

Interpretive Methodologies and Methods (IMM) Events APSA 2021

IMM and related panels, the methods café line-up, and business meeting information

IMM PANELS

“Yes, And”: Graduate Students Conducting Qualitative Methods During/After COVID

Virtual Roundtable

Wednesday, September 29, 2021 2:00 to 3:30 pm PDT

This panel offer a space for current graduate students to reflect on lost opportunities for conducting fieldwork in light of COVID19, but with an eye toward pivoting and challenging ourselves to say “yes, and” (in the spirit of LeeAnn Fujii) in coming up with new directions and modes of qualitative research. In the first half of the panel, Charmaine Willis, Colleen Wood, Lauren Konken, and Gözde Böcü will discuss the challenges of transitioning ethnographic, interview, and archival research when traditional spaces of conducting these types of fieldwork are disrupted. The panelists will discuss adaptation that is creative, productive, respectful, and ethical both during and after the pandemic, while also interrogating the question of what fieldsite access means after COVID19. In the second part of the panel, Marnie Howlett, Shauna Gillooly, Luisa Turbino Torres, and Ramon Garibaldo will discuss how the pandemic has laid bare or transformed questions of ethics and power underlying qualitative research. This roundtable brings together young scholars working on a range of qualitative methods in field sites across the world, as well as across subfields in the study of political science.

Chair:

Marnie - Howlett, London School of Economics

Presenters:

Lauren C. Konken, Princeton University

Charmaine N. Willis, University at Albany, SUNY

Colleen Wood, Columbia University

Gözde Böcü, University of Toronto

Ramon Garibaldo Valdez, Yale University

Luisa Fernanda Turbino Torres

Shauna N Gillooly, University of California, Irvine

Interpretive Approaches to Political Science

Virtual Panel

Thursday, September 30, 6:00 to 7:30am PDT

Chair:

Rina Verma Williams, University of Cincinnati

Discussant:

Abhishek Chatterjee, University of Montana

A Tale of Three Visas: Structural Violence and Ethnography in Political Science,
Bilgesu Sumer, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

The Meaning of Violence, *Maja Touzari Greenwood*, University of Edinburgh

Becoming an EU diplomat in the European External Action Service, *Jonas Gejl Kaas*,
Aarhus University

Fame & Feminism: Celebrities & International Anti-Trafficking Activism,
Samantha Ann Majic, CUNY-John Jay College

The Politics of Sight: Revisiting Timothy Pachirat's Every Twelve Seconds,
Bernardo Zacka, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and *Jasmine Hope English*,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Promoting Methodological Pluralism: Interpretive Methods and Racial Politics

In-Person Author Meets Critics

Thursday, September 30, 4:00 to 5:30pm PDT

In the spirit of the 2021 APSA annual meeting theme, this author meets critics panel celebrates methodological pluralism by engaging with Ronald Schmidt Sr.'s brilliant new book, "Interpreting Racial Politics in the United States." Going beyond longstanding behavioral approaches to research on the dynamics of race and politics, Schmidt articulates the logic of intentional interpretive research. His book lays a foundation for interpretive methods to analyze racial and ethnic politics within the context of the reality of social construction. Rather than proceed assuming the presence and desirability of value-free knowledge, Schmidt challenges scholars to produce knowledge that promotes social justice. Interlocutors who have agreed to take part if this roundtable proposal is accepted include: Cristina Beltran (NYU), Nadia Brown (Purdue), Cathy Cohen (University of Chicago), Lorrie Frasure (UCLA), Jane Junn (USC), and Natalie Masuoka (UCLA).

Chairs:

Jane Y. Junn, University of Southern California

Cristina Beltran, New York University

Presenters:

Ronald J Schmidt, California State University, Long Beach

Nadia E. Brown, Purdue University

Cathy J. Cohen, University of Chicago

Lorrie Frasure, University of California, Los Angeles

Natalie Masuoka, University of California, Los Angeles

RELATED PANEL

Interpretivist Political Science: Conversations on Methods and Methodologies

Virtual Roundtable

Sun, October 3, 12:00 to 1:30pm PDT

Interpretivism centers on examining processes of meaning-making and highlights the situatedness of knowledge. This broad and expanding tradition has long offered rich insights across the social sciences and posed challenges to positivist assumptions of objectivity and universality. This roundtable unites interpretive political science scholars of different ranks and from different subfields to explore the evolution of interpretivist political science and its impact on the discipline. Participants address two broad, interrelated questions: 1) What are the key foundations of interpretivist political science? And 2) How does one go about doing interpretivist research? In answering these questions, the roundtable examines how interpretivist ontological and epistemological commitments shape understandings of key questions and concepts in political science.

Participants in the roundtable are contributors to the planned Oxford Handbook of Methodological Pluralism, edited by Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Valeria Sinclair-Chapman, and Dino Christenson. Participants examine the ontological assumptions of interpretivist research and explore how these commitments shape the practice of research. Collectively, this roundtable makes the broader argument that political scientists need to be more aware of the ontological assumptions embedded in the methodological choices they make, as these assumptions shape the kinds of knowledge that are produced and not produced in political science research. By being aware of these assumptions and both valuing and understanding the varied methodological approaches and tools that arise from different ontological commitments, political science as a discipline can move toward pluralism and inclusivity.

Chair:

Jessica Soedirgo, University of Amsterdam

Participants:

April Renee Biccum, Australian National University

Rachel George, University of Alberta

Aarie Glas, Northern Illinois University

Lisa Wedeen, University of Chicago

Erica S. Simmons, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Nicholas Rush Smith, CUNY-City College

METHODS CAFÉ

2021 Methods Café

Virtual

Friday, October 1, 10:00 to 11:30am PDT

The 2021 APSA theme, “Promoting Pluralism,” encourages political scientists to embrace methodological pluralism in their study of political, economic, and social upheavals and significant transformations that are occurring across the globe. Given the emphasis of methodological diversity, our proposed Methods Café brings together a group of scholars experienced in a variety of interpretive research methods, ranging from interviews to participant observation. At the café, these scholars are available to anyone who wishes to discuss the area of study or method they specialize in.

The café is not a panel or roundtable session where presenters prepare formal presentations on their topics and speak in sequence. Instead, it is an informal setting—“a café” with multiple tables [breakout rooms] to sit—that allows for one-on-one and group discussions, networking and support. Here, café “visitors” will find tables [breakout rooms] set up in the café meeting room; each table featuring the method being discussed at that table (e.g., “Interviewing”) and one or two “specialists” in that research method sitting at that table. Topics and the names of the specialists are listed below, and one or more hosts positioned at the room’s entrance [main virtual room] helps people figure out who is sitting where and further explain the process.

“Visitors” to the café are invited to arrive at any point in the time block allotted, visit any table they like, and stay as long as they like. A visitor might join a table and ask the specialist to talk about how s/he uses the method on offer at that table. If a conversation is already under way, others can join in or just sit and listen. One need not worry about having questions that are “too elementary”—it is fine to ask anything about that method, at any level!—and visitors may leave the [breakout room] table or main room at any time. Altogether, we encourage visitors to circulate among as many tables as they wish, and we ask only they sign in at each table they visit—our way of evaluating the demand for each topic. This year we are excited to add new tables such as Indigenous Interpretive Methods and Intersectional approaches to gender and sexuality.

Visitors at past cafés have ranged from doctoral students to full professors. The range of questions is equally broad and might include:

- “What is x method?” or
- “I’m in the midst of analyzing my data and I’ve run into [describes a specific problem], how should I handle it?” or
- “One of my committee members doesn’t believe that interpretive methods are valid. How can I respond to this challenge?”

First initiated by Dvora Yanow and Peregrine Schwartz-Shea in 2005, the Methods Cafe has been a successful and well-attended part of APSA for 15 years.

Chairs:

Robin Turner, Butler University

Biko Koenig, Franklin & Marshall College

Topics and Participants:

Funding Interpretive Research

Robert E. Kirsch, Arizona State University

Daniella Sarnoff, Social Science Research Council

Publishing

Dara Z. Strolovitch, Yale University

Kevin Funk, Trinity College

IRBs and Research Ethics

Sarah E. Parkinson, Johns Hopkins University

Political Ethnography

Tani H. Sebro, Humboldt State University

Osman Balkan, Swathmore College

Field Research in COVID Contexts

Lauren M. MacLean, Indiana University, Bloomington

Lahra Smith, Georgetown University

Rachel George, University of Alberta

Positionality, Reflexivity, and Embodiment

Robin L. Turner, Butler University

Jessica Soedirgo, University of Amsterdam

Teaching Interpretive Methods

Tanya Brooke Schwarz, Pi Sigma Alpha

Intersectional Interpretation and Community Engagement

Amy Cabrera Rasmussen, California State University, Long Beach

Indigenous Interpretive Methods

Sheryl R. Lightfoot, University of British Columbia

Uahikea Maile, University of Toronto

Black Women's Interpretive Approaches

Nadia E. Brown, Georgetown University

Tiffany J. Willoughby-Herard, University of California, Irvine

Interpreting US Social Movements

Deva Woodly, New School for Social Research

Joseph E. Lowndes, University of Oregon

Interpretive Analysis of Violence

Elisabeth Jean Wood, Yale University

Nicholas Rush Smith, City College, the City University of New York

Interviewing

Samantha Ann Majic, John Jay College, the City University of New York

Concepts and Discourse

Philip Luke Johnson, The Graduate Center, the City University of New York

IMM BUSINESS MEETING

2021 IMM Business meeting
Virtual (Zoom)
Friday, October 1, 12:00 to 1:00pm PDT

The IMM business meeting will be held on Zoom, outside of the APSA platform, to make it open to anyone who wishes to attend. You do not need to be registered for the APSA conference to attend the IMM business meeting.

To receive the Zoom link, please RSVP for the IMM business meeting [here](#). If you have any questions about the IMM business meeting or registration process, please contact the meeting coordinator, Nicholas Smith, at nsmith3@ccny.cuny.edu.