

The Western

Newsletter of the Western Political Science Association

WPSA



Years

1947-2022

Gaming in the Classroom

Recent Member Publications

Virtual Communities Update

News from the West

Still Celebrating Our Anniversary!

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The Western

Newsletter of the Western Political Science Association



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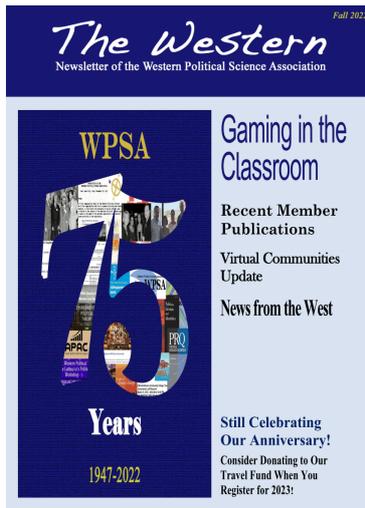
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The Western
Fall 2022
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ABOUT THE WESTERN

The Western is the official newsletter of the Western Political Science Association. It serves as a forum for scholarly conversations on political science teaching, research, and political events focused on but not limited to the western region. Contributions to the newsletter should be directed to the editors at thewestern@pdx.edu.

From the Editors

Welcome to the Fall 2022 edition of *The Western*! While we meet as an association every spring, the goal of the Western Political Science Association is to serve as a community of scholars that thrives throughout the year. To that end, we hope that this newsletter will keep you up to date on the latest news from the association, recently published works, professional developments from your colleagues, and more.

This edition spotlights pedagogy. Teaching is an essential calling for many of us and, as teachers, we are always seeking to improve our craft. The need for continual, self-reflective, pedagogical improvement is particularly true in the pandemic/post-pandemic world of higher education that has faced widespread disruptions to the traditional classroom mode of instruction. These disruptions have forced us to rethink everything from student engagement to content delivery. As we continue to build this newsletter into a robust tool to connect us, the WPSA community of scholars, we hope to provide you with space to also share and reflect on your pedagogical innovations and practices within the classroom and beyond. We are initiating this project in this edition with an article from **James Fielder** at Colorado State University on the use of *games as a teaching tool in political science*. We hope that this article will spark further contributions from many of you about other pedagogical practices that you have adopted and developed.

Be sure to check out the section on recently published work, submitted by your colleagues. If you have work to promote, we would love to hear from you! We've also included a call to submit work for the *Latinos and American Politics* book series and an update on ways to incorporate materials from the new interdisciplinary project, *KRIA: the Icelandic Constitution Archives*. We're excited to include updates from **WPSA Virtual Communities** that build networks throughout our community. Mark Brown, the chair of the overall program, has included an update on how to get involved. We are also spotlighting submissions from individual Virtual Communities, including **new virtual communities** being formed on the topics of *pandemic inequities*, *political theory*, and *diversifying political science publishing*.

This is *your* newsletter. We rely on your submissions and feedback. We hope you will reach out to us with ideas, however big and small, to help us build this newsletter into a productive, engaging, and effective resource for the WPSA community! Email us at: thewestern@pdx.edu.

- *Chase, Gwen, Benjamin & Michael*

The Western
Fall 2022

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Pedagogical Spotlight: Gaming in the Classroom

James "Pigeon" Fielder, Colorado State University

"With the last zombie defeated and a cure found, Sitka, Karasuno, and twenty other states, IGOs, and NGOs erupted into celebration. This monumental event represented the combined effort of every team pooling precious resources to defeat the zombie scourge, and not a single energy drink was accidentally kicked down the classroom stairs as cheers, high fives, and fist bumps flew thick and fast."

Thus ended the latest iteration of "Cold Winter," my *Current World Problems* course capstone game in which students vote on facing zombies, werewolves, vampires, or evil robots, build their own major actor (their character, if you will), and apply course concepts defeat the fantastical threat. No class yet has selected werewolves or vampires.

Why a game, let alone with brain-chomping zombies? A well-played game taps into the flow state what's called the magic circle or liminality, inside which the game becomes a new, multi-sensory reality for the players while the outside no longer exists. Players experience fighting a dragon, solving a mystery, or sinking a ship as if it *actually happened*, yet in a risk-free space where they can practice different strategies and identities. The psychological effect is so strong that people forget yesterday's lunch but remember decades-old games in stark clarity, or sitting down to play for "only an hour" after dinner and end up playing until 3 AM.

When tied to clear learning objectives and an end-of-game report, the magic circle reinforces course material through experiential and active learning. For example, in Cold Winter my students must write out their actor and map location, analyze news reports, and engage with other teams. Building their own state, IGO, or NGO also gives students agency over their team that fosters willingness to play and take risks. I further use images and sounds to craft an atmosphere that challenges their senses, with the combination of all the activity summed up in years of feedback: "I learned more from being, doing, and acting out concepts than from just reading about concepts. The game is make-believe, but it makes the material real."

Classroom games must relate to course objectives to be pedagogically effective, however, with learning outcomes captured in post-game essays. I do not recommend grading students on in-game performance, as this discourages students from taking risks and classroom games usually contain elements of chance. Instead, I have students write a reflection essay that capture which concepts they leveraged the most (e.g., "we applied a Realist approach to power"), strategies their teams tried, how they reacted to challenges, which lesson(s) were best illustrated, and feedback on how I can improve future games. The reflection essay requires no citations and is due three days after the game ends, as the best post-game essays are written when memories are still raw and fresh--and writing the essay further reinforces the material.

Want to learn more about using political science classroom games? My co-edited volume *Simulations in the Political Science Classroom: Games without Frontiers* is now out from Routledge, along with Mark Harvey (University of Saint Mary) and Ryan Gibb (Baker University): <https://www.routledge.com/Simulations-in-the-Political-Science-Classroom-Games-without-Frontiers/Harvey-Fielder-Gibb/p/book/9780367699765>

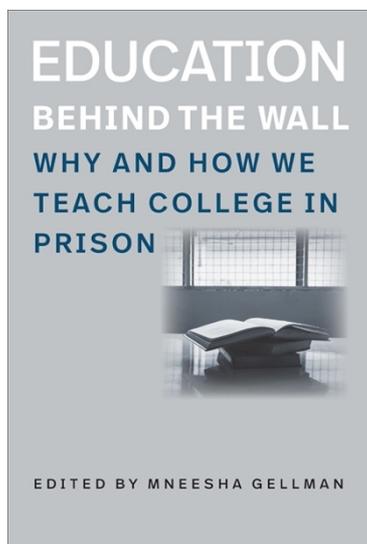
Also, Kansas State University's Department of Political Science maintains an enormous collection of political science games: <https://www.k-state.edu/polsci/gaming/>

Finally, I created a game design handout for Colorado State University faculty. Email me at james.fielder@colostate.edu and I will happily send you a copy. Game on!

Recent Publications by WPSA Members

Books

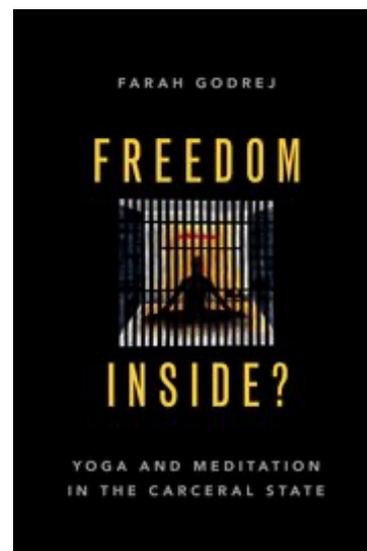
Gellman, Mneesha (ed.). (2022). *Education Behind the Wall: Why and How We Teach College in Prison.* The University of Chicago Press.



This book seeks to address some of the major issues faced by faculty who are teaching college classes for incarcerated students. Composed of a series of case studies meant to showcase the strengths and challenges of teaching a range of different disciplines in prison, this volume brings together scholars who articulate some of the best practices for teaching their expertise inside alongside honest reflections on the reality of educational implementation in a constrained environment. The book not only provides essential guidance for faculty interested in developing their own courses to teach in prisons, but also places the work of higher education in prisons in philosophical

context with regards to racial, economic, social, and gender-based issues. Rather than solely a how-to handbook, this volume also helps readers think through the trade-offs that happen when teaching inside, and about how to ensure the full integrity of college access for incarcerated students.

Godrej, Farah. (2022). *Freedom Inside? Yoga and Meditation in the Carceral State.* Oxford University Press.



Freedom Inside? offers a combination of personal narrative and scholarly research in order to examine the role of yoga and meditation in U.S. prisons. It provides a glimpse inside the system now known as mass incarceration, which disproportionately punishes, confines, and controls those from black, brown and poor communities at exponentially higher rates, diminishing their life-chances and creating a vast underclass of disempowered,

subordinated citizens. How do self-disciplinary practices such as yoga and meditation work when they are taught inside unjust systems? Do they produce political passivity, quietism, and compliance, if offered as palliatives to accept, cope and comply with unjust power structures? Or, might they prove disruptive to mass incarceration, if offered as tools to develop awareness and attunement toward injustice, to engage in non-conformist responses that include critique and challenge. The book explores both the promises and pitfalls of yoga and meditation when taught in prisons in different ways. It is based on four years of immersion in prisons and prison volunteer communities, along with ethnographic work inside a jail, and over sixty in-depth interviews with those who teach and practice inside prisons. It interweaves academic narratives with personal experiences of collaboration with volunteers and incarcerated practitioners, reimagining the concept of “resistance” in a way that considers people’s interior lives as a crucial arena for liberation.

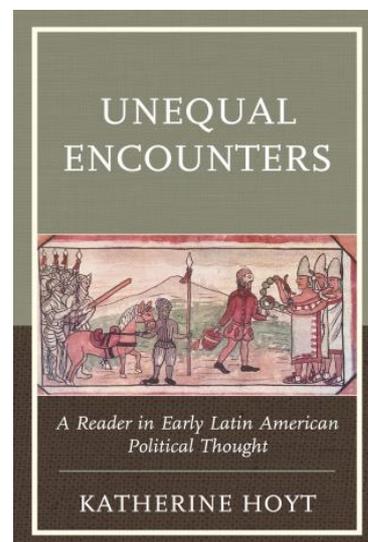
Hebert, Laura A. (2022). *Gender and Human Rights in a Global, Mobile Era*. Routledge.



Gender and Human Rights in a Global, Mobile Era, published by Routledge in

June 2022, delves into feminist debates surrounding the relationship between gender and human rights through engaging feminist perspectives on the multifaceted issue of human trafficking. Building on analyses of domestic servitude, commercial sex, and labor trafficking by military contractors, and grounded in intersectional feminist cosmopolitanism and feminist theorizing on vulnerability, precarity, and ethical interdependence, Laura Hebert makes several interrelated contributions. As she explores how a feminist gender analysis illuminates the structures and norms enabling trafficking, Hebert simultaneously considers the future of feminist rights advocacy. Emphasizing the sociality of human rights, she encourages feminist scholars and activists to look beyond states as the duty-bearers of human rights and the assumption that human rights are made meaningful mainly through the establishment of legal rights at the national level. She challenges the idea that "feminism" can be reduced to advocacy on behalf of women’s rights. She also encourages critical reflection on how divisions associated with feminist politics have impeded opportunities for the building of feminist solidarities across differences aimed at the realization of the human rights of all.

Hoyt, Katherine (ed.). (2022). *Unequal Encounters: A Reader in Early Latin American Political Thought*. Rowman & Littlefield.



This volume presents a selection of the most compelling political writings from early colonial Latin America that address the themes of conquest, colonialism, and enslavement. It will be invaluable for students and scholars of Latin American political thought and other fields in the social sciences and humanities. Katherine Hoyt prepared extensive introductory material that introduces readers to each of the writers, contextualizing their ideas and the controversies surrounding them. The anthology centers the voices of Indigenous peoples, whose writings constitute six of the fifteen chapters while also including women's, African, and Jewish perspectives. Included among the writings are the foundation narrative of the Kaqchiquel Maya and an example of "mirror of princes" literature in which Inca writer Guamán Poma advises the King of Spain on how to better govern Peru. Spanish priests Bartolomé de Las Casas and Alonso de la Vera Cruz make contributions to the philosophical writings of the School of Salamanca on natural law as they relate to the peoples of the Americas. Other writers protest the inhumanity of the trade in enslaved Africans and the Inquisition. A volume such as this one brings greater nuance to our understanding of the continent's past, helping us to envision a more inclusive future.

Wolflink, Alena. (2022). *Claiming Value: The Politics of Priority from Aristotle to Black Lives Matter*. Routledge.



Value is typically theorized from within the frameworks of economic theory or of moral/ethical theory. Alena Wolflink argues that we need to instead think about value foremost as political. Thinking of value in this way uncovers a tension in value discourses between material and aspirational life. Erasing this tension, as has been the historical tendency, can entrench existing configurations of power and privilege, while acknowledging the tension is a vital part of democratic practice. Using genealogical, conceptual-historical, and interpretive approaches, and drawing from such diverse sources as Aristotle, Anna Julia Cooper, Michael Warner, Alicia Garza, and Patrisse Khan-Cullors, Wolflink argues that abstractions of value discourse in both economic theory and moral philosophy have been complicit in devaluing the lives of women, queer people, and people of color. These exclusions become evident in careful examination of claims to, of, and about value, the history of commercial activities from which they draw, and the imaginations of political community they underpin. This interpretive account of value discourses reveals how the language of value is used to naturalize market processes and infuse them with particular moral meanings. For instance, value discourse can make “economic anxiety” appear to be a different problem from racial animosity. Yet value claims nonetheless hold democratic potential as a means of asserting and defining priorities that center the role of political economy in the making of political communities.

Articles

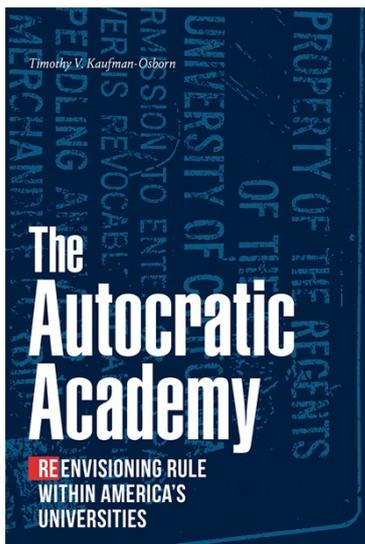
Since retiring from Whitman College, former president of the WPSA, Timothy Kaufman-Osborn, has turned his scholarly attention to higher education and, specifically, the constitution of rule within U.S. colleges and universities. Over the course of the past year, he has published three essays related to this question:

- 1) “Shared Governance within the Autocratic Academy,” *Inside Higher Ed*, October 22, 2021 (<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2021/10/22/shared-governance-fatally-flawed-opinion>);
- 2) “How Not To Think About Institutional Racism,” *Inside Higher Ed*, June 23, 2022 (<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2022/06/23/racism-was-baked-unc-governance-beginning-opinion>); and
- 3) “Lawyers, Guns and Autonomy,” *Inside Higher Ed*, September 12, 2022, (<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2022/09/12/montana-campuses-can-ban-guns-what-cost-opinion>).

In the spring of 2023, Duke University Press will publish his *The Autocratic Academy: Reenvisioning Rule Within America’s Universities*.

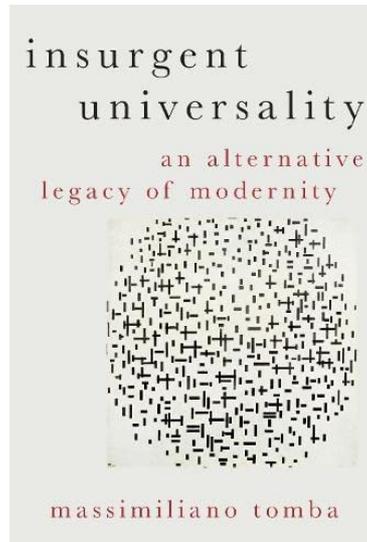
Contribute Your Research Highlights

Have an article or book that you want to promote? We would love to hear from you! To have your announcement included in future editions of the newsletter, please email it to thewestern@pdx.edu.



Awards

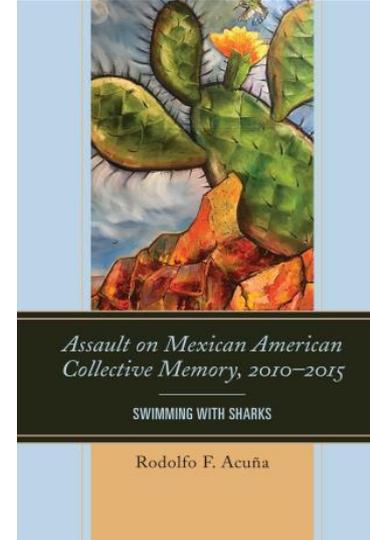
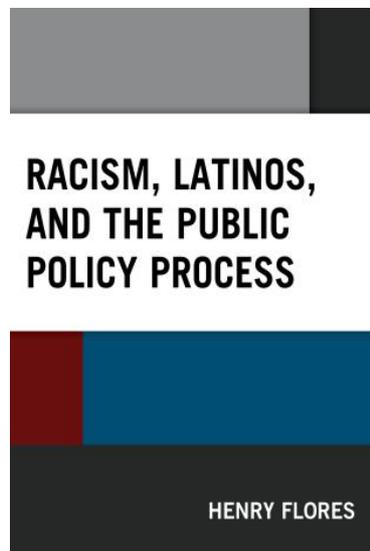
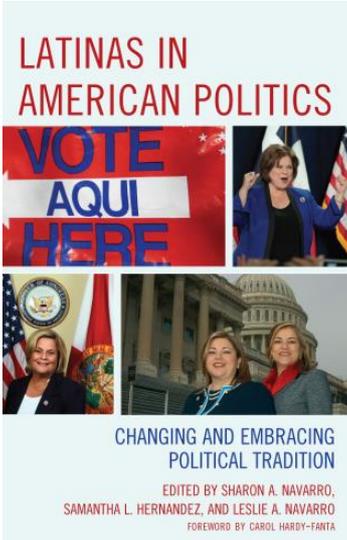
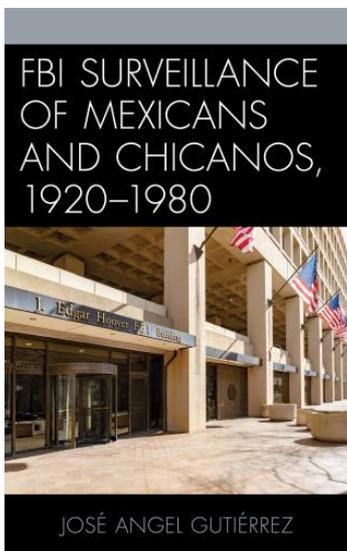
Congratulations to Massimiliano Tomba! His book *Insurgent Universality: An Alternative Legacy of Modernity* (Oxford University Press, 2019) is co-winner of the 2021 David and Elaine Spitz Prize for the best book in liberal and/or democratic theory published in 2019.



Insurgent Universality reorients its readers to new sites of political action and possibility. Displaying admirable ambition, erudition, and originality, the book points us to what Tomba calls the "insurgent universality" of locations and temporalities out of joint with the dominant and normative course of modern history. His historiographical perspective favors a politics not only from below, which is a site of insurgency and residue, but also a politics of the anachronism, wherein time and space are each transformed. These spaces are identified as the 1793 French Sans-culottes assemblies in conversation with Haitian revolts; the institutions of the 1871 Paris Commune; the Soviet Constitution of 1918; and the 1994 Zapatista Manifesto and movement in Chiapas, Mexico. Other locations and points in time could have been chosen, but what these four demonstrate for Tomba is the necessity of linking the social to the political, of thinking the common rather than the individual, of conceiving of a porous plurality rather than an entrenched center as the model for politics, all to displace the rhythm of the nation, the law, and the market. The book is a powerful critique of deference to the liberal democratic state with its focus on the centrality of rights and the law of property. Tomba charts another path-- a creative, common, relational politics rooted simultaneously in imagination and the practice of collective action.

Latinos and American Politics: Call for Contributors

The *Latinos and American Politics* book series is concerned with the role Latinos, of all national origins and races, play in the American political process. Latinos are the largest minority group in the United States and have become the single most important group in presidential politics. This series, interdisciplinary in nature, seeks to advance the knowledge of Latino politics in the academy. The series includes works that focus on racial identities and their impact on intra-Latino relations and politics, Latina politics broadly defined to include the politics of gender, institutional and identity politics, electoral politics, community level politics and activism, the shifting types of politics Latinos have played in order to have their agendas entertained by political institutions, the behavior of Latina/o politicians, and the effects of the Civil Rights Acts on the political participation of Latinos. Contributors are encouraged to submit book length manuscripts that encompass besides the above named topics those focusing on gender, identity, racial politics and all areas of public policy. Contact Jessica Lavariega Monforti (Jessica.lavariega@csuci.edu) for more information.



An Update from KRIA: The Icelandic Constitution Archives

Here is an update from the interdisciplinary project [KRIA; the Icelandic Constitution Archives](#). During this year's WPSA conference, Dr. Cricket Keating discussed KRIA, an interdisciplinary archive effort intended to preserve materials related to the 2011 citizen-driven Icelandic constitution process. In 2011, Iceland rewrote its constitution using a historically open procedure. The process reshaped how a population can use available technology, consensus building, and civic engagement to serve the needs of citizens.

Where is the archive? The first version of the collection can be seen through our partnership with [Archive-it](#). Stay tuned for our 2023 institutional launches with the Icelandic National Archives and the University of Washington.

Resources: To support educators interested in incorporating the Icelandic constitutional reform into their curriculum, our cross-institutional collaborators have developed a variety of free resources and classroom workshops. If you would like to join our growing global network of scholars and receive KRIA's free resource guide, please let us know.

Workshops: We have also developed two classroom activities to introduce students to the citizen-driven constitution content. Adapted from the [Icelandic National Forum](#) and the [Constitutional Reform Process](#), the workshops emphasize engagement and collaboration. Currently, these workshops are being beta tested, and we are looking for classes to participate. Please feel free to contact us if you are interested.

Internship Opportunities: KRIA is launching another year of its internship program. The program will give students the opportunity to contribute to the collection, collaborate with teammates around the world, and make the archive more accessible. Check out some of the team's work on KRIA's [Instagram](#). We will be happy to send you more information about internships if you have any students interested.

Contact information

Eileen Jerrett - Project Director

KriaArchives@gmail.com



Virtual Community Updates

In September the WPSA Virtual Communities Program launched a [new website](#). The site includes public and private pages for each VC, links to post working papers and other documents, and a public calendar to announce upcoming events. Each VC meets online about once per month for scholarly, pedagogical, and/or professional development. Meeting formats vary widely, including panels, colloquia, reading or writing groups, social events, and more.

The many events scheduled for this fall include numerous presentations of works-in-progress, discussion of a recently published book, and a syllabus workshop. At the recent APSA meeting in Montreal, the Contemporary Feminist Theory VC hosted an in-person happy hour.

Three new VCs on important topics are starting this fall:

- Diversifying Political Science Publishing
- Pandemic Inequity
- Education Politics and Policy

They join seven VCs that are continuing their work from last year:

- Contemporary Feminist Political Theory
- Critical Disability Studies
- Embodied Social Change and Healing Justice
- Environmental Political Theory
- Inclusive Teaching and Pedagogy
- Interpretive Methods in Political Science
- Political Theory

All VCs are welcoming new members. Participation is included in regular WPSA membership dues, and there is also a VC-only membership. To see the calendar of upcoming events, and to register for one or more VCs, check out the [VC Program website](#). The website lists a contact person for each VC. For general information about the VC Program as a whole, please contact Mark Brown at mark.brown@csus.edu.

VC Spotlight: Pandemic Inequity

The [Pandemic Inequity VC](#) focuses on the subject of equity via research, teaching, and learning; our work incorporates societal and policy challenges, as well as synergistic opportunities which have arisen during or since the height of the Covid pandemic. If interested, please request an introduction from us [here](#).

VC Spotlight: Diversifying Political Science Publishing

The [Diversifying Political Science Publishing VC](#) aims to increase substantive, methodological, and representational diversity in Political Science journal publications. We will conduct colloquia/workshopping for works in progress by scholars employing qualitative and/or interpretive methods, especially those from underserved backgrounds. We hope to

help scholars enhance their papers' odds of publication in high-profile journals such as the American Political Science Review and to find/form collegial spaces and networks to advance their professional goals. Contact Julie Novkov at jnovkov@albany.edu or Gwen Alphonso at galphonso@fairfield.edu.

VC Spotlight: Political Theory

The Political Theory virtual community of the WPSA seeks to foster intellectual exchange, professional support, and collective learning for scholars of political theory. We hope that the VC will create a community for political theorists in far flung locations, generate constructive feedback to scholars developing work for publication, help us learn about developments in the field, and provide mentoring for scholars at all stages of their careers.

Most of our sessions are workshares: we come together to discuss work in progress by one of our members in constructive ways, seeking to provide opportunities for vigorous exchange and spirited disagreement in a setting of mutual respect. All attendees read the paper beforehand, and a discussant offers opening remarks. While we are delighted with the group that comes together monthly to discuss others' work, we want to encourage other political theorists (or anyone interested in political theory!) to attend our sessions and join our virtual community. For more information about the VC or to sign up for our mailing list, visit <https://www.wpsanet.org/virtual/2023pt.php>.

News from the West

A Big Change in the Association and a Chance to Say Thank You

After 38 years of working for the Western Political Science Association, Elsa Favila officially retired on October 1, 2022. It is hard to put in words all the things she has meant to the association and to those who have been involved with it.

On the work side, Elsa has been handling an incredible range of responsibilities, including organizing the annual conference, working with conference hotel staff and exhibitors, setting up special events at the conference and at the APSA meeting, overseeing the association's databases and webpages, maintaining our financial and membership records, paying our bills, preparing our taxes, and much more. Her institutional knowledge has been incredibly helpful for running the association.

But what is more important is what she has meant on the personal side to the association. She is the one that members have long gone to if they are having problems, whether it is missing the deadline for paper proposals, making requests for when a panel is organized, or arriving at the conference without a wallet or a hotel reservation. She is the one that sends out and answers WPSA emails, and works at the conference registration desk, answering questions and helping participants with problems. Association members and conference participants have been at the heart of Elsa's love for the association, and she always goes out of her way to make sure that things go well for everyone.

Elsa is going to be missed. However, you will have a chance to say thank you to her in person. We will be recognizing Elsa at the WPSA reception in San Francisco on Friday evening, April 7. Please pay

attention to details as they become announced and try to attend so we can say thank you from all of us.

Welcome to Our New Conference and Membership Coordinator

The Western Political Science Association is pleased to announce the selection of our new Conference and Membership Coordinator, Julio Castilleja. Julio has taken over the responsibilities of coordinating our annual conference now that Elsa has retired. In this position, Julio will be the one with whom members and conference participants will interact the most on conference and membership-related matters. The search committee that selected Julio that he was a great fit for the job and for the WPSA. Please welcome him to the association. If you want to say hi, you can reach him at info@wpsanet.org.

There are some other changes in the association's administrative structure with Elsa's departure. Richard Clucas, the executive director, is taking over the responsibilities related to the association's finance. We have hired a professional bookkeeping company to provide support. We are also searching for someone who can help maintain the association's website.

Not Too Late to Participate in the 2023 Meeting

Even though the deadline for paper proposals has passed, there are still ways to participate actively in the Western Political Science Association's annual meeting in San Francisco in April. Any committees, caucuses, subject-matter sections, or other groups wishing to schedule sessions or workshops during the WPSA conference and who have not already done so should contact WPSA Conference and Membership Coordinator,

Julio Castilleja, as soon as possible at info@wpsanet.org.

In addition, if you are part of a research community that is interested in holding a meeting in the spring, we may still be able to accommodate your group by coordinating a mini-conference within our conference. The association does not charge for providing the space and support for these mini-conference, though the attendees are required to register for the WPSA meeting. There is also the opportunity to host receptions, business meetings, and special events at the annual conference. Finally, some section chairs are likely to be looking for individuals wanting to serve as discussants and panel chairs. Just write them if you are interested; their contact information is available on the association's website.

The 2023 meeting of the Western Political Science Association will be held at the Hyatt Regency in San Francisco, California, from April 6 to 8. Jason Casellas, University of Houston, is serving as program chair for this meeting. Marcela Garcia-Castanon, San Francisco State University (SFSU), is chairing the Local Arrangements Committee. Anthony Pahnke, SFSU, is also serving on the committee.

Information regarding the conference, its theme, and the list of section chairs are available on the WPSA website: www.wpsanet.org. In addition to the main program, several workshops are being organized for Wednesday, April 5. There will also be several mini-conferences held during the meeting. Information on these workshops and mini-conferences can also be found on the website.

Pre-registration and hotel information is available now on the WPSA website. It is possible to pre-register and pay by credit card at this site: <http://wpsanet.org>.

We Still Need Your Support for the 75th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign

As part of the WPSA's 75th Anniversary, the Association launched a \$100,000 fundraising campaign to create a travel endowment, which will provide much-needed support to help graduate students and faculty attend the annual meeting. The Association is continuing the campaign until the 2023 conference. If you have not contributed yet, please do so. Every year, the WPSA offices get request from graduate students and faculty who do not have the funding to attend the annual meeting. This will enable us to provide some support. Even small contributions are appreciated! As of now, the Association has raised \$27,000. We are on our way, but need more of you to help!

Donations to the Association can be made on a one-time only basis or spread out over multiple months or years. The WPSA is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization; as such, your contributions are fully tax-deductible, as permitted by law.

To make a donation, please visit the WPSA website at:
<https://www.wpsanet.org/about/donate.php>

New Editors for PGI and Some Others We Need to Thank

The association went through another important change this year. Since not long after the WPSA signed a contract with Taylor and Francis in 2010 for publishing *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, Purdue University played a central role in the creation and outstanding achievements of the journal. Almost two years before the first issue was released, the first team of Purdue editors began to work on PGI, conceptualizing its content and working to make it thrive. The journal's formal ties with Purdue ended last year when Nadia Brown, the current editor, accepted a

position at Georgetown University. Whatever last little tie the journal has had with Purdue, will come to an end in January, when a new team of editors takes over.

At its March 2022 meeting, the Executive Council approved a new team of *PGI* editors, led by Regina Branton, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, and Tony Cary, University of North Texas. Lee Demetrius Walker, University of North Texas, will be serving as the associate editor. Serving as contributing editors will be: Edwina Barvosa, University of California at Santa Barbara; Danielle Pilar Cleland, University of Texas at Austin; Kathryn J. Perkins, California State University, Long Beach; and Ngoc Phan, Hawaii Pacific University.

The team will be replacing Nadia and her great team of editors: Ray Block, Jr., Pennsylvania State University; Erin Cassese, University of Delaware; Loren Collingwood, University of California, Riverside; Akwugo Emejulu, University of Warwick; Sarah Allen Gershon, Georgia State University; Magda Hinojosa, Arizona State University; Keisha Lindsay, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Pei-te Lien, University of California, Santa Barbara; Melissa Michelson, Menlo College; Jennifer Piscopo, Occidental College; Laura Sjoberg, University of Florida; Rorie Solberg, Oregon State University; and Christopher Stout, Oregon State University.

The association wants to thank all of these outgoing editors for their help with the journal, but it especially wants to thank Nadia and all the preceding editors who made the journal happen. The association intends to recognize the important role that these Purdue editors had on the journal by giving thanks to them at the awards reception on Thursday night, April 6, at the annual meeting in San Francisco. The journal would not be as successful as it has

been without their dedication, vision, and hard work. Please join us to say thank you.

A New Agreement Between Pi Sigma Alpha and the WPSA

The national organization of Pi Sigma Alpha (PSA), the political science honor society, has for many years underwritten the Best Paper Award given out at our conference and the Pi Sigma Alpha talk. Over the past year, PSA's leadership has been reevaluating its programs. It has decided to stop funding programs that do not directly support students, including the award and the talk.

In place of providing this support, PSA plans to provide support for the WPSA's undergraduate poster session and the graduate student reception. Richard Clucas, the WPSA's executive director, and PSA's leadership are in the process of signing an agreement to provide this support. The change in PSA's programming makes sense, and the association's leadership is happy to see that it is willing to help underwrite these two important student programs.

This is not the end of the Best Paper Award, however. For now, the award will simply be called the WPSA Best Paper Award, and will be supported with WPSA operating funds. If you are association with a group that would be interested in sponsoring, please contact Richard at hprc@pdx.edu. Jason Casellas, the program chair for the San Francisco conference, may also include a special talk similar to the Pi Sigma Alpha talk at the meeting. If he decides to move forward with the talk, we will widely share the name of the guest speaker. Please watch for updates.

Two Steps to Address Equity and Justice

At the WPSA Executive Council meeting in Portland in March, a conversation took place about the lack of a status committee that focuses on the LGBTQ community. We currently have status committees on Asian Pacific Americans, African Americans, Latinos/as, women, community college faculty, and first-generation scholars. The council expressed a desire for such a committee to be created. Zein Murib, Fordham University, has agreed to chair an exploratory committee with the purpose of putting forward a proposal to create a status committee on the position of LGBTQ in the profession. There will also be a roundtable discussion on this topic at the conference in San Francisco.

The council also approved changes at the meeting to turn the ad hoc WPSA Task Force on Equity, Inclusion, and Access in the Discipline into a regular, ongoing committee. When it was created, the task force was charged with examining the systemic inequalities that have marginalized scholars within the discipline and to propose recommendations for ameliorating them, particularly for WPSA and departments of political science across the western region. One aim that the task force has been asked to consider is developing a set of best practices that would move the discipline in a more open and accepting direction. A proposal was passed at the March 2022 council meeting creating a formal, ongoing structure for the committee. The membership of the committee will include the chairs of the WPSA status committees and a chair appointed by the president. By including the chairs of the status committees, rather than appointing others to this task force, the council sought to draw on the expertise and resources of these status committee to ensure a greater collective effort to investigate issues of equity, inclusion, and access.

Changes in the WPSA Executive Council

Pei-te Lien, University of California at Santa Barbara, is serving as WPSA President through the annual meeting of the association in San Francisco in April 2023. At the conclusion of the meeting, Jason Casellas, University of Houston, will assume the presidency of the WPSA and Lorrie Frasure, University of California at Los Angeles, will become the new Program Chair. Ivy Cargile, California State University Bakersfield, was recently appointed as Recording Secretary.

The following individuals will begin serving on the council in March 2023: Ron Hayduk, San Francisco State University; Anand Commissiong, California State University Long Beach; LaDella Levy, College of Southern Nevada; and Yalidy Matos, Rutgers.

The terms of the following Executive Council members will conclude immediately prior to the meeting: Melissa Michelson, Menlo College; Ainsley LeSure, Occidental College; Mark Ramirez, Arizona State University, and Laura Evans, University of Washington. The association thanks these outgoing members, and Janni Aragon, the past Recording Secretary, for their valuable service.

WPSA Future Meeting Plans

The location of future WPSA conference has been scheduled up through 2025. The association will be meeting at the Vancouver Hyatt Regency in 2024 and the Hyatt Regency Seattle in 2025. The association does not usually hold two successive conference in the same region, but the Executive Council approved the meeting in Seattle as part of the agreement cancelling our 2021 conference at the Seattle Hyatt Regency. When the council

meets this March, it will begin considering where to hold the 2026 conference. Following past practices, the 2026 will likely be held in Southern California or the southwest.

Contribute Your Personal/Professional Developments:

Have personal announcement such as births, deaths, and marriages and professional developments such as grant opportunities, new conferences and more? To have your announcement included in future editions of the newsletter, please email it to thewestern@pdx.edu.