

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



FALL, 2017

INCOMING GRADUATE CLASS



Megan Darnley

Megan Darnley will be beginning the joint PhD in Public Policy. Her area of interest in political science is in political philosophy and in public management and education in public policy. She is originally from Massachusetts and moved to Indiana for her MPA at SPEA in 2015. Before coming to IU, she studied math and philosophy at Trinity College in Hartford. In her spare time, she enjoys running, swimming, any outdoor activities, and whipping up baked goods.



Aidan Klein

Originally from Florida, Aidan is a first year student in IU's Department of Political Science, and plans to study International Relations and Comparative Politics, especially ethnic politics and representation, as well as electoral design. He received his BA from the University of Florida in 2016.



Daniel Muck

A native of the Twin Cities, Daniel received his B.A. in Political Science from Hamline University (St. Paul, MN). He completed an M.S. in European Politics at the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2016. Daniel is interested in contemporary authoritarianism, autocratic institutions, and politics in Russia and the former Soviet Union.



Sulaiman Qeyamat

Sulaiman Qeyamat is a Joint Public Policy Ph.D. student. He believes that public policy and administration scholarship offers a high degree of transferable knowledge to enhance public performance delivery in comparative contexts. It is within this broader scheme that Sulaiman concentrates on the fields of Comparative Politics and Public Management. He is interested in exploring the relationship between institutional design and public policy processes and administration in comparative settings. Prior to beginning his studies at IU, Sulaiman was a fellow at Afghanistan's Center for Research and Policy Studies. He also worked with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation where he developed and supported programs in organizational capacity building for Afghan state institutions and political parties, gender and women's empowerment, conflict transformation, and participation of marginalized groups in democratic political processes. Sulaiman has a Master of Public Affairs (MPA) with concentrations in Policy Analysis and Economic Development from Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA). He also holds an MD degree from Kabul Medical University.



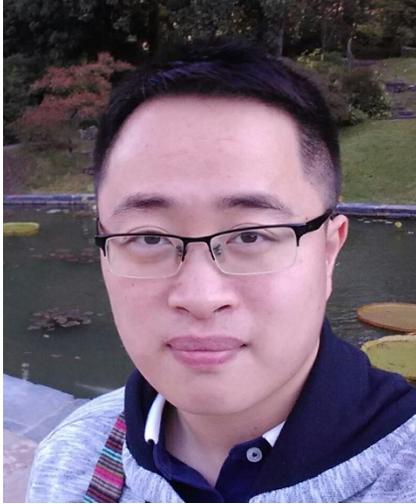
Molly Utter

Molly Utter grew up in Seattle, WA and graduated from the University of Washington with a BA in Law, Societies and Justice. At the University of Washington, she focused on international criminal courts and human rights and participated in a project entitled “Voices from the Rwanda Tribunal”. The project led her to a peace building workshop in Kigali, Rwanda. These experiences inspired her to pursue a PhD in Political Science, focusing on political violence and transitional justice mechanisms. After completing her undergraduate degree, she worked for three years as the Administrative Assistant to the Founder and Chairman Emeritus at land-rights focused non-profit Landesa. In her free time, Molly enjoys sailing and hiking.



Donovan Watts

Donovan A. Watts is currently a Ph.D. student in Political Science at Indiana University-Bloomington, an inspirational speaker and a dynamic leader within the community. Donovan is most recognized by his faith driven lifestyle and received his undergraduate degree from Central Michigan University. His career is highlighted by a number of accomplishments. He received numerous scholarships, most notably his selection as an American Political Science Association Minority Fellow (2017 MFP Fellow), is the former president of the Pi Sigma Alpha chapter at Central Michigan University and a former Ronald E. McNair Scholar. As a McNair Scholar, Donovan’s research focused on the knowledge and attitudes of Central Michigan’s African American students based on the recent conflict between law enforcement officers and African Americans. Donovan has a passion for research and teaching and he hopes to use his doctoral degree to influence policy decisions that will have an impact within the African American community.



Kuangyu Zhao

Kuangyu holds Bachelor Degrees from Renmin University of China with a major in Public Administration and a second major in Philosophy (2013). He earned a M.A. in Political Science from Duke University (2016). His major field is political philosophy and his main interests include Alexis de Tocqueville's political thought and American Political Thought.