New Medium, Same Story? Gender Gaps in Book Publishing.](#) Samuels, David J., and Dawn Langan Teele. 2021. PS: Political Science & Politics 54 (1): 131–140.

[Writing groups as models for peer mentorship among female faculty in political science.](#) Cassese, Erin C., and Mirya R. Holman. 2018. PS: Political Science & Politics 51.2 (2018): 401-405.

Gender and Academic Networks:

[Engaging Women: Addressing the Gender Gap in Women's Networking and Productivity.](#) Barnes, Tiffany D., and Emily Beaulieu. 2017. PS: Political Science & Politics 50 (2): 461–66.

[The Old Boys' Club: Schmoozing and the Gender Gap.](#) Cullen, Zoë, and Ricardo Perez-Truglia. 2023. American Economic Review, 113 (7): 1703-40.

Gender and Citations:

[Gendered Citation Patterns Across Political Science and Social Science Methodology Fields.](#) Dion, Michelle L., Jane L. Sumner, and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. 2018. Political Analysis 26(3): 312-327.

Gender Balance Assessment Tool: <https://jsumner.shinyapps.io/syllabustool/>

[Gender Bias in International Relations Graduate Education? New Evidence from Syllabi.](#) Colgan, Jeff. 2017. PS: Political Science & Politics 50:456-460.

Mental Health in Academia:

[Mental Health and the PhD: Insights and Implications for Political Science.](#) Almasri, N., Read, B., & Vandeweerd, C. 2022. PS: Political Science & Politics, 55(2), 347-353.

Visit Project Implicit Mental Health to investigate your "unconscious or uncontrolled reactions" to various mental health problems: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/user/pimh/index.jsp>

[Berkeley Study Finds High Levels of Depression among Graduate Students.](#) Jaschik, Scott. April 22, 2015. Inside HigherEd.

[Graduate Student Happiness & Well-Being Report: Summary of Findings.](#) The Graduate Assembly of Berkeley. 2014.

The Hidden Curriculum:

[Academic Chutes & Ladders. The Hidden Curriculum That Makes or Breaks Academic Careers.](#) Kerry Crawford and Leah Windsor. 2026.

[Strategies for Navigating Graduate School and Beyond \(ed\).](#) (chapters on everything from financial precarity to academic isolation to mentoring to publishing to networking to teaching your first class; draft chapters all available free online)

[Teaching the Hidden Curriculum in Political Science.](#) Barham, E., & Wood, C. 2022. PS: Political Science & Politics, 55(2), 324-328. (not specific to gender, but helpful)

Gender and Teaching:

[Gender bias in teaching evaluations: the causal role of department gender composition.](#) Aragón, Oriana R., Evava S. Pietri, and Brian A. Powell. 2023. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 120, no. 4: e2118466120.

[When Winning is Really Losing: Teaching Awards and Women Political Science Faculty.](#) Butcher, Charity and Timothy Kersey. 2015. PS: Political Science and Politics 48: 138-141.

Parenthood:

[The PhD Parenthood Trap.](#) Windsor, Leah Cathryn, Kerry F. Crawford. 2021.

The Job Market:

["Wow, I Didn't Know These Options Existed": Understanding Tenure-Track Start-Up Packages.](#) Published online by Cambridge University Press: 27 July 2022.

Journeys 2026 Participants

Jr. Scholars	Current Institution (+ PhD Inst, if applicable)	Position	Email address
Wendy Wagner	UT Austin (UC San Diego)	Postdoc	wwagner@ucsd.edu
Natalie Playford	University of Toronto	PhD Student	natalie.playford@mail.utoronto.ca
Betul Ozturan	Boston College	PhD Student	ozturan@bc.edu
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Yunyi Huang	UT Austin	PhD Student	yunyi.huang@utexas.edu
Do Young Gong	University of Western Ontario (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)	Assistant Professor (incoming)	dygong2@proton.me
Isabella Bellezza	Northwestern (Brown)	Assistant Professor	isabella.bellezza@northwestern.edu
Anna Kowalski	University of Colorado, Boulder	PhD Student	anko5638@colorado.edu
Chaelin Kwon	University of Arizona	PhD Student	chaelinkwon@arizona.edu
Fiona Bare	MIT (Princeton)	Postdoc	fiona.bare@princeton.edu
Soyeon Park	Michigan State	PhD Student	sypark@msu.edu
Galina Isayeva	UC San Diego	PhD Student	gisayeva@ucsd.edu

Organizers

Kelly Kadera	University of Iowa	Professor	kelly-kadera@uiowa.edu
Sara Mitchell	University of Iowa	Professor	sara-mitchell@uiowa.edu

Christina Schneider	UC San Diego	Professor	cjschneider@ucsd.edu
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Senior Mentors

Kathleen Cunningham	University of Maryland	Professor	kgcunnin@umd.edu
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Additional Local Mentors

Lauren Prather	UC San Diego	Associate Professor	lprather@ucsd.edu
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Additional Local Participants

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