



## MEMORANDUM:

To: Committee on International Political Science  
From: Bahram Rajaei  
Director, Institutional Research and Support  
Re: International Membership Survey Results  
Date: November 24, 2003

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At the request of the Committee in 2002-2003, in July 2003 APSA undertook a survey of its international membership—defined as those members that live or work outside the United States. After being sent to all 1,460 APSA members who resided overseas at the time, the survey generated 559 responses—a relatively reliable response rate of 38.2%.

This memorandum will build upon the brief preliminary analysis of the survey that was provided to the committee in August 2003. It will provide summarized information on survey respondents themselves and also highlight data gathered on key questions.<sup>1</sup> Lastly, it includes an Appendix with detailed information on responses highlighted in the first two sections.

**Survey Format:** The survey consisted of 28 questions that were a mix of types, including: open-ended (4), yes/no (8), ranking (5), and multiple choice (11) questions. It was administered online between July 18, 2003 and September 1, 2003.

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<sup>1</sup> The comparative data for the tables in the Appendix were obtained from the APSA membership database in October and November 2003. Total APSA membership of all types was 14,390; of that amount, U.S.-based membership comprised 12,612 and international membership made up the remaining 1778—or 12.35%.

## I. SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

### A. Profile of Respondents

- ***The geographic distribution of the survey respondents generally mirrored that of the APSA international membership.*** Nine of the ten largest national groupings of respondents are also represented in the ten largest national membership groupings. This pattern also is evident in the rest of the twenty-five largest national groupings of respondents. Only two (New Zealand, Finland) were not represented in the twenty-five largest APSA national membership groupings (see Table 1 in Appendix).
- ***75% of survey respondents are employed as political scientists in an academic setting (political science or social science department).*** This is significantly higher than the 44.10% of U.S.-based members that classify themselves in that manner (see Table 2). In turn, this indicates that a significantly smaller proportion of international members are students, a fact borne out but APSA membership data (see Table 3).
- ***75% of the survey respondents were male.*** This compares with 69% of the overall APSA membership.
- ***47% of the survey respondents were over forty years of age.*** Most of the rest were between the ages of 30 and 39 (see Table 4).
- ***88% of the survey respondents attended graduate school in North America or Europe.***
- ***54% of the survey respondents have been members of APSA for at least five years*** (See Table 5).
- ***A significant majority of survey respondents joined APSA to participate in the Annual Meeting (58%) or to receive the journals (66%, see Table 6).*** Moreover, 75% of respondents say they attend the Annual Meeting regularly or infrequently, and 72% participate as a chair, discussant, panelist, or poster presenter when they do attend.

### B. Responses Regarding APSA Membership, Programs & Services

- **80% of respondents believe that the utility of the professional services and benefits provided by APSA is “Good” or “Excellent” when compared with that of other associations to which they belong.**
- **58% of respondents believe that cost is a main or determining factor in preventing greater participation in APSA by their international colleagues** (see Table 7).
- **91% of survey respondents say they are interested in publishing their research in APSA journals; however only 19% have submitted articles for publication in the journals.** Among the 81% who stated they hadn’t submitted articles, the main reasons included the following:
  1. Editorial policies not conducive to research interests (32%)
  2. APSA journals do not address interests (23%)
  3. Other (50%): quantitative bias; too-US centric; not necessary for professional advancement; no time for research; low chance of acceptance or perceived bias against non-American authors; prefer to focus on own national audience; review process too lengthy.
- **72% of respondents indicate that they access the APSA website monthly or occasionally, and 77% rate the website’s user-friendliness as “Good” or “Excellent.”** Moreover, 62% state that their use of the website is driven by the desire to have access to Annual Meeting information.
- **46% of respondents say they are aware of APSA’s travel grant programs for the Annual Meeting.** Nevertheless, 87% indicate that they have never applied to the programs.
- **75% of respondents state that they are not aware of APSA’s Small Research Grant Program.** As a result, 99% of respondents have never applied for it.
- **Significant numbers of respondents indicated a strong preference to see improvements in a number of areas.** These include: reduced membership rates for those residing overseas (63%); greater opportunities for professional development (58%); more research assistance for international members (55%); greater institutional support for political science departments overseas (54%); and a greater internationalization of the APSA job listing (50%; see Table 8).

## II. SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

- **Among the U.S.-based membership, out of the combined total of 21,315 specializations listed, 8,197, or 38.46%, are in the sub-fields of international politics or comparative politics.** APSA records indicate a total of 24,372 combined listings of

specializations for its overall membership (U.S. and non-U.S. members).<sup>2</sup> Of this number, 12,280, or 40.5%, are specializations in international politics or comparative politics (see Table 9); comparative politics is the single largest such grouping, comprising 22.25% of total APSA member specializations.

- ***The single largest APSA Organized Section is the Comparative Politics Section, with 1579 members.*** No other Section membership exceeds 900. Of the combined total of 19,514 Section memberships, 3,713—approximately 19%--are in Sections with international themes (see Table 10).<sup>3</sup>
- ***Attendance by international members at the APSA Annual Meeting declined noticeably in 2003*** (see Table 11). Nevertheless, overall attendance trends since the mid-1990s remain strong.
- ***APSA currently has 10 international political science departments that are members of its Departmental Services Program—out of a total of 698.*** These include departments in: Canada (5); Nigeria (1); Netherlands (1); Turkey (1); and the UK (2).
- ***APSA currently is engaged in two active exchange programs with other national associations.*** These involve the British Political Studies Association (PSA) and the Japanese Political Science Association (JPSA).
- ***Out of 444 APSA members participating in voluntary governance activities, 16, or 3.6%, are international members*** (see Table 12).

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<sup>2</sup> This number significantly exceeds the total membership of APSA due to multiple listings of specializations per member.

<sup>3</sup> As with the case of academic specializations, the combined total of Section memberships exceeds that of the APSA memberships due to individual members joining multiple Sections.

# **APPENDIX**

**TABLE 1: Geographic Distribution of Survey Respondents vs. Overall APSA International Membership (25 Largest Groupings)**

<b>RESPONDENTS' COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>PERCENT OF TOTAL RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>APSA MEMBERSHIP BY COUNTRY</b>	<b>NUMBER OF MEMBERS</b>	<b>PERCENT OF MEMBERS</b>
1. Canada	100	17.67	1. Canada	348	19.65
2. United Kingdom	89	15.72	2. United Kingdom	262	14.79
3. Japan	54	9.54	3. Japan	231	13.04
4. Germany	46	8.13	4. Germany	129	7.28
5. Netherlands	24	4.24	5. South Korea	57	3.22
6. Israel	18	3.18	6. Israel	54	3.05
7. South Korea	18	3.18	7. Netherlands	52	2.94
8. Mexico	16	2.83	8. Sweden	46	2.60
9. Italy	15	2.65	9. Australia	42	2.37
10. Sweden	15	2.65	10. Italy	42	2.37
11. France	14	2.47	11. Mexico	41	2.32
12. Switzerland	12	2.12	12. Switzerland	32	1.81
13. Brazil	11	1.94	13. France	31	1.75
14. Denmark	11	1.94	14. Norway	28	1.58
15. Taiwan	11	1.94	15. Taiwan	27	1.52
16. Ireland	10	1.77	16. Brazil	25	1.41
17. Spain	10	1.77	17. Spain	24	1.36
18. Australia	9	1.59	18. Ireland	24	1.36
19. Norway	8	1.41	19. Denmark	17	0.96
20. Singapore	8	1.41	20. Turkey	17	0.96
21. Belgium	5	0.88	21. Belgium	15	0.85
22. Austria	4	0.71	22. Singapore	15	0.85
23. Finland	4	0.71	23. Greece	14	0.79
24. New Zealand	4	0.71	24. Austria	14	0.79
25. Turkey	4	0.71	25. Nigeria	14	0.79

**TABLE 2:** *Survey Respondents Classifying Themselves as Political Scientists Employed in an Academic Setting vs. U.S. and Overall APSA Membership*

<b>TYPE OF MEMBER</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
International	427	75.0
U.S.	5545	44.10
Overall APSA Membership	5927	41.69

**TABLE 3:** *Graduate Students as % of APSA Membership*

<b>TYPE OF GRAD STUDENT</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PERCENT OF MEMBERSHIP TYPE</b>
International	365	20.52
U.S.	4294	34.04
Overall APSA	4659	32.03

**TABLE 4:** *Age Range of Respondents*

<b>AGE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS</b>
25-29	62	11.0
30-39	224	40.0
40-49	140	25.0
50-65	121	22.0
65+	15	3.0

**TABLE 5:** *Length of Respondents' Membership in APSA*

<b>LENGTH OF APSA MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS</b>
1-2 years	28.0
3-4 years	18.0
5-10 years	24.0
10+ years	30.0

**TABLE 6:** *Reasons Given by Respondents for Joining APSA (5=important influence on decision, 1=not considered when making decision)*

<b>REASON FOR JOINING APSA</b>	<b>RANKING: 1 (%)</b>	<b>RANKING: 2 (%)</b>	<b>RANKING: 3 (%)</b>	<b>RANKING: 4 (%)</b>	<b>RANKING: 5 (%)</b>
Annual Meeting	13	13	15	25	33
To receive journals	6	11	16	30	36
Networking	8	17	27	18	20
Personnel Service Newsletter	45	18	12	13	12

**TABLE 7:** *Reasons Given by Respondents Regarding Obstacles to APSA Membership by Colleagues in Their Home Country (1=Not Relevant; 5=-Determining Factor)*

<b>REASON FOR NOT JOINING APSA</b>	<b>RANKING: 1 (%)</b>	<b>RANKING: 2 (%)</b>	<b>RANKING: 3 (%)</b>	<b>RANKING: 4 (%)</b>	<b>RANKING: 5 (%)</b>
Informal Sharing of Benefits	51	18	18	11	2
Travel inconvenient	25	22	21	22	10
Not interested in joining a foreign professional association	21	16	23	27	12
Unaware of APSA and its services	28	21	25	19	7
Cost	5	13	23	35	23
Language barrier	58	14	12	10	6
Concern about influence of American values and political influence	29	24	22	17	8

**TABLE 8: Areas of APSA Benefits and Services in Which Respondents Would Like to See Improvements (1=Not important; 5=Very important)**

<b>PROGRAM AREA</b>	<b>RANKING: 1 (%)</b>	<b>RANKING: 2 (%)</b>	<b>RANKING: 3 (%)</b>	<b>RANKING: 4 (%)</b>	<b>RANKING: 5 (%)</b>
Travel Assistance to Annual Meeting	17	14	20	24	24
Make MyAPSA more user-friendly	29	30	24	12	6
Greater international focus on website	13	13	26	33	15
More opportunities for professional development of international scholars	9	12	21	33	25
Discounted memberships for international scholars	9	11	17	24	39
More institutional support for international political science departments	13	12	21	28	26
More internationalization of Personnel Service job listings	18	12	20	23	27
More research assistance for international members	15	15	16	24	30

**TABLE 9: Academic Specializations of APSA Membership**

<b>ACADEMIC FIELD OF INTEREST</b>	<b># OF U.S. MEMBERS</b>	<b>% OF U.S. MEMBERS</b>	<b># OF INT'L MEMBERS</b>	<b>% OF INT'L MEMBERS</b>	<b># of TOTAL APSA MEMBERS</b>	<b>% TOTAL APSA</b>
American Politics	4862	22.81	186	6.08	5047	20.71
Comparative Politics	4336	20.34	1086	34.50	5422	22.25
International Politics	3861	18.12	596	19.48	4457	18.29
Methodology	1207	5.66	242	7.91	1449	5.95
Public Admin. & Org. Behavior	1099	5.16	151	4.94	1250	5.13
Political Philosophy & Theory	2325	10.91	362	11.83	2687	11.03
Public Law & Courts	1161	5.45	59	1.93	1220	5.01
Public Policy	2460	11.54	377	12.32	2836	11.63
No Code Assigned	4	0.02	0.0	0.0	4	0.02
<b>TOTAL</b>	21315		3059		24372	

**TABLE 10: APSA Organized Section Counts—November 2003**

<b>APSA SECTION</b>	<b>COUNT</b>
#1: Federalism & Intergovernmental Relations	441
#2: Law & Courts	867
#3: Legislative Studies	632
#4: Public Policy	871
#5: Political Organizations & Parties	625
#6: Public Administration	563
#7: Conflict Processes	369
#8: Representation & Electoral Politics	401
#9: Presidency Research Group	447
#10: Political Methodology	817
#11: Religion & Politics	502
#13: Urban Politics	393
#15: Science, Technology & Environmental Politics	330
#16: Women and Politics	639
#17: Foundations of Political Theory	773
#18: Information Technology & Politics	235
<b>#19: Int'l Security &amp; Arms Control</b>	<b>514</b>
<b>#20: Comparative Politics</b>	<b>1579</b>
<b>#21: European Politics &amp; Society</b>	<b>502</b>
#22: State Politics & Policy	437
#23: Political Communication	452
#24: Politics & History	685
#25: Political Economy	673
#26: Ecological & Transformational Politics	184
#27: New Political Science	386
#28: Political Psychology	404
#29: Undergraduate Education	442
#30: Politics & Literature	299
#31: Foreign Policy	598
#32: Elections, Public Opinion & Voting Behavior	809
#33: Race & Ethnicity Politics	568
<b>#34: International Politics &amp; History</b>	<b>492</b>
<b>#35: Comparative Democratization</b>	<b>605</b>
#36: Human Rights	389
#37: Qualitative Methods	504

**TABLE 11:** *Attendance of International Members at the APSA Annual Meeting.*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>INT'L ATTENDEES</b>	<b>% OF TOTAL ATTENDEES</b>	<b>TOTAL ATTENDEES</b>
1997	555	8.7	6381
1998	769	11.6	6633
1999	599	10.3	5818
2000	647	10.5	6167
2001	778	12.0	6482
2002	757	11.7	6432
2003	666	11.3	5894

**TABLE 12:** *Roster of International Members Participating in APSA Governance*

<b>NAME</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>
Joseph Carens	Canada	Franklin L. Burdette Pi Sigma Alpha Award Committee Chair 2003-2004
Paul Rich	Mexico	Harold D. Laswell Award Committee; President, Policy Studies Organization
Jean Blondel	Italy	Ithiel de Sola Pool Lecture Award Committee, 2003-2004
Robert Goodin	Australia	APSR Editorial Board, 2001-2004; PS Editor 2000-2001; Leo Strauss Award Committee 1996
Judith Garber	Canada	Organized Sections Committee, 2001-2003
Ivor Crewe	UK	APSR Editorial Board, 2001-2004
James Bjorkman	Netherlands	Gladys M. Kammerer Award Committee, 2003-2004
Janice Gross Stein	Canada	APSR Editorial Board, 2001-2004; Program Committee, 1986 & 1993; Helen Dwight Reid Award Committee, 1997-1998
Ibrahim Karawan	UK	Annual Meeting Committee 2001-2003
Richard Simeon	Canada	International Committee, 2001-2004
Sylvia Bashevkin	Canada	Program Committee, 2002-2003; Victoria Schuck Award Committee, 2003-2004
Narendra Subramanian	Canada	Ralph J. Bunche Award Committee, 2003-2004
Reeta Tremblay	Canada	PS Editorial Board, 2003-2006
Will Kymlicka	Canada	Leo Strauss Award Committee, 2003-2004
Eric A. MacGilvray	Australia	Leo Strauss Award Committee, 2003-2004
James Manor	UK	William Anderson Award Committee Chair 2003-2004