

Fall 2017  
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# State Politics and Policy Newsletter

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## Table of Contents

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### 1. Message from the Section Chair

1. Message from the  
Section Chair
2. 2018 State Politics and  
Policy Conference  
Information
3. Call for Proposals:  
State Politics and  
Policy Conference  
(2019)
4. Update on the Tom  
Carsey Fund
5. *PS: Political Science  
and Politics* “From the  
Sections”: Feedback  
Request
6. 2017 Section Award  
Winners
7. Call for 2018 Section  
Awards Nominees
8. Reminders and  
Important Dates
9. 2017-2018 State  
Politics and Policy  
Section Officers

As I have reflected on the evolution of the State Politics and Policy section these past couple of months, I found myself pleased and somewhat amazed. Not that we don't have work to do, but today, our section is certainly one of the most active and influential in APSA. We are a leader and model of how sections can productively enhance scholarship in their fields. Those of us with some seniority will remember when we were largely a small club and mutual admiration society. That was a great start, but throughout this century, with the help of many, many scholars, the section has grown into both an intellectual force and a going (if small) economic concern. In recognition of this, the council, the secretary-treasurer, and I will be working these next two years to institutionalize our gains and establish systems for our continued success.

Aside from tidying up our paperwork and recordkeeping, a couple of things are on my mind in this regard.

First, membership numbers. These are down by about 20% over the past decade, which is bad for the section both financially and substantively. This seems incongruous with our outreach into the profession and our thriving journal and conferences, but it is likely the result of simple forgetfulness and APSA's renewal process. And yes, there is the additional cost to an already exorbitant APSA membership fee. As the council and I work on this issue over the next couple of years, please send me your ideas for making sure that all state politics scholars are members of our section.

Second, we will continue our proactive fundraising campaign to support the Tom Carsey Fund for State Politics and Policy Research and Education. As you know, we are working to establish an ambitious endowment to help support graduate student participation in our annual State Politics and Policy Conferences. Past section chair Charles Barrilleaux put together an excellent fundraising committee last year (Dick Winters, Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz and Jason Windett), and they have been doing a tremendous job. Dick gives an update on their efforts in this newsletter. This is going to be an ongoing process, and we hope that, little by little and with your help, we will succeed.

From the section business meeting in San Francisco in August, two issues were sent to the section's council and me for further consideration. After gathering considerable member input in September, the council has approved each of these initiatives:

- Reducing the graduate student section membership fee to \$7.00, and
- Moving the annual section business meeting from APSA to the SPPC.

Both of these initiatives are in the spirit of enhancing inclusiveness in the section's activities and decisions. They will be implemented as soon as possible.

Speaking of the SPPC's, hats' off to Steve Rogers, Jason Windett and Dan Butler (and their home departments at St. Louis University and Washington University) for putting on an excellent program and event in St. Louis in June. Who knew St. Louis could be so fun? Fraternizing and gymnastics at the City Museum was certainly one for the books. This conference was a great example of how the section can so seamlessly merge high-level intellectual stimulation and a great social event. Both have great value for the section.

On June 7-9, 2018, Michael Berkman and Michael Nelson will take on the challenge of hosting the next SPPC at Penn State. You will read more about this conference below. It sounds like it will be yet another in a long line of important events for us.

Let me send out a huge thank you to these SPPC hosts and their departments for all the time, energy and resources that they have devoted to their events. The SPPC is integral to the section's important mission of encouraging and supporting top-quality scholarship on the states. While hosting these events is considerable work, it is a once-in-a-career leadership opportunity to help the section and the field. I encourage anyone with any interest in hosting an SPPC in the future to see the call for proposals for 2019 in this newsletter. If 2019 isn't right for you, think about it as a possibility for your department in future years. Talk to any of the former hosts—you will not regret it (at least, not once the conference is over)!

Chris Mooney  
State Politics and Policy Section Chair

## 2. State Politics and Policy Conference Information

The 18th Annual State Politics and Policy Conference will be held from June 7-9, 2018, at Pennsylvania State University.

### **Can State Politics Transcend Partisan Gridlock?**

National-level party polarization, policymaking gridlock, and ever-increasing economic inequality have contributed to a widely-held public perception that American politics is dysfunctional and incapable of addressing the pressing problems of the day. With federal politics seemingly stymied, many are looking to state governments to step in to fill the policymaking gap and address citizens' concerns.

We seek proposals across a range of questions about state politics and policy, many of which have long been central to state politics. In an era of heightened gridlock in Washington, are the states filling the policymaking void? As they make policy, to what extent are state courts, bureaucracies, and legislatures contributing to or restraining economic inequality? Are these institutions responsive to the preferences of all citizens or just a few? What role do organized interests play in fostering gridlock or in inhibiting democratic responsiveness? What reforms and lessons do states offer—to each other, to the U.S. federal government, and to other countries—in their capacities as “laboratories of democracy”? Does the natural variation found in the states provide us with lessons that might tell us something about the nature of gridlock and polarization at the national level?”

We are considering a modest registration fee, and graduate student poster presenters who are members of the State Politics section will be eligible for a travel stipend funded, in part by the Carsey Fund.

All questions can be directed to [sppconference@psu.edu](mailto:sppconference@psu.edu). We look forward to seeing everyone in State College in June!

### **Important Dates**

December 4 – Call for Proposals

January 19 – Proposals Due

February 16 – Program Released/Registration Begins

March 16 – Registration Ends

### **Hotel Information**

The conference will be held at the Smeal Business School and the Nittany Lion Inn on Penn State's campus. We have reserved blocks of rooms at the State College Hyatt, the Nittany Lion Inn, and the Days Inn. More information on hotel reservations will be available as the Call for Proposals is released.

## Getting to State College

The State College airport (SCE) is serviced by three airlines. American Airlines offers flights to State College through Philadelphia, United offers flights through Chicago O'Hare and Washington Dulles, and Delta offers flights through Detroit. The airport is a short distance from campus and the conference hotels.

### 3. Call for Proposals to Host the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on State Politics and Policy (2019)

The State Politics and Policy Section of American Political Science Association announces a call for proposals to host the 19th Annual Conference on State Politics and Policy. Barbara Norrander (University of Arizona), Andrew Karch (University of Minnesota), and Steven Rogers (St. Louis University) will serve on the committee to review proposals. 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. The section will provide some support for the host and graduate students (see below), but the hosting institution bears primary responsibility for organizing and funding the conference. Recent conferences have been held at Illinois- Springfield (2010), Dartmouth (2011), Rice (2012), Iowa (2013), Indiana (2014), Cal State-Sacramento (2015), UT-Dallas (2016), and St. Louis U-Wash U (2017). The 2018 meeting will be hosted by Penn State. Typically, between 100 and 120 scholars attend the conference.

For more information or questions, please contact Barbara Norrander ([norrander@email.arizona.edu](mailto:norrander@email.arizona.edu)).

### 4. Update on the Tom Carsey Fund

To date, the Tom Carsey Fund to support graduate student participation at the annual SPPC's has raised about \$10,000 of the \$100,000 goal in just a few months since its launch. Dick Winters (chair), Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz, and Jason Windett. A set of senior section members has pledged to match donations of up to \$7,500. As the year comes to a close and some of us will invariably be thinking about charitable donations, we ask that you consider supporting the Tom Carsey Fund.

Interested individuals can donate directly on the section's official APSA page: <http://www.apsanet.org/section22>

### 5. *PS: Political Science and Politics* "From the Sections" Call for Papers

Phillip Ardoyn and Paul Gronke, current editors of *PS*, have been publishing articles that appear in section newsletters since 2016. These articles begin as short works that appear in their respective section newsletters, and ultimately appear in *PS* with the goal of providing the article a broader audience (they have developed a single-blind peer review process for these publications). In the past, the main goal of State Politics and Policy Section newsletter has been to inform members of important dates, events, and section-related developments — more of a "just the facts" approach to the newsletter's function. We are currently considering the future of the newsletter, and one potential change is to make the section newsletter an outlet for short-form articles.

The section leadership would like to gauge whether there is any interest in publishing short-form articles as a part of the newsletter. In particular, we would appreciate any feedback from individuals who would be interested in submitting a short-form article to the section's newsletter. We are, of course, interested in any feedback related to this proposal.

Please send any and all feedback to Craig Burnett, editor of the newsletter, directly: [craig.burnett@hofstra.edu](mailto:craig.burnett@hofstra.edu)

### 6. 2017 State Politics and Policy Section Award Winners

#### *Career Achievement Award*

Tom Carsey, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

#### *Best Journal Article Award*

Devin Caughey (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and Christopher Warshaw (George Washington University), "The Dynamics of State Policy Liberalism, 1936-2014" *The American Journal of Political Science* 60 (4): 899-913.

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

Christina Ladam (University of Colorado), Jeffrey Harden (University of Notre Dame), and Jason Windett (UNC-Charlotte), "Follow the Leader: Prominent Female Politicians and the Emergence of Women Candidates for Public Office", Presented at the annual meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2016

#### *Christopher Mooney Dissertation Award*

Matthew N. Tokeshi (Williams College), "White Voters' Responses to African American Candidates for High-Profile Statewide Offices," Princeton University, Tali Mendelberg (Dissertation Chair)

#### *Virginia Gray Best Book Award*

Jeffrey Harden (University of Notre Dame), *Multidimensional Democracy: A Supply and Demand Theory of Representation in American Legislatures*, Cambridge University Press, 2016.

#### *Mac Jewell Enduring Contribution Award*

Virginia Gray (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), Russell L. Hanson (Indiana University), and Thad Kousser (UC San Diego), *Politics in the American States: A Comparative Analysis* (11<sup>th</sup> ed.), CQ Press, 2017.

## 7. Call for 2018 Section Award Nominees

The State Politics and Policy section solicits nominees for the following 2018 section awards.

#### *Best Journal Article Award – Deadline February 1, 2018*

The award recognizes 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 Warshaw, Chair, George Washington University (warshaw@gwu.edu)  
Rebecca Kreitzer, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (rkreit@email.unc.edu)  
Lynda Powell, Rochester University (lynda.powell@rochester.edu)

#### *Career Achievement Award – Deadline February 1, 2018*

The Career Achievement Award given every biennium to a political scientist who has made a significant lifetime contribution to the study of politics and public policies in the American states.

##### Award Committee:

Melinda Gann Hall, Chair, Michigan State University (hallme@msu.edu)  
Gerald Wright, Indiana University (wright1@indiana.edu)  
Cherie Maestas, UNC-Charlotte (cmaestas@uncc.edu)

#### *Christopher Mooney Dissertation Award – Deadline January 15, 2018*

This award is given for the best dissertation in American state politics and policy completed during the previous calendar year. The winner receives a plaque and \$1000.

##### Award Committee:

Julianna Pacheco, Chair, University of Iowa (julianna-pacheco@uiowa.edu)  
Vladimir Kogan, The Ohio State University (kogan.18@osu.edu)  
Robert Erikson, Columbia University (rse14@columbia.edu)

### *State Politics and Policy Quarterly Best Paper Award – Deadline February 1, 2018*

The State Politics and Policy Award is given for the best paper on state politics and policy presented at any professional meeting in the previous calendar year.

#### Award Committee:

Justin Phillips, Chair, Columbia University (jph2121@columbia.edu)

Danielle Thomsen, Syracuse University (dthomsen@maxwell.syr.edu)

Ngoc Phan, Hawai'i Pacific University (ntphan@hpu.edu)

### *Virginia Gray Book Award – Deadline February 1, 2018*

To be awarded annually to 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 2017 award, books with a copyright of 2014, 2015, and 2016 would be eligible for nomination.

#### Award Committee:

Janine Parry, Chair, University of Arkansas (parry@uark.edu)

Meghan Leonard, Illinois State University (mleonar@ilstu.edu)

Kevin Banda, Texas Tech University (kevin.banda@ttu.edu)

## 8. Reminders and Important Dates

January 16, 2018	Deadline for the 2018 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Boston, MA
January 19, 2018	Deadline for the 2018 State Politics and Policy Conference Proposals in State College, PA
March 29-31, 2018	Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA
April 5-8, 2018	Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago, IL
June 7-9, 2018	2017 State Politics and Policy Conference in St. Louis, MO
August 30-September 2, 2018	Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Boston, MA

## 9. 2017-2018 State Politics and Policy Section Officers

Chair:	Christopher Mooney, University of Illinois at Springfield, 2017-2019
Treasurer-Secretary:	Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz, University of Rhode Island
Council Members:	Jamila Michener, Cornell University, 2016-2018 Jennifer Wolak, University of Colorado, 2016-2018 Michael Nelson, Pennsylvania State University, 2017-2019 Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson, Wayne State University, 2017-2019 Jason Windett, UNC Charlotte, 2017-2019
Webmaster:	Jonathan Winburn, University of Mississippi
<i>SPPQ</i> Journal Editors	Kristin Kanthak, University of Pittsburgh Chris Bonneau, University of Pittsburgh
2018 APSA Program Chair	Jennifer H. Clark, University of Houston

Any announcements or information for future newsletters should be sent to Craig Burnett at [craig.burnett@hofstra.edu](mailto:craig.burnett@hofstra.edu). The State Politics and Policy newsletter is a publication of the APSA Organized Section on State Politics and Policy. Copyright 2017, American Political Science Association. All rights reserved. All address corrections should be sent directly to APSA. Craig Burnett, Newsletter Editor.