

## **First International Politics Panel of the Semester with Molly Selvin and David Rubenson**

On Tuesday May 14, 2019, REAF co-director Prof. Dr. Stephan Bierling hosted REAF's first international politics panel of the semester entitled "Did We Make a Difference? Citizen Volunteers and the 2018 US-Congressional Election Outcome", with his guests Molly Selvin and David Rubenson. After a brief introduction into how elections in the United States are carried out, the two shared their experiences canvassing for democratic candidates as well as assisting people to register to vote in counties near their home in LA, which had the potential to "swing left", or to vote a Democrat into the House of Representatives over a Republican incumbent. Throughout their presentation, the couple stressed that they believed the key to winning elections was simply reminding people who had registered as Democrat that an election was coming, and to encourage them to come out and vote. Many of their efforts were rewarded with the election of many new Democrats to the House in the counties they worked in, as well as a higher voter turnout for this election overall. REAF was delighted to hear about the many experiences these guests have had volunteering for a cause they believe in.