



# *The Western*

Newsletter of the Western Political  
Science Association

Fall 2023

Conference highlights,  
association news, and more

# The Western

Newsletter of the Western Political Science Association



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## ABOUT THE WESTERN

*The Western* is the official newsletter of the Western Political Science Association. It serves as a forum for scholarly conversations on political science teaching, research, and political events focused on but not limited to the western region. Contributions to the newsletter should be directed to the editors at [thewestern@pdx.edu](mailto:thewestern@pdx.edu).

## *From the Editors*

WPSA Members:

Another semester has flown by! In many ways the process of generating this newsletter mirrors the rhythm of faculty life across a semester.

We begin with plans and goals, dreams and timelines. And then, an endless stream of commitments intervenes. Classes to teach. Papers to write. Presentations to give. Students to mentor. Meetings to attend. And then, as we reach the end of the semester, we realize we haven't taken enough time to do one of the most vital activities of all – reflect. Reflect on what we have accomplished, on the successes that have shaped this season, and on all the moments that have motivated us to live out our calling and purpose. As we reflect, we may realize that all the commitments which seem to delay us from accomplishing our goals for the semester are the very reason that we do what we do. It is in the very busyness that we can find who we are – scholar-teachers working to contribute to the world in some way, whether through teaching, research, and service.

In that spirit, we offer this Fall 2023 Edition of *The Western*. As you read through the pages and celebrate the accomplishments of the members of our association, we hope that it encourages you to reflect on what this semester has meant to you.

If you would like to add pages to the story of the Western Political Science Association by being featured in a future edition of *The Western*, please email us at [thewestern@pdx.edu](mailto:thewestern@pdx.edu)!

Happy semester end and wonderful wishes for the New Year!

- *Chase, Gwen, Benjamin & Michael*

*The Western*  
Fall 2023

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## Community College 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Western Political Science Association

We are living in an era of unprecedented turbulences that are reshaping national politics and international relations. Parallel, we are experiencing rapid and disruptive technological transformations that will impact society and the learning environment in higher education. As we try to navigate these turbulences and understand their consequences, Community Colleges can offer the support and provide the necessary solutions. Community colleges are catalysts for positive change and engines of prosperity. They are vital in combating poverty and inequality by offering access to high quality and affordable education, fostering inclusivity, and enabling individuals to break socio-economic barriers and subsequently uplift their communities. In addition to fostering inclusivity and empowering individuals to shatter socio-economic barriers, Community Colleges instill the values that underpin democratic governance, ensuring the continued strength of our society.

In partnership with the Western Political Science Association, we recognize the contributions of Community Colleges and their dedicated faculty for the vitality and health of our society by organizing the 7th Annual Community College Mini-Conference. Guided by our conference's theme: Engaging in the Discipline – The Community College Connections and Why it Matters, we explore the dynamic relationship between community college faculty and the discipline of Political Science during a period of challenges and political turbulence. The recent years have posed significant hardships for faculty and students, particularly within the context of the pandemic and its lasting effects. Yet, despite, or possibly in spite of, these challenges, we are also witnessing a reinvigoration of civic engagement and the emergence of innovative teaching methodologies within the discipline. As we continue our reflective journey of the past and present, we are committed to drawing relevant lessons that can be applied within the classroom and beyond. Within the context of the mini conference, we seek to reignite the future of education with a focus on enhancing both faculty well-being and student success.

In addition, these mini conferences are dedicated to highlighting the central role of Community Colleges in our society. We are reminded that faculty at these institutions are on the frontline of higher education, addressing the educational neglect stemming from systemic social and economic injustice. These dedicated educators empower underrepresented, marginalized, and at-risk student populations by providing them with the knowledge and skills needed to secure a better future, thus enhancing economic and social empowerment. Faculty at Community Colleges help students articulate their academic ambitions while fostering the values critical for sustained civic engagement, thereby providing a critical foundation for democratic governance. Whether they are aiding first-generation college graduates in realizing their academic goals, providing necessary skills for workforce development in the community or providing an enriched environment for life-long learning, Community Colleges and their faculty create opportunities for the accomplishment of academic goals and the realization of deferred dreams.

The Western Political Science Association should be recognized for providing a platform that enables Community College faculty to showcase their talents and pedagogical innovation, continue research and potential publications, and for overall, having recognized the essential systemic role of Community Colleges. While this committee primarily focuses on research, publications, and pedagogical innovation, our work is still a tribute to the success of our students. Community college accomplish these tasks while maintaining a commitment to incorporating social justice teachings within the discipline of Political Science.

We thank the Western Political Science Association for sharing our vision of justice, hope, faith in humanity, and equity in all institutions of higher education, all of which contribute to enlightening Political Science and reinforce the democratic values that underpin our society.

Western Political Science Association-Community College Committee:

Co-Chair: La Della Levy, College of Southern Nevada

Co-Chair: Rogelio Garcia, East Los Angeles College

Kelly Velasquez, East Los Angeles College

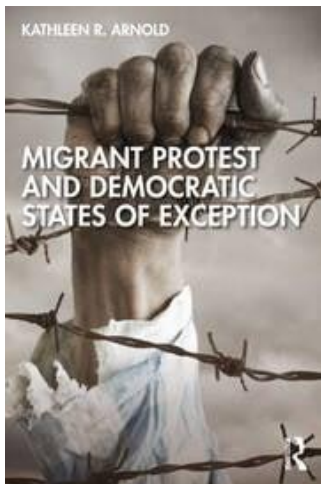
Tony Wohlers, Harford Community College

Dino Bozonelos, Victor Valley College

## Recent Publications by WPSA Members

### Books

**Arnold, Kathleen R. (2023).** *Migrant Protest and Democratic States of Exception*. Routledge.



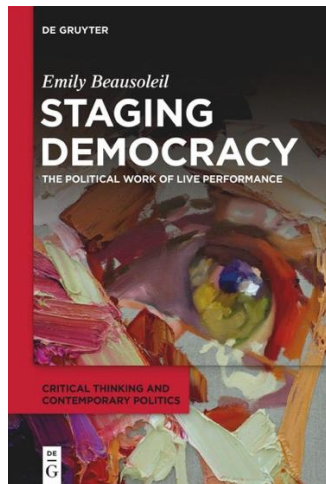
Recognizing the radical disparity between migration/border policy and constitutional law “inside these borders,” Kathleen R. Arnold focuses on two main forms of migrant protest to explore the meaning of resistance in a sovereign context: self-harming protest by detainees and faith-

based sanctuary of individuals scheduled for detention.

This activism creates a “democratic state of exception,” interrupting the legal process, altering discretionary forms of sovereign power, and enacting rights not formally granted; these efforts go beyond the assertion of liberal rights or merely restoring the rule of law (even if these are also goals), challenging the warfare state while constituting a demos that is formally illegible.

*Migrant Protest and Democratic States of Exception* will be of interest to scholars, migrant advocacy professionals (including INGO and IGO officers), graduate students, and advanced undergraduate students in a variety of fields from legal studies to forced migration and refugee studies, political science, human rights, protest history, and contemporary movements.

**Beausoleil, Emily. (2023). *Staging Democracy: The Political Work of Live Performance*. De Gruyter.**

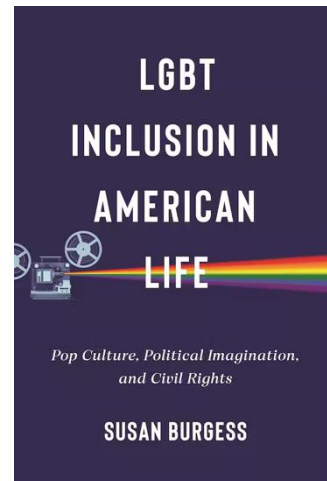


*Staging Democracy* responds to compelling calls in democratic theory for communication and coalition across social difference by asking how we realize these ideals in concrete terms. It shifts the focus from if and why marginalized difference should find entry into politics, to the practical question of how this is to be done. What explains those rare moments when marginalized voices break through in contemporary politics? And how might a closer look at the strategies and resources at play within such moments enhance how we understand and enact civic engagement?

Political theory and practice have traditionally overlooked the performing arts as a site of civic politics, and yet marginalized communities continually turn to them to communicate, challenge, and catalyze change. This book brings vivid moments of creative practice from three continents together with performance studies and political scholarship to argue that artistic performance offers a potent form of democratic voice for claims from the margins. Across political contexts, democratic aims, and artistic genres, *Staging Democracy* shows how the very qualities that lead some to think of the arts as unclear, irrational, and irresponsible –

and thus politically suspect – shape artistic performance’s distinct capacity to enact democratic engagement in conditions of deep difference and inequality.

**Burgess, Susan. (2023). *LGBT Inclusion in American Life: Pop Culture, Political Imagination, and Civil Rights*. NYU Press**



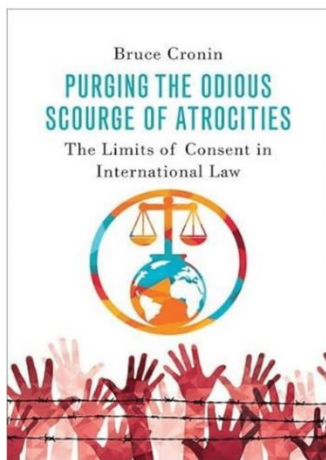
A compelling explanation of the American public’s acceptance of LGBT freedoms through the lens of pop culture

How did gay people go from being characterized as dangerous perverts to military heroes and respectable parents? How did the interests of the LGBT movement and the state converge to transform mainstream political and legal norms in these areas?

Using civil rights narratives, pop culture, and critical theory, *LGBT Inclusion in American Life* tells the story of how exclusion was transformed into inclusion in US politics and society, as pop culture changed mainstream Americans thinking about “non-gay” issues, namely privacy, sex and gender norms, and family. Susan Burgess explores films such as *Casablanca*, various James Bond movies, and *Julie and Julia*, and television shows such as *thirtysomething* and *The Americans*, as well as the Broadway sensation *Hamilton*, as sources of growing popular support for LGBT rights. By

drawing on popular culture as a rich source of public understanding, Burgess explains how the greater public came to accept and even support the three central pillars of LGBT freedoms in the post–World War II era: to have consensual adult sex without fear of criminal penalty, to serve openly in the military, and to marry legally. *LGBT Inclusion in American Life* argues that pop culture can help us to imagine unknown futures that lead beyond what we currently desire from contemporary politics, and in return asks now that the mainstream public has come to accept LGBT freedoms, where might the popular imagination be headed in the future?

**Cronin, Bruce. (2023). *Purging the Odious Scourge of Atrocities: The Limits of Consent in International Law*. Oxford University Press.**

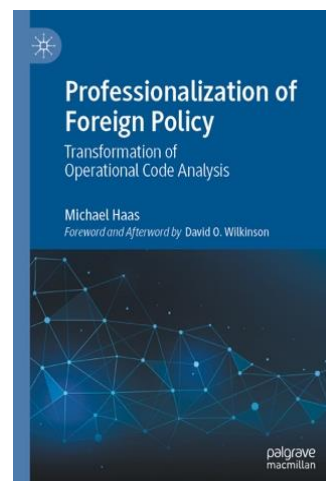


*Purging the Odious Scourge: The Limits of Consent in International Law* explains the growth of a small body of human rights law that is binding on all states regardless of whether they have accepted it by signing treaties, or whether it is consistent with widespread state practice. This challenges the doctrine of consent, which has been the foundation of international law for more than one hundred years. The book argues that qualitative changes in the form of global governance are leading to an expansion in

the underpinnings of international law and its role in contemporary world politics. Specifically, in limited and well-defined areas of international law, states have begun to recognize the authority of collective international consensus over individual state consent as the source of some legal rules.

This consensus is produced through extensive deliberation among political leaders within multilateral institutions. The book supports this theory by examining the degree to which the international community has developed a consensus around the legal control of “excessive internal state violence,” this is, a level of coercive force that the international community considers to be disproportionate and illegitimate for pursuing state interests within its own borders. These practices (which the Genocide Convention refers to as an “odious scourge”) include widespread, systematic attacks on a civilian population; violent persecution of defined groups; torture, and the violation of civilian immunity in internal armed conflicts. In these cases, state action is subject to general international law that overrides their consent.

**Haas, Michael. (2022). *Professionalization of Foreign Policy: Transformation of Operational Code Analysis*. Palgrave MacMillan**

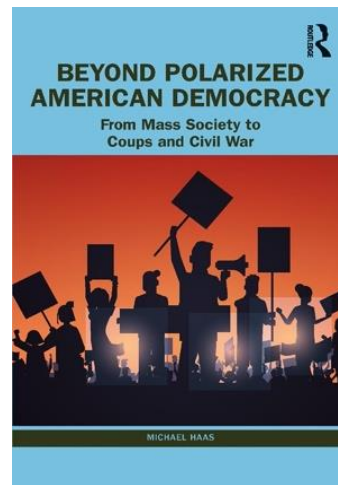


This book seeks to address some of the Political scientist Michael Haas critiques previous efforts to understand why foreign policy blunders occur, proving that bad decisions most often occur when country X has different cultural norms from country Y.

Accordingly, the term “operational code” is redefined as the weights given to standard criteria for evaluation (power, economics, prestige, feasibility) and their sub criteria, which are based on the major paradigms of the social sciences. When staff evaluate every policy option by the 15 major sub criteria, they can then pool their results in Decision Pad, a computer program that calculates the desirability of each option from high to low, review their joint proposals, and advise presidents and prime ministers.

Too many blunders in foreign policy are responsible for the loss of lives. Yet decision-making remains highly unprofessional, often because political leaders and their advisers push ideological agendas rather than systematically evaluating several options on the basis of the very criteria that social scientists have developed as major paradigms. When a leader requires staff to engage in a professional process, decisions will improve. Foreign policy analysis at last can become an applied social science.

**Haas, Michael. (2023). *Beyond Polarized American Democracy: From Mass Society to Coups and Civil War*. Routledge.**



The book, his 65th, explains how sociology’s Mass Society Paradigm identifies conditions in the United States that today are responsible for conflicts that may soon metastasize into violent coups or even a civil war—unless certain measures are adopted quickly.

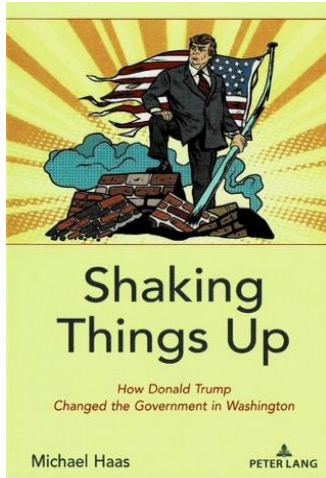
Social scientist Michael Haas reveals details of how ten ongoing civil wars currently are producing lower-level violence, and may heat up to violent forms of struggle that will end American rule-by-the-people democracy.

Book traces the current effort of four strongly held ideologies—Anarchism, Christian Nationalism, Libertarianism, and Triumphalism—that now tear the country apart.

The underlying explanation is that the United States now has a mass society in which needs of the people are no longer relayed by civil society into governmental remedies for the vast majority of the people. Instead, a zero-sum conflict has emerged that may only end when one side is victorious, with one set of values prevailing across the nation.

**Haas, Michael. (2023). *Shaking Things Up: How Donald Trump Changed the Government in Washington*. Peter Lang.**

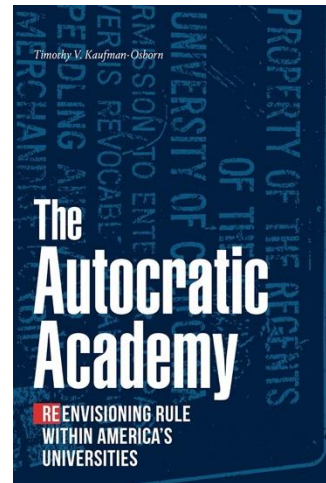




Trump's Social Darwinism is the view that the human race will only survive if the strong are predominant. Accordingly, any governmental effort to help the "weak" is dangerous and must be stopped. The theory was formulated in the 19th century as a utopia in which government would fade away because strong people would prosper while the weak would die off. At the time, 99 percent of the population of the world was agrarian, and the economy only fluctuated with the weather. One branch of Social Darwinism, known as Libertarianism, pursues an agenda of reversing all government-supported interventions in the economic and social programs. Before Trump became president, most Republican Party politicians were Libertarians. But Trump is a Triumphalist Social Darwinist, following the philosophy of Johann Fichte, Johann Herder, Adolf Hitler, and Oswald Spengler. While Libertarians seek to cut back on government very slowly, so that there would be little notice as programs dry up, Triumphalism wants government to discriminate in favor of the "strong" and do so with headlines. Accordingly, the book focuses on details within a wide variety of government programs that were sabotaged by the Trump Administration.

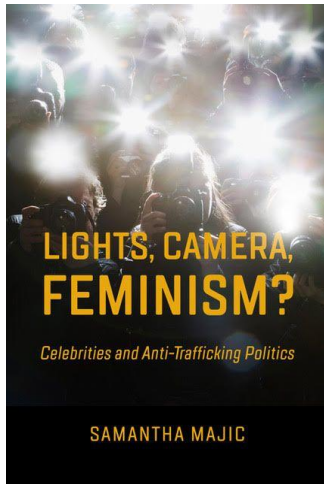
**Kaufman-Osborn, Timothy V. (2023). *The Autocratic Academy: Reenvisioning Rule***

***Within America's Universities.* Duke University Press.**



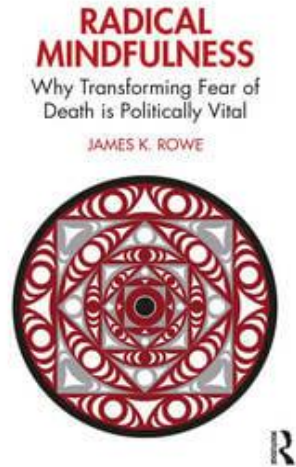
Critics of contemporary US higher education often point to the academy's "corporatization" as one of its defining maladies. However, in *The Autocratic Academy* Timothy V. Kaufman-Osborn argues that American colleges and universities have always been organized as corporations in which the power to rule is legally vested in and monopolized by antidemocratic governing boards. This institutional form, Kaufman-Osborn contends, is antithetical to the free inquiry that defines the purpose of higher education. Tracing the history of the American academy from the founding of Harvard (1636), through the Supreme Court's *Dartmouth v. Woodward* ruling (1819), and into the twenty-first century, Kaufman-Osborn shows how the university's autocratic legal constitution is now yoked to its representation on the model of private property. Explaining why appeals to the cause of shared governance cannot succeed in wresting power from the academy's autocrats, Kaufman-Osborn argues that American universities must now be reincorporated in accordance with the principles of democratic republicanism. Only then can the academy's members hold accountable those chosen to govern and collectively determine the disposition of higher education's unique public goods.

Majic, Samantha. (2023). *Lights, Camera, Feminism? Celebrities and Anti-Trafficking Politics*. University of California Press.



Celebrities in the United States have drawn significant attention and resources to the complex issue of human trafficking—a subject of feminist concern—and they are often criticized for promoting sensationalized and simplistic understandings of the issue. In this comprehensive analysis of celebrities’ anti-trafficking activism, however, Samantha Majic finds that this phenomenon is more nuanced: even as some celebrities promote regressive issue narratives and carceral solutions, others use their platforms to elevate more diverse representations of human trafficking and feminist analyses of gender inequality. *Lights, Camera, Feminism?* thus argues that we should understand celebrities as multilevel political actors whose activism is shaped and mediated by a range of personal and contextual factors, with implications for feminist and democratic politics more broadly.

Rowe, James K. (2024). *Radical Mindfulness: Why Transforming Fear of Death is Politically Vital*. Routledge.



The book examines the root causes of injustice, asking why inequalities along the lines of race, class, gender, and species continue to exist. Specifically, I examine fear of death as a root cause of systemic inequalities and propose a more embodied approach to social change as a solution. Collecting insights from powerful thinkers across multiple traditions—including Black radicals, Indigenous resurgence theorists, terror management theorists, and Buddhist feminists—I argue for the political importance of seemingly apolitical practices such as meditation and ritual. On their own, these strategies are not enough, but integrated into social movements that are combating structural injustices, mind–body practices can begin transforming the embodied fears that feed endless fuel to supremacist ideologies and yet are not targeted by most political actors. *Radical Mindfulness* is for academics, activists, and individuals who want to overcome supremacy of all kinds but are struggling to understand and develop methods for attacking it at the roots.

## Articles

Mark R. Reiff published “Left Libertarianism for the Twenty-First Century” in the *Journal of Social and Political Philosophy* 2:2, pages 191-211.

Ron Hayduk published three co-authored studies this year:

1. “Two Steps Forward, One Step Back: Participatory Budgeting and the Quest for Empowered Participatory Governance,” published by *New Political Science* (Volume 45, No. 1, 2023).
2. “Immigrant Voting and the Movement for Inclusion in San Francisco” conducted in partnership with immigrant serving community organizations;  
<https://caasf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/23-CAA-ImmigrationVotingReport-F2.pdf>
3. A forthcoming study co-authored with Professor Marcela García-Castañón titled “Exploring the Complexities of ‘Alien Suffrage’ in American Political History,” which will be published by the *Journal of American Ethnic History* (JAEH) in December 2023 (Vol43, No. 2).

### **Contribute Your Research**

#### **Highlights**

Have an article or book that you want to promote? We would love to hear from you! Please email [thewestern@pdx.edu](mailto:thewestern@pdx.edu)

## Awards Spotlight



**Candi Cipactli Corral, Ph. D.**, (she, her, ella) is an Assistant Teaching Professor in Ethnic Studies. She was awarded one of the Indigenous DataSET Fellowships from the UofA Collaboratory for Indigenous Data Governance and Native Nations Institute. As part of the Indigenous

DataSET (Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Ethics Training) Fellowship Program, she is joining an inaugural network of policy- focused scholars for the 2023-2024 academic year. The Indigenous DataSET Program aims to fill knowledge gaps in the ethics and infrastructure for research that impacts Indigenous rights holders to promote a future of more equitable science practices. Ultimately, the project aspires to protect Indigenous communities and their data by enhancing tribal research and data governance in Arizona -- and beyond!

Dr. Cipactli Corral was also elected to a four-year term as Secretary, Executive Member to the Research Committee (RC 49) Socialism, Capitalism, and Democracy of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) during the July 2023 Buenos, Aires, Argentina IPSA World Congress.

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In recognition of the valuable role that Graduate Teaching Assistants play in graduate and undergraduate programs, the

University of British Columbia annually honors them with the **Killam Graduate Teaching Assistant Award**, funded by the Killam Trusts. Including 3 awardees from the Faculty of Arts, up to 19 winners are selected each spring. Successful candidates demonstrate teaching excellence and a high level of esteem for the candidate from undergraduate students and supervisors alike. The adjudication for this award takes place within the faculties, and it is one of the most prestigious teaching awards in Canada.

**Ritwik Bhattacharjee** (pictured above, receiving a certificate from Dr. Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, UBC) was one of the recipients of the 2022/2023 Killam GTA Award.

## News from the West

### The Passing of Michael Bowers

Professor **Michael Bowers**, the long-serving **WPSA treasurer**, passed away on June 3, 2023. He had been a faculty member at University of Nevada Las Vegas since 1984 as professor of political science. Bowers also served as former interim executive vice president and provost at the university.

Bowers was elected as WPSA treasurer in 2009 and continued in that position until his passing. As treasurer, Bowers played an important role as the association's preeminent fiscal watchdog, presenting the budget to the executive council and frequently cautioning the council about the potential downsides of proposed expenditures and investments. His long tenure also provided an important source of institutional memory when the council weighed policy actions.

As a professor in the UNLV Department of Political Science, Michael taught students the judicial process and constitutional law, setting the academic bar high to prepare them for the rigor of law school. His major contributions to political science were *The Sagebrush State: Nevada's History, Government, and Politics*, which the University of Nevada Press last published in its sixth edition, and *The Nevada State Constitution*, two editions of which were published by Oxford University Press. These books are essential references in our political science courses and for the public.

Michael was a prolific researcher whose scholarship resulted in many articles in journals and encyclopedias, and chapters in edited books. He gave invited lectures on US politics around the nation and in Germany, India, and Sri Lanka. His research and teaching were supported by

grants from the American Political Science Association, Nevada Humanities, UNLV Foundation, and UNLV Research Council.

He was an able administrator who led at the university, college, and departmental levels. He served as interim executive vice president and provost from 2009 to 2012. During that time, Michael continued to serve as senior vice provost for academic affairs, a position to which he was appointed in 2008. Prior to that, he served as vice provost for academic affairs from 2004 to 2008, chair of political science, and, for eleven years, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Michael was lauded with numerous awards for his teaching, research, and service. He received the William Morris Award for Teaching Excellence and the Donald Schmiedel Lifetime Service Award from the College of Liberal Arts, the Distinguished Faculty Member of the Year Award from the UNLV Alumni Association, the Outstanding Faculty Award and the Outstanding Advisor Award from the Nevada System of Higher Education, and the Liberty Bell Award for outstanding contributions to the law from the Clark County Bar Association. He was a former UNLV chapter president and Distinguished Member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Along with his work with the WPSA, he served his discipline through his contributions to the Nevada Judicial Historical Society and University of Nevada Press. He was a member of many key UNLV and Nevada System of Higher Education committees and shared his expertise with a variety of civic organizations and the media.

Michael was an important contributor to the WPSA. He also left an indelible

imprint on UNLV and the surrounding community. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and worked with him.

### **WPSA Introduces Two Travel Grant Programs**

The WPSA is excited to announce the launching of its first two travel grant programs, one open to general participants and the second to students participating in the undergraduate poster session.

As part of the WPSA's 75th Anniversary, the association launched a fund-raising campaign to create a travel award program to provide much-needed support for underfunded graduate students and faculty to attend the annual meeting. The council named the award the Elsa Favila Travel Award to honor our former associate director. The association initiated a trial run of the Favila Travel Award at the 2023 conference in San Francisco, announcing the availability of the funds close to the conference and then selecting a handful of recipients. That experience led to some tweaking of the awards process. The award program will launch officially as part of the 2024 conference.

Six participants were selected as the first recipients of the Favila Travel Award in this test run: Rogelio Garcia, East Los Angeles College; Jazmin Jimenez, Arizona State University; Zein Murib, Fordham University; Michael Strawbridge, Rutgers University; Lauren Tajjeron, University of Hawaii, Manoa; and John Wagner, University of New Mexico.

The specific number of awards given each year will depend on the amount of funds available in the award endowment. Please consider donating to this fund so that more members are able to benefit from it. Every year, the WPSA office gets requests from graduate students and faculty who do not have the funding to attend the annual meeting. This will enable us to provide

some support. Even small contributions are appreciated! Donations to the association can be made on a one-time only basis or spread out over multiple months or years. The WPSA is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization; as such, your contributions are fully tax-deductible, as permitted by law. To make a donation, please visit the WPSA website at: <https://www.wpsanet.org/about/donate.php>.

The second award was created after Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor society, decided to discontinue providing support for conference talks and best paper awards in 2022. In its place, PSA agreed to provide the association with \$500 toward subsidizing the annual poster session. The WPSA Executive Council, with PSA's permission, voted earlier in 2023 to use these funds to help underwrite the travel expenses of poster session participants. Two awards will be given each year.

Information about both awards, including criteria and deadlines, are available on the association's website: [wpsanet.org](https://www.wpsanet.org).

### **Changes in the WPSA Executive Council**

Jason Casellas, University of Houston, is serving as WPSA President through the annual meeting of the association in Vancouver in March 2024. At the conclusion of the meeting, Lorrie Frasure, University of California at Los Angeles, will assume the presidency of the WPSA and Tony Affigne, Providence College, will become the new Program Chair. Natalie Masuoka, University of California at Los Angeles, was recently appointed as Treasurer, filling the remainder of Michael Bowers's term.

The following individuals will begin serving on the council in March 2024: Marcela Garcia-Casteneda, San Francisco State University; Gabriel Magni, Loyola Marymount University; Mina Suk,

Arizona State University, and Brian Calfano, University of Cincinnati. The terms of the following Executive Council members will conclude immediately prior to the meeting: John Meyer, Humboldt State University; Sara Sadhwani, California Lutheran University; Brent Boyea, University of Texas, Arlington, and Elsa Dias, Pike's Peak Community College. The association thanks these outgoing members for their valuable service.

### **WPSA Future Meeting Plans**

The location of future WPSA conferences has been scheduled up through 2028. The association will be meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Seattle, WA in 2025, the

Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego, CA in 2026, the Hyatt Regency in Denver, CO in 2027, and the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego, CA in 2028.

### **Contribute Your Personal/ Professional Developments**

Have personal announcement such as births, deaths, and marriages and professional developments such as grant opportunities, new conferences and more? To have your announcement included in future editions of the newsletter, please email it to [thewestern@pdx.edu](mailto:thewestern@pdx.edu)

## **Virtual Community Updates**

### **Education Politics and Policy (EPP) Virtual Community**

The new WPSA Education Politics and Policy (EPP) Virtual Community is a monthly workshop where members present and get feedback on their works-in-progress. We share early to mid-stage work when feedback is most valuable. We have built an ongoing, supportive, and constructively critical community of scholars studying the politics of education. We have had six productive workshops so far this year featuring work in progress from Julia Coyoli, Rebecca Jacobsen, Emmerich Davies, Agustina Paglayan, Lesley Lavery, and Vladimir Kogan.

We welcome scholars of education politics and policy who generate empirical and theoretical work grounded in political science, education policy, and public policy traditions. The EPP Virtual Community offers a chance to learn about cutting-edge research in the field, get feedback on your own work, and meet others in this interdisciplinary community.

We meet on the **last Wednesday of each month at 1:30 ET/10:30 PT**. For more information and to register for the EPP Virtual Community, see [here](#) or contact the co-chairs **Leslie Finger** ([leslie.finger@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.finger@gmail.com)), **Melissa Arnold Lyon** ([mlyon@albany.edu](mailto:mlyon@albany.edu)), and **David Houston** ([dhousto@gmu.edu](mailto:dhousto@gmu.edu)).

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### **Virtual Community on Environmental and Climate Change Politics**

The Virtual Community on Environmental and Climate Change Politics fosters engagement with topics related to environmental and climate change politics. Topics include environmental behavior, public opinion, public policy (international, national, subnational), comparative approaches, communication, environmental movements, and environmental

justice. For more information, see the WPSA VC website or contact the co-chairs **Juliet Carlisle** (University of Utah, [juliet.carlisle@utah.edu](mailto:juliet.carlisle@utah.edu)) and **April K. Clark** (Northern Illinois University, [aclark9@niu.edu](mailto:aclark9@niu.edu)).

On Dec. 5th our VC co-hosted with the Environmental & Climate Justice our first event focused on the topic of Climate Justice and COP (Conference of Parties, the UN Framework): <https://unfccc.int/cop28>

Join our VC for more information and access to the Zoom links for scheduled events: <https://www.wpsanet.org/virtual/2023eccp.php>

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### **Political Theory Virtual Community**

The WPSA Political Theory virtual community seeks to foster intellectual exchange, professional support, and collective learning for political theory scholars regardless of their geographical location.

Now in its third year, the Political Theory virtual community has sought to generate precisely that: a community of scholars and an academic space for constructive and generative conversations about work in progress in political theory.

Workshares, typically organized monthly, are core to our schedule. But we have also started exploring other formats and modalities besides our monthly workshares. For example, in September 2023, we held a two-day mini-conference that included a wonderful book discussion and two excellent panels, one on "Imagination & Democratic Citizenship" and another on "Freedom & Resistance." We were delighted to welcome new faces to the virtual community during the mini-conference.

We are also excited to announce that, next year, we will co-sponsor one of the sessions of the University of Washington's Political Theory Colloquium. On **February 29th, 2024**, **Kevin Duong** (University of Virginia) will present work in progress during a hybrid session.

Please [join our mailing list](#) if you are interested in the Political Theory Virtual Community. We look forward to seeing you in one of our sessions!



# DePaul University

## Refugee and Forced Migration Studies Department

990 West Fullerton Avenue | Suite 2105 | Chicago, Illinois 60614-2446 | (773) 325 - 4736

The Refugee and Forced Migration Program Master's Program at DePaul University accepts applications from January 1st through July 1st.

This unique graduate program entails the two-year study of and work with issues of forced migration. Since the early 1900s, mass displacement has occurred across the globe, due to a myriad of causes. As Hannah Arendt has argued, what is new about mass displacement is the lack of ability to find a new home—the refugee is a product of nation-states' refusal to accept thousands of displaced peoples. Forced migration today includes the stateless, those displaced by natural disasters (particularly climate-induced migration), trafficking victims, internal displacement, and the circumstances of those who appear to be simply undocumented.

This program allows students to explore key institutions, immigration law, and human rights law and institutions as well as contemporary cases to better understand displaced groups' situations. Located in vibrant Chicago, famous for migrant- and refugee-serving NGOs, this DePaul program helps students connect the local to the global. Students gain an understanding of key issues regarding forced migration as well as practical experience and a graduate credential that will enhance their employability in this field.

This program will give you a credential in a field of your interest; if you are working in this field, the MS can lead to salary increases, promotions, and new opportunities.

## DePaul University and Chicago

Chicago has some of the leading pro-migrant policies in this nation, leading refugee resettlement and progressive policy towards the undocumented. From Heartland Alliance to the National Immigration Justice Center to Refugee One, institutions in Chicago are leading the nation in child-sensitive policies, work on unaccompanied minors, and trauma relief for torture victims. Chicago is also home to the New Sanctuary Movement and exciting migrant rights' advocacy groups. DePaul's faculty in the RFMS program have an important balance of research and community experience, preparing students to be not only migrant advocates but also leaders.

## Additional Information

This program is two years, with required courses that include Immigration Law, International Conflict Negotiation, and Forced Migration Public Health as well as electives to fit the student's particular interest. The degree ends with internships that will give the student valuable experience in this field (as well as a way to demonstrate your experience in this field to prospective employers). Course material ranges from matters of practical advocacy to case studies and education on key institutions. Research, writing, and public speaking are all parts of this program.

Some background in political organizations, human rights, and the Bretton Woods Institutions preferred as well as second language study and some experience in volunteering or working with migrants and/or refugees.

## How to apply:

Please go to this link for more information and application instructions

<https://las.depaul.edu/academics/refugee-and-forced-migration-studies/graduate/refugee-and-forced-migration-studies-ms/Pages/default.aspx>

Any questions? Please feel free to email Director Prof. Kathleen Arnold at [karnol14@depaul.edu](mailto:karnol14@depaul.edu)