

# Finally Got the News\*

Newsletter of the Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Section

American Political Science Association

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## **Making History and Forging a Future: The Story of the Race and Ethnicity Politics Section**

by REP co-chairs:

Andrea Simpson, University of Washington and  
Ron Schmidt, Sr., California State University, Long Beach

At the 1994 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, a roundtable on the theoretical and methodological state of the study of race and ethnicity brought together those scholars who would form the REP section. A presentation by Tony Affigne, Manny Avalos, and Gerald Taiaiake on their research on racial politics in the Americas sparked a discussion about the need for a vehicle for communication among and between scholars who study race and ethnicity. These scholars embraced a vision that would give form and shape to an intellectual world that was expanding in depth and breadth. An official APSA section was the answer—a way for young and established scholars to meet and present their work.

In the early days were many of the faces we see today at the business meeting and receptions—Tony Affigne, Toni-Michelle Travis, Christine Sierra, Chris Garcia, Paula McClain, Diane Pinderhughes, Nick Nelson, and Frank Wilmer among others. Organizing this section required the leadership and cooperation of scholars of all races and ethnicities. The section was, and is, unified by the shared intellectual interests of its members. The APSA requires 200

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## **Women of Color Studies in Political Science Pre-APSA Conference Boston, MA: Aug. 27-28, 2002**

In August 2002, we will hold the first Workshop on Women of Color Studies in Political Science. This workshop is intended to address the challenges faced by graduate students who plan to research and teach on women of color in political science. The workshop will include plenary talks on classroom and curriculum issues in courses covering women of color, and on the job market, tenure, and departmental climate issues faced by researchers in this area. Participants will also be able to choose among small group discussion sessions on different theories, methods, frameworks, and empirical topics commonly encountered in research on women of color. Both quantitative and qualitative methodologies will be discussed.

Graduate students who are interested in studying the political experiences of women of color, particularly in the United States, are urged to apply. Financial assistance with lodging will be available. A smaller number of slots for faculty interested in studying and teaching about women of color are also available. There is no fee for the workshop. We welcome people of all genders, races, and ethnicities to apply.

The organizing committee for the workshop is Cathy Cohen, University of Chicago; Gwendolyn Mink, Smith College; Ann Chih Lin, University of Michigan; Christine Sierra, University of New Mexico; and Andrea Simpson, University of Washington. Questions about the workshop may be addressed to the organizing committee at [woc@mochamail.com](mailto:woc@mochamail.com).

Organizing Committee Member Ann Chih Lin provided  
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## **ATTEND THE 2002 APSA IN BOSTON! TURNOUT TO DIVISION 32 PROGRAM OFFERINGS!**

FROM THE DESKS OF DIV. 32 PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

We would like to convey our sincere appreciation to those individuals who have agreed to participate in the 2002 APSA program in Race, Ethnicity and Politics (Division 32).

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\* This title is borrowed from the Newsreel film about militant Black autoworkers in Detroit during the late 1960s.

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signatures to charter a new section, and by March 8, 1995, those signatures were in the possession of our founding mothers and fathers.

In 1995, the APSA Executive Council approved the section, and the Race and Ethnicity Politics section had its first executive meeting. Our first APSA program was in 1996, and five years later, the section has grown from the original 200 to between 500 and 550 members. Today, the section is the professional anchor of scholars interested in race and ethnicity. We have had a tremendous impact on young scholars, giving them a reason to continue in the discipline. For those who have felt isolated in their academic departments in universities all over the globe, there is the RACE-POL listserv, an online source of information and a place to exchange ideas. Established in 1995, the listserv has over 400 subscribers.

The section has influenced book publishers and academics alike with our book awards, which focus attention on the cutting-edge work our scholars produce. Every year the section receives between fifty and sixty books for review. We are the most progressive section in the discipline with race, gender, and ethnic equity in the election of officers. This progressive perspective is attracting the attention of comparative and international scholars, adding a transnational framework to our academic profile. The Race and Ethnicity section is making history in the discipline, a forging a dynamic future for the study of racial and ethnic politics in the world.

### Asian Pacific American Caucus

The Asian Pacific American Caucus continued to work on building organizational infrastructure while also promoting scholarship on Asian Pacific American politics.

In San Francisco, APAC co-sponsored two well-attended panels, one (co-sponsored with the Latino Caucus) a roundtable on APA and Latino political incorporation, and the second (co-sponsored with the section on Race, Ethnicity, and Politics) focusing on APA political participation, drawing on data from the 2000 election. APAC also sponsored a plenary session featuring Wilma Chan, Majority Whip of the California State Assembly. In addition, APAC-sponsored poster sessions examined APA political activism, Americans of mixed ethnicity or race, and political science scholarship on APAs. APAC members also participated in many other panels, sponsored by other sections. We also conducted a popular tour of Chinatown which drew about 60 attendees, and, held a reception co-sponsored by the Asian American Studies department at Berkeley (our thanks to Ling-chi Wang for authorizing the funding).

At the APAC business meeting in S.F., we agreed to work on developing by-laws, seek an APA status committee in APSA, and continue the development of our web site.

Karthick Ramakrishnan ([karthick@princeton.edu](mailto:karthick@princeton.edu)), who maintains the site, supervised its transfer to a server where a simpler address was available. Included on the site is an exhaustive bibliography on APA politics, compiled by Pei-te Lien ([plien@poli-sci.utah.edu](mailto:plien@poli-sci.utah.edu)). Pei-te has also allowed us to post summary data from the groundbreaking Pilot National Asian American Political Survey (PNAAPS). You can find those and other resources at the APAC caucus web site <http://www.apa-politics.org/>. Finally, Jane Junn ([junn@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:junn@rci.rutgers.edu)) was elected to co-chair APAC, along with Andy Aoki ([aoki@augsborg.edu](mailto:aoki@augsborg.edu)). Also, Janelle Wong was elected to serve as APAC treasurer

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS) Meets in Atlanta, Georgia

On March 6-9, 2002, the NCOBPS held its 33rd national conference in Atlanta, GA. Marvin Haire of Clark Atlanta University continues to serve as NCOBPS's President, and David Covin was selected as President-Elect. Cathy J. Cohen of the University of Chicago and Frederick C. Harris of the University of Rochester served as Program Chairs.

The conference theme was "Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Black Politics", and featured 30 panels and three plenary sessions. The plenary sessions included: *Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Black Politics*; *An Assessment of the Works of Mack Jones on the Development of Black Political Science*; and *Terrorism, and Black and African Politics*.

The annual Awards Banquet featured keynote speaker Dr. Jendayi Frazer, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director of African-Affairs. Ms. Frazer, who works for the Bush administration and directly for Condoleezza Rice, spoke on United States aid to Africa. Some found her comments offensive. Michael C. Dawson won the Best Book Award for his new book *Black Visions: The Roots of Contemporary African-American Political Ideologies*. Friday's banquet also featured a spirited performance by The Royal Drummers of Africa, featuring Mor Thiam.

Panels were well attended (even the early Saturday morning ones!) giving the conference a low-key tone. NCOBPS always attracts students as both panelists and attendees, and this year was no exception as a significant number of students were in attendance. A hearty "Thank You" and "Congratulations" go out to everyone whose hard work and participation made this year's conference a success! For more information about the NCOBPS or to join, please visit <http://democracy.ncat.edu/ncobps3>

## Latino Caucus and Latino/Chicano Status Committees Make Important Advances

The Latino Caucus in Political Science, supported by the efforts of the APSA and WPSA Latino/Chicano Status Committees, has continued to maintain a high level of activity and visibility within our associations. Just last month, forty-five Caucus members and friends packed the room at the Long Beach Hilton for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Latino Scholarship Workshop held in conjunction with the WPSA 2002 Annual Meeting. In fact there were so many of us in attendance at the meeting, it is reported that one of the editors of *PRQ* was heard in the lobby loudly complaining, "Latinos are taking over the Western. Maybe I should change my name." Obviously, we have NOT taken over the WPSA....at least, not yet.

The most important news item we want to share with REP members is that we have successfully reached our endowment goal of \$40,000 in the Fund for Latino Scholarship. As most of you know, the Fund was established to provide grants to individuals and or programs that support the retention, recruitment, and promotion of Latino/a political scientists and others who focus on Latino politics related studies. We sincerely thank each REP member who contributed to the Latino Fund, especially Louis Desipio who gave us a second donation that put us over the top. We encourage those who support this initiative to continue giving and for those who have not yet contributed to make their pledge today. Without the continued generous support of donors, we cannot begin to adequately support the many deserving individuals and programs. To increase a pledge or contribute to the Fund please go directly to the APSA Centennial Campaign website: (<http://www.apsanet.org/future/funds/latino.cfm>).

We have two additional activities to report and ask for your assistance. First, our effort to establish the Latino Outreach/Road Show Program continues. You may recall the Latino Road Show is designed to recruit Latino political science majors and graduates students by sending Latino/a political scientists to campuses that do not have Latinos on the faculty. Currently, we are seeking funding sources for the program as well as schools to visit this upcoming year. If you have information about potential funders or would like to host a Road Show on your campus, please contact Gary Segura ([gary-segura@uiowa.edu](mailto:gary-segura@uiowa.edu)). Second, the undergraduate advisors in your department will soon be receiving packets with informational fliers and nomination forms for the Adaljiza Sosa-Riddell Latino Mentoring Awards. We hope to honor two outstanding mentors at our reception at the APSA meeting: an undergraduate mentor and a graduate mentor. Please be on the lookout for these packets and see that they are passed along to Latino students in your dept.

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the following answers to questions posed by Janni Arragon of the REP Newsletter:

1. What was the impetus for this year's conference theme? The Women's Caucus for Political Science and the Women and Politics Section have sponsored two previous pre-conference workshops for graduate students studying women and/or gender. Several of us have been involved in one or the other of those workshops. We thought that it was a good model for helping students who were interested in women of color studies - an area that's often marginalized in political science.

2. Any expectations or hopes for the pre-conference? The goal is to bring together students from around the country, help them to meet each other, to network, and to think about their dissertations and careers in a supportive environment. So many people studying women of color feel silenced or isolated in the academy. This is their opportunity to discover a community and to roar!

### **APSA Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Section Officers and Committees 2001-2002**

*Co-chairs:* Ron Schmidt, Sr. CSU Long Beach, and Andrea Simpson, University of Washington.

*Treasurer:* Joe McCormack. Howard University

*Secretary:* Pamela Y. Cook. University of Chicago.

*REP Program, 2002 APSA: Co-Chairs:* Anthony Affigne, Providence University, and Pei-Te Lien, University of Utah.

*Best Paper Award Committee Co-Chairs:* Michael Jones-Correa, Cornell University, and M. Njeri Jackson, Virginia Commonwealth University.

*Best Book Award Committee:* Anna Sampaio, University of Colorado at Denver; Andy Aoki, Augsburg College; Janni Aragon, U.C. Riverside; John Bretting, Univ. of Texas, San Antonio; Chris Lee, Univ. of Minnesota, Morris.

*Dissertation Award Committee:* Edward Thompson III, Armstrong Atlantic State University; Andrea Simpson, University of Washington; Manny Avalos, Arizona State University, Felicia Joy Wong, Univ. California, Berkeley.

*Race-pol Listserve Coordinator:* Manny Avalos, Arizona State University West.

*REP Newsletter Contributors:* Andy Aoki, Janni Aragon, Leniece Davis, Kim Geron, Linda Lopez, Jose Marichal, Val Martinez-Ebers, and Melissa Michaelson,

Thank you to David Leal and the Department of Government, Univ. of Texas at Austin for the printing and mail out of this newsletter!

## The Native American Studies Association (NASA)

NASA (a.k.a., Native American Studies Association-not the astronauts) had a strong professional presence both regionally and nationally in 2001, culminating in our national meeting in San Francisco with three excellent and well-attended panels on indigenous topics. Our members continue to be active in 2002 with panels at the Western Political Science Association and Midwest Political Science Association meetings, among others. We are co-sponsoring three panels on indigenous-related topics in Boston at APSA 2002 and are arranging a roundtable with local tribal leaders concerning an issue of concern to Northeastern tribes, open to anyone interested.

Our Related Group traces its origin and ethos to the need to create an alternative perspective from which to approach and critique established fields of knowledge within academia and we remain committed to this objective. Originally formed in the 1980's by a group of political scientists who felt that an American Indian perspective was absent from the academy and the scholarship it produced, our membership has continued to evolve and grow. We argue that rather than tribalizing (an admittedly loaded word for us) indigenous topics to a

specialized sub-field that the incorporation into major fields of study will lead to enriched and illuminating strands of scholarship. We work to this end. Our Related Group newsletter has gone on-line, edited and produced by Jeff Cornthassel, and our quarterly newsletter continues to be compiled by Steve Sachs and Anne McCulloch, aided by others. Please log on for details and contact information.

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Latino Caucus

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Finally, we ask that you carefully check your programs and mark your calendars so that you will be present at the Latino-sponsored events at the APSA Annual Meeting. As in past years, the Latino reception is scheduled for Friday night @ 6:30. However, the Latino Caucus business meeting has been moved to Saturday @ 12:30.

Additionally, the Caucus is co-sponsoring two Latino Politics panels with REP, while the Latino Status Committee is sponsoring a roundtable titled: Transnational Citizenship Across Fortified Borders: Implications for Latino Politics in a Changing World. Please come and join us!

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2002 APSA REP Program

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We also owe a big thank you to our related groups and status committees. Without them, it would have been impossible for us to grow from a 6-panel allocation to the 14-panel program offered under the Section on Race, Ethnicity, and Politics. You can find the most updated listing of our program at the APSA website <<http://www.apsanet.org>>. Search the on-line program by division 32 to find the entire list of REP panels.

*What follows are selected highlights of the 2002 program:*

1) *Panel 32-1, Sat. 8:45-10:30am.* This is a theme panel created to interrogate the interrelationships among political science, the post-1965 immigration, and the re-construction of U.S. racial politics. The anchor of the panel is a theme paper co-authored by Ronald Schmidt, Andrew Aoki, Rodney Hero, and Yvette Alex-Assensoh. APSA President Robert Putnam, and a distinguished list of local politicians and community activists

(e.g., Ricardo Patino, City Council-Central Falls, RI; Rithy tyCouncil-Lowell, MA; Nellie Gorbea, Latino PAC-Providence, RI; and Miren Uriarte, UMass-Boston), is among the extended list of discussants.

2) *Panel 32-2, Thurs. 8:45a-10:30a.* This is a major panel chaired by Dianne Pinderhughes of UIUC on comparative approaches to racial politics in the Americas.

3) *Panel 32-10, Thurs. 3:30-5:15p.* This is a current events panel with co-sponsored by APAC and attended by a multiracial group of panelists to address racial attacks and racial justice before and after 9/11.

4) *Panel 32-8, Thurs. 10:45a-12:30p.* This is a media panel mixing news, entertainment, and politics and co-sponsored by Div. 38 (Political Communication).

5) *Panel 32-14, Thurs. 8:45-10:30a.* This is a panel on religion, race, and political empowerment and co-sponsored by Div. 33 (Religion and Politics).

6) *On Thurs. 5:30 p,* the REP is co-sponsoring a Women of Color Reception dedicated to remember Rita Mae Kelly.

In addition, from Friday to Sunday, we have six group-specific panels (on Black, Latino, Indigenous, and Asian American politics) co-sponsored with our related groups and status committees.

Importantly, as part of our efforts to expand participation and reverse declining turnout, we have arranged to have five papers and two discussants on almost all of our panels. We hope you will support our efforts to create more panel participation opportunities, for future APSA conferences, by voting with your feet: attend our panels THIS YEAR, to ensure that we have enough panels NEXT year to accommodate the breadth and diversity of our section's work.

With deepest appreciation and best regards, Anthony Affigne, Providence College, and Pei-te Lien, University of Utah. Div. 32 (REP) APSA 2002 Program Co-Chairs