

Spring 2017
1/9/2017

State Politics and Policy Newsletter

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1. Message from the Section Chair

Greetings from sunny Florida! We haven't had a newsletter in some time, so there's a good bit of Section news to report. Thanks to Craig Burnett for volunteering to report it.

The 15th annual meeting at CSU-Sacramento was well attended and it was nice to meet in the West. Special thanks go to Steve Boilard and Alexandria Smith for organizing such a successful conference. The 16th annual meeting at UT-Dallas was also a success last May. Bob Lowry, Tom Brunell and the people at UT-Dallas organized a strong set of panels and broke with section norms by having an actual GOP legislator speak at dinner.

The 17th State Politics and Policy Conference will be hosted by St. Louis University and Washington University from June 1-3, 2017 <https://sites.google.com/a/slu.edu/sppc/home> Dan Butler, Steve Rogers and Jason Windett are organizing the program. It is a good sign for the health and dynamism of the section that people continue to secure funds from their institutions to host conferences, and we owe them a collective thank you for their efforts. The Section meetings always feature cutting edge work and allow us the opportunity to hear innovative ideas and see friends and meet new people that work in our area. I hope we have a great attendance in St. Louis this year. Proposals are due on January 15th. Please encourage your graduate students and colleagues to apply.

There is good news regarding funding for graduate students to travel to the annual state politics meetings, the details of which are in Section 3 of this Newsletter. This is a fantastic development that should benefit the Section's development.

Three people who have put in several years of service to the section stepped down this year, in each case due to expanding administrative duties at their home institutions. Margie Ferguson served as Secretary-Treasurer for six years. She has done the time-consuming job of navigating the curious new, improved APSA budgeting system and has gotten us on a sound footing. She also did things like lug huge boxes of award plaques to APSA meetings when shipments were fouled. Shannon Jenkins completed her service as newsletter editor in 2016 after eight years, and did a nice job reporting the Section's business. Jon Winburn is stepping down as SPP webpage editor (<http://politicalscience.olemiss.edu/state-politics-and-policy/>) after at least seven years and has done a nice job of establishing and maintaining a digital presence for the Section. We owe them all a round of applause and probably a round of drinks for doing the tasks that are necessary, time consuming, and crucial to the health of the Section.

My term as Section Chair ends at the APSA meeting in 2017 so we need to find another person to serve in the position for the next two years. It has been an honor to serve in this position and my experience has been that people are generous with their time. Three two-year council seats also will be open in 2017, as Justin Kirkland, Boris Shor, and Craig Burnett's terms are expiring. Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz remains as Secretary-Treasurer and Jenny Wolak and Jamila Michener remain on the Council. I suggest that people send nominations, including self-nominations, for the position of Section President and Council Members to Shanna at shanna_pearson@uri.edu and that we work as a group to solicit candidates.

- Charles Barrilleaux, Section Chair

2. State Politics and Policy Conference Information

The 17th Annual State Politics and Policy Conference will be held from June 1-3 at the Saint Louis University School of Law in downtown St. Louis. The event is hosted by Washington University in St. Louis and Saint Louis University. The theme of this year's conference is Social Justice in the States. Proposals related to the conference theme and all proposals related to state politics and policy will be considered (500 word limit).

Proposals can now be submitted at the conference website, slu.edu/sppc.

The proposal deadline is **January 15th**, with program decisions being announced shortly thereafter.

Graduate student poster presenters who are members of the State Politics section will be eligible for a travel stipend.

Please visit the conference website for travel information. The conference hotel is the Hotel Majestic, a block away from SLU law. The conference has a special room rate of \$139 per night, but space and the number of rooms in the block is limited. Please call the hotel directly to make your reservation.

All questions can be directed to Dan Butler and Jason Windett at sppc@slu.edu.

We look forward to seeing everyone in St. Louis!

3. The Carsey Fund for State Politics and Policy Research and Education

Recognizing Tom Carsey's contributions as co-author, mentor, and editor, and, furthermore, recognizing that the continued wellbeing of the Section on State Politics and Policy depends on expanding and enlarging Section membership, the initial purpose of the Carsey Fund is to support graduate student participation in an annual event or events organized by the State Politics and Policy Section of the American Political Science Association.

Originally planned to help students travel to the State Politics and Policy Conference in 2018, thanks to a generous donation from Dick Winters, the Carsey Fund will enable Washington University and St. Louis University to provide 10 student awards to attend the 2017 State Politics and Policy Conference in St. Louis. The section will be collecting donations at both the annual State Politics and Policy Conference and the Annual Meetings of the American Political Science Association.. Tax-deductible donations to the fund may be sent to APSA Senior Director of Research and Development Betsy Super at bsuper@apsanet.org with the designation that they are to be directed to the Carsey Fund of the State Politics and Policy Section.

4. 2015 and 2016 State Politics and Policy Section Award Winners

Congratulations to all of the section award winners in 2015 (with apologies for the delayed recognition) and 2016!

Best Journal Article Award

- 2015 Eric McGhee, Seth Masket, Boris Shor, Steven Rogers, and Nolan McCarty, "A Primary Cause of Partnership? Nomination Systems and Legislator Ideology." *American Journal of Political Science*, 2014, 58(2): 337-351.
- Barry Burden, David Canon, Ken Mayer, and Don Moynihan, "Election Laws, Mobilization, and Turnout: The Unintended Consequences of Electoral Reform." *American Journal of Political Science*, 2014, 58(1): 95-109.
- 2016 Frederick J. Boehmke, Tracy L. Osborn, and Emily U. Schilling, "Pivotal Politics and Initiative Use in the American States." *Political Research Quarterly*, 2015, 68(4): 665-677.

Best Paper Award

- 2015 Devin Caughey and Christopher Warshaw, "Dynamic Representation in the American States, 1960-2012."

Career Achievement Award

- 2016 Melinda Gann Hall, Michigan State University

Christopher Mooney Dissertation Award

- 2015 Jaclyn J. Ketter, "The Right to Party (Resources): Political Party Networks and Candidate Success." Rice University 2014.
- 2016 Chidambaram Parinandi, "Devolution and Policy Experimentation under Federalism: Essays on Innovation and Emulation in the American States." University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 2015.

State Politics and Policy Quarterly Best Paper Award

- 2015 Greame T. Boushey and Robert J. McGrath, "Experts, Amateurs, and Bureaucratic Influence in the American States."
- 2016 Mona Wakilifathi, "Constraining Bureaucrats Today Knowing You'll Be Gone Tomorrow: The Effect of Legislative Term Limits on Statutory Discretion."

Virginia Gray Best Book Award

- 2015 Sarah F. Anzia, *Timing and Turnout: How Off-Cycle Elections Favor Organized Interests*. The University of Chicago Press, 2014.
- 2016 Ray La Raja and Brian Schaffner, *Campaign Finance and Political Polarization: When Purists Prevail*. University of Michigan Press, 2015.
- Christopher W. Bonneau and Damon M. Cann, *Voters' Verdicts: Citizens, Campaigns, and Institutions in State Supreme Court Elections*. University of Virginia Press, 2015.

5. Call for 2017 Section Award Nominees

The State Politics and Policy section solicits nominees for the following 2017 section awards.

Best Journal Article Award – Deadline February 1, 2017

The award recognizes the best journal article on U.S. state politics or policy published during the previous calendar year in any peer-reviewed journal (book reviews, review essays, and chapters published in edited volumes are not eligible).

Award Committee:

Fred Boehmke, Chair, University of Iowa (frederick-boehmke@uiowa.edu)

Elizabeth Rigby, George Washington University (erigby@gwu.edu)

Carlisle Rainey, Texas A&M University (crainey@tamu.edu)

Career Achievement Award – Deadline February 1, 2017

The Career Achievement Award given every biennium to a political scientist who has made a significant lifetime contribution to the study of politics and public policies in the American states.

Award Committee:

Thad Kousser, Chair, University of California, San Diego (tkousser@mail.ucsd.edu)

Nelson Dometrius, Texas Tech University (nelson.dometrius@ttu.edu)

Caroline Tolbert, University of Iowa (caroline-tolbert@uiowa.edu)

Christopher Mooney Dissertation Award – Deadline January 15, 2017

This award is given for the best dissertation in American state politics and policy completed during the previous calendar year. The winner receives a plaque and \$1000.

Award Committee:

Belinda Davis, Chair, Louisiana State University (davisbe@lsu.edu)

Damon Cann, Utah State University (damon.cann@usu.edu)

Alexandra Filindra, University of Illinois-Chicago (aleka@uic.edu)

Mac Jewell Enduring Contribution Award – Deadline February 1, 2017

To be awarded every three years to a political science book on the subject of U.S. state politics or policy published at least 10 years prior to the award being bestowed that stands as an enduring contribution to the literature. Such books would be those classic works frequently assigned in graduate seminars, typically found on the bookshelves of state politics scholars, and that have been crucial in setting the direction of scholarship the field since their publication.

Award Committee:

John McIver, Chair, University of Texas at Austin (mciver@austin.utexas.edu)

William Berry, Florida State University (wberry@fsu.edu)

Ann Bowman, Texas A&M University (annbowman@tamu.edu)

State Politics and Policy Quarterly Best Paper Award – Deadline February 1, 2017

The State Politics and Policy Award is given for the best paper on state politics and policy presented at any professional meeting in the previous calendar year.

Award Committee:

Neal Woods, Chair, University of South Carolina (woods@mailbox.sc.edu)

Robert McGrath, George Mason University (rmcgrat2@gmu.edu)

Carl Klarner (carl.klarner@gmail.com)

Virginia Gray Book Award – Deadline February 1, 2017

To be awarded annually to the best political science book published on the subject of U.S. state politics or policy in the preceding three calendar years. Thus, books would be eligible to be considered for the award for three years. E.g., for the 2017 award, books with a copyright of 2014, 2015, and 2016 would be eligible for nomination.

Award Committee:

Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson, Chair, Wayne State University (mst@wayne.edu)

Sarah Anzia, University of California, Berkeley (sanzia@berkeley.edu)

Todd Makse, Florida International University (tmakse@fiu.edu)

6. Reminders and Important Dates

January 9, 2017 (Extended to January 16)	Deadline for the 2017 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
January 15, 2017	Deadline for the 2017 State Politics and Policy Conference Proposals
April 6-9, 2017	Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago, IL
April 13-15, 2017	Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC
June 1-3, 2017	2017 State Politics and Policy Conference in St. Louis, MO
August 31-September 3, 2017	Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in San Francisco, CA

2016-2017 State Politics and Policy Section Officers

Chair:	Charles Barrilleaux, Florida State University
Treasurer-Secretary:	Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz, University of Rhode Island
Council Members:	Justin Kirkland, University of Houston Boris Shor, University of Houston Craig Burnett, Hofstra University Jamila Michener, Cornell University Jennifer Wolak, University of Colorado
Webmaster:	Jonathan Winburn, University of Mississippi
<i>SPPQ</i> Journal Editors	Kristin Kanthak, University of Pittsburgh Chris Bonneau, University of Pittsburgh
2017 APSA Program Chair	James Monogan, University of Georgia

Any announcements or information for future newsletters should be sent to Craig Burnett at craig.burnett@hofstra.edu
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