



MPSA Awards Ceremony

Saturday, April 6th, 6:30pm – 7:30pm

2024 Award Recipients

The following awards were given for research presented at the 2023 MPSA Annual Conference:

Best Paper in American Politics

Do Values Affect Issue Stances? Evidence from Panel Studies

Arjun Vishwanath, Vanderbilt University

The committee has chosen "Do Values Affect Issue Stances? Evidence from Panel Studies" by Arjun Vishwanath as the winner of the MPSA's Best Paper in American Politics presented at the 2023 MPSA conference. This paper makes a major contribution to the field of public opinion by providing compelling causal evidence that previously held value orientations shape individuals' policy preferences. Using multiple large scale panel surveys, the paper provides evidence that currently held values predict future issue stances, and produce value-congruent shifts in issue stances over time. This means that values are a way for voters to comprehend policy issues, thus pushing forward a debate in the literature.

Award Committee: Michael Crespín, University of Oklahoma (chair); Sarah Reckhow, Michigan State University; Jonathan Ladd, Georgetown University

Best Paper in International Relations Award

Commerce, Coalitions, and Global Value Chains

Hao Zhang, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

"Commerce, Coalitions, and Global Value Chains: Coordinated and Collective Lobbying on Trade" offers a compelling new framework for understanding trade politics in the era of global value chains. Demonstrating how production linkages shape firms' political preferences and coalition dynamics, the paper challenges theories that treat firms as isolated political actors. Through meticulous analysis, Zhang provides convincing evidence that interconnected firms tend to lobby together and mobilize collective action, driving the proliferation of preferential trade agreements worldwide. These important contributions to our understanding of the political economy of globalization will stimulate new research in the field.

Award Committee: Kristopher Ramsey, Princeton University (chair); Iain Osgood, University of Michigan; Sarah Brooks, Ohio State

Best Paper in Political Behavior Award (co-winners)

Reducing Prejudice and Support for Religious Nationalism through Conversations on WhatsApp

Rajeshwari Majumdar, New York University

Using a novel experimental design, Rajeshwari Majumdar brings Hindus and Muslims together for five days of conversation on WhatsApp. They find that intergroup contact via social media reduces prejudice, religious nationalism, and support for violence in settings of considerable ethnic segregation and conflict. The paper is particularly impressive for the care put into the research design, given this challenging context, and for their pre-registered exploration of potential mechanisms. The cleavages examined here and the sophisticated experimental design make this research a distinct and signal contribution to the literature.

The Local Reaction to Unauthorized Mexican Migration to the US

Ernesto Tiburcio, Tufts University

Kara Ross Camarena, Loyola University Chicago

Ernesto Tiburcio and Kara Ross Camarena expertly blend political economy with political behavior to assess an important and timely question: how Americans respond to flows of unauthorized immigration into their local communities. With their

ambitious, technically sophisticated, and creative research design, the authors show how increased migration significantly increases Republican vote shares in federal elections, while simultaneously shifting spending away from education and toward policing. Their research is notable not only for its attention to causal inference, but also for its efforts to further unpack the underlying mechanisms, demonstrating how rigorous scholarship can elucidate pressing political dynamics.

Award Committee: Christopher Karpowitz, BYU (chair); Taylor Carlson, Washington University of St Louis; Alexander Theodoridis, University of Massachusetts – Amherst

Evan Ringquist Award

Measuring Strategic Positioning in Congressional Elections

Colin R. Case, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

In “Measuring Strategic Positioning in Congressional Elections,” Colin Case uses word embedding models trained on congressional candidates’ website issue statements to estimate a new measure of candidate ideology. Given the prevalence of candidate websites, this new measure covers a larger set of candidates than existing approaches. In addition to using cutting-edge text as data methods to develop this new measure, Case demonstrates its utility by providing empirical evidence that incumbents adopt more extreme positions when facing an ideologically extreme primary opponent. The paper thus makes both methodological and substantive contributions to the study of congressional elections.

Award Committee: Sarah Treul, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill (chair); Tracy Osborn, University of Iowa; Logan Dancey, Wesleyan University

Kellogg/Notre Dame Award

The Representation Trap: How and Why Muslims Struggle to Maintain Power in India

Feyaad Allie, Harvard University

In “The Representation Trap: How and Why Muslims Struggle to Maintain Power in India,” Feyaad Allie engages with one of the most important topics in the comparative politics literature, political representation of marginalized groups. Allie argues that when marginalized groups gain representation without institutional protections, they encounter a representation trap in which gaining electoral power hinders future electoral success. Focusing on Muslims in India, Allie analyzes electoral data, conducts in-depth interviews, and implements original survey experiments to diligently test his argument and the mechanisms behind it. The study’s substantive importance, theoretical and empirical rigor make it outstanding and well-deserving of the Kellogg/Notre Dame Award.

Award Committee: Deniz Aksoy, Washington University of St Louis (chair); Adam Auerbach, American University; Gwyneth McClendon, NYU

Kenneth J. Meier Award

Politicization, Bureaucratic Closedness in Personnel Policy and Turnover Intention

Kohei Suzuki, Leiden University

Hyunkang Hur, Indiana University-Kokomo

We are pleased to award this year’s Kenneth J. Meier award for the best paper in bureaucratic politics, public administration, and public policy to Kohei Suzuki and Hyunkang Hur for their paper “Politicization, Bureaucratic Closedness in Personnel Policy, and Turnover Intention.” Decades of scholars have documented the importance of bureaucratic staffing patterns for public agency operations and policymaking. Yet, scholarship typically focuses on singular agencies within a particular country, limiting scholarship’s ability to engage in comparative analyses that assess bureaucratic turnover across bureaucratic regimes even though public bureaucracy is structurally conducive to cross-national comparisons. Suzuki and Hur’s paper, in contrast, opens new terrain in cross-national public bureaucracy scholarship upon which future scholarship can build. Looking across 34 countries, Suzuki and Hur create an ambitious cross-national framework to assess factors that contribute to bureaucratic turnover. They find that public sector employees who work in more politicized agencies have lower turnover intention than bureaucrats working in more merit-based systems. The authors suggest patronage may account for lower turnover intention in politicized bureaucracies where personal or political loyalty contribute to the distribution of public jobs. We are pleased to award the Kenneth Meier prize to the Suzuki and Hur paper on the basis of its innovation, its rigor, and its potential contribution to future scholarship on bureaucratic politics, public administration, and public policy.

Award Committee: Susan Moffitt, Brown University (chair); Colin Moore, University of Hawaii; Annelise Russell, University of Kentucky

Review of Politics Award

Reforming the Rhetoricians: Aristotle's Underhanded Aim in the *Rhetoric*

Michael C. Hawley, University of Houston

We are pleased to announce Michael C. Hawley's "Reforming the Rhetoricians: Aristotle's Underhanded Aim in the *Rhetoric*" as this year's winner of the ROP Award. Hawley's paper offers a novel reading of Aristotle's *Rhetoric* that speaks to a contemporary problem: how can we prevent rhetorical corruption? Hawley finds a reform project embedded in Aristotle that relies on habituating rhetoricians into working for the good of their audiences. It is a creative use of a familiar text to answer an important contemporary problem.

Award Committee: Michelle Schwarze, University of Wisconsin-Madison (chair); Matthew Landauer, University of Chicago; Genevieve Rousseliere, Duke University

Robert H. Durr Award

The Local Reaction to Unauthorized Mexican Migration to the US

Ernesto Tiburcio, Tufts University

Kara Ross Camarena, Loyola University Chicago

This paper offers a novel and compelling analysis of how unauthorized immigration affects voting behavior. The authors leverage a novel administrative dataset of over 7 million likely unauthorized migrants to implement a shift-share instrument to estimate the effects of migration on local voting patterns. They show robust evidence that migration increases vote share for Republican candidates and lowers the provision of local public services such as education. In total, the paper makes an important substantive contribution to the field of political economy using innovative quantitative methods that are sure to be emulated by future scholars in the field.

Award Committee: Jacob Montgomery, Washington University of St Louis (chair); Teppei Yamamoto, MIT; Amber Boydston, University of California-Davis

Lucius Barker Award

Race, Diversity, and the Development of Political Attitudes on College Campuses

Nathan Chan, Loyola Marymount University

Tanika Raychaudhuri, University of Houston

Nathan Chan and Tanika Raychaudhuri's "Race, Diversity, and the Development of Political Attitudes on College Campuses" addresses an important and timely question: How does taking courses about racial diversity affect students' perceptions of discrimination and views on racialized policies? Bringing to bear large multiyear samples with experimental data, the authors examine the role of coursework on race and shifts in attitudes among Asian American, Black, Latino, and White students. Findings suggest that exposure to diversity in college coursework affects public opinion across groups and has implications for universities making decisions about integrating diversity-focused courses into curricula. This paper is a fitting tribute to Dr. Barker—a scholar focused on improving race relations and on investing in the role of education in that process.

Award Committee: Lauren Davenport, Stanford University (chair); Nazita Lajevardi, Michigan State University; Ariel White, MIT

Patrick J. Fett Award

Direct Election and Senate Representation

Gabriel Foy-Sutherland, University of Chicago

Daniel J. Moskowitz, University of Chicago

Jon C. Rogowski, University of Chicago

"Direct Elections and Senate Representation" examines the impact of the Seventeenth Amendment, which established direct election of senators, on senator behavior from 1880 to 1940. The paper reveals limited effects on senator responsiveness to constituency preferences but increased legislative effort following direct election. The committee appreciated the authors' careful and sweeping data collection and empirical testing of claims about how direct elections changed the Senate through adaptation and replacement. They find that senators did not necessarily become more responsive to the preferences of their states' voters, but that they were less loyal to their parties, introduced more bills, and gave more speeches. Congratulations to them for clearly articulating and demonstrating that electoral structures have significant impacts on legislative behavior, and that when mechanisms are changed in the name of democracy, they do not always produce the expected or desired outcomes.

Award Committee: Gregory Koger, University of Miami (chair); Wendy Schiller, Brown University; Julia Azari, Marquette University

Richard E. Matland Award

The Representation Trap: How and Why Muslims Struggle to Maintain Power in India

Feyaad Allie, Harvard University

The Allie paper makes an effective and impactful theoretical contribution that brings together literatures on elections and minority representation and demonstrates that improving minority representation is more than just focusing on single election victories of underrepresented minorities. The data gathering effort, combined with a well-integrated mixed methods approach, provides clear evidence for their theoretical claims. This research will have important implications for the study of elections and electoral system effects, minority and descriptive representation, and democracy in ethnically divided societies."

Award Committee: Christopher J. Clark, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill (chair); Paru Shah, Rutgers University; Debra Leiter, University of Missouri-Kansas City

Sophonisba Breckinridge Award

Symbolic Representation in New Democracies

Monica C. Komer, University of Wisconsin-Madison

We congratulate Monica for her groundbreaking research paper, "'Symbolic Representation in New Democracies,'" which has earned her the esteemed Sophonisba Breckenridge Award. Monica's innovative approach in investigating the impact of women's political participation on gender and political attitudes is commendable. By focusing on symbolic representation during the early stages of democratic transition, Monica sheds light on a crucial but often overlooked aspect of gender dynamics in politics. Her study, based on data from Tunisia's 2014 parliamentary elections, reveals a compelling finding: higher levels of women's representation can paradoxically lead to a decrease in support for women leaders, especially among female respondents. Her insightful cross-national analyses also offer valuable insights that transcend Tunisia's context. This counterintuitive result, supported by rigorous statistical analysis, challenges conventional wisdom and enriches our understanding of the complexities of gender representation in new democracies.

In summary, "'Symbolic Representation in New Democracies'" exemplifies rigorous scholarship and intellectual curiosity, making it a deserving recipient of the Sophonisba Breckenridge Award. We commend Monica for her contribution to the field and anticipate that her work will inspire further inquiry and debate in this crucial area of study.

Award Committee: Diana O'Brien, Washington University of St Louis (chair); Michele Swers, Georgetown University; Katelyn Stauffer, University of Georgia

Pi Sigma Alpha - Best Paper by a Graduate Student Award

The Zeal of the Outgroup: Loyalty Signaling, Bureaucratic Compliance, and Variation of State Repression in Authoritarian Regimes

Jingyuan Qian, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Steve Bai, Yale University

This paper asks a timely question related to state repression in autocracies: Why are some bureaucrats more heavy-handed in their use of force than others? The authors propose an incentive-compatible theory to explain the unevenness of bureaucratic compliance in repressive campaigns. They argue that bureaucrats whose backgrounds are not trusted by the leader tend to implement repressive tasks to credibly display their loyalty to the autocrat. The committee especially liked how this paper offered clear expectations, made a strong case for studying this important question, and analyzed interesting and appropriate data (i.e., China's Anti-Rightist Campaigns from the late 1950s).

Award Committee: Jamie Carson, University of Georgia (chair); Daniel Butler, Washington University of St Louis; Matthew Winters, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign

Best Paper by an Emerging Scholar

The Caucasian Persuasion: Connecting Black Political Candidates' Skin Tone and Whites' Attitudes

Nicole Yadon, Ohio State University

In this manuscript Yadon examines how preferences for lighter skin—a phenomena known as colorism—influences Black political candidates' experience in the electoral arena. Drawing on group position theory, she argues that "because darker skin is more prototypical and signals closer proximity to Blackness, it can also signal racial group attachment and potentially serve as a stronger signal of threats to Whites' power." for this reason, White voters perceive lighter skinned black candidates as more similar to white candidates and less threatening than darker skinned candidates. Using an

experiment to manipulate candidate skin tone she shows that white voters have more favorable views of and are more likely to vote for light skinned black candidates as opposed to dark skinned candidates. This manuscript contributes to our understanding of how skin color affects politics both at the mass (socialization) and elite (candidate perception) levels. This is a timely and important topic as the focus on colorism is currently garnering a large amount of publicity and cross-disciplinary research. Dr. Yadon's work is on the cutting edge of political science research and brings important political considerations into the research on colorism. Beyond the focus on colorism, this research represents an outstanding theoretical and empirical contribution to political science more broadly.

Award Committee: Tiffany Barnes, University of Kentucky (chair); Quintin Beazer, Florida State; Sarah Anderson, UCSB

Pi Sigma Alpha - Best Undergraduate Paper Presented in a Poster Format

Who Tweets Populism When?

Andrew Strasberg, Washington University in St. Louis

Even experienced academics find it challenging to produce research that features new data, cutting-edge methods, and theory-building on an important topic, yet Andrew Strasberg has achieved this in his work on populist rhetoric in Congressional tweets. Using sophisticated models to classify member of Congress's communications, he finds that extremists, especially in the Republican party, are more prone to populist rhetoric, and that unlike Presidents, these members' tweets become more populist as an election approaches because of their electoral security. Andrew's rich analysis will be of particular interest to political observers who are concerned about growing populism in American politics.

Award Committee: Adam Dynes, BYU (chair); C. Lawrence Evans, College of William and Mary; Shamira Gelbman, Wabash College

AJPS Best Article Award

Entertaining Beliefs in Economic Mobility (Jan 2023)

Eunji Kim, Columbia University

While so much of the research in political communications focuses on the impacts of political programming, this article starts from the overlooked fact that Americans' consumption of entertainment dwarfs their consumption of political news. This innovative article accordingly focuses on the attitudinal impacts of seeing entertainment programs with "rags-to-riches" narratives. Its empirical analyses are at once creative and extensive, as the article uses a combination of online and lab-in-the-field experiments to demonstrate the attitudinal impacts of exposure to these programs and messages. For its novelty, empirical rigor, and theoretical creativity, the committee awards "Entertaining Beliefs in Economic Mobility" the AJPS 2023 Best Article award.

Award Committee: Daniel Hopkins, University of Pennsylvania (chair); Margaret Peters, UCLA; Danielle Thompson, University of California-Irvine; Andrew Reeves, Washington University of St Louis; Rebecca B Weitz-Shapiro, Brown University

MPSA Best Paper Award

Reducing Prejudice and Support for Religious Nationalism through Conversations on WhatsApp

Rajeshwari Majumdar, New York University

"Reducing Prejudice and Support for Religious Nationalism Through Conversations on WhatsApp" uses an innovative field experimental research design to address a question of both enduring academic interest and practical significance: how interactions with people who hold different ethnic identities affect prejudice and political attitudes. The committee was impressed by the careful pre-registered design, which allowed the researchers to show that moderated WhatsApp exchanges with out-group conversation partners reduced prejudice (compared to exchanges with in-group conversation partners) both during the experiment and two to three weeks later. The committee also admired the clear and persuasive presentation of results, which anticipated and addressed readers' concerns at each stage. Overall, the committee's assessment was that this is an extremely high-quality research study on an important research question and most deserving of the MPSA Best Paper Award.

Award Committee: Sarah Anzia, University of Pennsylvania (chair); Noam Lupu, Vanderbilt University; Eitan Hersh, Tufts University; Andrew Eggers, University of Chicago; Cheryl Boudreau, University of California-Davis