



The Western

Newsletter of the Western Political Science Association
Volume 7, Issue 1. Spring, 2015
<http://wpsa.research.pdx.edu/>

Notes from the Editors

In this edition, we mark the end of our run as editors of the *Western Newsletter*. We have enjoyed helping to build this as an outlet for WPSA news, a way to highlight student research, and the occasional note about research opportunities or pedagogical innovations. We want to thank Executive Director Richard Clucas for supporting us during the last six years as editors and for Shaun Bowler for suggesting that we take on this project.

For our last edition, we are thrilled to highlight upcoming student research that will be presented at the WPSA conference in Las Vegas from April 2nd-4th 2015. The student poster session is on Friday, April 3rd from 1:15 to 3:00 pm.

As always, we value your feedback as this newsletter further develops. If you have any comments or questions about possible submissions, please contact us at voregan@fullerton.edu. We also hope to see all of you at the 2015 WPSA Conference in Las Vegas.

Information about the conference is available at <http://wpsa.research.pdx.edu/meet/>

Stephen J. Stambough

Valerie R. O'Regan

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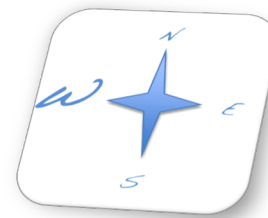
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Executive Director Notes

By WPSA Executive Director Richard Clucas

ASSOCIATION NEWS

A Generous Gift to the WPSA

The Western Political Science Association is pleased to announce that it has received a major gift from Ron and Rosemary Schmidt as part of the Association's fundraising efforts. Both Ron and Rosemary have been very active and visible in the Association for many years. Ron served as Program Chair in 2004-5, and then as WPSA President in 2005-6. In November, they donated \$2,000 to the Association. The Association would like to thank Ron and Rosemary for their generous contribution and for their continuing involvement in the Association. The Association would also like to thank others who have made donations to the WPSA.

In April 2014, the WPSA Executive Council approved its first endowments. This last fall we began to accept donations directed toward these endowments. The WPSA currently has three endowed funds. The first of these endowments is for an award honoring Betty Moulds, who served for 25 years as the chief administrator for the WPSA. The Betty Moulds Lifetime Service Award will be given to individuals who have made a long history of service and an extraordinary contribution to the WPSA. A second endowment is to honor Joel Olson, an associate professor of political theory at Northern Arizona University and a long-time WPSA member who passed away unexpectedly in March 2012. The Joel Olson Award



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will be given to activist-scholars whose work is at the creative intersection of radical political theory and practice. The awards honoring Betty Moulds and Joel Olson will be funded entirely by their endowments, so your support is essential for them to get off the ground. The final endowment created by the Association is the WPSA Endowment Fund. The purpose of this fund is to help protect the long-term financial security of the Association and to provide funding for special projects.

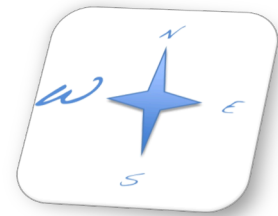
Please consider making a donation to any of these endowments. The WPSA is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization; as such, your contributions are fully tax-deductible, as permitted by law. To make a donation, please visit the WPSA website at <http://wpsa.research.pdx.edu/about/donate.php>. Later this year, we will begin recognizing all our donors on our web site.

Record Number of Panels Expected for 2015 WPSA Meeting

The 2015 meeting of the Western Political Science Association will be held at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada, from April 2 to 4. The program is expected to have a record number of panels, with 339 currently scheduled from Thursday morning to Saturday afternoon. This will surpass the previous record of 332 panels, which was set last year in Seattle. In addition to the regular panels, the Las Vegas meeting marks the second year in which the WPSA has scheduled conferences within our conference. There are four scheduled for this year:

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Section 28 - Abolitionist/Decolonial Politics

Section 29 - Teaching and Learning Political Science

Section 30 - APSA's REP Section, 20th Anniversary Retrospective

Section 31 - Asian Pacific Americans and Politics

The Teaching and Learning conference has some panels that may be of particular interest to conference participants, including one on "Pedagogical Approaches to Digital Objects, Tools & Methodologies," and another on "Educational Technology in the Political Science Classroom." A group of scholars had also been working to create a conference within the conference on Canadian politics, but they decided not to schedule it for this year.

As in previous years, there will be workshops on Environmental Political Theory, Feminist Theory, Interpretive Methods and Methodologies, and Latina/o Politics on the day before the conference (Wednesday, April 1). There will also be a workshop on Friday, which has been organized by the public engagement program at the American Political Science Association. The Friday workshop is on "Political Science in the Public Arena: Communication Strategies for Scholars."

Louis DeSipio, University of California, Irvine, is serving as Program Chair for this meeting. Tiffany Howard and Mark Lutz, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, are serving as the Local Arrangements Co-Chairs. Information about the conference, including its theme and the list of section chairs is available on the WPSA website: www.wpsanet.org.



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Dreamer Talk among Highlights of Conference

Blanca Gamez, one of the co-founders of DREAM Big Las Vegas, will be giving the Pi Sigma Alpha talk at the WPSA meetings in Las Vegas. DREAM Big Las Vegas is a community-based organization that supports undocumented youth through public educational campaigns and advocacy work. Ms. Gamez has generated considerable national attention in recent months for her work. She was invited to the White House in February to talk with the President about her personal experiences with immigration and his Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. She was also an invited guest to the State of the Union Address because of her work with Dreamers. It should be a good talk, so please try to attend. It is scheduled for Thursday, April 2, at noon.

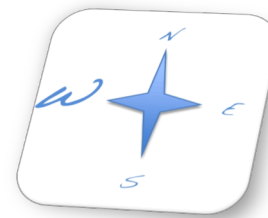
APSA President Rodney Hero will also be giving a talk on Friday at noon. Besides his work with the APSA, Hero has been actively involved in the WPSA for many years, including serving as president in 1999-2000. Other highlights of the April meeting include the regular line-up of receptions on Thursday and Friday evening. Several of these receptions are going to be in the Empress Court Restaurant, which has a beautiful view overlooking the pools at Caesars Palace. Others will be poolside. On a warm April evening, these should be a lot of fun.

***Politics, Groups, and Identities* Editor Search**

The Western Political Science Association has begun a search for a new editor or team of editors for *Politics, Groups, and Identities* (PGI). The term of the current editors will

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expire on December 31, 2016. The association is seeking nominations of qualified individuals to edit the journal from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2020. More information about the search, including the Call for New Editors, will soon be made available on the Association's web site at www.wpsanet.org.

WPSA President Victoria Farrar-Myers recently named the members to serve on the Editor Search Committee. Melissa R. Michelson, Menlo College, has agreed to serve as chair of the search committee. The other committee members are Lonna R. Atkeson, University of New Mexico; Louis DeSipio, University of California, Irvine; Lorrie Frasure-Yokley, University of California, Los Angeles; Jane Junn, University of Southern California; David Leal, University of Texas at Austin; Todd Shaw, University of South Carolina; and Richard Clucas, WPSA Executive Director (ex officio, non-voting).

Politics, Groups, and Identities is an official journal of the Western Political Science Association. It presents the best scholarship on social groups, exploring the politics of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, class and other dimensions of identity and structural disadvantage. The journal publishes work across all subfields of political science, as well as the social sciences and humanities more generally. The journal publishes research on any country or region of the world, including work that is global or international in scope as well as work that is national or local, or examines connections between these levels.

The WPSA Executive Council is expected to vote on the official Call for Editors at its April 2015 meeting in Las Vegas. For more information about the search, contact



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Committee Chair, Melissa R. Michelson (melissa.michelson@menlo.edu) or WPSA Executive Director Richard Clucas (hprc@pdx.edu).

Switch in San Francisco and San Antonio Meeting Years

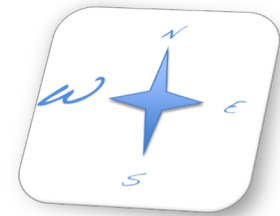
The Hyatt Regency Hotels in San Antonio and San Francisco have agreed to allow the WPSA to switch the years of our meetings so that we can hold our conference in San Francisco while the hotel workers are under contract. The WPSA had been scheduled to hold its annual meeting in San Antonio in 2018 and in San Francisco in 2019. Last spring, however, we learned that the Unite Here Local 2 union, which represents 12,000 food service and hotel workers in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, had signed a new contract with the Hyatt Hotel Corporation, which runs through August 2018. In November, the Association signed new contracts with both hotels so that we will be in San Francisco in spring 2018 and San Antonio in 2019. The switch in years will mean the Association will not face the potential for a workers strike, which it did when we held the conference in San Francisco in 2010. It also means we will avoid the problems confronted by the American Political Science Association when it was scheduled to have its conference there in 2011.

Conference Planning Begins for San Diego Meeting

The Program Committee for the 2016 WPSA annual meetings is now being formed by the incoming Program Chair, Julie Novkov, University at Albany, SUNY. A listing of the 2016 Program Committee will appear by June on the WPSA website. The meetings will be

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held at the Manchester Hyatt along the beautiful waterfront in San Diego, California, from March 24 to 26. The Association was last in San Diego and at the Manchester Hyatt in 2008. There was some concern expressed at that meeting about the campaign contributions taken by the owner of the Manchester Hyatt. Since 2008, the hotel has changed ownership and is no longer owned by the Manchester family, though it has retained the same name. The Call for Papers is included in the 2015 Program. It will also appear soon on the WPSA web site. Following the San Diego conference, the next annual meeting will be at the Fairmont Empress Hotel in Victoria, B.C., in 2017.

Changes in the WPSA Executive Council

The Association wants to thank Victoria Farrar-Myers for her outstanding leadership this past year as WPSA President. Victoria will be serving as President through the April 2015 meetings. At the conclusion of the meetings, Louis DeSipio, University of California, Irvine, will assume the presidency of WPSA. The following individuals have been elected to the Executive Council for the term 2015 – 2018: Jane Junn, University of Southern California; Jennifer Wilking, California State University, Chico; Tiffany Howard, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and Teena Gabrielson, University of Wyoming.. Their terms begin immediately prior to the April 2015 meeting. The Association would also like to thank the following Executive Council members whose terms will end immediately prior to the Las Vegas meeting: Mark Bevir, University of California, Berkeley; Mary Caputi,



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California State University, Long Beach; Jeanne Morefield, Whitman College; and Gabriel Sanchez, University of New Mexico.

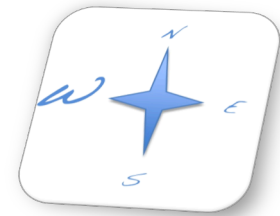
***The Western* Editors Step Down**

The WPSA would like to thank Stephen Stambough and Valerie O'Regan, California State University, Fullerton, for their work in editing *The Western* newsletter since spring 2010. Under their able leadership, the newsletter has grown both in size and readership. Their efforts to help launch the newsletter and to offer a publication that provides a forum for scholarly conversations on political science teaching and research is greatly appreciated. The newsletter has also helped offer members better information about association and its activities. Thank you, Stephen and Valerie!

For the past year, the Association has been conducting a search for an editor or team of editors to replace Stephen and Valerie. As of the deadline for this edition, no one had yet stepped forward to take over the opportunity for editing the journal. If you are interested in taking on this task, please contact Richard Clucas at hprc@pdx.edu. This a great opportunity for someone who wants to build closer ties to the association and is interested in taking on the creative responsibilities associated with editing a newsletter.

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Western Notes

WPSA 2015—Las Vegas

We hope to see everyone at the WPSA 2015 conference at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada, in April. Information about the conference, including participation, is available at <http://wpsa.research.pdx.edu>. We look forward to a productive and interesting conference this year. Start making your plans to attend the 2016 Conference in San Diego, California as well.



CALL FOR EDITORS

THE WESTERN
The WPSA Newsletter
April 2015 through March 2019

Western Political Science Association President Victoria Farrar-Myers has announced the search for a new Editor or Editors for the *The Western*, the WPSA's official newsletter. The term of the current editors, Stephen Stambough and Valerie O'Regan, will expire after the publication of the April 2015 edition. The association is seeking nominations of qualified individuals who would edit the newsletter from April 1, 2015, through March 30, 2019. This four-year term is renewable for two-year optional extensions. Nominations and self nominations are both welcome. The WPSA encourages nominations of women and members of ethnic minorities. The editor(s) is selected by the WPSA president.



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About *The Western*

In 2008, the Western Political Science Association launched the first edition of *The Western*, which was edited by Shaun Bowler, who was serving as the Vice-President and Program Chair of the Association at that time. In 2009, Stephen Stambough and Valerie O'Regan were appointed editors, and have served in that capacity ever since.

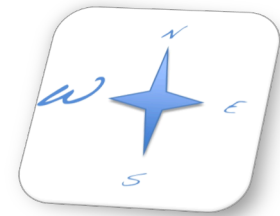
The Western was created to provide a forum for scholarly conversations on political science teaching, research, and political events focused on but not limited to the western region. Under the thoughtful guidance of the current editors, *The Western* has become an important part of the WPSA. The publication includes news about the Association, announcements from our members, sections dedicated to research and education, a listing of recent books published by members, and more. Currently, the newsletter is published solely online.

The Association would like to find an editor or a team of editors who can continue to help the newsletter grow both in content and visibility. The publication was envisioned as a means not only to serve our members, but to evolve eventually into an important contribution to the discipline, while providing an additional source of revenue for the Association. The Association would like to find an editor or team of editors who can bring creative vision to the tasks involved. This is a great opportunity for someone who would like to build a publication.

The Editor of *The Western* is responsible for the substantive content of the newsletter. Although the Editor remains responsible for the substantive content of the journal, he or she may appoint others to assist in the editorial process. The title of such appointments will be determined by the Editor to reflect an appropriate level of responsibility (e.g., Associate Editor, Deputy Editor) or function (e.g., Book Review Editor).

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Financial Considerations

Since the publication of the newsletter is solely online, the cost of the publication is minimal. The current editors have relied on the technical support at their university to produce the newsletter in pdf form, which is sent to members from the Association through email and published on the Association's web site. If the new editors feel they need the assistance of a graduate student, a reduced teaching load, or any other support to take on this task, then we ask that they work out these arrangements with their home institution.

Application process

Candidates are welcome to communicate directly with the current editors, Stephen Stambough (sstambough@exchange.fullerton.edu) and Valerie O'Regan (voregan@fullerton.edu) to find out more about the newsletter and the responsibilities involved. Past editions of the newsletter are available online at:
<http://wpsa.research.pdx.edu/pub/western.php>.

Applications must be accompanied by:

1. a curriculum vitae
2. a candidate's letter expressing his/her vision for the newsletter, including any proposed changes

For full consideration, please submit nominations by February 15, 2015 when the review process will begin. Finalists will likely be interviewed at the WPSA meeting in Las Vegas, which will be held on April 2-4, 2015. The selection of the new Editor will be made at that time. Nominations and/or requests for more information should be submitted to WPSA Vice President Louis DeSipio (ldesipio@uci.edu) or WPSA Executive Director Richard Clucas (hprc@pdx.edu).



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Meet the Council



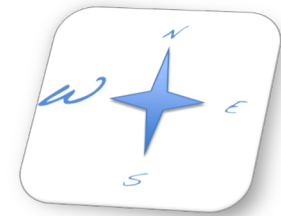
Jessica L. Lavariega Monforti—The University of Texas-Pan American.

Dr. Jessica L. Lavariega Monforti received her Ph.D. in Political Science from The Ohio State University in 2001. She is currently an associate professor of political science and Director of the Center for Survey Research at The University of Texas-Pan American. She is also an Associate Dean in the College of Social and Behavioral Science and affiliate faculty member with the Mexican American Studies program at UTPA. While much of her research focuses on the differential impact of public policy according to race, gender, and ethnicity, she is specifically interested in the political incorporation and representation of Latinos, immigrants, and women. Her latest research examines how major forces such as technology, the military system, and immigration policy impact and are impacted by Latino youth. She is the co-editor of "Black and Latino/a Issues in Political Development in the United States with William E. Nelson, Jr., and is co-author of *Living the Dream: New Immigration Policies and the Lives of Undocumented Latino Youth*" with Maria Chavez and Melissa Michelson.

Christopher Shortell, Portland State University

Christopher Shortell is an Associate Professor of Political Science in the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University. He writes and teaches on the relationship between law and the broader political system, with a particular focus on the interactions between law and society, law and elections, and federalism. His recent publications include *Rights, Remedies, and the Impact of State Sovereign Immunity* (SUNY Press) and articles in *Justice System Journal*, *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*, *Election Law Journal*, *University of Pittsburgh Law Review*, and *Judicature*. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego and previously taught at California State University, Northridge.





PRQ Notes



The new editorial team of J.S. Maloy and Jeanette Mendez is celebrating its ninth month at the helm of PRQ with the publication of the March issue.

This is the first issue to bear our names and those of our staff at Oklahoma State University, as well as those of members of the new editorial board. We would especially like to recognize one article in the March issue which grew out of a paper presentation at WPSA in 2014: Farid Abdel-Nour,

“Irreconcilable Narratives and Overlapping Consensus: The Jewish State and the Palestinian Right of Return.”

In addition to perusing the articles, we invite members of WPSA to check out our occasional podcast series. We recorded our first podcast just after the 2014 mid-term elections in the United States, with Dr. René Rocha of the University of Iowa as our guest. Future podcasts with additional PRQ authors will be forthcoming. Go to prq.sagepub.com.

Don't forget to come celebrate with us at the WPSA annual meeting in Las Vegas: the PRQ reception is slated for Thursday evening! We will later be hosting the Editors' Roundtable, on Friday afternoon, with special guests representing Politics, Groups, and Interests, Journal of Politics, Polity, and American Political Science Review.

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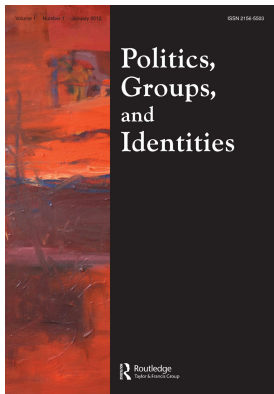
Dr. J.S. Maloy

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## PGI Notes

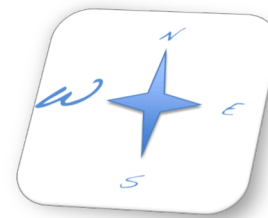


As always, we look forward to connecting with the WPSA membership in person at the annual meeting, and so we hope to see you all at the PGI reception on Thursday in the Roman Foyer at 5:15PM. Come, stop by and peruse copies of the journal; Raise a glass as we toast our authors and celebrate the wonderful work we've been lucky enough to publish in *PGI*. We want to thank the outgoing members of our editorial team, Kerry Haynie and Lisa Garcia Bedolla, for their tremendous work on the journal, to wish them luck, and to welcome our two newest editors, Anna Sampaio and Natalie Masuoka, who bring new eyes, new ideas, and fresh energy to our journal as we look to begin our fourth year, wrapping up editorial work on our third volume. How time flies when you are having fun!

If you have been following the journal, you will know that since the last annual meeting, we have published a special issue on "Latino Politics and Political Theory: Rights, Power, and Membership," co-edited by Ange-Marie Hancock and Cristina Beltran; and you will also know that our special issue on Gender and Political Psychology, edited by Zoe Oxley, is just out. Articles forthcoming in the next (June) issue include an essay, entitled "#BlackLivesDon'tMatter: Race-of-Victim Effects in US Executions, 1976-2013," by Frank Baumgartner, Amanda Grigg, and Alisa Mastro, that joins the ever-widening conversation on the terrible devaluation of Black lives in the US, while another in the same issue, by Brian McKenzie and Frederick Harris, takes on the complexities of African American identity. We also continue to publish work on race in new national contexts, with a terrific piece by Kristine Kay, Gladys Mitchell-Walthour, and Ismail White entitled "Priming Race and Class in Brazil: Afro-Brazilian Support for Racial versus Class Policy." The provocative review essay by Patrick O'Halloran, entitled "Moments of Conceptual Potential: Frantz

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Fanon, the Postcolony, and “Nonwar Communities” charges us to “rethink both Fanon’s relevance and our conceptions of the “violent” postcolonial world.”

Each issue includes a *Dialogues* section that seeks to bring a set of essays in conversation with each other on some innovative topic, or seeks to start a discussion about research in some new area. Observing that most work on campaigns and elections focuses on state and federal offices- in spite of the fact these governments represent less than one percent of all governments in the U.S- the *Dialogues* section in the next issue (June) includes a series of analyses of **local** electoral politics in the United States. These articles examine how features of social groups that constitute both context and candidate characteristics—race, ethnicity, gender, and occupation—shape the process and outcomes of elections for local government offices. Looking ahead, the *Dialogues* section in the September issue revisits Charles Mills’ *The Racial Contract*, featuring essays not only by Mills himself but also by other leading political theorists.

We are proud of the work we have published that touches upon multiple dimensions of politics and identity, comprising some of our most cited articles, including “Political inclusion of marginalized groups: indigenous reservations and gender parity in Bolivia” (by Htun and Ossa) and “Now you see me, now you don’t: my political fight against the invisibility/erasure of Black women in intersectionality research” by Julia Jordan-Zachery, both in our very first issue. We continue to publish this genre of work in the current pages of the journal, with some work, for example, applying the concept of intersectionality to new areas or national contexts (such as the piece by Xydias and Walsh), and some focusing on Black women in the USA (for example, see work by Nadia Brown).

In future issues, we expect to include *Dialogues* sections or research symposia on environmental justice, symbolic representation, body politics, women’s movements,





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identity and political theory, diversity in the discipline, and the conceptualization of race in comparative politics, among other topics (We have initiatives at various stages of review in each of these areas.) If you have ideas or manuscripts you would like to submit, feel free to drop us a line ([pgijourn@purdue.edu](mailto:pgijourn@purdue.edu)) or buttonhole us at WPSA (see below for list of editors and contact information). Information and guidelines for submissions is also available on the journal website at [www.tandfonline.com/rpgi](http://www.tandfonline.com/rpgi).

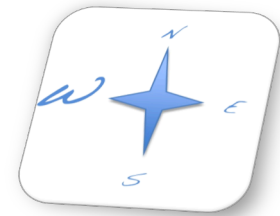
What brings unity to this array of work covering such a wide range of topics and employing so many different kinds of methods is our mission: To present the best scholarship on social groups, exploring the politics of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, class and other dimensions of identity and structural disadvantage. It is our aim to publish work across all subfields of political science, on any country or region of the world, including work that is global or international in scope as well as work that is national or local, or examines connections between these levels.

Although we are only now publishing our third volume, it is gratifying to see how well regarded and well-established the journal has become. Traveling internationally or across the country, it is exciting to meet people who have submitted or are thinking of submitting their work. We already have a healthy backlog of articles, but we are maintaining a quick turnaround time for decisions on articles (under three months) and very respectable profile with respect to selectivity (acceptance rate is 11% not counting desk rejections), which means we can attract the most exciting work by tenure-track scholars who are feeling time pressure but also seeking outlets with wide impact and readership. In short, our message is this: Whether you are junior or senior, whether your work is qualitative or statistical, probabilistic or ethnographic, we hope you will send us your best work! See you at the WPSA,

Laurel Weldon, Lead Editor

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## *Western Researcher*

**Highlighting Student Research to be Presented at the 2015 Conference**

***“Books behind bars: A case study approach of North Idaho Correctional Institution’s  
prison educational programs and recidivism rates”***

*Renaë Pasta, Lewis-Clark State College (rmpasta3154@lcmail.lcsc.edu)*

A number of studies have demonstrated that individuals with higher levels of education are less likely to commit crimes (Nally, 2014; Siegel & Welsh, 2014). Along that line, further studies have shown a negative correlation between prison education and recidivism (reoffending) rates (DeLisi & Conis, 2013; Kim & Clark, 2013). This research contributes to the existent, extant literature by utilizing a case study approach to determine whether the negative correlation can also be found at the Northern Idaho Correctional Institution (NICI). Data from NICI will be obtained from a 10 year time period to evaluate inmates who received a General Education Development (G.E.D) during their incarceration and inmates that did not. Recidivism rates will be measured at six months after release to determine the effectiveness of the educational programs at NICI and whether the results support or dispute prior literature.



***“To Green or Not to Green: Understanding Variations in Levels of Climate Change Policy Adoption by U.S. States”***

*Shannon Temlak, Elon University (stemlak@elon.edu)*

Why do some states enact substantial climate policies while other states have minimal legislation? Though a rich literature attributes state policy adoption to factors such as citizen ideology, gross state product, and the presence of interest groups, variation in climate policy adoption, specifically, remains less understood. I argue that an additive relationship between political institutions, economic circumstance and underlying environmental characteristics explains significant difference between high policy adopter states and low policy adopter states. Specifically, states with high pollution severity, formal institutional characteristics, high urbanization, low carbon indicators, and low fossil fuel fiscal dependency are more likely to adopt climate policies. Evidence from a cross-sectional analysis of state-level measures of pollution severity, institutional characteristics, urbanization, carbon indicators and fossil fuel fiscal dependency suggest that high carbon dioxide emissions, high legislative professionalism, large urban populations and low total electricity generation from fossil fuel increase state climate policy adoption. Results imply that wide-scale subnational implementation of climate and environmental policies face a host of both remaining barriers and unexploited opportunities.

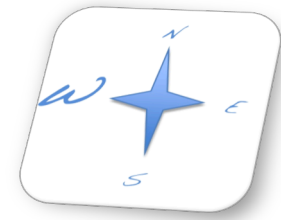
***Human Trafficking: Issue Framing by Religious Interest Groups***

*Christina Sand, Gustavus Adolphus College (csand@gustavus.edu)*

Human trafficking is commonly defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person through the means of force, fraud, or coercion. While many perceive this issue as one facing only developing nations, the truth is that every country deals with human trafficking in various forms. The United States is not

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an exception to this. On both state and federal levels there have been diverse policy initiatives, in both preventative and victim assistance capacities, in regards this issue. To this end, there is wide variation in the types of interest groups working to influence such policy. Religious interest groups from many theological traditions constitute a subset of interest groups whose involvement has recognizable consequences for responding to and eliminating trafficking. I argue that the distinctive ways in which these religious-affiliated groups frame the issue of human trafficking affects the manner through which constituents understand and engage on the issue. This, in turn, affects the political behavior of constituents which may have an impact on elected officials and the implementation of policy on human trafficking. Through content analysis of interest group newsletters, brochures, bulletins and various other publications, I explore the different frames used to discuss trafficking by different religious groups and examine the connection between these frames and the policy surrounding human trafficking in the United States.

## ***“When is bigger better? A study of mergers of local public authorities in Japan”***

*Chika Nagata, Ehime University ([y104164k@mails.cc.ehime-u.ac.jp](mailto:y104164k@mails.cc.ehime-u.ac.jp))*

In this research, we investigate how economies of scale are achieved in local public authorities. The Japanese government strongly promoted the mergers of local authorities during the 2000s. The central government insisted that there would be many improvements in governance by merging local authorities. Because of the strong campaign and the financial assistance for merging, a lot of mergers occurred, and the number of local authorities quickly decreased by almost half. However, the results of these mergers have been mixed so far; some local authorities became more financially efficient while others did not. In this study, we focus on the actual changes in performance after the mergers and why some local governments have been more successful. Through this research, we try to identify factors affecting the economies of scale in local public authorities.



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### ***“Shaping the Political Self: College Environments and The Racialized Dynamics of Civic Engagement”***

*Christine Slaughter, Spelman College ([cslaughter93@gmail.com](mailto:cslaughter93@gmail.com))*

The literature established that attending college is correlated with an increase in student’s civic engagement far less is known about how this correlation varies across race and/ or gender. Second, the impact of diversity in higher education is less understood. The hypotheses ask if institutional control is correlated to student’s civic engagement and how race and/or gender interact with this relationship. It is predicted that race and gender impacts students’ will to civically engage throughout college. This project employs survey data from the UCLA Higher Education Research Institute (HERI), which tracks college students in their first and final years of undergraduate education and provides the opportunity to track civic engagement patterns and trends among students. Overall, this work contributes to knowledge of the importance of institutional-level and individual factors in fostering democratically engaged young people. By understanding how college education plays a role in the development of civic engagement, one can greater understand the context in which political socialization occurs outside of commonly associated political spaces. In sum, the project explores how civic engagement of racial groups are enlarged or undeveloped while in college which materializes in trends visible in the diversity, or lack of, in political leadership.

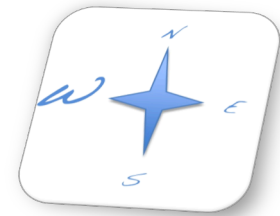
### ***“Earmarks As A Legislative Tool For Congressional Productivity”***

*Ryan Schwarz, CSU Channel Islands ([ryan.schwarz991@myci.csuci.edu](mailto:ryan.schwarz991@myci.csuci.edu))*

The 113th Congress is on pace to be the least productive Congress in the last century, eclipsing the record set by the 112th Congress; legislative productivity has declined yearly since the 110th Congress. Some members of Congress and several political

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scientists suggest that the sluggishness with which Congress has exercised its legislative power in recent years may be related to the disappearance of appropriations earmarks. In the 110th Congress the Republican majority in the House enacted a moratorium on earmarks, which coincided with the decline in legislative productivity. Using multiple measures of legislative productivity (number of public laws, Mayhew's count of important bills, Kelly's measure of significant legislation, and Grant and Kelly's measures of legislative productivity); this research seeks to determine whether the decline in productivity can be attributed to the disappearance in earmarks as a legislative tool. The statistical model controls for other potential causes including periods of divided government and ideological polarization. Initial results suggest that in the absence of earmarks Congress passed over 100 fewer laws per year than before the moratorium was enacted, controlling for these other factors. I conclude with a discussion of earmark reform proposals, and assess the likelihood that these proposals will result in a more functional Congress.

## *Western Announcements*

### **CALL FOR PAPERS: 2015 Prairie Political Science Association Annual Conference**

The 8th Annual Meeting of the Prairie Political Science Association will be held in Banff, Alberta, Canada from September 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

The spectacular Kinnear Centre at the Banff Centre, its professional staff and meeting organizers offer an unparalleled conference experience in a breathtaking setting. On-site accommodation, sophisticated audio-visual equipment, and day-long catering services help you maintain your focus. Easy interaction with colleagues in cafes, bars, and restaurants at the Centre and in Banff promote the exchange of ideas. Extensive exercise facilities and access to the great outdoors add another dimension to what is always a welcoming, productive, and enlivening conference.

Generally, the conference's program is broken up into the following sections: Provincial Politics, Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Thought, International Relations, Public Policy/Administration, and Teaching and Learning. Efforts



are made to ensure that the final program reflects a broad range of methodological and theoretical approaches and proposals from all fields of political science are encouraged. Deadline for paper proposals is March 31st, 2015.

Please submit a paper proposal of 150-250 words at the following link: <http://www.prairiepsa.com/?p=0&action=submit-paper>. The PPSA conference has often been used to bring together groups of researchers working on a common project. As such, proposals for single panel or multi-panel workshops on a particular theme are welcome. All workshop proposals should be made via [PanelProposal@prairiepsa.com](mailto:PanelProposal@prairiepsa.com). Be sure to include the names and affiliations of presenters at the panel as well as the abstracts for their presentation.

Any questions about the 2015 PPSA conference can be directed towards Dr. David McGrane, President of the PPSA, at [david.mcgrane@usask.ca](mailto:david.mcgrane@usask.ca)

## Jobs in the Profession

### *Faculty Position*

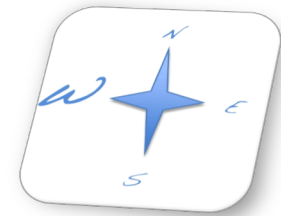
#### *Visiting Assistant Professor in International Relations Department of Political Science, Purdue University*

The Department of Political Science is seeking applications for a visiting assistant professor position in international relations for one year. Candidates may take any methodological or theoretical approach: We welcome those using qualitative, historical, ethnographic methods as well as those using statistical analysis, or any combination of these. We are particularly interested in candidates who add to the Department's strengths in gender, race, class, ethnicity, sexuality and/or other dimensions of the politics of group identity. Those with expertise in environmental politics, another departmental strength, are also encouraged to apply. The successful candidate is expected to teach courses in the areas of international relations, but may also teach other courses as appropriate and necessary. The successful candidate will demonstrate the potential for excellence in research and teaching. A Ph.D. in Political Science, international affairs, or a related discipline is required.

Founded in 1869, Purdue is a research-intensive, PhD-granting institution and a public, land-grant University. This year, the Political Science Department will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. The Department is home to the journal *Politics, Groups and Identities* (sponsored by the WPSA). Our alumni include many accomplished political scientists including the current President of the APSA (Rodney Hero) as well as the first Indian immigrant to head a comprehensive research University in the United States (Renu Khator, President of University of Houston). The Department is located an hour from Indianapolis and two hours from Chicago, in the Wabash River Valley. Public schools in the Lafayette

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area are among the best in the country, housing is affordable, and the cost of living is among the lowest in the nation.

Application materials should be submitted electronically as pdf attachments to Annie Wheeldon at [acheever@purdue.edu](mailto:acheever@purdue.edu). Applications should include curriculum vitae, graduate transcript, three letters of reference, a sample of written work, instructional materials such as syllabi and course evaluations, and a cover letter discussing the applicant's qualifications for the position. Review of applications will begin March 2, 2015, and will continue until the position is filled. Questions should be addressed to search committee chair Dr. Laurel Weldon ([weldons@purdue.edu](mailto:weldons@purdue.edu)). A background check will be required for employment in this position.

Purdue University has a strong commitment to principles of diversity and, in that spirit, actively encourages applications from groups underrepresented in higher education. The Department of Political Science is committed to increasing the diversity of the campus community and the curriculum. Candidates who can contribute to that goal are encouraged to apply and to identify their strengths and experiences in this area. Purdue University is an EEO/AA employer fully committed to achieving a diverse workforce. All individuals, including minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and protected veterans are encouraged to apply.

Beering Hall of Liberal Arts and Education, Room 2299 • 100 N. University Street • West Lafayette, IN 47907-2098 (765) 494-4161 • Fax (765) 494-0833 • [\\_polsci@purdue.edu](mailto:_polsci@purdue.edu) • [\\_www.cla.purdue.edu/polsci/](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/polsci/) *College of Liberal Arts*

## Submission Instructions

At *The Western* we encourage submissions for articles in any of our four areas: *Western Educator*, *Western Researcher*, *Western Politics*, and *Western Reviews*.

### ***Western Educator***

For the *Western Educator* we welcome submissions about controversies and innovations in political science education at the undergraduate and graduate levels. These can be articles that describe unique classroom simulations, the incorporation of innovative technology into the classroom, and a wide variety of other topics. We especially welcome submissions with a focus on topics unique to the western region. Articles should be no more than 10 pages.

### ***Western Researcher***

For the *Western Researcher* we welcome submissions that present innovative research techniques, data sources, and reviews of current trends. We especially welcome those with a focus on the western region. Articles should be no more than 10 pages.





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## ***Western Politics***

For the *Western Politics* section we welcome individual papers and organized symposia about topical issues of political events in the western United States, Canada, and Mexico. Individual papers should be no longer than 10 pages. If you are interested about proposing and editing a symposium, please contact the editors.

## ***Western Reviews***

Please contact the editors if you are interested in reviewing books.