

**2018 Chair's Report: Section 16: Women and Politics Research**  
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Over the 2017-2018 academic year I served as Co-President of the APSA Women and Politics Research Section (Section 16) with Shauna Shames, completing a two-year term as Co-President with a previous year as President-Elect.

The typical annual section activities include: 1) section dissertation and best paper awards chosen by appointed committees; 2) appointment of annual meeting chairs; 3) oversight of the Section's Journal, *Politics & Gender*; 4) distribution of professional information to Section members over APSA Connect; and 5) preparation for the annual APSA meeting, including the business meeting and two receptions: the Honoring Women in the Profession Reception and the Honoring Women of Color in the Profession Reception.

In addition to the above activities, we spearheaded the following additional activities in 2017-18:

- In the fall, we launched our first **Small Grants Competition**, to foster collaborative research projects. The Executive Council deliberated on this initiative, and approved the call in Fall 2017. We awarded two small grants of \$250 each under this competition. Below is the text of the call.

**Women and Politics Research Section of the APSA -- Small Grants Program for Collective Projects**

The Women & Politics Research Section of the APSA occasionally offers small grants of between \$100 and \$500 for collective initiatives aimed at advancing research, mentoring, or professionalization activities for section members. Projects must be collaborative in nature. They are not meant to support already existing research projects, but rather jump start new research relationships or provide mentorship and professionalization opportunities. Examples might include but are not limited to: support of pre-APSA conference short courses or workshops; writing retreats open to a wide range of section members; thematic research gatherings connected to other, related conferences but which would benefit a wide range of section members. For first preference, project proposals should be received by November 1. If the money is not expended, proposals will be accepted at later dates as well. (If past the deadline, please inquire in advance.) To apply, please email the section Co-Presidents and Treasurer with the following information: 1) a one-page summary of the proposed project including how it relates to the mission of the section, how it will benefit a broad range of members of the section, the proposed dates and lead organizers; 2) a one-page budget; and 3) the CVs of the organizers.

- To foster greater inclusion in the APSA and the Section, we launched our first **Underfunded Scholar Grants**. This initiative was approved by the Executive Council in Spring of 2018. Two scholars were awarded \$1000 each to attend the APSA meeting. Below is the call.

### Travel Grant for Under-funded Scholars

The Women and Politics Research Section of the APSA invites applications for up to two travel grants of up to \$1000 each, to help section members without or with limited funding sources to attend the annual APSA conference. The goal of these grants is to foster inclusion and diversity in participation in the Section and APSA activities by enabling scholars who otherwise would not have the sufficient means to participate in the conference.

Applicants must fit the following criteria: 1) be a member of the Women and Politics Research Section of the APSA; 2) have a paper or poster accepted for presentation at the APSA; 3) receive \$500 or less in yearly conference travel funding from their home institution. Graduate students, early assistant professors, non-tenure track faculty and members of other under-represented groups are especially encouraged to apply.

To apply, please submit 1) a screenshot or official email confirming your paper or poster acceptance; and 2) an explanation of how your institutional or other sources of funding amount to \$500 or less.

- To improve Section visibility and communications, we worked with the APSA to develop a **section microsite**: <https://connect.apsanet.org/s16/> on which we store Section documents and inform our members of key opportunities.

- We supported the Section's Journal, *Politics & Gender* in several ways:

a) We had extensive conversations with Cambridge representative, Chris Robinson and APSA journals coordinator, Jon Gurstelle, on how to best support the journal given its growth and to prepare for the contract expiration/renewal in 2020 (with negotiations to start 2019).

b) We led, in consultation of the Executive Council of the Section, an effort to better support the Editor of *Politics & Gender*, who due to a sharp increase in submissions combined with an institution unwilling to provide financial support, required greater assistance. We set up a mentorship program for her with former journal editors that are Section members; encouraged her to internationalize her board (which she did); encouraged her to add Associate Editors to spread the work load (which she did); encouraged the institution of reviewer awards given by the journal (which she did), as well as provided additional financial support for a journal assistant.

c) We negotiated formal support for our annual meeting reception from Cambridge through an addendum to the journal contract.

d) We assembled a search committee to find a new editorial team for the journal, which will take over in July 2019.

- We jointly organized a 2018 **short course** with the Women and Politics Section of the PSA called: "Gender, Resurgent Nationalism & Masculinist Politics in the US & Europe" .
- We **coordinated with the Women's Caucus** of the APSA on several initiatives, including a response to DART deliberations and the move by the government of Hungary to eliminate gender studies.
- We launched a **short survey** of members to gauge how well the Section serves its members, and to explore member reactions to changing the name of the Section to include "Gender".
- At the 2018 business meeting, we added the following **statement on diversity** to our by-laws, previously written by the Executive Committee, and edited and approved by the membership:

*The Section is committed to fostering a diverse membership that is inclusive across all forms of inequality. To carry through with this value, the section leadership will continually seek ways to foster inclusion, ranging from networking opportunities (for example through our annual co-sponsorship of the women of color in the discipline reception), research opportunities (such as consideration of diversity in our small grants and short-course selection processes) and leadership opportunities, through leadership recruitment that values diversity.*