

STATE POLITICS AND POLICY

Winter/Spring 2011 Newsletter

Table of Contents

1. Message from the Section President
2. APSA Section Business Meeting Recap (2)
3. Future Conference Host Proposals Sought (3-4)
4. Officer Nominations (4)
5. 2011 SPP Conference Information (5-6)
6. 2010 Best Paper Award Abstract (7)
7. 2010 Best Graduate Student Paper Award Abstract (7)
8. SPPQ Best Paper Award Abstract (7-8)
9. Review of Squire and Moncrief's *State Legislatures Today: Politics Under the Dome*. (8-9)
10. Reminders and Important Dates (9)
11. Award Fund Contributors (10)

1) Message From the Section President

It was another productive year for the section. The transition of *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* to Sage has gone well, and the first two issues are in print and the online system is fully operational. Leah Fargotstein at Sage has worked diligently to smooth out transition issues, and we all owe her a debt of gratitude for her professionalism. Our editor, Tom Carsey, continues to seek out the best research on state politics, and he welcomes your manuscripts and appreciates your willingness to write reviews.

Dozens of section members and friends attended our reception at the 2010 APSA to celebrate the career achievements of Ken Meier. We were all pleasantly surprised by Ken's generous offer to match all pledges made to the Mooney Dissertation Award that night at the reception. Our treasurer, Margie Ferguson, rounded up pledges, and we put a good-sized dent in Ken's wallet as he made a donation of \$3,150. The total contributions of over \$6,000 further secure the endowment for the Mooney dissertation award, which provides a \$1000 prize annually to the best dissertation in state politics and policy. THANKS KEN!

Dick Winters has promised us a good time at Dartmouth this coming June for the 2011 State Politics and Policy Conference, and we look forward to seeing you there.

This year's career achievement award committee has named Gerald Wright as the 2011 winner so please join us at our section reception at the 2011 APSA to celebrate his achievements.

Finally, we are seeking nominations for a section president and three board members to serve two-year terms starting in September 2011. Please forward recommendations to the nominations committee chair, Jim King (jking@uwyo.edu).

Lilliard Richardson

2) APSA Section Business Meeting Recap

The State Politics and Policy Section business meeting was held at 2010 American Political Science Meeting in Washington, D.C. Section President Lilliard Richardson announced that the SPPQ Career Achievement Award will now be an annual award. The award goes to a political scientist who has made “a significant lifetime contribution to the study of politics and public policies in the American states.”

Section Treasurer Margie Ferguson presented information on finances of the section. The section began the year (in June 30, 2009) with \$8,530.11 and ended the year with \$11,174.42.

A big thank you was given to the outgoing SPPQ editors, Dick Winters, Ron Weber, and Thad Kousser. Sage assumed publication of the journal with Volume 11, Issue 1 (March 2011). Tom Carsey, the new SPPQ editor, announced that online submission for the journal is up and running at: <http://spa.sagepub.com/>.

Chris Mooney presented a recap of the 2010 SPPC conference in Springfield, and Dick Winters previewed the 2011 conference, scheduled for June 3rd and 4th in Hanover, NH (see below for more information). The 2012 conference will be in Houston, TX on February 22nd and 23rd. The conference will be jointly sponsored by Rice University and the University of Houston. In addition, there will be a one-day conference focusing on Baker v. Carr, and the special session will precede the main conference.

Rick Fording, the Section Program chair for the 2010 APSA conference, discussed the 2010 APSA program. In 2009, the section was allotted 9 panels; that number declined to 7 in 2010 (with 11 panels if jointly sponsored panels are counted). He expressed concern that the 2009 conference location in Canada may have reduced section participation, which resulted in the panel allotment cut. A total of 165 papers were proposed; only 45 were accepted, for an acceptance rate of 25%. Andrew Karch is serving as the program chair for the 2011 meeting.

Next, Martin Johnson, Wendy Martinek and Dan Smith were elected to the Executive Board for a 2010-2012 term.

At the end of the meeting, several awards were announced. Arthur Lupia, Yanna Krunikov, Adam Seth Levine, Spencer Piston, and Alexander Von Hagen-Jamer won the Best Paper Award for their paper “Why State Constitutions Differ in their Treatment of Same-Sex Marriage.” Julianna Pacheco won the Best Graduate Student Paper Award for her paper, “Thermostatic Policy Responsiveness in the Fifty States.” Jeffrey R. Lax and Justin H. Phillips won the SPPQ Best Paper Award for their paper, “Explaining Democratic Performance in the States.”

Finally, Ken Meier (Charles H. Gregory Chair in Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University) was honored as the 2010 recipient of the Career Achievement Award. Congratulations to all of our award winners.

3) Seeking Proposals to Host the 2013 State Politics and Policy Conference

The State Politics and Policy Section of American Political Science Association announces a call for proposals to host the Thirteenth Annual Conference on State Politics and Policy. The section president, Lilliard Richardson, has appointed a committee to solicit proposals for hosting future conferences and coordinate among those institutions wishing to host them. The committee consists of Tom Carsey (University of North Carolina), Andrew Karch (University of Minnesota), Margie Ferguson (IUPUI), Lilliard Richardson (University of Missouri), and Neal Woods (University of South Carolina).

The annual conference is the flagship event of the State Politics and Policy Section. Each conference is co-sponsored by the section and *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, but it is primarily sponsored by the hosting institution. Conference hosts include:

Texas A&M University (2001)
 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (2002)
 University of Arizona (2003)
 Kent State University (2004)
 Michigan State University (2005)
 Texas Tech University (2006)
 University of Texas at Austin (2007)
 Temple University (2008)
 University of North Carolina (2009)
 University of Illinois at Springfield (2010)
 Dartmouth College (2011)
 Rice University/ University of Houston (2012)

The Mission of the Annual Conference on State Politics and Policy

The Annual Conference on State Politics and Policy provides scholars interested in state politics - broadly defined - the opportunity to gather and share the latest research developments in the field. Its mission is to expand the breadth and depth of scholarly knowledge about politics, policy, and policymaking as these processes unfold at the state level.

The primary interests of many of the scholars who attend these conferences lie squarely within the traditional domain of the state politics field. However, many others focus more generally on political institutions (such as legislatures and political parties), political behavior (such as voting and public opinion), specific policy areas (such as education or health care), or broader questions of policymaking and representation and use the states as an attractive research venue. Given the goal of expanding knowledge and defining the field broadly, the annual conferences strive to cast a wide net regarding the types of scholars that are invited to attend.

Previous conferences have taken a variety of forms in trying to meet these goals. In addition to the traditional conference format of paper presentations and panels, past conferences have featured a range of innovations, including graduate student poster sessions, being held in conjunction with a parallel conference (e.g., on term limits or redistricting), presentations and speeches by state elected officials, and so forth. Those proposing to host the 2013 conference may want to look at the Web sites of these earlier conferences or contact the previous hosts for more information.

All of this information is available at the section website:

http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/political_science/state_politics/index.htm.

Past Conferences on State Politics and Policy have been presented by the host university with budgets of \$35,000-\$50,000. This includes a \$200-300 per paper stipend and certain conference meals that were provided by past hosts to conference attendees. The host of the 2013 conference does not necessarily need to follow these traditions, but the proposal should make clear what (if any) services the host intends to provide for conference attendees.

Proposal Requirements

Proposals for hosting the Thirteenth Annual Conference on State Politics and Policy should consist of a 2-4 page document that includes the following information:

- Proposed theme of the conference (if any)
- Proposed organization for the conference
- Proposed dates of the conference
- Complete contact information for those person(s) submitting the proposal
- Estimated preliminary budget for the conference (consider meeting space room rental, meals/snacks, AV equipment, local transport, etc)
- Availability of resources and facilities for hosting the conference
- Description of transportation issues (nearest airport, transportation options from airport to host site, local transport from hotel to conference site, etc)
- Special theme conference held in conjunction with SPP (optional)

- Letters of support or of financial commitment by university administrators (optional)
- A short summary of why this would be a great location for the SPP conference

Proposals should be submitted to the selection committee chair, Lilliard Richardson (richardsonle@missouri.edu). **All proposals should be submitted by May 1, 2011**, to guarantee full consideration. The committee STRONGLY prefers electronic submissions as PDF attachments.

4) Section Officer Nominations

The Nominations Committee for the State Politics and Policy section of the American Political Science Association is seeking recommendations for section President and three members of the section's Executive Council. All positions are for two-year terms, beginning with the upcoming APSA conference. Please send recommendations or offers to serve to the Nominations Committee: Jim King, University of Wyoming (chair, jking@uwyo.edu), Elizabeth Rigby, George Washington University (erigby@gwu.edu), and Neal Woods, University of South Carolina (woodsn@mailbox.sc.edu).

5) 2011 State Politics and Policy Conference Preview

June 2 – 4, 2011

Hosted by the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center of Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

Mark your calendars for June 2 and 4, 2011, for the 11th Annual SPPC to be held at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Over a half-century has passed since V.O. Key published his seminal volumes, *Southern Politics in State and Nation* (1949) and *American State Politics: An Introduction* (1956), the books that mark the origin of our distinctive subfield. Since their publication, the study of politics and policy in the U.S. states has mushroomed in the numbers of its scholars, in the diversity of their interests, in the range of methodologies employed, and in the flourishing of its scholarly community.

Join in celebrating the growth, the diversity of interests, and the maturation of our subfield with your state politics and policy colleagues in one of America's most unique college communities for two days of intensive political analysis, learning, critiquing, . . . and socializing.

Conference web address:

<http://sppc2011.org/> Please register!

Travel Arrangements:

Dartmouth College, in Hanover, N.H., is located near the intersection of Interstates 89 and 91 in western New Hampshire. Travelers can fly to the local airport at Lebanon, NH via Cape Air, to Boston and take a "Dartmouth Coach" which serves each of the several terminals at Logan, or to airports in Manchester, NH, Albany, NY, Burlington, VT, Hartford, CT, Montreal, or Portland, ME. It is about 2 and a quarter hours by car from Boston, 5 hours from New York, 2 hours from Burlington, 3 hours from Hartford CT or Albany, NY, and 3.5 hours from Montreal. There is also travel to Hanover by train. Amtrak's The "Vermont" route from New York will bring you to White River Junction, VT, 5 miles from Hanover. For more detailed information, please see the SPP website: http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/political_sciences/state_politics/

Conference Hotel

Six South St Hotel – Hanover, NH

Phone: 603-643-0600 - Hotel Reservations for State Politics and Policy Conference

Group # 319

<http://www.sixsouth.com>

Preliminary Program for the Eleventh Annual State Politics and Policy Conference:

Thursday, June 2

6:00 – 8:30 PM: Welcome Reception and Dinner at the Daniel Webster Room, Hanover Inn, Main Street, Hanover

Friday, June 3

7:15 AM: Leave South St Hotel, walk to Rockefeller Center, Dartmouth

7:30 – 8:20 AM: Continental Breakfast in Hinman Forum/Morrison Commons

8:30 – 10:00 AM: Panels 1A, 1B, and 1C

10:00 – 10:15 AM: Break

10:15 – 11:45 AM: Panels 2A, 2B, and 2C

11:45 – 12:00 AM: Walk to lunch at the Daniel Webster Room, the Hanover Inn.

12:00 – 1:30 PM: Lunch and our hosts, the Rockefeller Center and Associate Director, Ron Shaiko, who will discuss “Involving undergraduates in policy studies: The “Policy Research Shop” model of undergraduate learning.”

1:30 PM: Return to Rockefeller Center

Friday, June 3 (cont'd)

1:45 – 3:15 PM Panels 3A, 3B, and 3C

3:15 – 3:30 PM Break

3:30 – 5:00 PM Panels 4A, 4B, and 4C

5:00 – 6:00: Graduate student “poster session” in the Hinman Forum at the Rockefeller Center

6:30 – 8:30 PM: Dinner at the Dartmouth Outing Clubhouse, Occom Pond

Saturday, June 4

7:00 AM: Check out, South St Hotel

7:15 AM: Leave South St Hotel, walk to Rockefeller Center, Dartmouth

7:30 – 8:20 AM: Continental Breakfast in Hinman Forum/Morrison Commons

8:30 – 10:00 AM: Panels 5A and 5B

10:00 – 10:15 AM: Break

10:15 – 11:45 AM: Panels 6A and 6B

11:45 – 1:00 PM: Lunch

1:00 – 2:30 PM: Panels 7A and 7B

3:00 PM: A regularly scheduled Dartmouth Coach will leave the Hanover Inn for Boston Logan Airport. Arrives at Logan Airport at 5:50 p.m. Reservations must be made at: <http://www.dartmouthcoach.com/>

6) 2010 Best Paper Award

The 2010 Best Paper Award was given to Arthur Lupia, Yanna Krupnikov(Indiana University), Adam Seth Levine, Spencer Piston and Alexander Von Hagen-Jamar of University of Michigan for their paper, "Why State Constitutions Differ in their Treatment of Same-Sex Marriage."

Some states treat a same-sex marriage as legally equivalent to a marriage between a man and a woman. Other states constitutionally prohibit legal recognition of same-sex marriages. In all states that have constitutional restrictions against same-sex marriage, the restrictions were passed by a popular vote. A rationale for allowing citizens to vote on constitutional amendments is to produce constitutional outcomes that reflect variations in attitudes across states. We reexamine the amendment-attitude relationship and find it to be weaker than expected. We then develop an alternate explanation that focuses on procedural variations in how states amend their constitutions. Explicitly integrating key institutional variations into an empirical model with attitudinal data yields an improved explanation of why the constitutions of states with similar public attitudes treat same-sex marriages so differently. Our findings have important implications for people who wish to understand and/or change the future status of same-sex couples in state constitutions.

This paper was published in the *Journal of Politics* in October, 2010 (Vol. 72, No. 4: 1222-1235)

7) 2010 Best Graduate Student Paper Award

The 2010 award for the Best Graduate Student Paper was given to Julianna Pacheco of Penn State University for her paper, "Thermostatic Policy Responsiveness in the Fifty States."

Using a unique dataset containing dynamic estimates of spending preferences on education and welfare, I find that, generally, the thermostatic model characterizes the dynamic relationship between public opinion and policy in the US states. State attitudes toward education spending are positively related to per pupil spending in the short run; state attitudes toward welfare spending are positively related to AFDC benefits in the short and long run. For both policy areas, policy changes exhibited the expected negative relationship on public opinion, but only in the long term. The results provide a more nuanced understanding about the degree of responsiveness in the states and dynamic policy responsiveness in American politics more generally.

8) 2010 SPPQ Best Paper Award

The 2010 SPPQ Best Paper Award was given to Jeffrey R. Lax and Justin H. Phillips of Columbia University of their paper, "Explaining Democratic Performance in the States."

We study how well states translate public opinion into policy. Using national surveys and advances in sub-national opinion estimation, we estimate state-level support for 39 policies across 8 issue areas, including abortion, law

enforcement, health care, and education. We show that policy is highly responsive to policy-specific opinion, even controlling for other influences. But we also uncover a striking “democratic deficit”: policy is congruent with majority will only half the time. We assess the influence of institutions, partisan control of government, and interest groups on the magnitude and ideological direction of this democratic deficit, and we find the largest

influences to be legislative professionalization, term limits, and issue salience. Partisanship and interest groups affect the ideological balance of incongruence more than the aggregate degree thereof. Finally, policy is over-responsive to ideology and party--causing policy to be polarized relative to state electorates.

<http://www.columbia.edu/~jhp2121/workingpapers/DemocraticDeficit.pdf>

9) Review of *State Legislatures Today: Politics Under the Domes*.

Peverill Squire and Gary Moncrief. 2010. *State Legislatures Today: Politics Under the Domes*. New York: Longman.

In retrospect, Squire and Moncrief's text could not have arrived at a more auspicious time for renewed student and faculty interest in the politics of the fifty states. As events across the nation demonstrate—including the controversies over state employee unionization in Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin; disputes over voter identification in Georgia and Texas; and budget crises from California to New Jersey—political debates in America's state capitals are making national headlines. Even in matters of federal policy, such as immigration and health care, the states are taking an increasingly active role. In health care, state governments are leading the charge to strike down the Obama administration's signature federal health care reform law in the courts and hamstringing its implementation with state regulation, even while the administration has more forcefully advanced the possibility of states adopting their own health reform laws that achieve universal coverage in lieu of the federal “Obamacare” solution. Meanwhile the politics of immigration are playing out more forcefully in capitol buildings in Austin, Phoenix, and Raleigh than in Washington, D.C., as states attempt to address a perceived problem with illegal immigration that Congress and the executive branch seem unable—or at least unwilling—to address. And, of course, this list of issues is but a sample of those that the states are taking on in contemporary America.

State Legislatures Today gives students a window into the vital role the states' legislatures are playing in 21st century American politics, in a number of ways. By focusing on legislatures, Squire and Moncrief can explore in detail the ways in which state policymaking is affected by the heterogeneity in states' representative bodies—everything from basic characteristics like size and partisan composition and the role of varying electoral processes, to the differing levels of institutionalization and career mobility for legislators—without neglecting the role of other forces. More importantly this discussion helps dispel the idea that the state legislatures are merely “mini-Congresses”; while each legislature does resemble

Congress to some extent, all retain important differences even as politics in many states has become, simultaneously, more polarized and “nationalized.” They also bring in lively examples that should engage student interest, such as the events surrounding the Texas mid-decade redistricting that saw (as in Wisconsin today) minority-party senators scurrying across state lines to deny a quorum to the majority, the use (and abuse) of power by speakers in various states to retain control of their chambers, and Pennsylvania legislators' (ultimately unsuccessful) attempt to give themselves a raise on the sly. Beyond these often-amusing sideshows, however, the authors also are able to illustrate the important work that legislators do, often unappreciated and under-compensated by the public they serve.

The challenge for professors may be to find the appropriate class for this book; it is the rare institution that has the flexibility to offer a semester-long course on state legislatures alone. Obviously the state and local politics course (either in its state-specific flavors or a more explicitly comparative approach) is a place where this book would be an excellent supplement to a more general text for the professor who wants to emphasize legislative politics. Another potentially fruitful place in the curriculum would be in a course on legislative politics, such as the traditional Congress course; professors could fruitfully compare the national legislature to those of the states, and perhaps explore the ways in which many of the state legislatures today mirror Congress' earlier stages of development. Finally an enterprising professor might supplement the core American politics course with this book, particularly at institutions where students in that course are unlikely to be exposed to state politics elsewhere in the curriculum; given the central role the states play in the policies that affect citizens' day-to-day lives, it is difficult to argue that any student's civic education is complete when their exposure to state politics is limited to part of a chapter on federalism in an American politics text.

Christopher N. Lawrence

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Department of Social Sciences, Texas A&M International University, Laredo, Texas.

10) Reminders and Important Dates

April 21-21, 2011	Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting
April 26-28, 2011	New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting
June 3-4, 2011	11 th Annual State Politics and Policy Conference in Hanover, NH
February 22-23, 2012	12 th Annual State Politics and Policy Conference in Houston, TX

11) Contributors to the Mooney Dissertation Award (as of 03/15/11)

Contributor	Affiliation
Ann Bowman	Texas A&M University
Kathleen A. Bratton	Louisiana State University
Thomas M. Carsey	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
James W. Douglas	University of North Carolina, Charlotte
Rick D. Farmer	Oklahoma Insurance Dept
Margaret R. Ferguson	Indiana University-Indianapolis
Donald P. Haider-Markel	University of Kansas
Daniel P. Hawes	Kent State University
Jennifer M. Jensen	Binghamton University, SUNY
Richard C. Kearney	North Carolina State University
Andrea McAtee	University of South Carolina
Kenneth J. Meier	Texas A&M University
Christopher Z. Mooney	University of Illinois, Springfield
Richard G. Niemi	University of Rochester
Janine A. Parry	University of Arkansas
Justin Phillips	Columbia University
Eric Plutzer	Pennsylvania State University
Beth Reingold	Emory University
Lilliard Richardson	University of Missouri, Columbia
Elizabeth Rigby	George Washington University
Scott E. Robinson	Texas A&M University
Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson	Wayne State University
Kevin B. Smith	University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Daniel A. Smith	University of Florida

Any announcements or information for future newsletters should be sent to Shannon Jenkins at sjenkins@umassd.edu.

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Subscription is free to members of the APSA Section on State Politics and Policy and is also available at:
http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/political_science/state_politics/

All address corrections should be sent directly to APSA.

Shannon Jenkins, Newsletter Editor.