

**URBAN NEWS**

American Political Science Association

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**Section News & Announcements****New Section Officers**

**Marion Orr, (President Elect)**  
Brown University

**Executive Council:**

**Gerald Gamm,**  
University of Rochester

**Michael Jones-Correa,**  
Cornell University

**Karen Kaufmann,**  
University of Maryland

**Paul Lewis,**  
Public Policy Institute of California

**William E. Nelson, Jr.,**  
Ohio State University

**Anirudh V. S. Ruhil,**  
University of Illinois at Chicago

**Paul Teske,**  
SUNY at Stony Brook

**APSA 2003 Nominating Committee Appointed by Section President**

The following individuals have been appointed to the nominating committee to propose candidates

for the section presidency and for members of the section executive council. Members of the urban politics section are invited to contact members the committee if they wish to propose names of individuals for these offices. The nominating committee will provide names of the candidates slated by the committee for publication in the summer issue of *Urban News*. The election of section officers will take place at the annual business meeting at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

**Nominations Committee Appointed**

The following individuals have been appointed to the nominating committee to propose candidates for the section presidency and for members of the section executive council. Members of the urban politics section are invited to contact members of the committee if they wish to propose names of individuals for these offices. The nominating committee will provide names of the candidates slated by the committee for publication in the summer 2003 issue of *Urban News*. The election of officers will take place at the annual business meeting of the American Political Science Association Meetings in Philadelphia.

**Nominations Committee**

**Rick Hula,**  
Michigan State University

**Juliet Gainsborough,**  
University of Miami

**Desiree Pedescleaux,**  
Spelman College

**Best Book Award Committee**

**Jim Button,**  
University of Florida

**Annette Steinacker,**  
Claremont Graduate University

**Tom Longoria,**  
University of Kansas

### **Career Achievement Award**

The Career Achievement Award Committee would like to invite nominations for the Norton Long Career Achievement Award, which will be given at the 2003 APSA meetings in Philadelphia. This award recognizes scholars who have made outstanding contributions to the study of urban politics. The criteria for judging these contributions may be related to scholarly accomplishments and/or exceptional service that has helped nurture the scholarly community. More than one nomination is allowed, but for all nominations please provide a brief (up to one-page) summary of the nominee's contributions. The deadline for receipt of nominations is **January 15, 2003**.

#### **Previous recipients of this award are:**

2001 Marilyn Gittell  
1998 Dennis Judd  
1996 Paul Peterson  
1994 Clarence Stone  
1993 Fred Wirt  
1992 Donna Shalala  
1991 Robert Dahl  
1990 Oliver Williams  
1989 Robert C. Wood  
1988 Norton Long, Edward Banfield

#### **Committee**

**Dennis R. Judd**, (Chair),  
University of Chicago at Illinois;  
**Dianne Pinderhughes**,  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign;  
**Clarence Stone**,  
University of Maryland.

### **Bryan Jackson Dissertation Award**

This award is given to a graduate student (masters or doctoral) doing research within the broadly defined area of racial and ethnic politics in urban areas. The recipient of the award will receive financial support in the amount of \$500.

#### **Committee**

**Ron Schmidt, Sr.**,  
California State University, Long Beach  
**Robert Brown**,  
Emory University  
**Susan Clarke**,  
University of Colorado, Boulder

### **Best Dissertation Award Committee**

**Paul Kantor**,  
Fordham University  
**Mara Sidney**,  
Rutgers-Newark  
**Kent Portney**,  
Tufts University

### **Norton Long Young Scholars Committee**

**Rodney Hero**,  
University of Notre Dame  
**Ann Bowman**,  
University of South Carolina  
**Marion Orr**,  
Brown University

### **2004 Program Co-Chairs**

**Elizabeth Strom**,  
Rutgers-Newark  
**Dick Simpson**,  
University of Illinois, Chicago

### **Call for Nominations: Best Paper Award**

This award is given by the Urban Politics Organized Section for the best paper on urban politics or policy delivered at the 2002 Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston. Self-nominations are welcome and encouraged. To nominate the work of another scholar, send the name of the author, the paper title, and the nominee's institutional affiliation to each member of the award committee. To self-nominate, send a hard copy of your paper to each member of the award committee. The deadline for receipt of all nominations is **December 1, 2002**.

#### **Committee**

**Janet K. Boles (Chair)**,  
Marquette University,  
**Arnold Fleischmann**,  
University of Georgia,  
**Stefanie Chambers**,  
Trinity College

## Feature Article

### Bowling in Neighborhoods: Civil Society and the Promise of Citywide Networks of Neighborhood Councils in Los Angeles Kent E. Portney

The June 8, 1999 adoption of Charter Reform in the City of Los Angeles adds another major city to the growing list of communities turning to neighborhood council approaches in order to redress long-standing issues of civic empowerment. The new charter that was adopted had many elements, one of which was the creation of a new Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. This portion of the reform was not the most controversial issue in the two years of debates surrounding Charter Reform, but the effect of its passage has been to usher in the establishment of a citywide system of neighborhood associations or councils.

The idea of citywide systems of neighborhood associations is not new. Indeed, cities such as Portland, Oregon, Seattle, Washington, St. Paul, Minnesota, Birmingham, Alabama, and Dayton, Ohio, have relied on such systems for years. Yet this most recent sweeping endorsement of the idea of a citywide system of neighborhood councils in Los Angeles presents a ripe opportunity to consider the promise of such systems.

What might one expect in the months and years ahead? Will the creation of such a system make any difference, particularly in terms of helping to invigorate a sense of community? Certainly, what controversy there was concerning neighborhood councils in Los Angeles came from neighborhood activists who felt that the reform proposals did not go far enough to provide neighborhoods with real power, and from others who feared the consequences of giving neighborhoods too much power. In spite of these critical issues, is there reason to believe the system of neighborhood councils in Los Angeles will make a difference?

#### **Charter Reform in LA**

On June 8, the electorate of Los Angeles gave sweeping endorsement to Charter Reform. Among the many provisions of the newly proposed charter is the creation of a Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. As specified in the Charter, the purpose of this Department is:

to promote more citizen participation in government and

make government more responsive to local needs, [and] a citywide system of neighborhood councils.... [to] prepare a plan for the creation of a system of neighborhood councils to ensure that every part of the City is within the boundary of a neighborhood council, and has an opportunity to form a neighborhood council; assist neighborhoods in preparing petitions for recognition and certification...; arrange Congress of Neighborhood meetings...; assist neighborhood councils with the election or selection of their officers...; [and] assist neighborhood councils to share resources.

The result of adherence to the Charter was the creation of a system of neighborhood councils where, for the first time, each and every area of the entire city of Los Angeles will be covered by at least one neighborhood council. All cities, including Los Angeles, have numerous neighborhood associations. What this reformed charter provides is that no portion of the city will be without a neighborhood association.

The process of Charter Reform was certainly not painless. Not everyone agreed on what problems Charter Reform should address, and neighborhood activists, business leaders, current political leaders, members of the elected Charter Commission, and the appointed members of the Charter Revision Commission had differing views on whether and to what extent neighborhood councils should have been part of the answer. Resolving differences over the formal powers of the proposed neighborhood councils was, according to Erwin Chermersky, the USC Constitutional law professor and the Chair of the Charter Revision Commission, the single most important issue they had to address. Resolve it they did, resulting in a proposal that received widespread support across the city.

With a reformed charter in place, the process of implementing the system of neighborhood councils began in earnest (<http://www.lacityneighborhoods.com>) Many major decisions have been made concerning how the new Department would operate, and how the system of neighborhood councils would be

designed. In addition to the newly created Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, a Board of Neighborhood Commissioners was established, comprised of seven members, each from a different background and a different part of the city. They are appointed by the mayor, and confirmed by the city council. The Commission is responsible for setting and overseeing the policies that govern the Department, including approval of contracts, leases, and rules and regulations governing the conditions under which the city will officially certify a neighborhood association as a neighborhood council. Once certified, a neighborhood council receives official recognition with the promise of becoming part of the local policy making process on a wide range of issues. Neighborhood councils also become part of “early notification system” giving them time and resources to engage in dialogue about any project or proposal that affects the area covered by the council. As of mid-August, 2002, some 39 neighborhood councils have been certified, with an expectation that the number will reach 70 by the end of the year.

Yet for all the energies that have gone into this process, one might wonder whether the effort is worth the result. After all, not everyone appreciates the empowerment of neighborhoods or the role of city governments in promoting systems of neighborhood associations. Indeed, it has been suggested that neighborhood empowerment brings with it all of the downsides that are often associated with communitarian proposals. To some, the loss of individual liberty, and the parochialism and rampant NIMBYism, encouraged by an empowered local community outweigh the potential benefits that strong neighborhoods might produce. Neighborhood activists often argue that the promotion of neighborhood associations by city government guarantees that communities will be co-opted and corrupted by city hall. Indeed, two of the more influential pre-existing neighborhood councils in the city (Pacific Palisades and Brentwood) have elected not to seek certification over concerns about their potential loss of autonomy. For example, in order to be certified by the Department, the neighborhood council must forego the right to sue the city in order to block undesirable projects or proposals. And there are certainly cities where the existence of neighborhood councils has not been as beneficial as one might expect. Yet, there is enormous reason

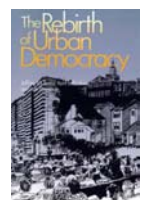
to believe that this movement toward neighborhood empowerment will be worth the wait and the effort.

Establishing citywide systems of neighborhood associations promises to redress precisely the problems of a declining civil society in the U.S. With cities facing such palpable problems as crime, availability of affordable housing, unemployment, and so on, it may seem trivial to be concerned about the health of civil society. But the health of civil society is central to finding ways to deal with the myriad other civic problems people and cities face. Much has been written in recent years about the long-term trend toward civic disengagement by the American people, captured by Robert Putnam’s “bowling alone” metaphor. Whether this disengagement takes the form of the loss of social capital, as Putnam calls it, or a diminished sense of connectedness to, and trust of, other people, as the National Commission on Civic Renewal argued, or declining electoral turnout and the loss of peoples’ abilities to know how to govern themselves, as Benjamin Barber suggests, there is plenty of reason for widespread concern about the directions civil society is moving.

Despite this concern, there are remarkably few prescriptions for what can be done to reverse these trends, and even fewer examples of actions that successfully re-generate civil society. In the face of this, Los Angeles has opted to embark on an experiment which may well make a difference there.

In our book *The Rebirth of Urban Democracy* (Brookings Institution Press, 1993), my colleagues, Jeff Berry and Ken Thomson, and I conducted

studies of four major cities that rely on systems of neighborhood associations, Portland, St. Paul, Dayton, and Birmingham. Their analysis tried to determine whether these systems are capable of contributing to the healthy functioning of civil society. Specifically, we examined whether these systems successfully engaged more people in neighborhood and city affairs, and whether the people who participated got more out of it, i.e. did they learn more about local public affairs, did they learn how to get things done, did they develop a feeling of connectedness to their city and to their neighborhoods, did they become more tolerant of political views with which they disagreed, and many other issues. We also examined whether the



city governments themselves became more responsive to residents' needs and preferences.

What we found was encouraging, to say the least. With many caveats, there is little doubt that the systems of participation contributed greatly to the creation of healthier civil society. The systems of participation do not seem able to bring more people into civic life. In comparisons with other cities, Portland, St. Paul, Dayton, and Birmingham could not be said to be exceptional with respect to the number of people who are engaged in civil activity. Our studies which compared the four cities with systems of neighborhood associations to eight cities with no such systems found that participation rates were essentially the same. Overall, across all the cities we studied, close to 20 percent of the residents participated in community activities at least once over a two year period of time. Clearly, Portland and St. Paul, two cities with systems of neighborhood associations, represent cities with unusually high levels of engagement of residents in community activities. But the levels of community participation there were not significantly greater than we found in Norfolk, VA, Louisville, K.Y, and Buffalo, NY, cities whose neighborhood associations are not part of a larger system. And Birmingham and Dayton, two cities that have participation systems, had community participation rates that did not significantly differ from Tucson, Omaha, Colorado Springs, El Paso, Savannah, or Wichita, cities which do not have neighborhood systems. This provides at least prima facie evidence that creating systems of neighborhood associations does not improve the creation of localized social capital. When we analyzed more finely the kinds of participation people engage in by differentiating "weak participation activities," such as attending a neighborhood picnic, bowling with neighbors, involvement in social and service organizations, or simple contacting behavior, from "strong participation activities," such as working with neighbors to solve a community problem, or attending a meeting of a neighborhood association, we found some clear differences. Residents in cities with systems of neighborhood associations were considerably more likely to engage in "strong participation activities" than residents of the other cities.

Ultimately, however, the health of civil society is not just measured by how many organizations there are or by how many people participate in

these organizations, but rather by how people - individual residents - relate to each other and to their cities as a result of this participation. Much of the conceptual work on civil society makes great claims about what happens to people when they are engaged in civic activities. The National Commission on Civic Renewal was not alone in making these claims. From building social trust and trust in government, to creating a deep sense of community, to solving social and community problems, to empowering citizens, and many other benefits, civic engagement carries a great burden of expectations. Yet surprisingly few studies of civil society provide any systematic analysis of the consequences for people who become engaged in civic life. When people participate, does it, in fact, affect the way they view and relate to each other, or the way they relate to their government? These form the core questions we sought to address in our city studies. We wanted to know whether people who participate in the systems of neighborhood associations see the world differently than those who do not, whether they reap the kinds of benefits that advocates of civic renewal seek.

While the full analysis examined a wide range of potential consequences of participation, I focus here on four central benefits that are predicted to accrue to individual citizens or residents as a result of civic engagement. These variables, trust in government, political efficacy, sense of community, and policy responsiveness, represent results which are thought to be at the core of what civic renewal is about. If advocates of civic renewal are correct, we would expect to find that participation in the context of systems of neighborhood associations produces greater trust in government, greater personal political efficacy, and enhanced feelings of a sense of community, and greater public policy responsiveness by the city and city officials.

Our effort to assess the effects of civic engagement in each city with a system of neighborhood associations relied on systematic analysis of an extensive public opinion survey based on a random sample of about 1,000 people, and focus group interviews with about 100 neighborhood leaders, city officials, business leaders, and others.

**Sense of Community:** The creation and maintenance of a relatively high sense of community among city residents is often seen as a central building block of a connected, productive,

and stable polity. What we found was a clear tendency for participants in neighborhood associations to more likely feel a strong sense of community than participants in other kinds of local organizations. Although participation in almost all types of organizations is associated with a strong sense of community compared to non-participation, participation in neighborhood associations seems to be associated with a stronger sense of community than participation in other organizations.

Of course, there is the possibility that these results do not reflect the effects of participation at all. Indeed, these organizations might attract residents who already possess a relatively strong sense of community. To address this possibility, we conducted a two-wave panel design survey in each city, where we re-interviewed each respondent approximately two years after the first interview. This allowed us to identify residents who had not participated in their neighborhood associations at the time of the first interview but who had begun participating by the time of the second interview. In this way, we can have somewhat more confidence that the inferences we make reflect a particular direction of causation. Here it is even clearer that participation in neighborhood associations plays a significant role in helping to create a strong sense of community. Some respondents gained a sense of community regardless of their relation to their neighborhood associations, but the largest gains in a sense of community were reported by those who began participating in their neighborhood associations

**Trust in Local Government:** Another of the central building blocks to creating a productive, strong, and stable polity is the extent to which citizens trust their government. Clearly, advocates of civic engagement see the potential impact on trust in government as a core value in need of restoration. The issue of trust, however is a complex one, worthy of far more conceptual discussion than space permits here. Because of the powerful confounding effect of peoples' distrust of the government in Washington, and because we harbor no illusions about the ability of participation in neighborhood associations to be able to directly overcome this distrust, we focused on trust in local government vis a vis trust in the national government. The findings concerning trust in government are much less clear-cut. Participation in neighborhood associations is

certainly associated with greater trust in local government, but so is participation in other, issue-oriented, groups. Both of these types of participation, however, appear to be better able to foster trust than other forms of participation, such as simple contacting behavior or attending a public hearing. And indeed, when people participate in their neighborhood associations, they do seem to develop greater trust.

**Political Efficacy:** Empowering people to take control of their governance is a third important building block. Empowerment can mean many different things, but for many it means giving people the personal confidence and skills necessary to be effective in the process of governing. To political scientists, this notion of being empowered closely resembles the concept of acquiring political efficacy. Researchers have distinguished two types of political efficacy -internal efficacy, which focuses on an individual's sense that he or she is capable of understanding politics and influencing the political process; and external efficacy, which represents an individual's sense that the government is capable of responding to his or her attempts to influence it. We found fairly clear indications that internal and external political efficacy are associated with participation in neighborhood associations. Residents who reported being highly engaged in their neighborhood associations were substantially less likely to believe that government and politics are too complicated, and less likely to believe that government cannot be responsive to them, and this was true for people in each of three socio-economic status levels. Of course, these results may reflect a direction of causation opposite of that suggested here. It could be that those who participate in neighborhood associations do so in part because they feel more efficacious, i.e. efficacy causes participation rather than the other way around. Our analysis attempted to sort out such a reciprocal causation relationship, and the results strongly suggest that participation does, in fact, help to create internal and external political efficacy.

**Public Policy Responsiveness:** Ultimately, one of the central goals of civic renewal is to create mechanisms for government to be more responsive to residents. We looked at this in two ways. First, we wanted to know whether residents who live in the cities with systems of participation are more likely to be heard by city hall, i.e. whether their issues are the issues that city government is

working on. And second, when the city makes policy decisions, are those decisions in line with what residents want? Perhaps equally important, when the city addresses policy decisions, particularly issues involving race, are the policy issues framed in such a way as to accommodate the largest number of people? Or do decisions tend to satisfy some people at the chronic expense of others?

After examining city decisions over a period of time, there appears to be little doubt that the cities with the strongest systems of participation form their policy agendas in ways that are much more attuned to their general populations, and to the particular needs and preferences of residents. When we asked city officials, including mayors, city councilors, and agency employees, what they were working on, and compared their answers to questions on residents concerning what they wanted city officials to work on, there was remarkably close correspondence. Moreover, these cities make policy decisions that are more reflective of decisions residents prefer. When we examined issues that made it on the public agenda, and followed them until final decisions were rendered, these final decisions were far more in line with the general population's preferences. In case after case, we found that the final decisions were framed in ways to minimize the extent to which there were clear "losers" in the process. Los Angeles may turn out to be different. In the process of implementing this part of the reformed charter, decisions may be made that could undermine the ability of the new system of neighborhood councils to help contribute to the health of its civil society. Yet the best information available suggests that much good can come out of this process.

**What Los Angeles Faces Now:** With the battle for Charter Reform over, and many of the major implementation decisions well in the past, the challenge now will be to evolve the system of neighborhood councils in ways that maximize chances of enhancing civil society. The new charter provides the legal foundation for many of the elements we have found to be essential, including provisions for certifying neighborhood councils, and for providing "early notification" to neighborhood councils when policy decisions are being made. But it provides no explicit mechanism for collective cross-neighborhood action, and no formal role for neighborhood associations to collectively influence budgetary decisions. We

found that in the cities with the most effective systems, neighborhood associations had real budgetary decision-making authority, and they exercised this authority in the context of mechanisms promoting collective, rather than parochial, action. In St. Paul, for example, officials of the all of the city's District Councils make up a citywide Capital Improvement Budget Committee which allocates the city's capital expenditures. Yet the omission in Los Angeles may not be critical. Indeed, in the cities we studied, the real powers of the systems of neighborhood associations over budgets and zoning did not come from formal city charters or ordinances. They came as a result of hard fought battles where the neighborhood councils, working in the context of a citywide network of neighborhood associations, allowed neighborhoods across the city to come together - to coalesce. How Los Angeles handles these issues, in particular how the neighborhood councils create bridges to each other and to city government, may go a long way toward determining whether the residents of the City reap the kinds of benefits experienced in other cities. From an academic perspective, the challenge of determining whether and to what extent civil society has been improved by the creation of this system of neighborhood councils falls to the Neighborhood Participation Project, operated by Terry Cooper and Juliet Musso at the University of Southern California. (See <http://sc2.usc.edu/ccd/npp/>)

## **APSA 2003: Call for Urban Paper Proposals**

**Section Head: Lana Stein**

**University of Missouri**

**Deadline: Midnight, November 15, 2002**

The theme of the hundredth anniversary annual meeting--which emphasizes democracy and justice in a century of change--fits easily with major themes in the urban politics subfield. The notion of who really governs has been part of urban debate for almost 50 years. Do voters select a course of action or are choices already circumscribed by members of the governing regime? Can justice be achieved in cities and urban areas segregated by race and class?

Papers which propose to enhance knowledge about regimes, popular governance, issues of race

and class, or biases in urban redevelopment are possible subthemes for urban panels. Papers may utilize qualitative and quantitative methodology and data sets for a large number of cities or can be case studies of a single city or one that compares several.

Democracy and justice are recurrent themes in urban politics. They merit examination in and of themselves as well as being part of broader examination. As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the APSA, the division can also turn to the urban politics of 100 years ago. Machine politics and Progressive reform have left their imprint on America's cities and have affected democracy and justice. A retrospective analysis would be fitting in the centenary year.

## APSA News & Announcements

### New Officers

At the end of the APSA business meeting on August 30, 2002, Theda Skocpol became the Association's 99<sup>th</sup> President. Joining her in guiding the Association are five new officers and eight new council members:

**Susanne Hoerber Rudolph, (President-Elect)**  
University of Chicago

**Peter Katzenstein, (Secretary)**  
Cornell University

**Michael Dawson, (Vice President)**  
Harvard University

**Margaret Levi, (Vice President)**  
University of Washington

**Stephen Macedo, (Vice President)**  
Princeton University

#### Council:

**Martha Crenshaw,**  
Wesleyan University

**Christian Davenport,**  
University of Maryland

**Frances Hagopian,**  
University of Notre Dame

**Marsha Pripstein Posusney,**  
Bryant College

**Wilbur Rich,**  
Wellesley College

**Gary Segura,**

University of Iowa

**Jack Snyder,**

Columbia University

**Jeff Spinner-Halev,**

University of Nebraska, Lincoln

A report on Council actions resulting from the August 2002 Council meeting will be available soon on the [APSA Governance Webpage](#).

### Call for Nominations

The APSA Nominations Committee welcomes your suggestions for candidates for 2003-2004 Council seats and offices. This year, eight Council seats, three vice-presidencies, and the offices of president-elect, treasurer and Association secretary are open. Council members serve staggered two-year terms. The treasurer serves a two-year term. The president-elect, vice presidents, and secretary all serve one-year terms.

Please return your list of nominees to APSA by email ([nominations@apsanet.org](mailto:nominations@apsanet.org)) or by mail by **January 14, 2003**. Members may nominate up to three people for the Council, but only one person each for president-elect, vice president, treasurer, and secretary.

The Nominations Committee encourages all members of the Association to suggest names for consideration. Those wishing to do so should explain, on a separate sheet for each person suggested, why they believe the person's accomplishments, background, and views would make them a good choice for a leadership position in the Association. The Nominations Committee hopes to nominate a slate of accomplished scholars and practitioners who reflect the diverse interest of the membership of the Association, and relies on the membership to forward suggestions and recommendations to help meet this goal.

The Nominations Committee will meet in late February to begin compiling a slate of candidates, which they will present to the current Association president no later than **April 15, 2003**. Elections will be held during the Business Meeting on **Saturday, August 30, 2003** as part of the 2003 APSA Annual Meeting to be held in **Philadelphia, August 29-31**.

## Nominations Committee

**Frank Baumgartner (chair),**  
Pennsylvania State University

**Amy Gutmann,**  
Princeton University

**David Laitin,**  
Stanford University

**Valerie Martinez-Ebers,**  
Texas Christian University

**Cheryl Miller,**  
University of Maryland Baltimore County

**Richard Snyder,**  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

## **The Centenary Celebrations** **Facing Forward and Looking** **Back: Democracy and Justice** **in a Century of Change**

### **PROGRAM CHAIRS:**

**Henry Brady and Margaret Weir**  
*University of California,*  
*Berkeley*



The 2003 meetings mark the centenary of APSA. The century in which Political Science developed as an academic discipline witnessed major transformations in technology, warfare, the economy, and national and international forms of governance. The spread of democracy and the elaboration and defense of individual rights were at the forefront of political changes at the national and international levels. The 2003 theme considers the causes and the significance of these transformations, and it assesses the diverse ways that American political science has approached the study of democracy and justice over its hundred-year history. Among the topics we consider are:

- What conditions promote democratic reform?
- How has the understanding and practice of democracy changed over the course of the century?
- How do we define justice in the modern world?
- How are democracy and justice related?
- How do considerations of democracy and justice influence the process of democratic transition?

- In what ways are the concepts of democracy and justice meaningful at the international level?

We especially welcome papers and panels that examine these questions through comparisons over time and across countries or that explore critical periods in the intellectual understandings and practice of democracy and justice. Realistically, we understand that APSA conferences are shaped primarily by ongoing research programs and the imperatives of intellectual curiosity, but we hope that during this centenary year, there will be more than the usual amount of attention paid to the conference theme.

APSA is pleased to announce that the submission process for the 2003 Annual Meeting Call for Papers is open. The online proposal submission process ensures that all proposals are acknowledged immediately upon receipt and tracked by an ID number. Because the system is web-based, all submitters must have an email address to submit a proposal. The system has changed somewhat this year, but users will find the submission process quick and will be able to keep track of their submissions with ease. Please pay special attention to the submission guidelines. **The 2003 Meeting will be held in Philadelphia on August 28-31** and will begin the year-long celebration of APSA's centennial year

## **Call for Proposals: Research Grants Program**

APSA announces its 2003 Small Research Grant Program (SRG), which supports research in all areas of political science. The program is competitive and peer-reviewed, and is intended to advance opportunities for scholars who are not affiliated with Ph.D- granting institutions.

Proposals should address significant issues in political science. In honors of APSA's upcoming centennial in 2003, priority will be given to projects that emphasize the history of the discipline, the profession or of the APSA. Applicants must be members and political science faculty members at non-Ph.D granting institutions, or political scientists who are not affiliated with an academic institution. Individual grants of up to \$2500 may be used for such research activities as travel, administration and coding of instruments, research assistance, and the purchase of data sets. Proposals

should be five pages or less and must use the cover page which is available on the APSA website. The **deadline for submission is February 1, 2003**, and **APSA will accept proposals starting on December 1, 2002**.

For further details, visit the grant programs [website](#) and inquiries may be directed to [grants@apsanet.org](mailto:grants@apsanet.org), or by mail at

APSA Small Research Grants;  
American Political Science Association,  
1527 New Hampshire Ave., NW,  
Washington DC 20036

## **APSA SEEKS ASSISTANCE IN RECRUITING MINORITY STUDENTS**

**A Letter from Linda Lopez,  
APSA Director of Professional Programs**

Dear members,

I encourage you to recruit promising students to apply for the 2002-2003 APSA Minority Fellows. This year, the program has been modified to focus attention on both the recruitment and retention of minority students into the political science profession. The APSA will fund 6 fellowships to minority students. Fellows with stipends will receive a \$4,000 award. Additional applicants who do not receive funds will have the opportunity to be recognized and recommended for graduate school by the Association.

As you probably know, the Minority Fellows Program began in 1969 as a program designed to help address the pipeline problem – that not enough minority students choose to attend graduate school – and increase the number of minority PhD's in political science. The program identifies and aids African American, Latino(a) and Native American prospective political science graduate students, and encourages graduate departments to provide financial assistance to them. Thus far, the Minority Fellows Program has helped seventy African American and Latino(a) political scientists earn their doctoral degrees from a wide variety of excellent doctoral programs. It is our hope that all of the fellows chosen will receive fellowships or other aid from graduate departments. We are optimistic that universities will accept APSA Fellows and will be generous in their awarding of funds to these highly qualified individuals.

I would also like to remind you about our Minority Identification Project (MID). MID is now online and available almost year round. It is a collaboration of undergraduate and graduate political science programs to attract talented minority undergraduate students to graduate study and, ultimately, to increase diversity in the political science profession. Faculty in university and college undergraduate programs speak with minority students about professional careers in political science and enter the names of promising minority candidates for graduate study to the MID database on APSANet. Core graduate institutions (Core Schools) actively recruit students identified by the Project and make special efforts to provide financial aid to those admitted to their programs. They also provide financial support for the project. There are currently 50 Core Schools associated with MID.

Any department can enter information about minority students who are interested in pursuing graduate work in political science through our [website](#) using a departmental code and password. Graduate departments can obtain information about interested minority graduate students as well as mailing labels through MID as well. Core schools receive access to MID results due to their financial support of the program. Others can purchase access on a yearly basis for a modest fee. If you would like to become a Core School, purchase mailing labels, need help navigating the system, or need to know your code or password, please contact Kenise Lyons ([klyons@apsanet.org](mailto:klyons@apsanet.org)).

Finally, the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute in its 17th year is a remarkable program providing training for exceptionally promising undergraduate students who are considering a career in political science. We urge you to let your faculty and students know of this program and to solicit applications for it. The deadline this year is **February 14, 2003**. For the past few years, over half of these talented students have entered doctoral programs each year and are already making outstanding contributions to the discipline. If you would like any additional information on these programs or other APSA initiatives, please contact me at [llopez@apsanet.org](mailto:llopez@apsanet.org) or visit our [web site](#).

## Other News: IPSA 2003 Congress

Dear APSA Colleague:

It is a pleasure forward to you information concerning the **19th World Congress of the International Political Science Association (IPSA)**. **The African Association of Political Science** is honored to host the 19th World Congress in **Durban, South Africa** next year, **29th June to 4th July 2003**. APSA is an active supporter of the IPSA conference, and one of its founding members.

Please start to make plans now to attend the meeting and consider submitting a paper for presentation at the World Congress. The **conference program organizers** this year are:

**Paula McClain,**

Duke University

**James L. Gibson,**

Washington University in St. Louis.

We invite you to review the information on the 19th World Congress, visit the Congress [website](#) and submit a proposal for a paper or panel before **1 December 2002**. We look forward to seeing you in Durban.

## Miscellany

### Tenure-Track Position

The College of Saint Rose invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professorship in urban politics to begin Fall 2003. The committee seeks a scholar with specialized research interests in urban politics to join an expanding department with existing disciplinary expertise in constitutional law, political theory, legislative politics, and international/comparative politics. Teaching responsibilities will include courses in urban ethnic politics and comparative urban politics, as well as courses in administrative politics (including the presidency) and survey research/public opinion. Qualifications include teaching experience, enthusiasm for undergraduate and graduate teaching, and a demonstrated commitment to scholarship. The Ph.D. is preferred, although advanced ABDs will be considered. Send letter of application, c.v., three letters of recommendation, and graduate transcripts to

Professor Carl Swidorski,  
Chair, Urban Politics Search Committee,  
The College of Saint Rose,  
432 Western Avenue,  
Albany, New York 12203.

Review of applications to begin immediately and continue until the position is filled, but none will be accepted after **January 15, 2003**. The College seeks to enhance the diversity of its faculty and encourages women and minorities to apply.

### M.E. Sharpe's New Series: Cotemporary Public Policy Issues

M.E. Sharpe announces the following new series: *Contemporary Public Policy Issues*. This is to be an interdisciplinary series that explores a wide array of public policy issues from a variety of perspectives. This series will consist of works from the fields of economics, political science, public administration, history, sociology, and public policy.

Contemporary issues to be considered include welfare, wage policies, labor markets, income equality, economic justice, and campaign finance, just to name a few. Where possible, we would like the titles to take a point-counter-point approach. At a minimum, however, titles must explore policy issues from outside the lenses of traditional neoclassical economics. Therefore, works that explore policy issues in terms of their historical evolution, institutional structures and culture milieus are particularly welcome. Proposals that seek to explore policy from the vantage point of underlying cultural values and national political philosophy are especially encouraged.

All proposals are welcome, but works in the series should ideally share a common format:

- 1) Problem definition;
- 2) Theoretical approaches to addressing the problem;
- 3) Economics and Politics of the Problem or historical understanding of the policy discussion;
- 4) Evolution of the Problem, i.e. how it has been understood and addressed in the past; and
- 5) Alternative Policy Models for resolution.

Although economic analysis of any policy issue is surely important, this series seeks to engage traditional economic analyses with heterodox and institutionalist approaches to economics. One possible approach is to couch the discussion in

terms of a debate between liberal and conservative approaches, but such an approach must take into account the neoclassical/institutionalist dichotomy.

Proposals should include: a cover letter briefly introducing the subject; a prospectus explaining in greater detail the rationale for the work, scope of the project, its expected unique contribution to the policy literature, and its intended audience; a complete outline of the table of contents; a sample chapter or two; the names of qualified readers whom may be asked to critique the work; and a copy of your curriculum vitae.

Proposals may be sent to the series editor:

Dr. Oren M. Levin-Waldman,  
Henry J. Raimondo Professor,  
Henry J. Raimondo Institute for Urban  
Research and Public Policy,  
New Jersey City University, 14 College St.,  
Jersey City, NJ 07305-1597.

## Call for Features, Announcements, and other Useful Information

Once again the editors of *Urban News* would like to encourage members of the section and interested others to submit short features for publication in the Spring 2003 newsletter. These features may include descriptive summaries of research in progress, pieces on new and innovative practices in local government, commentaries on the direction of urban research and teaching or the latest events in urban politics and policy.

### ***Urban News***

*Urban News* is published three times each year as Spring, Summer, and Fall issues.

Deadlines for submission of material are:

Spring issue	March 1
Summer issue	June 1
Fall issue	October 1

Abstracts, announcements. Email address changes and other contributions should either be submitted electronically to

([ruhil@uic.edu](mailto:ruhil@uic.edu) , or  
[marschal@uic.edu](mailto:marschal@uic.edu) )

or then mailed to:

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