

10/26/2009

# **NEW POLITICAL SCIENCE SECTION PROGRAM CHAIR REPORT**

## **AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE**

**TORONTO, CANADA  
SEPTEMBER 2 – 6, 2009**

**BY**

**JOCELYN M. BORYCZKA, PROGRAM CHAIR, 2009**



# NPS 2008 CALL FOR PAPERS



**Politics in Motion: Change and Complexity in the Contemporary Era,"** the 2009 APSA conference theme, is one well-suited to the New Political Science Section, founded in a commitment to progressive political change. Motion suggests a progression or movement forward involving ideas of change laden with assumptions about what is "new" and progressive in politics and political science. The New Political Science section is calling for individual papers and panel proposals that interrogate these assumptions about progress, change, and the "new" given the real and perceived complexities of the contemporary political context. Papers and panels that explore this topic by identifying systems of domination and the ways in which people collectively struggle within and against them on the global, national, and grassroots levels are particularly welcome.

The section encourages papers and panel proposals that consider various questions broadly related to what complexity means to political change. How does the perception of complexity contribute to a politics of fatigue that can stagnate political movement? How are complex identities negotiated in efforts for social change? What do these negotiations mean for transforming democracy and capitalism? What "new" and different ways are diverse peoples across the globe mobilizing amidst the complicating forces of globalization and democratization? How do forces of tradition motivate and stagnate struggles for progressive political change committed to non-violence and social justice?

To consider such questions and many others, the section is particularly interested in perspectives that challenge disciplinary and academic boundaries. The section welcomes papers and panel proposals drawing from a broad range of theoretical and empirical approaches, using alternative methodologies, and bringing together junior and senior scholars, activists, and practitioners.

# NPS PANEL ALLOCATION 2009

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- Total Number of Panels 10
  - Awarded by APSA 7
  - Compared to 2008 9
  - Compared to 2007 7

# CO-SPONSORED PANELS 2009

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## × NPS Co-sponsored 6 Panels

### Co-sponsors Included:

- The Labor Project (1)
- International Political Economy (1)
- Urban Politics (2)
- State Politics and Policy (1)
- Women and Politics (1)

# PROPOSALS SUBMITTED & ACCEPTED

Submission Type	Number Submitted	Number Accepted	Percentage
Chair	10	3	30%
Discussant	13	4	30%
Paper	101	10	1%
Panel	19	8	42%

# SELECTION CRITERIA

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1. Conference Theme – potential for extra panel award
  
1. Critical or Non-Mainstream Issues & Concepts
  - Contentious Politics of Intellectual Property
  - Marx and the Current Crisis
  - Analyzing Religion and Social Relations in an Age of Globalization
  - Politics and Punishment in the States

# SELECTION CRITERIA CONTINUED

3. **Opportunities for Co-Sponsorship – potential for extra panels:**
  - **Urban**
  - **State Politics & Policy**
  - **Gender**
  - **Labor**
  - **International Political Economy**
  - **Religion**
  
4. **Constructed 2 panels from individual paper submissions**
  - **added free floating papers to panels with less than full group**
  - **added discussants or chairs as necessary & available**

# INCREASING CHANCES FOR SELECTION

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1. Take the Conference Theme Seriously:  
Structure titles, abstracts, and panels around conference theme
2. Submit Complete or Partial Panel Proposals:  
Submitting individual papers is hit or miss; acceptance depends on whether other similar papers submitted and not necessarily on quality of proposal.
3. Submit to more than one section/division if possible:  
Most divisions look for opportunities to co-sponsor.
4. Cancellations:  
Reduce your chances for future selection. Cancellations and no-shows will be tracked, because they deny opportunities to others.



2010

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# NEW POLITICAL SCIENCE CALL FOR PAPERS

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## The Politics of Hard Times: Opportunity or Retrenchment?

In the current economic crisis, we can observe a variety of political responses from citizens, movements, corporations and governments around the world. Governments have intervened more aggressively in the economy, in ways both new and old, and the public debates who will benefit from these interventions and whether they will achieve their stated goals.

As a section founded with a commitment to progressive political change, New Political Science is calling for individual papers and panel proposals that ask the important question, "Who benefits?" in analyzing responses to hard times. How is economic inequality exacerbated or ameliorated by government responses to the economic crisis? Have movements and citizens identified opportunities for greater mobilization and expanded goals, or are they confronting the need to defend past victories from retrenchment? Do economic hard times lead to new openings for citizen voices to be heard, or to greater repression? How can we, as political scientists, guide policy formation in ways that protects human rights, and particularly the interests of the politically marginalized, and is open to broad public participation?

The section is particularly interested in perspectives that challenge disciplinary and academic boundaries. The section welcomes papers and proposals drawing from a broad range of theoretical and empirical approaches, using alternative methodologies, and bringing together junior and senior scholars, activists and practitioners.

The Caucus for a New Political Science encourages progressive approaches to issues of public importance, and has challenged mainstream social science as C. Wright Mills did when he called it "a set of bureaucratic techniques which inhibit social inquiry by 'methodological' pretensions, which congest such work by obscurantist conceptions, or which trivialize it by concern with minor problems unconnected with publicly relevant issues."

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# WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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For information about the  
New Political Science Caucus:

VISIT

<http://www.apsanet.org/~new/>.