**Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Conference Group**

**Business Meeting 2016**

**Minutes**

The business meeting was convened in the Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia, Room 304, on Friday, 2 September, 6:30-7:30 pm. About 25 people were in attendance.

As Ido Oren’s flight from Florida had been canceled due to the hurricane, the meeting was chaired by Peri Schwartz-Shea and Dvora Yanow.

1. Report from this year's program chair (Dvora Yanow, for Ido Oren, for Ed Schatz, University of Toronto)

IMM had 2 individual paper submissions—far too few to constitute a panel—and 2 full panel submissions. Thanks to co-sponsorship, we parlayed our one panel allocation into 3 panels, all with QMMR:

* Coloring the field: Examining positionality in field research
* Interpreting political ideas, beliefs, and discourses
* On the ethnographic proof

We also [intended to] co-sponsored the Methods Café [with QMMR], which does not count toward our allocation. [See item 3.]

1. Report on Short Course (Peri Schwartz-Shea)

Held on Wednesday afternoon, 2-6 p.m., August 31, 2016, “The Methods Studio” this year started with a workshop on Textual Analysis and Critical Semiotics, led by Dr. Matt Guardino of Providence College, with some twenty registered participants. It was followed by a “crit” with three presenters—a Ph.D. student, an assistant professor, and an associate professor—and five formal responders, plus the two organizers and others in attendance. Over a dozen people attended, in addition to the designated participants.

1. Report on the Methods Café (Dvora Yanow)

The Methods Café this year had 15 tables. According to Peri’s count, the Café had about 40 attendees, down from previous years. We think this is due to the following:

* APSA changed the conference scheduling this year, such that the Thursday noon slot that we have occupied since we started in 2005-6—which had been used for awards and other events that didn’t count against program allocations—was no longer available. Instead, conference sessions ran all day, with no lunch break, for all the days of the meeting. This meant that for the first time, the Café competed against other panels.
* The ballroom location of the meeting did not appear on any of the maps in the printed program, and it was not easy to locate.
* Because of the changes in scheduling, the Café was picked up under the “APSA-sponsored events” category, rather than either QMMR or IMM. Although it did appear under the “Conference Group” sponsored panels, it was not marked there as an IMM event. This means that people who have become accustomed to finding it by looking to either the section or the conference group might not have found it.

After conceiving of and organizing the Methods Café beginning with WPSA 2005 and running it twice a year, at both the Western and APSA, Dvora and Peri are handing it on to organizers who will carry it forward. At APSA, Samantha Majic (John Jay/CUNY) and Timothy Pachirat (UMass Amherst) are taking over.

Timothy thanked Peri and Dvora for their vision and creation of this institution.

5. Award presentations

* Grain of Sand award (presented by Peri Schwartz-Shea, for the committee, with the participation of Lee Ann Fujii and Dvora Yanow)
* Presentation of the award to **Mary Hawkesworth** (Rutgers University)
* Award Committee: Lee Ann Fujii (University of Toronto), Joe Lowndes (University of Oregon), Ido Oren (University of Florida; chair), Timothy Pachirat (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Frederic C. Schaffer (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Joe Soss (University of Minnesota), Peregrine Schwartz-Shea (University of Utah), Dvora Yanow (Wageningen University)
* Charles Taylor 2016 book award (presented by Robin Turner, for the committee)
  + Presentation of the award to **Daniel Kato**, Queen Mary University of London, for *Liberalizing Lynching: Building a New Racialized State* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015).
  + Honorable mention to: **Jaime Lluch**, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, for *Visions of Sovereignty: Nationalism and Accommodation in Multinational Democracies* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014).
  + Honorable mention to: **Richard Ned Lebow**, King’s College, London, for *Constructing Cause in International Relations* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014).
  + Award Committee: Robin Turner, Butler University, chair; Christian Bueger, Cardiff University; James Scott, Yale University.
* Hayward Alker 2016 best graduate student paper award (presented by Samantha Majic, for the committee)
* The 2016 award is being shared by two authors: **Kevin Funk** (University of Florida), for “Capitalists of the World, Unite?"and **Tanya Schwarz** (University of California-Irvine), for “Inter-Religious Peace-building: Engaging Religious Diversity in Faith Based Organizations.” Both papers were presented at the 2015 Meeting of the American Political Science Association in San Francisco. Both were self-nominated.
* Award Committee: Samantha Majic, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Chair; Leila Kawar, UMass-Amherst; Jarrod Hayes, Georgia Institute of Technology.

6. Members’ announcements

This section of the agenda—which would have included announcements concerning forthcoming publications and publishing opportunities (including reports on Patrick Jackson’s book series at the University of Michigan Press, “Configurations: Critical Studies of World Politics,” and Peregrine Schwartz-Shea and Dvora Yanow’s “Routledge Series on Interpretive Methods,” as well as job-related announcements—was skipped in the interests of time and in light of the unexpected visit described in the next item.

7. New business

a. *APSR*

Newly appointed *APSR* Associate Editor Ingo Rohlfing came to the meeting and asked to address the group:

* + Talked about seeking more qualitative work to be submitted to the journal; current percentage is about 4%(?)
  + Concerning JETS/DA-RT (the Journal Editors’Transparency Statement , implementing the Data Access/Research Transparency policy promoted by Colin Elman, Skip Lupia, and others and supported by APSA): the new APSR editorial team have decided to maintain the stance of the former editorial team, who signed on to JETS; the guidelines are to be left “flexible” for qualitative research
  + Discussion
    - Peri Schwartz-Shea asked, given how the JETS statement is phrased, whether the journal’s DA-RT guidelines will pose an additional obstacle for interpretive or qualitative research to getting to the stage of peer review. Ingo: “No.”
    - Robin Turner asked about tension with IRB requirements to keep data confidential. Ingo responded that the policy recognizes the importance of IRB requirements. How this will be handled with APSR submissions will be subject to negotiation, to be dealt with on case by case basis.
    - Lee Ann Fujii asked: Are you expanding the range of reviewers that you are using? Ingo: “There is no interpretivist on the editorial team. I am the most qualitative on the team. But we have a huge editorial board. We are working with APSA on getting an updated database [for potential reviewers].”
    - Timothy Pachirat thanked Ingo for coming. He then asked: “Was there a discussion on the maintenance of JETS among the editorial team or did the new editorial team just decide to continue the prior team’s decision?”

Ingo: “It’s such an important issue. We are not just taking it over because it’s there but because we believe in the benefits of DA-RT. We want to maintain JETS.

TP: “On what grounds did you decide to continue?”

Ingo: “Part of empirical research is not just publishing and keeping the data safe, but you also need to provide data, to make [them] available to others. We are sensitive to this [that replicability has no meaning in interpretive circles].”

Timothy: “You are asking for more submissions, yet at the same time our internal [DY: within interpretive research] standards already include many of the elements of scaffolding, reflexivity—the things that our [other] colleagues are not transparent in. So it is not quite right to say that the new regime is epistemologically neutral if they continue JETS—that is a non-neutral move. That is antagonistic to the position we hold as scholars.”

* + - Dvora asked Ingo to take these comments back to the editorial team. She reiterated Timothy Pachirat’s thanks for coming as he is the first representative from APSR to come to an IMM Business Meeting.
    - Ingo: “It depends on where you focus—on the DA or on the RT of DA-RT. … I’m not going to pretend that is not an easy discussion. We ask you to trust us.…”

b.DA-RT

* Robin Turner asked if anyone in the room is from a QTD group. Sam Majic reported on her group, “Vulnerable Populations.”
* Dvora Yanow motioned that the IMM Executive Committee take on the task of writing a letter to the new editorial team, as had been done with the previous group when they took over, to rearticulate a response.
  + Rick Beth favored a proposal if Tim is in on the letter. He praised Timothy’s response to Ingo just now and urged its pursuit if Tim is on the task.

c. New webpageannounced**:** Interpretationandmethod.com

Dvora introduced Aarie Glas (University of Toronto) as webmaster and invited people to consider contributing syllabi, working papers, and other items of interest. She asked Aarie if there is already a page on the website on DA-RT, suggesting adding one with links to published critiques.

d. 2017 IMM Program Chair: Lee Ann Fujii, University of Toronto

The meeting was adjourned at 7.30.

Lee Ann Fujii

2 Sept 2016, 6:30 pm