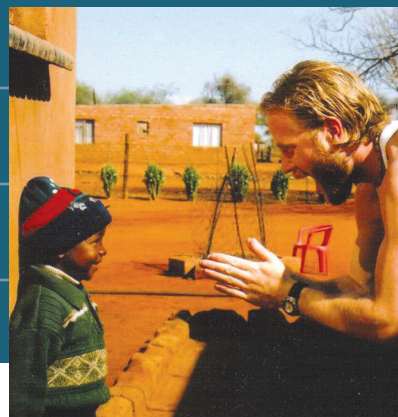


## Faculty Strengths

The department has attracted top faculty across its three fields. Comparativists are bi- or multi-lingual with extensive field experience in their geographical area of focus. Americanists cover both institutional and behavioral approaches to the field and are experienced with a variety of methods, including statistical data analysis and interview-intensive field work. Our Theorists cover the range from ancient to modern political theory, with a strong interest in democratic theory.

## Diversity

The graduate student body is diverse, and we are committed to keeping it so. Minorities (particularly African-Americans and Hispanics) have been successful in all three of our programs. Roughly 50% of our students are international, ranging from countries as far afield as East Asia; South Asia; the Middle East; East, West and Southern Africa; the former Soviet Union, all parts of Europe, and Latin America. Forty percent of the full-time faculty are women, much higher than the national average.



Ryan Simpson, the first graduate in the MDA:Peace Corp option, in South Africa.

## Western Michigan University

Department of Political Science  
Graduate Programs in Political Science

## Political Science at Western Michigan University

The Department of Political Science at Western Michigan University focuses on three of the major fields of political science: American Politics, Comparative Politics, and Political Theory. We offer three graduate degrees: a PhD in Political Science, an MA in Political Science and a Masters of Development Administration (MDA), the latter including a Peace Corps option.



Aparna Thomas, PhD Alumna, conducting field research on women's participation in India.

## Placement

Graduates have found placements in a variety of positions, including:

Academic positions in colleges and universities  
in the US and abroad

Research institutes

Community colleges

NGOs in the US and many developing countries

Lobbying organizations

State and local governments

Federal positions, including the Foreign Service  
and on Capitol Hill

Ministries and government agencies in other countries



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

 **Teaching**

We place a high emphasis on teaching. Funded graduate students work as teaching assistants to faculty, often with responsibility for break-out sections. Many PhD students teach their own course as they progress in the program, usually in their area of interest. WMU is unusual in that it offers graduate courses on teaching, focusing on best practices, learning styles, and common issues and challenges that arise in the classroom.

 **Research**

Accomplishments in research are extensive. Both graduate students and faculty regularly attend academic conferences in the US and abroad. The faculty are widely published, and PhD students are encouraged to work cooperatively with faculty on joint publications. In recent years, graduate students have assembled an enviable record in grant funding for their research, including support from Fulbright, IREX, the American Councils, and the Middle East Research Competition. The faculty have received several National Science Foundation grants that incorporate graduate student research support. On two separate occasions, researchers have won a national prize for research in gender and politics (one was a graduate student).



A sample of some research interests among faculty and graduate students in recent years:

- A Rawlsian Approach to Political Analysis
- Attitudes of Muslims Worldwide Toward Democracy
- Contemporary Democratic Theory
- Development and Social Mobilization in South Africa
- Discourses of Political Economy in the US
- Ecofeminism in Kenya
- Electoral Reform and its Effects in Bolivia
- Elite Intellectuals and Policy in Poland and Russia
- Evaluation in International Development
- Social Policy in Japan and OECD Countries
- Regulation of US Financial Institutions
- Gender and Voting Behavior
- Gender Quotas in India
- Government-Sponsored Enterprise
- Grassroots Party Activism in the American South
- HIV/AIDS and Democratization in Kenya
- Judicial Decision-Making on US Courts of Appeals
- Liberalism and Conservatism in America
- Political Economy and Social Movements in South America
- Residents Committees in China
- The US Supreme Court: Justices, Rulings and Legacies
- Federalism and Educational Policy in Europe

 **Political Science at  
Western Michigan University**

Application for admission to graduate programs varies by semester. The most common deadline is July 1 for the fall semester. Applications for funding are due by February 15 for the fall semester.

The department offers financial support in the form of graduate assistantships and doctoral associateships on a competitive basis. Graduate appointees receive a stipend and tuition remission. Funding for minorities apart from normal departmental funding is also available. Applications, requirements, reference forms and all deadlines can be found on the department web site. About 25% of our students are funded.

More information on graduate programs and the Political Science faculty can be found on the department Web site at <http://www.wmich.edu/politics>.

