INDIANA UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

FALL, 2015
INCOMING GRADUATE CLASS
Hope Bettler

Hope Bettler graduated with a B.S. in Political Science from Kennesaw State University in 2015. Hope is interested in authoritarian regime survival tactics, regime changes, and the role ethnic, religious, and political identities play in regime change. Hope speaks Spanish and spent time during her undergraduate years working with the Latino community in northwest Georgia, mostly with migrant children, her pet advocacy cause. She likes drawing, sidewalk chalk, and British new folk music.

Sean Byrne

Sean enters the Ph.D. program intending to focus on American politics, specifically engaging in the study of presidential and congressional politics and issues. During his military career and subsequent service as a senior civilian executive with the Department of Homeland Security he served in numerous locations around the world as well as an extended tour at the White House and multiple tours at the Pentagon.
Vivian Ferrillo

Vivian Ferrillo is a first-year student in the political science Ph.D. program. She is interested in exploring American political and economic topics using quantitative methods. Her papers have explored Indiana tax structure's relationship with the health of local communities as well as the history of trade liberalization in the global economy. Vivian worked in the Indiana Senate during the 2014 legislative session, and this experience has heavily influenced her research. A native of Boston, Massachusetts, she studied music performance and political science at Indiana University during her undergraduate career.

Colin Fisk

Colin Fisk is from Southern California where he finished his undergraduate studies at the University of La Verne in La Verne, CA. He is interested in questions of race politics, political behavior, religion, and political institutions. In his spare time, Colin spends time watching and playing sports, and listening to music.
Sihang Luo

Sihang Luo (Simon) holds a B.A. in Philosophy (Tsinghua University, 2009) and a M.A. in Politics (NYU, 2015). His field of research is political philosophy. Specifically, he is interested in continental political philosophy from Hegel and Marx to contemporary critical theory. His Master’s thesis is mostly concerned with the fundamental role of human nature in Marx’s works. Sihang also has a growing interest in philosophy of history.

Rita Nassar

Rita holds a B.A. in economics from the Université Saint Joseph and an M.A in economics from the American University of Beirut. She later received her M.A in political science from the University of Illinois-Chicago. She is interested in political psychology, religion and politics and race relations.
Nabila Rahman

Nabila’s research interests stem from her long-term interest in development, specifically in the context of Asia. As a result, she aims to explore why and how certain countries develop economically while other countries follow different trajectories. She is also interested in how to address collective action issues for challenges such as climate change, natural resource depletion, and more. Nabila graduated from the University of Richmond in 2012 with B.A. in PPEL (Philosophy, Political Science, Economics, and Law), and completed a Fulbright Fellowship in Johor, Malaysia. She has also worked with a number of nonprofit institutions, including the Yunus Centre and Teach For Bangladesh in Dhaka, Bangladesh and Pro-Link Organization in Accra, Ghana.