

## Department of Government

Celebrating Political Science at The University of Texas at Austin



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MONTHLY ARCHIVES: MARCH 2013

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### Joshua Fjelstul, Dean's Distinguished Graduate

Posted on [29 March 2013](#)

Joshua Fjelstul has been named one of 12 Dean's Distinguished Graduates in the College of Liberal Arts for 2013.

Posted in [Undergraduate News](#)

### Johnny Meyer Lands Austin Chronicle Cover

Posted on [26 March 2013](#)

Johnny Meyer and his new play, "The Priceless Slave," find themselves featured as the [cover story](#) in the [current issue](#) of the *The Austin Chronicle*.

Posted in [Graduate News](#)

### Blake to IUPUI

Posted on [4 March 2013](#)

William Blake has accepted a tenure track position at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Posted in [Graduate News](#)

### Buehler Accepts Post-Doc

Posted on [4 March 2013](#)

[Matt Buehler](#) has accepted a post-doctoral fellowship at [Georgetown University's Center for International and Regional Studies at the School of Foreign Service in Doha, Qatar](#).

Upon completion, Buehler will begin his tenure-track position at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

Posted in [Graduate News](#)

### Sorace Article on China's Post-Earthquake Countryside

Posted on [4 March 2013](#)

Christian Sorace has had an article accepted for publication in *The China Quarterly*.

"China's Vision for Developing Sichuan's Post-Earthquake Countryside: Turning Unruly Peasants into Grateful Urban Citizens"

Abstract: In the aftermath of the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, government officials, scholars, and outside observers eagerly hoped that the emergency relief and reconstruction process would bring about the emergence of civil society and increase grassroots democratic participation. Contrary to this optimistic assessment, my article contends that the local state used the opportunity of the disaster as an experimental laboratory to implement an array of already existing national development plans (mainly, urban-rural integration, expansion of domestic demand, and the infrastructural modernization promised by the Open up the West Campaign). The urgency with which the reconstruction was to be completed and the opportunities to meet national-development targets as well as access reconstruction funds were much too tantalizing to resist in the name of grassroots experimentation and political reform. The resort to a ham-fisted Leninist implementation style, however, met with local resistance and contributed to a significant deterioration in local state-society relations in Sichuan. Many local residents continue to anxiously question why the tremendous amount of money the state invested in the reconstruction project has still not yet improved their economic and overall living conditions – pointing to a deficit of local participation and a breakdown in political communication and trust. By focusing on these varieties of disaster reconstruction political economy, my article hopes to shed light on the regime's vision for developing the countryside, rural politics, and state-society relations in China more broadly. Unless the state is able to incorporate local needs into its development plans, it will not win the trust and support of local residents, regardless of the amount of money it invests or benevolence of its intentions.

Posted in [Graduate Publications](#)