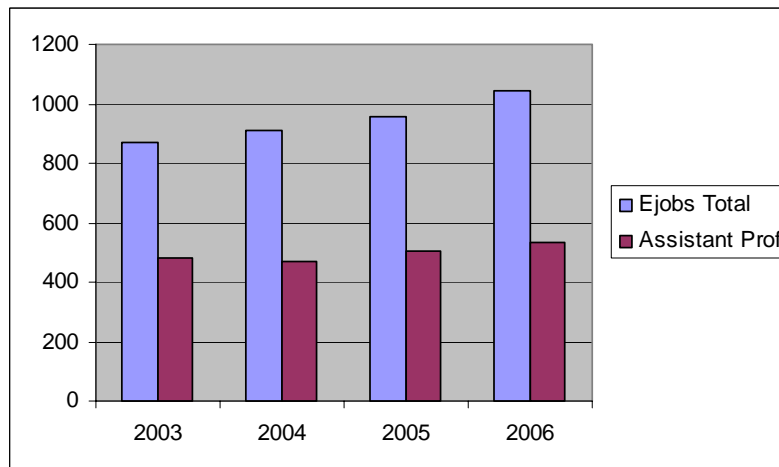


Trends in the Political Science Profession: Political Science Job Listings in APSA's eJobs¹ Listing Service

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The job market for academic employment in political science has continued to strengthen, as the number of job listings on APSA's eJobs online job service has increased from the levels seen during the 1980s and 1990s. APSA's database of all eJobs posted since 2003 was recently analyzed to understand the current trends in the academic political science job market. The number of job listings posted in academic year 2006² reached 1043, the highest number of listings recorded to date, and up from 957 job postings in AY2005 and 908 postings in AY 2004 (Figure 1). Assistant Professor positions, which are perhaps the best indicator of core growth in the market, have increased 10% over the last four years, while total eJobs listings have increased 20% overall.

Figure 1: Total Jobs and Assistant Professor Job Listings, 2003-2006



EJobs, a service of the American Political Science Association (APSA), is typically the best indicator of employment opportunities for political scientists, at least in academic settings. APSA started its job listing service in 1968 as a monthly newsletter of job postings and is now managed online as the eJobs Service. Given that professional ethics standards for political science call for all academic Assistant and Associate Professor level listings to be listed with APSA, we can treat this database as a longitudinal dataset of all political science positions advertised.

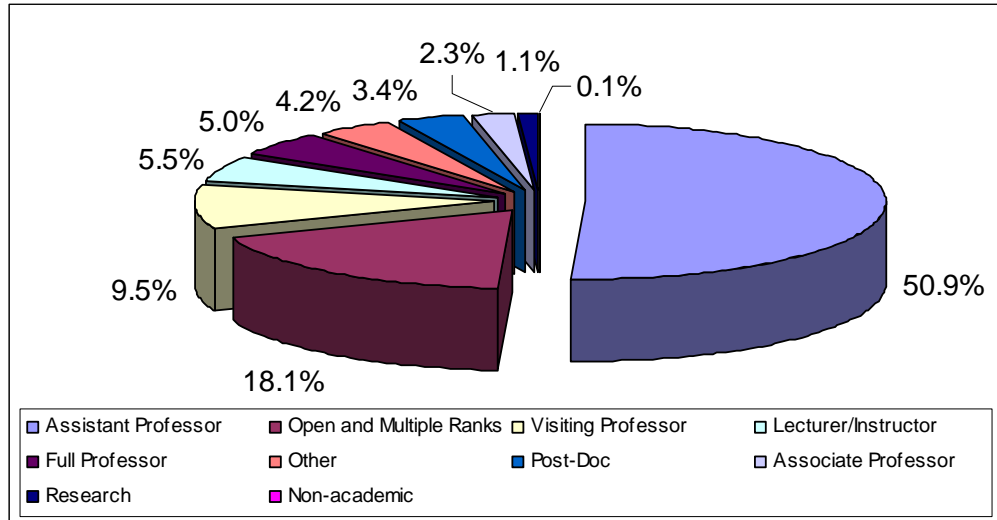
Approximately half of all positions advertised are for assistant professors (Figure 2). Academic position of unspecified rank (18%) is the next largest category. Almost a quarter (23.5%) of the

¹ http://www.apsanet.org/section_226.cfm, "eJobs: Your Source for Political Science Careers and Candidates"

² For the purposes of this analysis, the academic year is from June 1st to May 31st.

job listings are for non-traditional academic positions, including post-doc, research, and visiting professor positions.

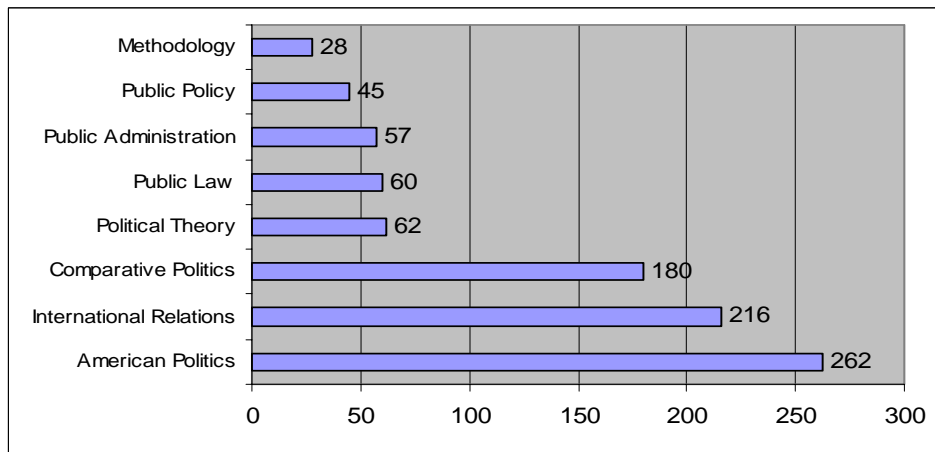
Figure 2: Types of eJobs Listings in Academic Year 2006



Primary and Cross-referenced Fields in the eJobs Listings

When placing an advertisement, those who post the advertisement can indicate a primary field, a cross-referenced field, and a sub-field. The primary and cross-referenced fields must be chosen from the eight major fields in political science (American politics, comparative politics, international relations, theory, methodology, public law, public administration, and public policy). American politics remains the most requested primary field of study. The top three fields continue to be American politics, comparative politics, and international relations. Figure 3 breaks down by the total numbers which field job listings indicated as their primary preference.

Figure 3: Primary Field indicated in eJobs listings, by total number



Since job posters can indicate more than one reference field (i.e. if a job is cross-listed in more than one category), Figure 4 shows the tally, by percentage, of all mentions of a particular field.

The same pattern, with American politics, international relations, and comparative politics as the most requested is found. Among the less-requested fields, however, public policy has increased in the number of mentions, becoming the fourth most referenced field.

Figure 4: Major Field Referenced or Cross-Referenced in eJobs Listings in 2006*
 *Will add up to more than 100%

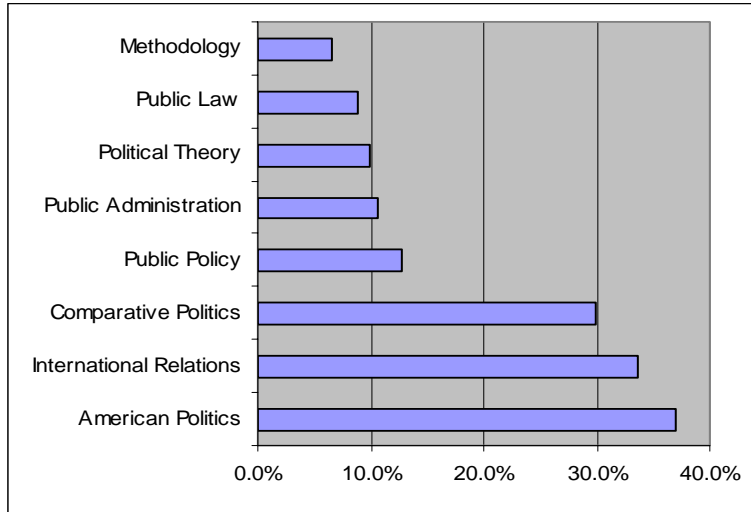
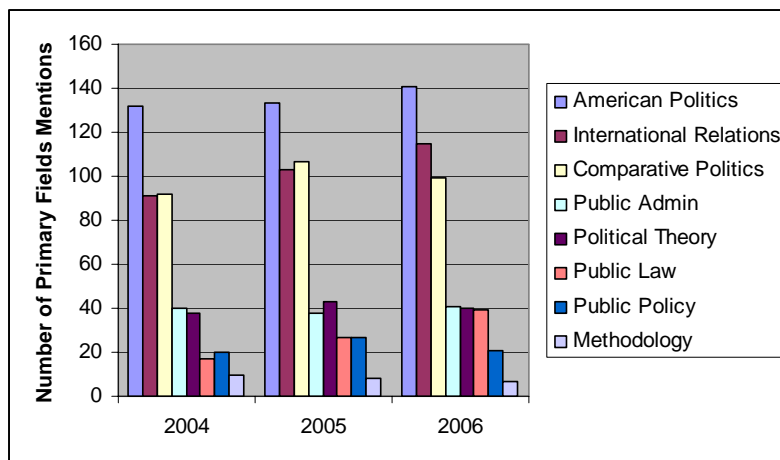


Figure 5 gives an indication of the fields that were most requested for assistant professor positions, i.e. for those entering the job market. The breakdown amongst all categories is similar to the breakdown of total fields overall. Public law and international relations have shown steady growth over the 3 previous years.

Figure 5: Primary Fields Mentioned in Postings for Assistant Professor, 2004-06

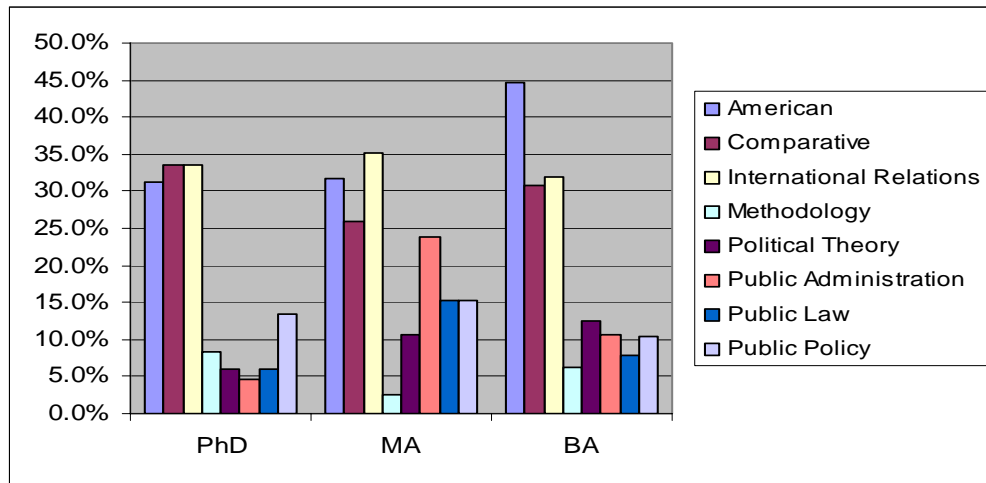


Job Openings and Institutions

Almost half (43%) of all job postings were at Ph.D. institutions, while 36% were at BA institutions and 20% at Master's institutions, matching what was reported on earlier eJobs data in

Brintnall (2005). The three different types of institutions (Ph.D., Master's and Bachelor's) have different needs concerning fields. This difference is illustrated in Figure 6. Bachelor's institutions are by far more likely to request a specialization in American politics. International relations is the most requested specialization at Master's institutions, where public administration, public law and public policy are also significant fields. At Ph.D. institutions, American politics ranks third after comparative and international relations. Public administration is proportionally more popular at Master's institutions than at other institutions, while political theory is proportionally more popular at Bachelor's institutions.

Figure 6: Major Fields Requested in eJobs Advertisements, by Institution Type, 2006³



APSA has data from its annual survey of political science departments to complement these findings. Of the 156 departments who responded to a question on new hires, 64% reported hiring at least 1 faculty member in 2005-2006. When considering how many new professors are hired for each job exit, the overall replacement ratio for all departments is 1.01, with Ph.D. institutions with the highest replacement ratio (1.25) for the sample.

Overall, the job market outlook is positive as the number of academic and non-academic jobs available to political scientists is increasing. APSA will be updating its placement report on recent Ph.D.s in May 2007, which will give more of an indication of the types of jobs in the political science field.

References:

Brintnall, Michael (2005). Academic Jobs in Political Science: A Review of Listings with the APSA Jobs Service. *PS*, 38(1), pgs. 125-127.

³ These percentages add up to more than 100% as the numbers include both primary and cross-referenced field. Some jobs had more than 1 cross-referenced field.