

Finally Got the News*

Newsletter of the Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Section
American Political Science Association

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

August 2013, by Pei-te Lien and Rhoanne Esteban

From the Section Co-Presidents

Anna Sampaio (2011-2013) and Andrew Aoki (2012-2014)

It is with great anticipation and enthusiasm that we approach this year's annual APSA meetings in Chicago, Illinois, August 29th-September 1st. Thanks to the remarkable efforts of our program co-chairs, Kevin Bruyneel and Natalie Masuoka, there will be 30 Race, Ethnicity and Politics panels offered at the conference. Please plan to attend as many of these panels as you can to support your colleagues and get a glimpse of emerging and exceptional research in our field of study. These panels are vital to the continued growth of REP and attendance counts toward our future allocation of APSA panels, so please come!

We are also pleased to announce that Marisa Abrajano (UCSD) and Alvin Tillery (Northwestern) have graciously agreed to serve as REP program chairs for the 2014 APSA meetings in Washington D.C. We know how important these positions are to the section and sincerely appreciate Al and Marisa for stepping up and taking on these roles. Please plan to submit proposals starting in mid-September through December 15.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3 **JREP Call for Editors**
- 4 **2013-2014 REP Nominations**
- 6 **2013 REP Section Awards**
- 7-13 **Notices and Reports from APSA Related Groups and Committees Associated with REP**
 - 7 *Indigenous Studies Update*
 - 8-9 *Report from the Asian Pacific American Caucus and the APA Status Committee*
 - 10-11 *Report from the Latino Caucus and the Status Committee of Latinos y Latinas*
 - 12-13 *A Message from the National Conference of Black Political Scientists*
- 14- **In Memoriam**
 - 14-18 *Richard Iton*
 - 19-20 *William E. "Nick" Nelson, Jr.*
 - 21 *Hanes Walton, Jr.*

Continued from page 1

Along with the REP panels we also encourage you to attend the **REP business meeting on Friday, August 30, 12:15-1:15pm, in the Palmer House Hilton, Salon 3**, and the perennially entertaining **reception on Saturday, August 31, 7:30-9:00pm, in the Palmer House Hilton, Honoré Room** cosponsored this year by the APSA Committee on the Status of Blacks in the Profession. As in year's past, we promise to have lots of good food and great company, and to honor the recipients of this year's dissertation, paper, and book prizes. This is an excellent time to reconnect with friends and to share information about new job openings, highlight graduate students on the market, and accomplishments from the past year. We look forward to seeing all of you again after an exceptionally long hiatus.

One of the most exciting developments for our section is the **long awaited establishment of the Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics (JREP)**! After years of work by dozens of dedicated colleagues we are proud to announce that we have a contract offer from Cambridge University Press, and anticipate the final signing of this offer between APSA, REP and CUP in the next few weeks. This contract establishes JREP as the official journal of the Race, Ethnicity and Politics section and beginning in 2015 members of the section will receive copies of the journal free with their regular membership dues. Congratulations to everyone who has labored so diligently on this project. These developments put us one step closer toward the realization of a long term goal of the section; namely expanding the publishing outlets for high quality and innovative research on race, ethnicity, and politics.

The next step in the JREP's establishment entails the selection of an editorial team and a complete description of the position is included in this newsletter. **Please review the Call for Editors and consider submitting a proposal by September 30, 2013** or encouraging colleagues who might be interested in exploring the possibility.

We are also very proud to honor this year's selections for best book, best paper, and best dissertation in the field of race, ethnicity and politics, highlighted in this newsletter. Our committees reported receiving very strong nominations for each award, so it is with particular esteem that we salute this year's winners and thank the committees for all their hard work.

Finally, over the past two years we've also experienced great loss with the passing of friends and colleagues Hanes Walton, Jr., Nick Nelson, and Richard Iton. We ask that you keep their families in your hearts as you remember their extraordinary contributions to our discipline and this world.

Ultimately, the success of the Race, Ethnicity and Politics section is due to the dedication of a broad group of scholars who volunteer for the section each year. We are especially grateful to the officers: Ravi Perry (Secretary), Karen Kaufman (Treasurer), John Thomas (web administrator), Paula Mohan (listserv editor), the entire Executive Council, and of course Pei-te Lien and Rhoanne Esteban (who produced this very newsletter!). We give special thanks to Janelle Wong, Tony Affigne, and Reuel Rogers of the nominations committee for their hard work finding a great new crop of Section officers this year.

For those who are unable to attend the APSA meeting in Chicago this year, we encourage you to help keep us strong and competitive, by **renewing your membership for both the APSA and the REP section and to help us RECRUIT new members**.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you all in Chicago soon!

CALL FOR EDITORS

JOURNAL OF RACE, ETHNICITY AND POLITICS

The Race, Ethnicity and Politics Section (REP) of the American Political Science Association is seeking nominations for qualified individuals to edit the newly created *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Politics (JREP)*. This journal will serve as the official journal of the REP section to be launched in 2015 with Cambridge University Press. The terms of the editorial contract are negotiable but a four-year commitment is preferred and Cambridge will provide an editorial stipend. **Both nominations and self-nominations are welcome.** Nominations of women, racial, and ethnic minorities are especially welcome.

About the Journal

JREP is a new peer-reviewed journal highlighting critical and timely research into the multiple intersections of politics with issues of race, ethnicity, immigration, and communities of color. The journal will publish work that broadly focuses on racial and ethnic politics, but that is produced from scholars in multiple subfields of political science as well as allied disciplines. Central to the publication is a focus on intersectionality and comparative analysis – both as a vehicle for analyzing research across and between racial and ethnic groups inside and outside the U.S., and as a methodological approach that invites new methods that bridge empirical, theoretical and academic divides. The journal will also incorporate new innovations for enhanced academic engagement including a guest column section featuring perspectives from practitioners in political and policy worlds, and regular symposium on timely topics.

JREP will be a print—plus journal, meaning it will be published online with the option for individuals and institutions to order a print version. *JREP* will follow a biannual publication schedule initially, gradually building capacity and leading eventually to a quarterly publication schedule.

New editors will also have the opportunity to make their own mark on the journal, both in the substance of the publication and in the selection of an editorial board.

Application Process

Applications must be accompanied by:

1. a **curriculum vitae**
2. a **candidate's letter** expressing his/her goals for the journal including any proposed changes to the journal
3. a **letter from the appropriate administrative office** of the nominee's university, including department chair, center director, or Dean, indicating the terms and levels of administrative and financial support.

Given the broad range of topics and subjects published in the journal, candidates are encouraged to consider submitting proposals for joint or team editorships, including collaborating with colleagues across universities.

For full consideration, **please submit nominations by September 30, 2013**, when the committee will begin its review. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Please email letters, C.V., and any inquiries to Race, Ethnicity and Politics Co-Presidents, Anna Sampaio (asampaio@scu.edu) and Andy Aoki (aoki@augsborg.edu).

Contact us

Tel: 800 872 7423 | Fax: 845 353 4141
journals.subscriptions@cambridge.org



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

REP Nominations, 2013-2014

Co -Presidents (2 yr. terms, staggered)

Continuing (2012-2014)

Andrew Aoki, Augsburg College, aoki@augsborg.edu

NOMINATION (2013-2015)

Ange-Marie Hancock, University of Southern California, ahancock@usc.edu

Secretary (2 yr. term)

Continuing (2012-2014)

Ravi Perry, Mississippi State University, ravi.perry@gmail.com

Treasurer (2 yr. term)

NOMINATION (2013-2015)

Christian Grose, University of Southern California, cgrose@usc.edu

Co-Program Chairs (2013-2014)

Marisa Abrajano, University of California, San Diego, mabrajano@ucsd.edu

Alvin Tillery, Northwestern University, atillery@gmail.com

REP Newsletter Co-Editors (terms not specified in by-laws)

NOMINATION

Rhoanne Esteban, University of California, Santa Barbara, rjesteban@umail.ucsb.edu

Web Administrator (2 yr. term, renewable)

Continuing (2012-2014)

John Thomas, III, University of Chicago, jthomas3@uchicago.edu

Listserv Editor (2 yr. term, renewable)

Continuing (2012-2014)

Paula Mohan, Madison College, paulamohan@gmail.com

Executive Council (2 yr. terms, staggered)

Continuing (2012-2014)

Christian Collet, International Christian University, collet.chris@gmail.com

Renee Cramer, Drake University, renee.cramer@drake.edu

Jose Cruz, University at Albany, State University of New York, conga@albany.edu

Eric McDaniel, University of Texas at Austin, emcdaniel@mail.utexas.edu

Stella Rouse, University of Maryland, srouse@umd.edu

NOMINATIONS (2013-15)

Chip Turner, University of Washington, jturner3@u.washington.edu

Nadia Brown, Purdue University, brown957@purdue.edu

Antoine Banks, University of Maryland, abanks12@umd.edu

Chris Zepeda-Millán, Loyola Marymount University, czm@lmu.edu

Tommy Wong, University of California, San Diego, tomkwong@ucsd.edu

2013-2014 REP Nominations (cont'd.)

Graduate Student Issues Committee (2 yr. terms)

Continuing (2012-2014)

Julie Lee Merseth, University of Chicago, jmerseth@uchicago.edu

Chris Towler, University of Washington, ctowler@uw.edu

Wendy Wright, Rutgers University, wlwright@rci.rutgers.edu

NOMINATION (2013-2015)

Jeanette Yih Harvie, University of California, Santa Barbara, jyih@umail.ucsb.edu

Nominations Committee (2 yr. terms)

Continuing (2012-2014)

Tony Affigne*, Providence College, affigne@providence.edu

Reuel Rogers, Northwestern University, r-rogers@northwestern.edu

NOMINATION (2013-2015)

John Bretting, University of Texas-El Paso, jbretting@utep.edu

Best Book Committee (no term length designated in by-laws)

NOMINATIONS

Cara Wong, University of Illinois, carawong@illinois.edu

Catherine Paden, Simmons College, catherine.paden@simmons.edu

Zoltan Hajnal*, University of California, San Diego, zhajnal@ucsd.edu

Jane Gordon, University of Connecticut, jane.gordon@uconn.edu

Byron D'Andra Orey, Jackson State University, byron.d.orey@jsums.edu

Best Dissertation Committee (no term length designated in by-laws)

NOMINATIONS

David Weiden, Metropolitan State University of Denver, dweiden@msudenver.edu

David Wilson, University of Delaware, dcwilson@udel.edu

Sangay Mishra, Drew University, smishra@drew.edu

Best Paper Committee

NOMINATIONS (2013-2015)

Natalie Masuoka**, Tufts University, natalie.masuoka@tufts.edu

Kevin Bruyneel**, Babson College, kbruyneel@babson.edu

Shaun Bowler, University of California, Riverside, shaun.bowler@ucr.edu

* *Committee Chair*

***Ex officio* members, because they are outgoing Program Chairs.

2013 REP Section Awards

BEST DISSERTATION AWARD

Black Mosaic: Expanding Contours of Black Identity and Black Politics
Candis Watts-Smith, Texas A&M University

Committee:

Regina Freer, Occidental College (chair)
Daniel HoSang, University of Oregon
John Mollenkopf, City University of New York, Graduate Center

BEST BOOK AWARD

Mobilizing Inclusion: Transforming the Electorate through Get-Out-the Vote Campaigns (Yale University Press)
Lisa Garcia Bedolla, University of California, Berkeley and Melissa R. Michelson, Menlo College

Committee:

Jessica Lavariega-Monforti, University of Texas-Pan American (chair)
Jason Casellas, University of Texas, Austin
Maurice Mangum, Texas Southern University
Julia Jordan-Zachery, Providence College
Joseph Yi, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South Korea

BEST PAPER AWARD

“The Spatial and Demographic Determinants of Racial Threat: A Demonstration from Louisiana”
M. Steen Thomas, State University of New York and Joshua N. Zingher, State University of New York at Binghamton

Committee:

Andra Gillespie, Emory University (chair)
Ricardo Ramirez, University of Notre Dame
Reza Hasmath, University of Oxford

Notices and Reports from APSA Related Groups and Committees Associated with the REP Section

Report from the Indigenous Studies Network

The Indigenous Studies Network (ISN) is pleased to co-sponsor two panels with REP at the 2013 Annual Meeting. The topic of the meeting this year "Power and Persuasion" is well suited for examining the politics of Indigenous Peoples. ISN's two co-sponsored panels offer a diverse set of papers that will examine various faces of power in Indigenous politics, from both North American and global perspectives.

Panel 32-21, "Global Indigenous Politics: Human Rights and Power", convenes Thursday, August 29th from 2:00 PM to 3:45 PM. Panel 32-20, "American Indian Politics – Sovereignty, Attitudes, and Political Institutions", convenes Saturday, August 31st from 2:00 PM to 3:45 PM. The authors consider the American, international, and transnational dimensions of Indigenous politics. Their papers raise implications about political behavior, identity, legislatures, courts, and political economy.

We welcome any questions, interest or new members. For more information, please contact either one of the ISN co-chairs: Sheryl Lightfoot at sheryl.lightfoot@ubc.ca or Laura Evans at evansle@uw.edu.

Report from the Asian Pacific American Caucus and the APA Status Committee

The Asian Pacific American Caucus (APAC), an APSA related group, represents members of the American Political Science Association (APSA) who identify as Asian Pacific American (APA) and scholars interested in the APA community. APAC is co-sponsoring a panel this year at the APSA annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois over Labor Day weekend. In addition, the APSA Committee on the Status of Asian Pacific Americans in the Profession is sponsoring a roundtable panel in the 2013 meeting.

Panel 32 -29 New Directions in the Study of Asian American Political Behavior **Cosponsored with Race, Ethnicity, and Politics**

Date and Time: Saturday, Aug 31, 2013 4:15-6:00 PM

Place: Palmer House Spire Parlor, 6th Floor

Chair(s): James S. Lai, Santa Clara University, jlai@scu.edu

Author(s):

A Bright Tomorrow: A Profile of South Asian American Candidates and Elected Officials
Shyam K. Sriram, Georgia Perimeter College, ssriram@gpc.edu
Stonegarden Grindlife, University of California, Los Angeles, sgrindlife@ucla.edu

Choosing Partners: Coalition Prospects for Asian Americans and Latinos in the Twin Cities
Andrew L. Aoki, Augsburg College, aoki@augsborg.edu
Matthew Schirber, Augsburg College, schirber@augsborg.edu

What a Difference a Country Makes: Variation in Political Incorporation between Asian Americans and Asian Australians
Karthick Ramakrishnan, University of California, Riverside, karthick@ucr.edu
Juliet Eliza Pietsch, Australian National University, juliet.pietsch@anu.edu.au

U.S. Military Culture and the Pvt. Danny Chen Case
Jeanette Yih Harvie, University of California, Santa Barbara, jyih@umail.ucsb.edu

Discussant(s): Robert W. Scharr, University of Florida, wnstncup@ufl.edu

**APSA Committee on the Status of Asian-Pacific Americans in the Profession
Roundtable: Asian Americans in U.S. Electoral Politics/The Pew Report**

Date and Time: Saturday, Aug 31, 2013, 2:00 PM-3:45 PM

Location: Hilton Williford C, 3rd Floor

Chair: Claire Jean Kim, University of California, Irvine, cjkim@uci.edu

Panelists:

James S. Lai, Santa Clara University, jlai@scu.edu

Pei-te Lien, University of California, Santa Barbara, plien@polsci.ucsb.edu

Karthick Ramakrishnan, University of California, Riverside, karthick@ucr.edu

Paul Watanabe, University of Massachusetts Boston, paul.watanabe@umb.edu

APAC Business Meeting

At this year's APSA conference, APAC will host its yearly APAC business meeting. This meeting is open to anyone interested in learning about APAC's work, which includes encouraging original research related to the interests of Asian-Pacific Americans. APAC is especially interested in helping young scholars find avenues to present their work and develop their careers.

Date and Time: Friday, August 30, 6:15 PM-7:15 PM

Location: Palmer House Salon 4, 3rd Floor

APAC/APA Status Committee Reception

The Asian Pacific American Caucus, the Committee on the Status of Asian Pacific Americans in Political Science, the Latino Caucus, and the Committee on the Status of Latinos y Latinas in the Profession. will **jointly host a reception in Chicago.**

Date and Time: Saturday, Aug 31, 2013, 10:00 PM-11:30 PM

Location: Palmer House Salon 3, 3rd Floor

For more information about APAC, please visit our website at:

www.apa-politics.org/index.html

Information regarding the Committee on the Status of Asian Pacific Americans in the Profession can be found here: https://www.apsanet.org/content_83894.cfm

Report from the Latino Caucus and the Status Committee of Latinos y Latinas in the Profession

The APSA Latino Caucus is sponsoring one short course and three panels at the APSA annual meeting in Chicago Illinois.

Short Course 23 Latino Politics in the U.S.: Issues & Approaches

Date and Time: Wednesday, August 28, 2013, 1:00 PM-6:00 PM

Location: Hilton PDR 4, 3rd Floor

Sponsored by: Latino Caucus in Political Science
Organizer: Christina Beltran, New York University

Session I Immigration and the Midterm Elections

Panelists: Matt Barretto, University of Washington (mbarreto@uw.edu)

Alfonso Gonzales, Lehman College, City University of New York
(alfonso.gonzales@lehman.cuny.edu)

Shawn Schulenberg, Marshall University (schulenberg@marshall.edu)

Session II Getting Published: Advice and Insights from Editors of Leading Journals in Political Science

Panelists: Valerie Martinez-Ebers and Steven Forde, Editors *American Political Science Review (APSR)*

Jeffrey C. Isaac, Editor *Perspectives on Politics*

Cyrus Ernesto Zirakzadeh, Editor-in-Chief *Polity*

James A. McCann, Lead Editor *Politics, Groups Identities*

Session III Speaking to the Media: Recommendations for Latino Politics Scholars

Panelists: TBA

Registration Fees: \$10/Faculty, \$5/Graduate Students

SHORT COURSE PARTICIPANTS SHOULD REGISTER BY AUGUST 15, 2013

The complete and final program will be available online on the Latino Caucus in Political Science website (<http://latinocaucus.weebly.com/index.html>) early August.

For further information, please contact program organizers Cristina Beltrán (cbeltran@nyu) and/or Irasama Coronado (icoronado@utep.edu).

Panels Sponsored by the Latino Caucus and the APSA Committee on the Status of Latinos y Latinas in the Profession:

Emerging Scholars in the Field of Latino/a Politics: Highlighting Graduate Student Research

Date and time: Thursday, Aug 29, 2013, 2:00 PM-3:45 PM

Location: Palmer House Honore Ballroom, Lobby Level

Chair(s): Irasema Coronado, University of Texas, El Paso, icoronado@utep.edu

Author(s):

Minority Groups and Majority Individuals: How Group Stereotypes Shape Policy Preferences

Aileen Cardona-Arroyo, Cornell University, ac854@cornell.edu

Encountering the State: Police-Contact and Latinos' Perceptions of Government

David Cortez, Cornell University, dc727@cornell.edu

The Role of the Media: Intersectional Identities and Campaigns

Bertha Gabriela Vitela, Louisiana State University, gabi.vitela@gmail.com

Formations and Transformations: Identity and Political Participation among Latino Immigrants

Sergio Garcia, University of Washington, sigarcia@uw.edu

Discussant(s): John A. Garcia, University of Michigan, johngarc@umich.edu

Professional Development Roundtable- Preparing for Tenure: Making the Most of the Tenure Clock

Date and Time: Friday, August 30, 2013, 12:15 PM-1:45PM

Location: Palmer House Red Lacquer Room, 4th Floor

Participants:

Terri E. Givens, University of Texas, Austin (tgivens@austin.utexas.edu)

Irasema Coronado, University of Texas at El Paso (icoronado@utep.edu)

Tracy Osborn, University of Iowa (osborn@uiowa.edu)

Taeku Lee, University of California, Berkeley (taekulee@berkeley.edu)

Essential Reading in Latino Politics: A Roundtable with Award-Winning Authors in the Field

Date and Time: Saturday, August 31, 2013, 4:15 PM-6:00PM

Location: Palmer House Burnham 4, 7th Floor

Chair(s): Christine Marie Sierra, University of New Mexico (csierra@unm.edu)

Roundtable Panelists:

Marisa Abrajano, University of California, San Diego (mabrajano@ucsd.edu)

Campaigning to the New American Electorate: Advertising to Latino Voters
(Stanford University Press, 2010)

Maria Chavez, Pacific Lutheran University (chavezml@plu.edu)

Everyday Injustice: Latino Professionals and Racism (Rowman & Littlefield, 2011)

Cybelle Fox, University of California, Berkeley (cfox@berkeley.edu)

Three Worlds of Relief: Race, Immigration, and the American Welfare State from the Progressive Era to the New Deal (Princeton University Press, 2012)

Lisa Garcia Bedolla, University of California, Berkeley (lgarciab@berkeley.edu)

Latino Politics (Polity Press, 2009)

Latino Caucus in Political Science Business Meeting

Date and Time: Friday, August 30, 2013, 6:15 PM-7:15 PM

Location: Hilton PDR 1, 3rd Floor

A Message from the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS)

Dear REP Colleagues,

The National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS) invites you to join us for our 2014 annual meeting in historic Wilmington, Delaware. We also invite you to share in fellowship and networking during our APSA reception on Friday, August 30th 2013 from 7:30-9:00 pm in room Boulevard B of the Chicago Hilton.

Best,
Wendy G. Smooth, NCOBPS President



CALL FOR PAPERS AND PROPOSALS

<http://hq.ssrn.com/conference=2014-NCOBPS>
VISIT ABOVE FOR SUBMISSIONS

45th Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists
March 12 – 15, 2014

Doubletree By Hilton Hotel Downtown Wilmington - Legal District
700 N. King Street
Wilmington, Delaware, 19801

THE THEME FOR THE 2014 MEETING

*ANALYZING THE BLACK POLITICAL COMMUNITY
PEOPLE, POLICY, PROCESS, AND POLITICS IN AN ERA OF GLOBALIZATION*

Conference Chair: David C. Wilson, University of Delaware

Having been founded in 1969, the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS) will celebrate its "Sapphire" anniversary in 2014, signaling 45 years of existence. NCOBPS shares this important year with other epochs including the 60th anniversary of the 1954 Brown versus Board of Education school desegregation decision; the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the 20th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's becoming the president in South Africa (and the end of colonialism on the continent of Africa); and the 10th anniversary of Barack Obama's stirring speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention which propelled him to national prominence and a two term presidency. Questions about how these events have impacted our understanding of the black political community and politics in a global society, and what should be the ultimate goals of engaging in studying issues that disproportionately affect persons of color around the globe. Moreover, how might Black Americans in general, and Black scholars in specific, understand the political meaning of race in a global society.

NCOBPS seeks proposals, including thematic and topical panels, papers, posters, and roundtable discussions, for the 2014 conference (March 12th - 15th) in Wilmington, Delaware, the nation's "1st state" and the city known as the "the last stop to freedom" on the Underground Railroad. The conference planners seek research and activities that reflect on the themes of leadership, elections, political participation and behavior, policy, advocacy, education, international affairs, culture, and research as they relate to Black politics in an ever changing global society; particularly as they pertain to the aforementioned political events. Key questions of interest center on how race has transformed the electoral strategies and policy decisions of political candidates both in the United States and abroad; education and economic disparities and stagnation; African, Afro-Caribbean, and other pan-African politics related to leadership, policy innovation, and conflict; urban politics and policy effects on communities; laws, law enforcement, and the courts; racial identities and psychology; the political communication of race in an age of new technologies; public opinions on issues related to race and race relations; the role of entertainment and music in political discourse and behavior; and epistemological and theoretical foundations of Black political thought and behavior.

Important Deadlines

May 31, 2013 Opening Call for Papers and Proposals

August 30, 2013 NCOBPS Reception at the American Political Science Association (APSA) meeting 7:30-9:00 pm Hilton Chicago; Room Boulevard B

November 3, 2013 Deadline for submitting complete panel proposals

November 3, 2012 Deadline for submitting paper and roundtable proposals

December 2, 2013 Acceptance notifications begin

December 15, 2013 Application deadline for "early" Conference Registration

February 17, 2014 Deadline to register for the conference and guarantee a place on the program

In Memoriam

Richard Iton

From Melissa Williams, Department of Political Science, the University of Toronto:

The Department of Political Science mourns the loss of our former colleague, Richard Iton, who passed away on April 24, 2013 in Evanston, Illinois, of leukemia. Richard joined the Department as an Assistant Professor in 1994, having completed his Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University and, before that, his B.A. and M.A. degrees at McGill University. After receiving tenure here in 1999, Richard moved to Northwestern University as a professor of African American Studies and Political Science. We were fortunate to have him rejoin us as a colleague in 2008-09, when he was cross-appointed between Political Science and Diaspora and Transnational Studies. To our regret, he decided to return to Northwestern in 2009.

Richard's brilliant scholarly career was marked by the publication of two award-winning books. His first book, *Solidarity Blues: Race, Culture and the American Left* (University of North Carolina Press, 2000), makes a distinctive case about exceptionalism and the historical weakness of the American Left: that the Left has been divided against itself from the beginning because of its incapacity to come to terms with the defining place of race in the American social order. This book won the Gustavus Meyer Outstanding Book Award and the Best Book Award of the American Political Science Association's Race, Ethnicity and Politics Section.

Richard's second book, *In Search of the Black Fantastic* (Oxford University Press, 2008), is a magisterial overview of the intersection of African American culture and politics. The work traces the transformation of collective black consciousness through a breathtakingly intricate study of representations of black identity in literature, film and music. The period of African Americans' relative invisibility on the main political stage did not, he shows, signify Black depoliticization. To the contrary, the disillusionment with mainstream politics – the post-civil rights judgment that such politics hold little promise of overcoming racial hierarchies – produced a shift of energies to the cultural sphere. Through this period, the “Black superpublic” – encompassing Black Atlantic intellectuals as well as pop music and film – was the place to look for an understanding of Black politics. The work's meticulous historical research and profound theoretical analysis were recognized through the prestigious Ralph Bunche Award of the American Political Science Association in 2009.

Richard was working on a third book, *Ghosts, Text and Play: Politics Beyond the Boundary*.

Richard's premature death is tragic for our discipline, as we all had a great deal more to learn from him. His scholarly career was at its peak. But it is a heavy blow as well because of Richard's extraordinary qualities of character. His warm, wry smile conveyed a deep wisdom about the human condition, but also a gentleness of spirit that formed a powerful contrast with the bright edge of his social criticism. Humble and self-effacing, he was the epitome of still waters running deep. His kindness and generosity as a colleague, a teacher, a mentor and a friend were unfailing. He was taken far too soon, and he will be deeply missed.

Donations in memory of Richard may be made to **The Richard Iton Memorial Fund**, which will support a student award on the Mississauga and St. George campuses of the University of Toronto. Donations may be made on-line at www.donate.utoronto.ca/politicalscience or by mail to The Richard Iton Memorial Fund, c/o Office of the Chair, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto, 100 St. George Street, Toronto, ON Canada M5S 3G3. Tax receipts will be issued.

From Sylvester A. Johnson and the Department of African American Studies, Northwestern University:

Call me Richard

"If we think of the fantastic as a genre that destabilizes, at least momentarily, our understandings of the distinctions between the reasonable and the unreasonable, and reason itself, the proper and improper, and propriety itself, by bringing into the field of play those potentials we have forgotten, or did not believe accessible or feasible, I would suggest its effects are not all that dissimilar from those of blackness, with its compulsive externalities and unintended consequences."

Richard Iton, the authorial 'I' of these compelling insights about the diasporic nexus of black politics and black popular cultures, our colleague and a special friend to many of us in the Department of African American Studies at Northwestern University, passed away unexpectedly on April 24, 2013. He was 51 years old. Richard lived within the cultural and political membrane that entangled and connected the western nation and the black diaspora. This affectively and performatively located his biography across four main cities with significant black populations. He was born in Montreal and undertook his undergraduate studies there at McGill University. Baltimore was where he attended graduate school at John Hopkins University. Toronto was where he secured his first academic appointment at the University of Toronto, Department of Political Science and where he gained tenure. And Chicago was where he lived while he was teaching at Northwestern University in Evanston, where he became a full professor. Richard, whose parents migrated to Montreal from the

Caribbean (Jamaica and St. Vincent), was deeply marked and influenced by all these traces of blackness, in profound and subtle ways. More specifically, these were modes of engaging and interrogating blackness that always escaped and subverted the container of nation-states and were deeply suspicious of the seductions of populist nationalisms that repressed the equitable distribution of citizenship rights as well as corresponding public goods and services. Registering in the forms of cultural, political and intellectual activism that he brought to his life as a black professor in the academy, Richard's work as a political and cultural theorist can only really be understood once we begin to appreciate the worlds of modernity, coloniality, race, blackness and culture that he both inherited and inhabited. He came of age during the liberal consolidations and conservative reversals around race that began to fuse in the post-colonial and post-civil rights settlements to maintain hierarchies and segregations. Like recidivism, these were especially evident in the US, Canada and Britain during the late 1980s – 1990s, where uneasy truces and at times antagonistic rapprochements occurred between anti-racism and racism, and between the over-representation of black populations in popular culture, particularly music, and exclusions and estrangements of black populations from the public sphere and the realms of political decision making. Heavily influenced but not exclusively defined by the literatures, musics and politics of civil rights, black power, black Marxism, negritude, Rastafari, anti-colonialism, anti-racism, blues, jazz, reggae, afro-beat, soul, rock, hip-hop and neo-soul, Richard's engagement with the post-colonial and post-civil rights eras, also drew great sustenance from a political and intellectual Leftism that resonated as much with the Caribbean and Africa as it did with Canada and the US. His Leftism was not to be confused with liberalism, as the latter's individualism, while important, had become so hegemonic and fetishized that it had begun to repress all political imagination around the significance and value of collective provisions in public policy, something that could only be achieved if greater attention were turned to infusing political democracy with social democracy. But it was not simply at the level of the intellectual that Richard understood these things. He had spent some time as a hospital porter in Montreal, where he also learned the industrial pragmatics of speaking French to power, while his experience as a DJ in Toronto's club scene during the 1990s especially endeared him to the power of black music in creating communities, affinities, and possibilities. All within the reach of his political imagination, these influences were in gestation and at play in his intellectual work. Richard was a political thinker on the Left of politics, particularly the Black Left, although any aspect of progressive politics, and particularly progressive black popular culture, galvanized his interests and attention.

Richard's first book *Solidarity Blues – Race, Culture and the American Left*, published in 2000, was written while he was at the University of Toronto. Encapsulating Leftism, blackness, politics, and popular culture in an iconic title of two words, it was a long meditation on and a critical answer to the compelling question: 'Why is there no "real" American left'? *Solidarity Blues* navigated its critique of American exceptionalism deconstructively by unraveling the very idea of exceptionalism usually associated with the

image of the Shining City on the Hill. Richard demonstrated that on closer historical inspection it was actually the imaginary product of white forms of solidarity, buttressed by the moribund persistence of the American Left and sutured by the hegemony of racial rule. What was exceptional was the United States' lack of a credible public policy and recognizable welfare state, compared to other western nations, and the role afforded to white coalitions to compromise universal citizenship rights with the social institution of racial hierarchies and racial segregations. As Richard observed, "In every Western society except the United States, there are relatively viable leftist parties and significant labor movements." Not only had a failure to oppose racial rule weakened the Left, but also the "universal acceptance of race" had restricted the "benefits accruing to all Americans," and insofar as the Left had succumbed to the hegemony of race, it was complicit with this racism.

Richard, a political scientist by training, was a political thinker with a complex methodology of cultural analysis. It was directly subversive of his training as a political scientist (a description he was extremely ambivalent about), and it transformed the cultural studies influences he so readily drew upon, infusing them with a political lineage they often lacked, in order to advance his analyses of race, gender, class, sexuality, blackness, diaspora, popular culture, and the Left. His marshalling of these different domains of data and different disciplines would be developed and honed to great effect in his second book, *In Search of the Black Fantastic – Politics and Popular Culture in the Post-Civil Rights Era*, which is quite simply a masterpiece. Published in 2008 and written during his first stint in the Department of African American studies at Northwestern University, it inaugurated a radically new paradigm for thinking about diaspora, black politics, and black popular culture. The central questions posed by *In Search of the Black Fantastic* were 'How do the excluded engage the apparently dominant order? Does progress entail the marginalized, accepting mainstream norms and abandoning transformative possibilities?' Describing this as 'a familiar dilemma', Richard's focus was both African Americans and other black populations in the diaspora, but he was particularly interested in the 'linkage between popular culture and this thing we call politics', as well as the significance of 'reading culture as politics in the context of the post-civil rights era'. Some idea of what Richard envisioned as the 'Black Fantastic' was captured in his sense of a performative repertoire of black politics that cut across institutional, social movement, and popular culture distinctions. It generated "minor key sensibilities" from the "underground, the vagabond" and "constituencies marked as deviant". These sensibilities were also articulated with the surreal and underdeveloped possibilities, bringing into "the field of play practices and ritual spaces that are often cast as beyond the reasonable and relevant – to the point indeed of being unrecognizable as politics." This meant the socially inherited and instituted forms of politics and popular cultures were not always responsive to or equipped to carry the desires, pleasures, anxieties, fears, imaginations, and oppositions of black populations. Consequently the black fantastic "would entail unsettling these governmentalities and the conventional notions of the political, the public sphere, and civil society that depended on the exclusion of blacks and other nonwhites from meaningful

participation and their ongoing reconstitution as raw material for the naturalization of modern arrangements.” Always critical and lyrical, philosophical and personal, poetic and polemical, the book charts the post-civil rights fortunes and failures of black politics across the US, the Caribbean and Britain. It investigates a dazzling array of politically expressive cultures in music, novels, comedy, theatre, movies and autobiographies, weaving these together as commentaries and reflections in their entanglements with the circuits, exchanges and calibrations of nation- states, civil societies, subaltern communities, and diasporas. Particularly attentive to the debates around race, class, gender, sexuality, nation and politics, *In Search of the Black Fantastic* provides through its innovative conceptualizations, the most nuanced, diverse, and insightful twenty-first century account of post-civil rights black politics.

While Richard’s scholarly pursuits and intellectual endeavors leave an extremely revered and important legacy to the black scholarly community and the next generation of scholars, it would be misguided to simply remember Richard this way. He was not someone who could be summarized by his intellectual achievements alone. His way of being with and engaging in university life, his relationships with colleagues, students, friends and family all seemed to be touched by a humility and graciousness that has left many mourning his absence in their lives. It is as if the light at the end of a tunnel has not only been turned off but the tunnel and the vision it offered has also been closed. For many years Richard was an incredible influence and presence in the Department African American Studies at Northwestern University. His capacity to stimulate and maintain contacts and friendships with all kinds of different personalities meant he was always a conciliatory, mediating figure if there were conflicts, a person who could find the compromise, and the professor whose wise counsel would be sought by students before all others. Richard could hold people and ideas in tension and yet hold them together. It was as if in his quiet understated way he was asking us to see what might be generative, transformative, and progressively read through, much as he did in his wide-ranging analyses. Reminiscent of the meter and tone of the prose in his writing, in Richard you encountered a humane kind of engagement that invited rather than insisted, intimating profound insights and artful displays of good humor and holding onto community. Just as in the beautiful tensions, rapports and entanglements of black politics and popular culture, it was Richard’s generosity of spirit coupled with deep investments in communities of thought and participation that allowed him to become a special person to so many. Richard was a serious, funny, and humane intellectual who offered our department, both faculty and students, a reassuring but nevertheless challenging light by which to read the possibilities of critique, integrity, and community in university and political life; we will mourn the absence of his illuminating presence. In the light that remains, we are all now so dearly indebted to him for earlier encouraging us and now reminding us to take the next step in search of the Black Fantastic.

William E. “Nick” Nelson, Jr.

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William E. “Nick” Nelson, Jr. was an eminent scholar, master teacher, trailblazing researcher, advocate for overlooked communities, and a dear friend to many. But to his students, Nick Nelson possessed super powers. In every lecture he attended in Ohio State’s political science department Dr. Nelson would raise his hand to ask a question that would both synthesize the main topics of the lecture and interrogate its very core, stunning everyone in the room. In that moment you knew what was coming and if you weren’t at the podium you reveled in it. We would wait with anticipation for that moment, we would rehash those moments with awe and laughter, and we would prepare for those moments when it was our turn to be questioned. On May 16, 2013, we lost a stalwart in our discipline and his colleagues and students mourn his loss deeply. We know we are better and better prepared for having him serve as our mentor. As we begin to think about the myriad ways he impacted the lives of people who were lucky enough to come into his orbit, we also celebrate the man that he was and his many accomplishments.

A proud son of Memphis he earned degrees from Arkansas Agricultural Mechanical and Normal College (now University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff), Clark Atlanta University, and the University of Illinois. He taught at numerous institutions but he spent over 40 years at The Ohio State University retiring as Professor Emeritus of Political Science and African American Studies. He developed one of the earliest and most comprehensive African American Studies departments in the country and served as its chair for more than a decade. Very active in both disciplines, he served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Black Studies*, the *National Political Science Review*, and *Urban Affairs Quarterly*. During his career he served as President of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists and the African Heritage Studies Association, Chair of the National Council of Black Studies, and Vice President of the American Political Science Association. He saw his academic and community work as inherently interrelated and oversaw the creation of Ohio State’s African American and African Studies Community Extension Center whose mission and physical location were centered in the heart of Columbus’ black community. He also hosted a weekly radio show about local urban affairs and gave lectures across five continents. It was through

his extensive travels that he developed a deep appreciation for international music and culture.

Nick Nelson's intellectual work on black mayors was pioneering; helping to shape our collective understanding of race in urban America. *Electing Black Mayors: Political Action in the Black Community* (with Philip J. Merranto; 1977) and *Black Atlantic Politics: Dilemmas of Black Empowerment in Boston and Liverpool* (2000) bookmark a career dedicated to understanding the nexus of race and urbanicity in both domestic and diasporic spaces. He demonstrated this beautifully in his in-depth study of the first wave of black mayors who came to power in the wake of the Civil Rights Movement. *Electing Black Mayors* powerfully asserted the challenges Blacks face in exerting political leverage amid changing demographic and economic conditions. *Black Atlantic Politics* highlighted the transnational nature of efforts to promote Black empowerment through the collection of important historical and interview data. In addition to these seminal books, he published and edited important works on black politics that continue to influence and shape our understanding of U.S. Politics.

Nick Nelson is survived by his loving wife, Della, son, Nick Jr, daughter-in-law, Tiffany, grandson, Quinn, mother, Mildred Swearngen Hayes and host of other relatives. We mourn with them and celebrate his legacy that will continue to live on through the memories of his colleagues and work of his students.

Hanes Walton, Jr.

From Tyson King-Meadows, University of Maryland, Baltimore County:

Hanes Walton, Jr., professor of political science at the University of Michigan, member of the APSA Executive Council (1992–1993), and APSA vice president (2012–2013 term), passed away on January 7, 2013. Walton earned his undergraduate degree in political science from Morehouse College, earned his master's degree in political science from Atlanta University, and went on to become Howard University's first PhD graduate in political science in 1967. Walton was also one of the co-founders of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS). From 1967 to 1992, Walton worked at Savannah State, a historically black institution in Georgia, where he progressed through the ranks to become a full professor and later the Fuller E. Callaway Professor. In 1992, Walton left Savannah State to assume a professorship at the University of Michigan. Walton was nationally known for his pioneering scholarship in the area of African American politics, establishing black politics as a legitimate sub-field of political science. His groundbreaking publications include *Invisible Politics: Black Political Behavior*, *Black Republicans: The Politics of the Black and Tans*, *Black Politics: A Theoretical and Structural Analysis*, and *The African American Electorate: A Statistical History* (Two Volume Set). Walton's academic honors included a Guggenheim Fellowship, a APSA Congressional Fellowship, a Ford Foundation Fellowship, and Howard University's Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Walton was a life member of the APSA, a consummate mentor to many graduate students and faculty members, and a wonderful colleague. His laughter, insights, and friendship are deeply missed.

For a full description of Walton's life and legacy, please see the In Memoriam section of *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2013, pp. 674-675), team authored by Marion Orr (Brown University), Pearl K. Ford Dowe (University of Arkansas), Tyson King-Meadows (University of Maryland, Baltimore County), Joseph P. McCormick (Howard University), and Robert C. Smith (San Francisco State University).