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## Professor Emeritus, Barbara Sinclair, Legacy Lives on in Published Works

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### BARBARA SINCLAIR IN MEMORIAM



**Barbara Sinclair** was Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of California, Los Angeles in the Department of Political Science. She was an APSA Award winner for the 2008 Best Book on Legislative Politics. She was also an award committee chair for the 2006 APSA Gladys M. Kammerer Award, a former APSA Congressional Fellow, and a member of APSA's Advisory committee. Read more about her legacy via [Monkey Cage](#).

#### **Bipartisan Governing: Possible, Yes; Likely, No**

*PS: Political Science & Politics* / Volume 34 / Issue 01 / March 2001, pp 81 – 83

A president who received fewer popular votes than his chief opponent, a House with a razor thin majority for the president's party, and a Senate evenly split—this is not most political scientists' prescription for policy success and certainly not what Republicans had in mind when they dreamed of unified Republican government. During the campaign, George Bush proposed a policy agenda that was ambitious if often vague about details and promised to change the often nasty and bitterly partisan tone in Washington. Are these now impossible dreams?

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Her career took a profound turn, however, soon after this first book. She accepted a congressional fellowship from the American Political Science Association which paid for her to work on Capitol Hill for a year so she could observe the inner workings of Congress while working in a legislator's office. She obtained a prize placement in the office of Jim Wright, who hailed from her native Texas and was then House majority leader. Using her own experiences and interviews with congressional staff and members, she provided an inside account of the majority party of the House of Representatives, just as it was becoming a dominant organization in the legislative branch. This research led to the publication of "Majority Leadership in the U.S. House" in 1983, which paved the way for dozens of scholars doing research on congressional parties and agenda-setting. Beginning with this book, she adopted the elite interviewing methods used so effectively by Fenno, her mentor, and would continue to do so for the rest of her career.

# IBP 2021 Dissertations in the Social Sciences Shortlist

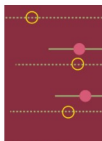
AUTHOR: Chao-yo Cheng

TITLE: *Autonomy in Autocracy: Explaining Ethnic Policies in Post-1949 China*

University of California-Los Angeles, 2019.

This dissertation brings together machine learning with fascinating expert interviews to investigate the underlying motivations for China to designate autonomous ethnic regions. Finding that questions of power consolidation and center-periphery arrangements are more decisive than demands by ethnic minorities, it deepens understandings of Chinese ethnic policy and suggests new directions for the study of ethnic management and authoritarianism beyond China.

## Annual Review of Political Science

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### Latest Articles

#### *Terra Incognita*: The Governance of Artificial Intelligence in Global Perspective

Allison Stanger, Jakub Kraus, Woojin Lim, Georgia Millman-Perlah, and Mitchell Schroeder  
Vol. 27 (2024), pp. 445–465

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# Find your research questions

*Developmental puzzles* First, you might, for example, pose a developmental puzzle – **how and why did  $x$  or  $y$  develop?** The  $x$  or  $y$  might be anything, ontologically speaking, for example, racist attitudes, cultural imperialism, the American system of government, a mental illness, and so on.

*Mechanical puzzles* Alternatively, your puzzle might be about how something works or is constituted. **How does  $x$  or  $y$  work? Why does it work in this way?** Again,  $x$  or  $y$  might be anything – intimate personal relationships, a legal system, a penal institution, the human psyche, and so on.

*Comparative puzzles* **Your puzzle might be about what we can learn from comparing  $x$  and  $y$ , and how we can explain differences and similarities between them.** This could involve comparing legal or social institutions internationally, different cultural objects or artefacts, or groups of people with different sets of experiences, for example.

*Causal/predictive puzzles* You might be interested in causality, and pose a puzzle about **what influence  $x$  has on  $y$ , or what causes  $x$  or  $y$ ?** You might extend that into a predictive puzzle - what is the likely outcome of  $x$  or  $y$ , where  $x$  or  $y$  might be a social intervention or programme for example.



# Identify the gap

- ▶ Theoretical/empirical tensions or contradictions
- ▶ Different or alternative theoretical perspectives
- ▶ Different methodological approach (e.g., build on more inductive work to propose some hypothesis-testing deductive approach)
- ▶ Extension to new context (e.g., different region, time period)
- ▶ Some conventional wisdom left untested or understudied (e.g., critical element not engaged with, need to consider other conditions)
- ▶ ...



## Do Fairer Elections Increase the Responsiveness of Politicians?

GEORGE KWAKU OFOSU *Washington University in St. Louis*

*L*everaging novel experimental designs and 2,160 months of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) spending by legislators in Ghana, I examine whether and how fairer elections promote democratic responsiveness. The results show that incumbents elected from constituencies that were randomly assigned to intensive election-day monitoring during Ghana's 2012 election spent 19 percentage points more of their CDFs during their terms in office compared with those elected from constituencies with fewer monitors. Legislators from all types of constituencies are equally present in parliament, suggesting that high levels of monitoring do not cause politicians to substitute constituency service for parliamentary work. Tests of causal mechanisms provide suggestive evidence that fairer elections motivate high performance through incumbents' expectations of electoral sanction and not the selection of better candidates. The article provides causal evidence of the impact of election integrity on democratic accountability.



# THE POPULARITY OF AUTHORITARIAN LEADERS: A Cross-National Investigation

By SERGEI GURIEV and DANIEL TREISMAN

## ABSTRACT

How do citizens in authoritarian states feel about their leaders? While some dictators rule through terror, others seem genuinely popular. Using the Gallup World Poll's panel of more than one hundred-forty countries in 2006–2016, the authors show that the drivers of political approval differ across regime types. Although brutal repression in overt dictatorships could cause respondents to falsify their preferences, in milder informational autocracies, greater repression actually predicts lower approval. In autocracies as in democracies, economic performance matters and citizens' economic perceptions, while not perfectly accurate, track objective indicators. Dictators also benefit from greater perceived public safety, but the authors find no such effect in democracies. Covert censorship of the media and the Internet is associated with higher approval in autocracies—in particular, in informational ones—but ratings fall when citizens recognize censorship. In informational autocracies, executive elections trigger a ratings surge if there is leader turnover, but, unlike in democracies, reelected autocrats enjoy little honeymoon.

# Economic Inequality and Political Responsiveness: A Systematic Review

*Mads Andreas Elkjær and Michael Baggesen Klitgaard*

Do political outcomes respond more strongly to the preferences of the rich? In an age of rising inequality, this question has become increasingly salient. Yet, although an influential literature has emerged, no systematic account exists either of the severity of differentials in political responsiveness, the potential drivers of those differentials, or the variation across democracies. This article fills that gap. We analyze 1,163 estimates of responsiveness from 25 studies and find that, although this research collectively suggests that political outcomes better reflect the preferences of the rich, results vary considerably across models and studies. The divergence in results is partly driven by partisanship and the model specification, while we find no significant variation across either policy domains or general/specific measures of political outcomes. Finally, and against theoretical expectations, published research suggests that differentials in responsiveness are weaker in the United States compared to other developed democracies. The article contributes to our understanding of differential responsiveness by clarifying the main debates and findings in the literature, identifying issues and gaps, and pointing to fruitful avenues for future research.



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## How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression

GARY KING *Harvard University*

JENNIFER PAN *Harvard University*

MARGARET E. ROBERTS *Harvard University*

**W**e offer the first large scale, multiple source analysis of the outcome of what may be the most extensive effort to selectively censor human expression ever implemented. To do this, we have devised a system to locate, download, and analyze the content of millions of social media posts originating from nearly 1,400 different social media services all over China before the Chinese government is able to find, evaluate, and censor (i.e., remove from the Internet) the subset they deem objectionable. Using modern computer-assisted text analytic methods that we adapt to and validate in the Chinese language, we compare the substantive content of posts censored to those not censored over time in each of 85 topic areas. Contrary to previous understandings, posts with negative, even vitriolic, criticism of the state, its leaders, and its policies are not more likely to be censored. Instead, we show that the censorship program is aimed at curtailing collective action by silencing comments that represent, reinforce, or spur social mobilization, regardless of content. Censorship is oriented toward attempting to forestall collective activities that are occurring now or may occur in the future—and, as such, seem to clearly expose government intent.

