Mapping Militant Organizations
Professor Martha Crenshaw
The Mapping Militants Project traces the evolution of militant organizations and the interactions that develop between them over time. The project, which has been ongoing since 2009, is a renowned online resource for terrorism and insurgency experts. The project is cited in over 1,500 books and receives approximately 20,000 unique website visitors every month. The project seeks help from undergraduate research assistants to contribute to these maps and profiles. Research assistants are tasked with updating existing profiles, editing maps, and producing detailed militant profiles. Students will research and write individual profiles of the groups, using a standard format. They will also trace changes in relationships among the groups. Students should have excellent writing and research skills and be attentive to detail and accuracy. The ability to take the initiative is most welcome. An interest in international security and the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia is also important.

The Promises and the Pitfalls of Multilateral Development Bank Accountability Mechanisms
Professor Erica Gould
In response to calls for greater accountability at multilateral development banks (MDBs) like the World Bank, one of the most highly-touted reforms has been the creation of “accountability mechanisms.” Local communities can file complaints with these accountability mechanisms if MDB-financed development projects create harm and violate MDB rules. Nearly 800 complaints have been filed through mechanisms at nine different MDBs over the last twenty years. We know very little, however, about how these mechanisms work and what impact they have had. Who files complaints? What outcomes have they produced? Do they increase accountability, as they are purported to do? This summer, student researchers will work with a dataset of all complaints filed through 2015. Students will extend this dataset by researching individual complaints and coding their outcomes, as well as generate descriptive statistics, produce graphics and conduct preliminary data analysis. The ideal student will be detail-oriented, self-motivated and independent, as well as intrinsically interested in global development. Given the nature of the work, it would be useful for students to have either previous experience with statistical software (Stata or R) or a willingness to learn.

How Religious Organizations Influence State Formation
Professor Anna Grzymala-Busse
How do churches shape the state? Much of the prevailing literature on state formation focuses on war and taxation as the key mechanisms of state formation. But nascent states faced a formidable challenge: wresting power over education, health care, poor relief, the census, and the administrative functions of the state from a major existing actor: Christian churches. Does such religious provision of administration, extraction, and welfare strengthen developing states, or does it smother them at birth? What are the conditions under which religious groups substitute for the state, and does their role help or hamper the growth of new states? The research assistant(s) will generate timelines and memos of church and state activity for several countries. We will begin to put together a data base of historical state institutions and roles. This will involve extensive consultation of library books and documents, and electronic data bases and publications. Prior experience with primary documents, and/ or linguistic abilities (any of the European languages) are welcome but not necessary.
Immigration Policy Lab
Professors Jens Hainmueller, David Laitin, and Jeremy Weinstein
Professors David Laitin, Jens Hainmueller, and Jeremy Weinstein are seeking four research assistants to assist in the Immigration Policy Lab’s research on the impact of immigration policies in the United States, Europe, Middle East and Africa. The Immigration Policy Lab has a number of projects underway, including a multi-method study to assess the impact of private co-sponsorship on refugee integration in the United States and multiple projects evaluating the impact of immigration policy on health and well-being of undocumented immigrants and their families. The research assistants will be responsible for data collection (quantitative and qualitative), data analysis, drafting literature reviews, as well as producing journal quality graphics and tables. Interest in immigration is a must, and a background in social science and statistics is preferred.

The Comparative Political Economics of Prison Reform
Professor Karen Jusko
Who speaks for prison populations during processes of prison reform? This project considers the quality of democratic representation from the perspective of inmate populations—a group whose citizenship is challenged and, sometimes, actively curtailed. Although the larger project will address this question in a broadly comparative context, this summer we will focus on the politics of prison reform within the American states. Undergraduate research assistants will work closely with faculty to identify the scope and dimensions of reform in contemporary and historical prisons, paying particular attention to the location of prisons and the rules governing inmate labor, and to map these state prisons using GIS software. Interested applicants should have successfully completed coursework in the Department of Political Science. Although not required, applicants with good data management, library research, and/or ArcGIS software experience are especially encouraged to apply.

The Psychology of Americans’ Political Decisions
Professor Jon Krosnick
Political psychology is an interdisciplinary enterprise blending psychology with the study of politics. For this project, you will join the Political Psychology Research Group, a team of undergraduates, graduate students, and other researchers led by Professor Jon Krosnick. We will explore what the American public thinks about global warming and what they want the federal government to do on the issue. We will also be investigating the forces that inspire some people to vote in national elections while others decline to participate, and the forces that shape voters’ candidate choices. No special background is necessary for an undergrad to join our team, although comfort with mathematical/statistical write-ups and some experience with statistics would help you take on more challenging tasks. Students who have statistical skills may be able to conduct original analyses of existing data to write papers for publication.

Professor Norman Naimark
Project title and description coming soon!
The Soviet Union, Iran, and the Disintegration of Afghanistan
Professor Robert Rakove
Much is known of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979; relatively little is known about the longer history of the Cold War in Afghanistan. An undergraduate research assistant, fluent in Russian or Persian, with a deep interest in either Iranian or Russian history or politics, is sought for a summer research project. The research assistant will be asked to research, analyze, and translate Soviet or Iranian records pertaining to Afghanistan. Our shared objective will be understanding the roots of the disintegration of Afghanistan in the late 1970s, examining the respective roles of Iran, the Soviet Union, the United States and local Afghan actors.

Ethics, Nuclear Weapons, and Public Opinion
Professor Scott Sagan
The summer research assistants will work as a team to help Professor Sagan with a project titled, “Ethics, Nuclear Weapons, and Public Opinion.” In support of Professor Sagan as he drafts a scholarly article based on experimental survey data collected in the spring of 2018, the research assistants will: a) review coding of survey responses and analyze previous poll data; b) conduct background research, identify and report on related literatures on ethics and the use of force in non-nuclear contexts; and c) analyze how the public might weigh and interpret ethical and other considerations in decisions to support or oppose nuclear attacks. No prior social science research experience is required, but students should have experience conducting research using Stanford libraries, web-based resources, and e-journals and preparing footnotes and bibliographies. Preference will be given to students who have taken POLSCI 101: Introduction to International Relations, POLSCI 114: International Security in a Changing World, MS&E 193: Technology and National Security, and/or Thinking Matters 19: Rules of War.

The CIA Declassified
Professor Amy Zegart
This project examines intelligence challenges in the 21st century. Designed to be an undergraduate textbook with appeal to interested citizens, The CIA Declassified equips readers with an overview of intelligence basics (what US intelligence agencies do and how they do it) and a balanced discussion of intelligence controversies such as interrogation techniques, surveillance, and analysis of Iraq WMD. The undergraduate research assistant would work in a team with Dr. Amy Zegart and 1-2 other research assistants full-time throughout the summer. The SRC research assistant would be responsible for conducting literature reviews for specific chapters; compiling information from publicly available sources; and helping to design, field, and analyze a national survey about public knowledge of intelligence and attitudes toward intelligence controversies. Strong candidates have outstanding academic research, writing, and organizational skills; a deep interest in American foreign policy; a willingness and ability to distill large amounts of information quickly; and exceptional initiative and flexibility. Some background knowledge of US intelligence is helpful but not required.