

## **CAUCUS FOR A CRITICAL POLITICAL SCIENCE**

An association of critical scholars committed to making the study of political science relevant to building a more democratic and egalitarian economic, social, and political order.

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CRITICAL POLITICAL SCIENCE CANCELS ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION**

### **PROGRESSIVE SCHOLARS DECLARE THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH STRIKING HOTEL WORKERS IN LOS ANGELES**

The American Political Science Association has refused a request from UNITE HERE LOCAL 11, which represents striking hotel workers in Los Angeles, to cancel or relocate its annual meeting scheduled for August 31-September 3, 2023 with the downtown Marriott Hotel serving as the convention's meeting headquarters. In response to its refusal to cancel or relocate the meeting, Dr. Nancy S. Love, Chairperson of the Caucus for a Critical Political Science (CCPS) announced these decisions of the CCPS Coordinating Council:

- 1) cancel all CPS Panels, CPS Business Meetings, and the CPS Reception (with Awards Ceremony) scheduled for the 2023 APSA Conference,
- 2) move all CPS Business Meetings, the Invited Lecture, and the CPS Reception (with Awards Ceremony) online independently of the APSA program and APSA system,
- 3) demand that APSA refund registration fees for members who choose to withdraw from the conference due to the Marriott Hotel's labor dispute with UNITE HERE LOCAL 11,
- 4) demand that APSA waive cancellation fees for members who choose to cancel hotel reservations made on the APSA system, and
- 5) CPS will contribute \$500 to the UNITE HERE LOCAL 11 strike fund.

Dr. Love is a professor of government and justice studies at Appalachian State University in North Carolina.

The APSA released a statement on its website on July 31<sup>st</sup> stating that "given the short time remaining before the meeting, it is not possible to relocate it wholesale." The APSA claims that cancelling the meeting would cost at least \$2.8 million. The APSA also claims that cancelling

the meeting would be detrimental to “underrepresented scholars, scholars from the Global South and non-tenured scholars” ([Update on 2023 APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition - politicalsciencenow.com](#)).

The CCPS is encouraging all members scheduled to attend the 2023 APSA annual meeting to boycott the meeting in solidarity with Los Angeles hotel workers, who have scheduled work actions during the conference scheduled for Labor Day weekend. Dr. Love wrote to members that as ‘an association of critical scholars committed to making the study of political science relevant to building a more democratic and egalitarian economic, social, and political order’, we think it is crucial to support working people with our actions as well as our words. In arguing that its decision to proceed supports underrepresented groups, junior faculty, and the Global South, the APSA seems not to recognize that picket lines of service workers are typically populated by women, people of color, and immigrants from the Global South.”

Dr. Love acknowledged that “this decision will have negative financial, professional, and scholarly repercussions for many CPS members. However, we believe that these sacrifices are fairly modest in light of those being shouldered by striking hotel workers, who have requested this show of solidarity.”

The APSA’s Labor Politics Group previously submitted a petition to the Association’s Executive Council with the signatures of more than 1,000 political scientists supporting the call to cancel, relocate, or move the meeting fully online.

The Caucus for a Critical Political Science is an independent non-profit scholarly association of progressive political scientists incorporated in Washington, D.C., although it maintains a “double identity” within the APSA as Organized Section No. 27 Critical Political Science ([Critical Political Science \(Section 27\) \(apsanet.org\)](#)). It has approximately 280 members affiliated with the APSA.

The Caucus for a Critical Political Science was established in 1967, by political scientists who criticized the discipline at the time for its neglect of pressing social problems as exemplified in 1967 by the absence of any panels on poverty, the Vietnam War, the civil rights movement, the student movement, and urban riots at its 1967 annual meeting. The Caucus for a Critical Political Science publishes the scholarly journal *New Political Science: A Journal of Politics & Culture* ([New Political Science: Vol 45, No 2 \(Current issue\) \(tandfonline.com\)](#)) and its sponsors an independent biennial conference for progressive political scientists ([CAUCUS FOR A CRITICAL POLITICAL SCIENCE | An association of critical scholars committed to making the study of political science relevant to building a more democratic and egalitarian economic, social and political order \(ccpsconference.org\)](#)).

Members of the Caucus reject the APSA’s purported commitment to a “value-free” political science, when APSA consistently takes positions that support corporate power against workers, while refusing to take similar positions on contemporary issues such as the widening of economic inequality or the corrupt influence of corporate and billionaire donations on democratic elections. In contrast the Caucus for a Critical Political Science supports organized

labor in its quest to secure fair wages and better working conditions for hotel workers. Dr. Clyde W. Barrow, former Chairperson of the CCPS and the organizer of its biennial conference observed that “Critical Political Science recognizes the importance of solidarity, and deeply regrets that APSA has found itself unable to join us in our efforts to support the striking workers.

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