

# Finally Got the News\*

Newsletter of the Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Section

American Political Science Association

August 2005

## Dear REP Friends and Colleagues:

It is wonderful to have this opportunity to share with you all the "News" as it relates to activities and accomplishments of our Section and its esteemed members. Our sincere thanks to Kim Geron and David Leal for editing, producing, and distributing this edition of the REP newsletter.

Frankly, we have to say that our Section News is both good and bad. First the good news: Our section is ten years old this year! We will be honoring this anniversary with a special roundtable organized by Section Co-Founder Tony Affigne that will consider what our discipline was like before REP and all the people who have worked to change it as part of our sectional efforts. More good news, section membership continues to grow and so does the number of subscribers to our listserv, Race-Pol. The number of paper proposals submitted to the REP section is at an all time high and so is the number of REP members in leadership positions in our national association.

Finally, although we have not verified this information ourselves, the editors of more than one of the major journals in political science report that the number of articles on REP topics published in their journal has steadily increased over the past five years. We obviously have many reasons to celebrate and we hope this will be an extra incentive for people to attend the **REP reception on Saturday September 3 at 7:00 pm.**

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## Centering Race in Political Science Ten Years of the REP Section

By Tony Affigne

Before 1995 there was no formal research field in political science for scholars of African American, Latino, Asian and Pacific American, or Native American politics. We were members of other APSA sections where research on race and ethnicity was sometimes addressed, but there was no place in the discipline where racial questions were central to the discourse, as they were in our own research and teaching.

### Re-Centering Race & Ethnicity

In many ways the situation we faced mirrored general social conditions; scholars of race and ethnicity, and the intellectual work we produced, were marginalized in the discipline, just as the communities we study have been marginalized in U.S. politics. As a result, we faced a more challenging professional environment than other political scientists, while our best work on racial and ethnic politics often had limited visibility in the discipline.

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## ATTEND THE 2005 APSA IN D.C! TURNOUT TO DIVISION 32 PROGRAM OFFERINGS!

FROM THE DIV. 32 PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS  
Paula Mohan and Gary Segura

We have a full slate of interesting, timely, and provocative panels, round tables, and papers, which comprise the REP program for the APSA 2005 meetings in DC. Please attend as many as you are able to and support your colleagues. And, be sure and attend the Organized Section reception on Saturday, September 3, 2005 at 7:00

### RECEPTIONS:

**Race, Ethnicity, Politics Section Reception**

Date: Saturday, Sep 3, 7:00 PM

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

Co-chairs report...

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Now for the bad news: Attendance at our annual REP business meeting is declining and so is the number of people volunteering to serve on our Section committees. With notable exceptions, such as the Best Book and Dissertation Awards committees, several of our committees have essentially quit functioning. Finally, the number of panels allocated to our section at the APSA annual meeting has decreased. The drop in REP panel allocations is not really our fault; it is a function of a major flaw in the way APSA makes the allocations (which you can hear all about if you attend the **REP business meeting on Friday, September 2 at noon**). However, it is our responsibility to be on top of this issue, by taking action to influence the members of the APSA administration to change their allocation process (which you can hear all about if you attend the REP business meeting) and by making the extra effort to attend REP panels so APSA has less reason to drop our allocations. We obviously have many reasons to contemplate and deliberate. We hope that this will be an extra incentive for people to attend the REP business meeting.

It is going to be an enjoyable, informative and productive annual conference. We want to extend our sincere thanks to the REP program co-chairs, Paula Mohan and Gary Segura, who have worked very hard putting our Section panels together.

We look forward to seeing you in Washington DC.  
Best wishes and regards,

Valerie Martinez-Ebers and Joe McCormick  
REP Section Co-Presidents

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## Two Working Groups meet at APSA

This year the APSA has introduced "working groups" whereby interested scholars will meet during the conference around a specific self-selected theme. Two groups involving REP division members include:

### Working Group on Indigenous Politics and Tribal Sovereignty

Coordinators: Joely DeLaTorre, University of California, San Bernadino, and Kouslaa Kessler-Mata, University of Chicago.

Meeting Times: Thursday 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 12-2 p.m.

### Immigration Working Group

Coordinator: Jessica Perez-Monforti.

Meeting Times: Wednesday 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday 6-7:00 p.m., and Saturday noon-2:00 p.m.

## Affigne - REP Retrospective

### The Founding of the REP Section

In response, more than 200 faculty and graduate students joined to form the APSA Section on Race, Ethnicity and Politics (REP), established by vote of the Council, on April 8, 1995. Since that time our section has sponsored nearly 150 panels at APSA annual meetings; presented book, dissertation, and paper awards; maintained the RACE-POL listserv; and grown to nearly 600 members.

The REP section represents a community of scholars, giving our members access to one another's intellectual insights and professional support. We've worked closely with the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS), the Latino Caucus for Political Science, the Asian Pacific American Caucus, and the Indigenous Studies Network, promoting dialogue across subfields. We've provided mentoring for young scholars, as well as job referrals, career development workshops, and professional references.

### Roundtable: 10 Year Retrospective

At the 2005 APSA annual meeting, the section's 10th anniversary will be marked with a major Theme Panel, featuring many of REP's founding members, for an open discussion of what the section has accomplished, and what tasks remain unfinished.

Chaired by section co-founder Tony Affigne (*Providence*), the "Roundtable on Race, Ethnicity and Political Science" has been selected by the 2005 Annual Meeting program co-chairs as one of 25 special events focused on the conference theme "Mobilizing Democracy."

Other panelists will include Toni-Michelle Travis (*George Mason*), who served with Affigne as the REP section's founding co-chair; Andrew Aoki (*Augsburg*), REP co-president 2002-2004; as well as Dianne M. Pinderhughes (*Illinois*), David E. Wilkins (*Minnesota*), John A. Garcia (*Arizona*), and William E. Nelson, Jr. (*Ohio State*), prominent scholars who were all members of the section's original Sponsoring Committee ten years ago.

### Looking to the Future

While we can be proud of what we've accomplished, we should also recognize that much remains to be done. We've raised the visibility and professional status of our work, but it's certainly premature to declare that fundamental questions of racial and ethnic inequality have become central to the discipline's historical, methodological, and theoretical approaches. Please join us at the REP Roundtable on Thursday, September 1, to review the past ten years, and discuss the work which still remains.

## APSA Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Section

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### Officers and Committees 2004-2005

*Co-chairs:* Valerie Martinez-Ebers, (2003-2005) Texas Christian University, and Joseph P. McCormick, II (2004-2006) Penn State, York Campus

*Secretary:* . Khalilah Brown-Dean Yale University

*Treasurer:* David I. Lublin American University

*REP Program, 2005 APSA: Co-Chairs:* Paula Mohan University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, and Gary Segura, University of Washington.

#### *Best Paper Award Committee Co-Chairs:*

John Bretting University of Texas at El Paso

Ange-Marie Hancock Yale University

#### *Best Book Award Committee:*

Lawrie Balfour University of Virginia, Henry Flores St. Mary's University, Vincent Hutchings University of Michigan, Angela Lewis, University of Alabama, Birmingham

*Best Paper Award Committee:* Louis DeSipio Univ. of California, Irvine, and Barbara Morris Univ. of Redlands

#### *Best Dissertation Award Committee:*

##### *Award Committee Chair*

Katherine Tate, University of California, Irvine

*Committee members:* John Garcia, Univ. of Arizona.

Pei-te Lien, University of Utah

#### *Race-pol Listserve Coordinator:*

Jessica Perez-Monforti University of Texas, Pan American

#### *Webmaster:*

S. Karthick Ramakrishnan, Univ. of California Riverside

*Newsletter Editors:* Kim Geron, CSU East Bay, David Leal, Univ. of Texas, Austin.

#### *Executive Council:*

Ange-Marie Hancock, *Yale University* (2003 - 2005)

Richard Iton, *Northwestern University* (2003 - 2005)

Julia Jordon-Zachery, *Howard University* (2003 - 2005)

Okiyoshi Takeda, *Aoyama Gakuin University* (2003 - 2005)

Dale Turner, *Dartmouth College* (2003 - 2005)

Joely De La Torre, *CSU, San Bernardino* (2004 - 2006)

Taeku Lee, *University of California, Berkeley* (2004 - 2006)

Maurice Mangum, *Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville* (2004 - 2006)

Anna Sampaio, *Univ. of Colorado, Denver* (2004 - 2006)

Jennifer Hochschild, *Harvard University* (2004 - 2006)

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### 2005 APSA Program Continued

#### **Committee on the Status of Blacks Reception**

Date: Saturday, Sep 3, 7:00 PM

#### **Asian Pacific American Caucus Reception**

(Reception co-sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Status Committee) Date: Friday, Sep 2, 7:00 PM

#### **Latino Caucus in Political Science Reception**

(Reception co-sponsored by the Committee on the Status of Latinos and Latinas in the Profession) Date: Friday, Sep 2, 7:00 PM

#### **BUSINESS MEETINGS:**

Race, Ethnicity, Politics Section, Business Meeting Date: Friday, Sep 2, 12:00 PM

Asian Pacific American Caucus Business Meeting Date: Friday, Sep 2, 6:00 PM

Indigenous Studies Group Business Meeting Date: Saturday, Sep 3, 12:00 PM

Latino Caucus in Political Science Business Meeting Date: Friday, Sep 2, 6:00 PM

National Conference of Black Political Scientists Business Meeting

Date: Friday, Sep 2, 1:00 PM

#### **THEME PANELS of Interest:**

T-1 Theme Panel: The 1965 Voting Rights Act at Forty (I): The Voting Rights Act and the American Federal System Date: Thursday, Sep 1, 10:15 AM

T-2 Theme Panel: The 1965 Voting Rights Act at Forty (II): Changes in the American Political Context. Date: Friday, Sep 2, 2:00 PM

T-8 Theme Panel: Roundtable on Race, Ethnicity and Political Science: The REP Section - A Ten-Year Retrospective Date: Thursday, Sep 1, 10:15 AM Co-Sponsored by 32-12

T-20 Redistricting and the Dilemmas of Minority Representation Date: Saturday, Sep 3, 8:00 AM

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**REP SPONSORED & CO-SPONSORED PANELS:**

- 32-1 The Rise of American Indians in Democratic Politics: Mobilization, Participation, and Influence  
Date: Friday, Sep 2, 8:00 AM Co-sponsored by the Indigenous Studies Network, Panel 2
- 32-2 Candidates of Color in an Electoral Environment  
Date: Sunday, Sep 4, 8:00 AM Co-sponsored by 36-2
- 32-3 Race, Ethnicity, Mobilization, and Turnout  
Date: Thursday, Sep 1, 10:15 AM Co-sponsored by Latino Caucus in Political Science, Panel 3.
- 32-4 Transnational Identity and Action  
Date: Sunday, Sep 4, 10:15 AM, Co-sponsored by Latino Caucus in Political Science, Panel 1.
- 32-5 Gender, Race, and The Legislative Process  
Date: Saturday, Sep 3, 2:00 PM, Co-sponsored by 31-12
- 32-6 The Politics of New Americans: Studying Asian American Political Engagement  
Date: Saturday, Sep 3, 8:00 AM, Co-sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Caucus, Panel 2
- 32-7 Inter-Group Conflict  
Date: Friday, Sep 2, 4:15 PM
- 32-8 Ethnicity, Identity, and Political Preferences  
Date: Thursday, Sep 1, 4:15 PM, Co-sponsored by 37-4
- 32-9 Evolving Racial Identity in the American Context  
Date: Saturday, Sep 3, 8:00 AM Co-sponsored by 37-5
- 32-10 Emerging Issues in African-American Opinion  
Date: Friday, Sep 2, 2:00 PM
- 32-11 Policy Impact on Communities of Color: Date: Saturday, Sep 3, 10:15AM

**RELATED GROUP, CAUCUS and STATUS COMMITTEE PANELS:**

- Asian Pacific American Caucus  
Panel 1 Immigrant Incorporation in a Changing America.  
Date: Saturday, Sep 3, 2:00 PM. Co-sponsored by the Latino Caucus, Panel 2
- Indigenous Studies Group  
Panel 1: Comparative Politics and State's Political Impacts on Indigenous People. Date: Thursday, Sep 1, 4:15 PM

Latino Caucus in Political Science  
Panel 1: The Latino Vote in 2004: Insights from the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute / Washington Post /Univision Surveys. Date: Friday, Sep 2, 8:00 AM Co-sponsored by 23-24

Asian Pacific American Status Committee  
Panel 1: Politics in Southeast Asian Communities. Date: Thursday, Sep 1, 2:00 PM

Committee on the Status of Latinos y Latinas in the Profession  
Panel 1: New Directions in Graduate Student Research on Latinas/os  
Date: Saturday, Sep 3, 4:15 PM

**APSA Task Force on Mentoring**

Panel 1: Finding Mentors and Advocates in the Ivory Tower. Co-sponsored by REP Graduate Student Involvement Committee: Date: Saturday, Sep 3, 4:15 PM

Committee on the Status of Blacks  
Panel 1: The Search for Tenure and Promotion: Advice From Department Chairs and Recently-Promoted Academic Colleagues. Date: Friday, Sep 2, 2:00 PM

**POSTER SESSIONS:**

Race and Ethnicity Date: Saturday, Sep 3, 10:15 AM

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**Race Ethnicity and Politics Section Committees**

**Nominations for Graduate Student Issues Committee (2004-2005)**

Keesha M. Middlemass, *Vera Institute of Justice*, Chair,  
Randy Akee, *Harvard University*,  
Myonnie Bada, *University of Maryland, College Park*,  
Boris Ricks, *Pomona College*

**Nominations Committee (2004-2005)**

Andrew Aoki, *Augsburg College*, and Valerie Martinez-Ebers, *Texas Christian University*, co-chairs  
David Leal, *University of Texas, Austin*  
Andrea Simpson, *University of Washington*  
Dale Turner, *Dartmouth College*