**2019 Chair’s Report: Section 16: Women and Politics Research**

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In the 2018-2019, I served as senior co-president of the APSA Women and Politics Research Section (Section 16), along with Merike Blofield, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Miami, FL. I took over this post from Christina Ewig, Professor of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

2018-2019 was a busy year for the Section! In general, the typical annual section activities include:

1. Research work awards chosen by 3 appointed committees;
2. Oversight of the Section’s Journal, Politics & Gender;
3. Distribution of professional information to Section members over email, social media, and APSA Connect;
4. 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;
5. Appointment of annual meeting chairs; and
6. Occasional grants for research or collaborative projects

For this year, as usual, for #1 above we appointed at least three members per committee to serve as decision bodies choosing the annual awards, for Best Paper at the previous APSA meeting, Best Dissertation, and (in a three-way joint project with the Foundations of Political Theory Section and the Women’s Caucus for Political Science) the Okin-Young Award for Best Article (published in the previous year) in political theory. Each committee had an appointed chair, and each diligently read multiple submissions and chose a winner, as announced at the 2019 APSA section business meeting:

**Best Dissertation Prize, $500, awarded to Hind Ahmed Zaki, University of Seattle, Washington**

Committee: Dawn Teele, University of Pennsylvania, Chair; Sonali Chakravarti, Wesleyan University, Katharine Wright, Newcastle University

**Best Paper Award, $500, awarded to Nicholas J. G. Winter, University of Virginia**

Committee: Erica Townsend-Bell, Oklahoma State University, Chair; Alba Alonso Alvarez, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain; Michaele Ferguson, University of Colorado

**Okin-Young Award, $600 (split three ways among the sponsoring groups) – awarded to Heath Fogg Davis, Temple University; Honorable Mention to Ashleigh Campi**

Committee: Ainsley LeSure, Occidental College, Chair; Molly Scudder, Purdue University; Jemima Repo, Newcastle University, UK

For activity #2 above, this year we formed a selection committee and solicited and considered proposals for new editors of our Journal, *Politics & Gender.* We oversaw a competitive selection process and chose a terrific new team, spearheaded by Christina Wolbrecht and Susan Franceschet. We then worked closely with them and Cambridge University Press to transition from the previous editor, Mary Caputi, including some damage control intervention where necessary.

For #3, we used APSA Connect, social media like Twitter and Facebook, and our section members’ emails to disseminate information relevant to section members, including job announcements and current events news.

For #4, as usual, we contributed to and helped arrange for the two major receptions honoring women (one Honoring Women in the Profession, the other Honoring Women of Color in the Profession) at the 2019 APSA Meeting in Washington D.C., including a ticketed bar and catered appetizers. At the annual meeting, we also held our annual Section Business meeting, which included a catered lunch this year and much Section business to conduct quickly. As part of our section annual business meeting, we appointed new annual meeting chairs for the coming year (#5).

For #6 above, we solicited members for proposals for our research/collaborative project and travel grants, formed a committee, and awarded one junior research approximately $500 in travel supplementation funds to come present her work at this year’s APSA meeting.

In addition to the above-listed activities, we spearheaded new initiatives this past year, most notably two long and thoughtful processes on the question of revising the Section’s name (to include “gender” and not just “women” in the title), and on the question of creating new awards for the Section to give our members.

The “Name Change Consideration Committee,” chaired by Nancy Hirschmann of the University of Pennsylvania, spent several months designing a survey, which we sent to all members, and then analyzing and interpreting the data. Based on the committee’s recommendation, we put to the membership, at an in-person vote at the annual business meeting, the question of whether we should simply change our name to “Women, Politics, and Gender Research,” or whether we should approve a one-time exception to our bylaws to allow for an online vote on multiple possible names, to happen this fall. The membership voted in person for the bylaws exception; the new Section leadership will take up the question and continue this deliberation process this fall.

The “New Awards Committee,” chaired by Corinne McConnaughy of George Washington University, worked via phone and email to investigate what other organized sections offer in terms of awards, and to propose new awards to supplement our existing offerings. Based on their report, the Section voted at our annual business meeting to adopt one new award outright (to recognize the best published paper from the previous year on race and intersectionality, in an award to be presented jointly with the Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Section). We also plan to consider adding another of the proposed new awards (to recognize the best article from the previous year published in *Politics & Gender Journal*) after this coming year, once the new editors are more firmly established in that role.