Chinese-Middle Eastern Trade from the Silk Road to the "Belt and Road" Initiative  
Professor Lisa Blaydes  
The Western, or liberal, international order which emerged after World War II reflects the culmination of a centuries-long process of European, and later American, economic and political development. But how can we understand global trade and economic ties before the "Rise of the West" and what does the decline of the Western international order mean for global economic relations? This project will seek to characterize the international economic order from a long-term economic perspective, with a particular focus on where the economic centers of gravity existed in the world before the rise of Western hegemony. We will also explore China's interest in greater economic and political influence in Western Asia as most clearly manifested in Xi Jinping's signature foreign policy project, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Research assistants will be asked to collect and analyze data related to historical and contemporary economic, political and cultural relations between China and the Middle East. Interest in either China or the Middle East as well as training in statistics, ArcGIS and/or data management is desirable but not required.

On the Value of Elections and Voting  
Professor Emilee Chapman  
This project examines what distinguishes voting from other forms of participation in a democracy, and asks how we should identify the appropriate goals of electoral reform. Election laws and administrative practices aim at maximizing a number of values, such as equality, fairness, transparency, security, accessibility, and efficiency. But designing electoral systems often requires making trade-offs among these values. Moreover, electoral systems also affect both the strategic environment facing political actors and citizens’ experience of voting in ways that can significantly affect the political culture and quality of democracy. The research assistant will compile background information on election laws and administrative practices, and select and conduct election case studies. The research assistant will also draft literature reviews of recent studies of voter behavior in different electoral contexts and work with Professor Chapman to identify other tasks to support the project.

Mapping Militant Organizations  
Professor Martha Crenshaw  
The mapping militants project (MMP) produces original profiles of militant or extremist groups and traces their interactions in specific conflict theatres. The profiles and "maps" of relationships are publicly available on the website mappingmilitants.stanford.edu, which is currently being updated and reorganized. Students should have experience in conducting research, write clearly and concisely, and be attentive to detail and accuracy. Material on the website is frequently cited by researchers, journalists, and public officials. The project was initiated in 2009.

Uncovering the Secrets of Side Letters  
Professor Judy Goldstein  
Over the past few decades, nations have signed hundreds of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements with each other. These agreements contain legally binding promises to provide improved market access for partners' goods and services. Despite a substantial body of research
investigating what these agreements include, how they get negotiated, and their impact on economic outcomes, one element of these texts has been entirely overlooked: the nearly omnipresent side-letters that accompany the formal texts. Of debatable legal standing, these side-letters contain specific assurances, clarifications, and exceptions on what are often politically sensitive and politically salient topics. Why do nations include such letters alongside but apart from the official agreement? What determines whether something ends up in a side-letter versus the official text? Is lobbying on side-letters distinct from lobbying on the agreement itself? These are the sorts of questions we hope to answer this summer. We are looking for two undergraduate students to help us classify and explore these side-letters. Interest in international trade is a plus, though no economics background is necessary.

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? Do the mechanisms 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 have the opportunity to assist with this ongoing research project, as well as a related project on international organizational decision-making procedures, by generating descriptive statistics in R or Stata, finding and merging outside datasets, conducting preliminary data analysis, producing graphics, and researching individual complaints from India. The ideal student will be detail-oriented, self-motivated and independent, as well as intrinsically interested in global development and international organizations. 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.

Immigration Policy Lab
Professors Jens Hainmueller, David Laitin, and Jeremy Weinstein
Professors Jens Hainmueller, David Laitin, 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 conducts a wide array of policy-relevant research such as an evaluation of a citizenship program in New York and building a new web-based tool to measure immigration sentiment using social media data. The research assistants will be responsible for data collection (quantitative and qualitative), coding, 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.

How Election Administration Rules Affect Voter Turnout  
Professors Andy Hall and Justin Grimmer
American electoral turnout lags far behind other advanced democracies. One reason for the low turnout might be the relatively high cost of voting in American elections, due in part to rules that govern how American elections are administered. In this project we will collect historical data to examine the effect of various historical administrative rules. For example, students will collect data from the late 19th century to assess the effect of voter registration and other data on partisan control of election administration offices to assess whether elected officials affect who turns out to vote. By the end of the summer students working on this project will gain a deep knowledge of American electoral law, will be exposed to modern causal inference techniques, and produce work that will potentially help influence current debates about voting rights in America.

The Politics of Divorce
Professor Shanto Iyengar
Professor Iyengar is looking for an undergraduate RA to work on a project that examines political polarization in the U.S. Specifically, the project considers the relationship between political party registration and divorce. The student will assist with the collection and analysis of divorce records from 5-6 counties across the U.S by cleaning the existing files and then matching the divorce records to the national voter file. The student should have, at minimum, prior experience with Microsoft Excel and a strong attention to detail.

Respectability and the Politics of Punishment among Black Americans
Professor Hakeem Jefferson
I am working on a series of projects that center on understanding Black Americans' attitudes toward punitive social policies, particularly when these policies target other members of their racial group. The student will assist in the design and execution of multiple survey experiments over the course of the summer that will help us better understand the conditions under which individuals decide to support punitive measures that affect in-group members. I expect that the student will meet with me at least once or twice per week and will work closely with me at all stages of the design and implementation phases of the survey experiments. Those interested in race and politics, identity, criminal justice, or political psychology are encouraged to apply. Although not at all required, students with experience analyzing data and students with experience designing or working with experiments are especially encouraged to apply.

America, the Middle East, and Grand Strategy After 9/11
Professor Colin Kahl
This book project examines the role of causal beliefs in shaping key U.S. foreign policy decisions in the Middle East during the George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump administrations. Empirically, the project will focus on decisions made by the three presidents regarding the use of force and their approach to diplomacy toward Iran, Iraq, Libya, and Syria, among other cases. Research assistants should have strong research, analytic, and writing skills, and an interest in international security, American foreign policy, and the Middle East.

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.

**Creating the Framework for a New Moral Political Economy**  
**Professor Margaret Levi**

This project aims to build a new moral political economic framework. The failure of neoliberalism in promoting human wellbeing, controlling inequality, protecting the environment, and shielding citizens from the malicious use of technology demands action. Our work is organized through five working groups that deal with developing cutting-edge models of human behavior and interactions; articulating the values that people hold dear; understanding how technology can help create new forms of solidarity and facilitate collective action; developing new pedagogical strategies to engage students; and crafting a vision that encapsulates our aspirations. We expect that the student’s responsibilities will include proofreading academic and non-academic writing, participating in meetings, locating relevant literature, and helping with proposal development. Although some of the specific needs will become clearer as the project advances, potential additional tasks include helping with the analysis of syllabi; following and report on news related to social movements around the world; and compiling a literature review on topics related to aspects of neoliberal policy in the 20th century. The position does not require special skills, although familiarity with textual analysis software is a plus. The student must be able to work in a team, as the work will involve engaging directly with the CASBS director, the moral economy program director, and the members of our working groups.

**Citizen Trust and Evidence-Based Police Accountability and Professionalization in Mexico**  
**Professor Beatriz Magaloni**

Beatriz Magaloni, Professor of Political Science, and Director of the Poverty, Violence, and Governance Lab (PoVgov) is seeking to hire an Undergraduate Research Assistant. The Undergraduate Research Assistant will work with Professor Magaloni on a project related to violence and organized crime in Mexico that focuses on understanding the spatial dynamics of crime. Applicants should be juniors or seniors majoring in computer science, economics, political science, public policy, or other related disciplines. Ideal candidates must have strong quantitative and data analysis skills and excellent written and verbal communication skills. Fluency in Spanish and proficiency in the use of STATA, R and Python are highly desirable.

**A Political Thinker in Dark Times: Thomas Hobbes’s Changing Religious and Political Arguments**  
**Professor Alison McQueen**

The seventeenth-century philosopher Thomas Hobbes wrote his greatest political works as his country was being torn apart by the English Civil War. In addition to making an enduring philosophical argument for political absolutism, Hobbes made a number of religious arguments, which increased in number and scope across his political works. This change is puzzling. Few of
these religious arguments were necessary to support his philosophical argument. But many of these religious arguments lost Hobbes friends, opened him to condemnation, and brought him close to charges of heresy. So, why did he bother making these controversial arguments? And how did he choose which ones to make? This project considers the possibility that Hobbes’s choices track the popular arguments of his time. In order to investigate this possibility, we use computer-assisted text analysis to examine a corpus of about 10,000 pamphlets, newspapers, broadsides, and books from the English Civil War and Protectorate Periods (1641-1661). The research assistant’s duties may include interpreting the results of this analysis, investigating the use of additional text analysis tools, closely tracking changes in Hobbes’s texts, and preparing reports on selected aspects of Hobbes’s context. The ideal research assistant will have experience with computer-assisted text analysis or in the history of seventeenth-century England (and preferably experience in both areas).

The Ideological Contradictions of NIMBYism: Explaining Local Opposition to Affordable Housing
Professor Clayton Nall
I am seeking students to assist with a new book project on how Americans cope with the dilemmas that arise when their general political ideology clashes with the demands of local politics. We will examine these questions in the context of local housing development policy. Students will assist with literature review for a book project and will assist in identification and collection of relevant data sources. Continuing the work of previous SRC cohorts, they will assist in the testing, deployment, administration, and analysis of a new geographically targeted survey examining how residents develop attitudes towards housing projects. Finally, in support of the project, students will work with local government documents and engage in open public records searches related to housing controversies. Students will receive necessary training for work in GIS, R, Excel, and survey research.

Soviet POWs in Nazi Camps: The Issue of Genocide
Professor Norman Naimark
About two-and-half million captured Soviet officers and soldiers died in the first two years of the Second World War in Nazi hands, mostly by starvation and disease in German camps. The goal of this project is to examine the motivations and intentions of the Germans in dealing with Soviet POWs, examine the arguments within the German military and civilian hierarchy in dealing with the POWS, and look at judicial materials (Nuremberg Trials, Soviet Trials) that examine the level of culpability of various Nazi officials. The legal issues involved having to do with the 1929 Geneva Convention are also important. It would be useful if students could read either German or Russian. But there are important English language sources to examine, as well.

Ethics, Nuclear Weapons, and Public Opinion
Professor Scott Sagan
The summer research assistants will work as a team to support Professor Sagan on a project titled, "Ethics, Nuclear Weapons, and Public Opinion." The project employs experimental survey data to examine public opinion on nuclear weapons and wartime ethics. The summer students will focus on two sub-projects based on the survey data. The first explores the effect of priming on public willingness to support nuclear weapons use. The second examines public opinion across four countries on due care and risk acceptance. In support of Professor Sagan as he drafts
scholarly articles, the research assistants will: (a) review coding of survey responses and analyze previous polling data; (b) conduct background research on related articles and books, identify relevant literature on ethics and the use of force; and (c) help produce manuscript drafts. Students should have excellent writing and research skills, and be attentive to detail. No prior social science research experience is required, but students should have experience conducting research using Stanford libraries, web-based resources, and e-journals, as well as preparing footnotes and bibliographies. Preference will be given to students who have taken POLSCI 1: 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.

**Brexit Means What?**
**Professor Ken Scheve**

On June 23, 2016, the United Kingdom voted in a national referendum to leave the European Union. After parliament passed legislation authorizing the country’s intention to leave under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, Prime Minister Theresa May started the official withdrawal process on March 28, 2017 giving the United Kingdom and the European Union two years to negotiate the terms of the country’s departure. The Prime Minister faced one of the most difficult political problems in the history of her country. The referendum had only decided that the country should no longer be a member of the EU. It was silent on what the relationship between the UK and the EU should be going forward with tremendous conflict in the country over this question. Moreover, whatever it was that the UK wanted had to be acceptable to the member states of the EU.

The student working on this project will help prepare data and historical materials for a case study that will explore the determinants of the UK’s negotiating positions in its Article 50 negotiations with the EU.