

Fall 2018  
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# State Politics and Policy Newsletter

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## 1. Message from the Section President

Greetings! It is again my great honor to address you as the president of the APSA's State Politics and Policy organized section. The section officers—and the annual business meeting—have been very busy this past year on the institutionalizing efforts that I described in last year's message. In addition, we are now working on two important transitions at *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* this year.

At the annual business meeting at the Penn State SPPC in June, the section approved a revamped set of bylaws. These largely cleaned up and rationalized some items, putting us on a good foot going forward. The biggest changes are to the term lengths and duties of officers, which have been staggered and delineated more carefully than previously. We now also have more explicit fiscal control to help guard against overextending ourselves in our enthusiasm to do good.

In another important component of our institutionalization efforts, the Council has established two ad hoc committees to look into crucial issues facing the section:

- The Inclusion and Diversity Committee (Beth Reingold (chair), Jason Casellas, and Jamila Michener) is exploring ways the section might expand its outreach, scope, and balance by making sure that a wide range of perspectives is reflected in our section and field. While the section has been seeing improvement here in recent years on certain dimensions, clearly, we have a lot of work to do on this front.
- Second, the Membership Committee (Don Haider-Markel (chair), Sarah Anzia, Bill Franko, and Mitch Sellers) has been charged with understanding and addressing the section's fluctuating and decreasing membership rates. While there is an aspect to this problem that affects all sections (and we are working at that level, too), the section likely needs to make its own efforts to maintain and grow the section membership.

These two ad hoc committees are working now. If you have any ideas, suggestions, concerns, etc. about issues within the domains of these committees, please contact them ASAP to provide your input. In the spring, these committees will report their findings and suggestions to the Council, who will then attack these issues in a concerted fashion. You'll be hearing more about this as we progress.

Further contributing to the section's institutional and financial stability have been our ongoing efforts to raise money to endow important section purposes. Currently, the Mooney Dissertation Prize is fully endowed, and we have just reached our minimum endowment goal of \$75,000 for the Tom Carsey Fund for State Politics and Policy Research and Education (i.e., for graduate student travel grants to the SPPC), thanks especially to a program this fall initiated by a generous matching grant from our colleague, Jennifer Jensen of Lehigh University.

More important than any given goal or funded program is the clear need for the section to do more fundraising. If we are to continue to attract the top scholars—especially top junior scholars and graduate students—that we need for the field to survive and thrive, we need to put our money where our collective mouths are. If not us, who would do this? So please, get into the annual habit of sending a few dollars back to the section for the common good. Not only will the money be put to good use, but the percentage of members contributing to a fund is an excellent selling point to larger donors. Of course, junior people may not be able to give much, but what matters is regularity of giving rather than the amount. Senior people? No excuse there—you’ve benefited tremendously from the section’s success, and now that you (we!) are making good money and the kids are grown, what better way to carry your weight and assure that your values and interests are advanced as we move into our dotage? So please remember the section this year and every year in your annual charitable giving: <https://www.apsanet.org/section22> . I just did it, and it felt great. Every little bit helps the section.

On the SPPQ front, we have two searches underway:

- **New publisher:** Sage’s contract with the section runs out in 2020, so we have assembled a senior team to help wrangle us a new contract (Chris Mooney (chair), Chris Bonneau, Kerry Haynie, Ken Meier, Kira Sanbonmatsu, and Carol Weissert). We are working closely on this with APSA’s publication manager, Jon Gurstelle, who has been a tremendous help. An RFP has been out for a few months, meetings and emails have been exchanged with various publishers, etc. Several of the top publishers remain very interested, including Sage. The deadline for proposal submission is January 1, and the committee hopes to have a winner announced next summer, giving plenty of lead time for any transition that may have to occur.

- **New editors:** After what will be six years of tremendous work and creativity, the editorship of Chris Bonneau and Kris Kanthak will come to an end in 2020. Former SPPQ editor Thad Kousser is chairing the crackerjack search committee for a new editor(s). The other committee members are Paul Djupe, Jan Leighley, and Caroline Tolbert. The RFP for this will be going out very soon, with a proposal deadline of May 1, 2019. The new editor(s) would begin taking in new manuscripts in June 2020.

This editor search is especially near to my heart, so let me say an additional word here. In my experience, editing a field journal is one of the most interesting and rewarding experiences in the profession. You work closely with a limited range of scholars in an effort to advance the discipline on a more macro-level scale than you can do on your own, of necessity, narrow research. And the learning opportunity is on par with your first year of graduate school—in other words, exceptional! Furthermore, serving as a field journal editor is a great service of the field. Of course, it is a lot of work, but for the field to thrive and contribute to the catalogue of human knowledge, this work has to be done and it has to be done well. SPPQ has a very strong tradition of hands-on, proactive and creative editors. It is in all of our best interests to have an excellent editor at the helm of SPPQ. Maybe that’s you. More likely, you know someone who has a good grasp of some of the breadth of the field, who is an excellent scholar and writer in his/her own right, and who could devote a few years in this important role. If so, strike up the conversation with him or her. I suspect that the next editor of SPPQ may not be thinking about this now—let’s all put on our recruiting hats for this important search.

Finally, let me send out some thanks to our hard-working section members who have served us especially this year. Jamila Michener and Jennifer Wolak ended their Council terms this year, and they have been replaced by Becki Scola and Rebecca Kreitzer. Jennifer Clark organized the APSA panels in 2018, and Jim Battista will be doing so for 2019. And special thanks go out to the team at Penn State who put on the excellent 2018 SPPC in June. It was a great event at one of the countries iconic campuses, and it did not disappoint. Thanks very much to Mike Nelson and Michael Berkman and the rest of the Penn State crew. I very much look forward the 19th SPPC next year in College Park and seeing what a good conference Stella Rouse and her folks at UMD will be putting on for us next year.

Chris Mooney  
State Politics and Policy Section President

## 2. State Politics and Policy Conference Information

The 19th Annual State Politics and Policy Conference will be held from May 30 – June 1, 2019 at the University of Maryland, College Park. This year’s theme is “**400 Years of Changing Democracy in the States: Honoring the Long Tradition of U.S. Subnational Governance**” due to the fact that 2019 will be the 400th anniversary of the first colonial legislature in the U.S., which occurred when the Virginia House of Burgesses first met on July 30, 1619.

We seek proposals related to this year’s conference theme. Please submit proposals here. <https://go.umd.edu/SPPCproposals>

**Proposals are due January 14, 2019.**

Program decisions will be announced in February.

Visit <https://go.umd.edu/SPPC19> for more information. All questions can be directed to [sppc19@umd.edu](mailto:sppc19@umd.edu).

### Hotel Information

We have reserved a block of rooms at the College Park Marriott. Please do not call the hotel directly to make reservations. Attendees must call Globetrotter Travel to make hotel reservations. Reservations will be taken until May 6, 2019. When calling Globetrotter Travel, reference UMCP BSOS Government & Politics State Politics & Policy Conference.

Local: 301-570-0800, press 2 when prompted  
Toll Free: 866-235-5467, press 2 when prompted  
Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM

### Getting to College Park

The Washington, D.C. area is served by three airports: Baltimore-Washington International Airport, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, and Washington Dulles International Airport. If driving, campus can be reached via I-95/I-495 North and I-95 South. More detailed transportation information will be sent closer to the conference.

## 3. Treasurer's Report

Thanks to all of your donations and the generous matching gift of Jennifer Jensen, the Carsey Fund will be fully endowed and able to accrue interest beginning in 2019. We will also be setting up a way to give out some money as a first round of Carsey Graduate Student Travel Awards to the 2019 State Politics and Policy Conference at the University of Maryland. This section's members have really gone above and beyond in helping graduate students and honoring our dear friend Tom. From all of us on the executive and fundraising committee to all of you who donated —Thank you!

Shanna Pearson  
Treasurer

## 4. *SPPQ* Editor's Report

In this brief update, we want to provide some information on the current state of *SPPQ*, especially as some of you are undoubtedly considering applying to take over as editors beginning in June of 2020. In short, 2018 has been a banner year for *SPPQ*. Some highlights:

- In 2017, we processed 100 original manuscript submissions, a 16.3% increase over 2016, and we are on pace to hit that number again in 2018.
- Our acceptance rate in 2017 was 22%, which is about average since we took over. Of course, there is a lot of variation in this depending on when revise-and-resubmits are resubmitted, quality of the manuscripts, etc. The range is 14% in 2016 to 30% in 2015. We have never made decision on the basis of trying to control the acceptance rate.
- In 2017, our average time to first decision was 55 days. Somehow, we have been able to improve that excellent number to 50 days in 2018, as of October.
- Once Sage receives the final manuscript, on average it takes 34 days for the article to appear in Online First. Much of this variation has to do with the timeliness of the return of page proofs.
- Our queue is usually about 8 articles, so once an article has appeared in Online First, it generally appears in print within the next 2 issues.
- Our circulation is 8,766, which is the highest it has ever been. For perspective, it was only 8,198 in 2015.
- Likewise, our downloads are also way up. In 2017, we had 25,986 downloads. In 2018, the number was 24,625 through the end of October. If November and December numbers are similar to past years, we will exceed 28,000 downloads for 2018.
- We continue to subject all empirical articles to external validation by the Odum Institute. This process has allowed authors to correct statistical and documentation errors prior to publication. All data and code for accepted articles can be found on the *SPPQ* Dataverse.
- Finally, the best news of the year is that our 2017 Impact Factor was 1.425, a 127% increase. Even better, we expect this to continue in 2018 since much of the 2017 increase is based on recently published articles, which will count for another year in the Impact Factor calculations.

In sum, the journal is in great shape, which is largely due to the high-quality submissions we receive and our conscientious and timely reviewers. We were fortunate to inherit a well-run operation from our predecessor Tom Carsey and we look forward to working with the new editors once they are selected. On that front, if any of you have questions about editing the journal, we would be happy to talk with you.

## 5. 2018 State Politics and Policy Section Award Winners

### *Career Achievement Award*

Peverill Squire, University of Missouri, Columbia

### *Best Published Paper Award*

James E. Monogan, III (University of Georgia), David M. Konisky (Indiana University), Neal D. Woods (University of South Carolina), "Gone with the Wind: Federalism and the Strategic Location of Air Polluters." *American Journal of Political Science*

### *State Politics and Policy Quarterly Best Paper Award*

Mary Kroeger, "Bill Changes in State Legislatures." Presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual State Politics and Policy Conference, St. Louis, MO

### *Christopher Z. Mooney Best Dissertation Prize*

Julia Payson (New York University), "When Governments Lobby," Stanford University, Terry M. Moe (Dissertation Chair)

### *Virginia Gray Best Book Award*

William W. Franko (West Virginia University) and Christopher Witko (Pennsylvania State University), *The New Economic Populism: How States Respond to Economic Inequality*, Oxford University Press, 2017.

## 6. Call for 2019 Section Award Nominees

The State Politics and Policy section solicits nominees for the following 2019 section awards.

### *Best Published Paper Award – Deadline February 1, 2019*

This annual award is given to the author(s) of the best journal article on U.S. state politics or policy published during the previous calendar year in any peer-reviewed journal (book reviews, review essays, and chapters published in edited volumes are not eligible).

#### Award Committee:

Christopher J. Clark (Chair), UNC Chapel Hill, [chriclar@email.unc.edu](mailto:chriclar@email.unc.edu)

Rebecca Gill, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, [rebecca.gill@unlv.edu](mailto:rebecca.gill@unlv.edu)

Daniel Mallinson, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, [mallinson@psu.edu](mailto:mallinson@psu.edu)

### *Career Achievement Award – Deadline February 1, 2019*

This annual award is given to a political scientist who has made a significant lifetime contribution to the study of politics and policy in the American states.

#### Award Committee:

Peverill Squire (Chair) University of Missouri, Columbia, [squirep@missouri.edu](mailto:squirep@missouri.edu)

Martha E. Kropf, UNC Charlotte, [mekropf@uncc.edu](mailto:mekropf@uncc.edu)

David L. Leal, University of Texas, Austin, [dleal@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:dleal@austin.utexas.edu)

### *Christopher Z. Mooney Best Dissertation Prize – Deadline February 1, 2019*

This annual award is given to the author of the best PhD dissertation in American state politics and policy completed during the previous calendar year. The winner receives a plaque and \$1000. Support for this prize comes from the annual return of the endowed Mooney Fund.

#### Award Committee:

Tracy Osborn (Chair), University of Iowa, [tracy-osborn@uiowa.edu](mailto:tracy-osborn@uiowa.edu)  
Robert Lowry, University of Texas, Dallas, [robert.lowry@utdallas.edu](mailto:robert.lowry@utdallas.edu)  
Antoine Yoshinaka, SUNY-Buffalo, [antoiney@buffalo.edu](mailto:antoiney@buffalo.edu)

*State Politics and Policy Quarterly Best Paper Award – Deadline February 1, 2019*

This annual award is given to the author(s) of the best paper on state politics and policy presented at any professional meeting in the previous calendar year. The selection committee may designate separate awards for papers presented by graduate students with no faculty authorships and for papers with solely faculty or faculty and graduate student participation. Graduate student winners will receive a plaque and \$100 and faculty winners will receive a plaque.

Award Committee:

Renee Van Vechten (Chair), University of Redlands, [renee\\_vanvechten@redlands.edu](mailto:renee_vanvechten@redlands.edu)  
Adam Brown, Brigham Young University, [brown@byu.edu](mailto:brown@byu.edu)  
Michael G. Miller, Barnard College, [mgmiller@barnard.edu](mailto:mgmiller@barnard.edu)

*Virginia Gray Book Award – Deadline February 1, 2019*

This annual award is given to the author(s) of the best political science book published on the subject of U.S. state politics or policy in the preceding three calendar years. Thus, books would be eligible to be considered for the award for three years. E.g., for the 2018 award, books with a copyright of 2015, 2016, and 2017 would be eligible for nomination.

Award Committee:

Christopher Witko (Chair), Pennsylvania State University, [cw877@psu.edu](mailto:cw877@psu.edu)  
Laurel Harbridge-Yong, Northwestern University, [l-harbridge@northwestern.edu](mailto:l-harbridge@northwestern.edu)  
Robynn Kuhlmann, University of Central Missouri, [kuhlmann@umco.edu](mailto:kuhlmann@umco.edu)

## 7. Reminders and Important Dates

January 15, 2019	Deadline for the 2019 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Washington, DC
January 14, 2019	Deadline for the 2019 State Politics and Policy Conference Proposals in College Park, MD
April 4-7, 2019	Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago, IL
April 18-20, 2019	Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA
May 30-June 1, 2019	2019 State Politics and Policy Conference in College Park, MD
August 29-September 1, 2019	Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Washington, DC

## 8. 2018-2019 State Politics and Policy Section Officers

President:	Christopher Mooney, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2017-2020
Treasurer:	Shanna Pearson, University of Rhode Island, 2016-2021
Secretary:	Craig Burnett, Hofstra University, 2018-2019
Council Members:	Michael Nelson, Pennsylvania State University, 2017-2019 Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson, Wayne State University, 2017-2019 Jason Windett, UNC Charlotte, 2017-2019 Rebecca Kreitzer, UNC Chapel Hill, 2018-2020 Becki Scola, St. Joseph's University, 2018-2020
Webmaster:	Boris Shor, University of Houston
SPPQ Journal Editors	Kristin Kanthak, University of Pittsburgh Chris Bonneau, University of Pittsburgh

2019 APSA Program Chair     James C. Battista, University at Buffalo

Any announcements or information for future newsletters should be sent to Craig Burnett at [craig.burnett@hofstra.edu](mailto:craig.burnett@hofstra.edu)  
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Craig Burnett, Newsletter Editor.