Routledge's Lee Ann Fujii Award for Innovation in the Interpretive Study of Political Violence, to be awarded at APSA 2023

Sponsored by Routledge and the Interpretive Methodologies and Methods (IMM) Related Group of the American Political Science Association

Deadline for nominations/submissions: Tuesday, February 1, 2023

Scope/Eligibility (see below for details): books, journal articles, and chapter-length publications

The Interpretive Methodologies and Methods (IMM) Related Group of the American Political Science Association announces the second round of the biannual "Routledge's Lee Ann Fujii Award for Innovation in the Interpretive Study of Political Violence." The award, funded by Routledge/Taylor & Francis, is to be given to books, journal articles or book chapters, in recognition of the late Professor Fujii's contributions to that area of inquiry.

Dr. Fujii, who died unexpectedly in March 2018, was Associate Professor of political science at the University of Toronto. Her main field of study was comparative politics, as an Africanist specializing in genocide studies and (post-)conflict settings. Recently, she had expanded her research agenda to include the historical conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and the U.S. south. In the course of her research, she developed a methodological expertise in interviewing.

The award honors her creative contributions to the study of political violence, including methods for doing such research. In her 2009 book *Killing Neighbors: Webs of Violence in Rwanda* (Cornell UP), as well as in her posthumously book *Show Time: The Logic and Power of Violent Display* (Cornell UP, 2021), and other writings, Dr. Fujii developed fresh ways to investigate, conceptualize, and explain political violence in places as diverse as Rwanda, Bosnia, and the United States.

Among her methodological contributions, three innovations stand out:

1. Her path-breaking relational approach to the production of lying and truth-telling in interviews (in "Shades of truth and lies: Interpreting testimonies of war and violence," *Journal of Peace Research* 47 (2): 231–241, 2010, and in her 2018 Routledge book on relational interviewing);
2. The contributions of what she called "meta-data" in assessing the veracity of interview narratives (in "Five stories of accidental ethnography: Turning unplanned moments in the field into data," *Qualitative Research* 15 (4): 525–539, 2015); and
3. Her novel dramaturgical approach to analyzing political violence and its display (in "The puzzle of extra-lethal violence," *Perspectives on Politics* 11 (2): 410-426, 2013, and Fujii's *Show Time* book).

This award recognizes published works that most innovatively study political violence from an interpretive perspective, memorializing Dr. Fujii's approach to political research, especially as articulated in her recently published *Interviewing in Social Science Research: A Relational Approach* (Routledge/T&F 2018), the fifth volume in the Routledge Series in Interpretive Methods, and her overall contributions to interpretive research methods.

Two elements in the award title deserve explication. First, the term "interpretive" has developed under the influence of several key works in the so-called interpretive turn in the social sciences. What grounds the diverse methods of empirical research included under this umbrella is the intention to place human meaning-making at the center of the social science research endeavor. Being attuned to meaning-making involves a recognition of, and sensitivity to, the ambiguities of human experience, an idea that lies at the heart of Lee Ann Fujii's work. Researchers presuppose that meanings are negotiated and inter-subjectively constructed, and they often deliberately investigate efforts to promulgate or resist particular meanings, at the same time as they explore the variation of meanings across context. By studying the symbols, rituals, stories, and other artifacts through which actors make sense of their worlds, researchers seek to reveal the intricate, evolving connections between taken-for-granted understandings and human activities and practices. Moreover, an interpretive perspective maintains a sensitivity to the forms of the data. Interpretive researchers conceive of evidence broadly and do not elevate any one form or genre as superior to another.

Second, in line with Dr. Fujii's own efforts both to expose more hidden and systemic types of harm (racial and gender discrimination, in particular), as well as to understand what drives people to kill, the nominated work may take any type of political violence, broadly construed, as its concern. The violence might be direct and physical; it might be entrenched and structural, inflicting various forms of harm based on race, gender, class, economic, and other inequalities; it might be cultural and symbolic, serving to justify, normalize, or naturalize harm or injustice. This award understands political violence to include not only violence between states (the traditional understanding of war and its aftermath) and between factions within a state, such as in civil wars, but also the ongoing "wars" against terrorism, possibly also against drug abuse, and also, significantly, domestic and sexual violence. Research on inter-state and civil wars has shown how that violence can be, and often is, intertwined with sexual violence. The use of rape to terrorize a population, for example, was particularly strong in the Yugoslavian (Serbian-Croatian) wars, one of Professor Fujii's areas of research. And then there is the sort of political violence committed by the guards at Abu Ghraib, a topic other political scientists have taken up.

Bringing both of these elements together, and in keeping with IMM's focus and that of the Routledge Series on Interpretive Methods, in which her 2018 book was published, the award will recognize works that not only report on findings, but which engage the methodological entailments and/or methods challenges of studies of political violence, broadly construed. Consideration will be given to interviewing, as in Dr. Fujii's research, but also to other methods.

The award committee will consider not only books and journal articles, but also chapter-length publications. In addition to considering chapters from edited books, eligibility will also extend to chapters from monographs that do not focus on political violence as a whole, but which include

an outstanding and innovative methodological chapter (including, e.g., methodological appendices) whose arguments could be applied to the study of violence.

Eligibility years and submissions

The award is to be made every other year and presented at the annual American Political Science Association (APSA) conference during the business meeting or reception of the Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Related Group. The nominated work should have been published during the two calendar years prior to the year of the APSA meeting at which the award would be presented (i.e., 2021-2022 for the 2023 award). In the case of a **book** or **book chapter**, eligibility is determined by the copyright date of the hardcover edition; if there is no hardcover edition, then eligibility is based on the softcover copyright date. In the case of a **journal article**, eligibility is determined by the date of initial publication (the date of the journal issue in which the article appears, not the online-first form).

The Award Committee is not obligated to make an award in any given round.

People nominating works for the award—they may be self-nominated—should submit a statement along with the submitted work explaining how it fits the domain of the award. One copy of a nominated book should be posted to each member of the award committee; please email the committee chair to let her/him know that it is being submitted. One copy of a book chapter or article should either be posted or emailed (in .pdf format) to each committee member. If sent by mail, please notify the committee chair that it is en route.

Award Committee for the 2023 award

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