

American Political Science Association
Organized Section on Human Rights

Issue No. 5

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Message from the President

[Michael Goodhart]

Greetings! I want to take a moment to update you about the affairs of the section and about some upcoming events for the APSA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

First, this newsletter includes the text of proposed new bylaws for the section. The bylaws have remained substantively very similar to the previous version, but have been updated to reflect changes in our elective offices made to conform with APSA's programming requirements. The significant changes include the formal creation of a new office, the Vice-President Elect, who will author the section's call for papers and work with the President on the newsletter. After a one-year term the VP elect becomes VP (and program chair), and after a one-year term in that office, President. The other significant change is to give a formal vote on the Steering Committee to the immediate past President, to ensure that the Committee has an odd number of members. Most of the other changes are cosmetic; I invite you to review them here or on the section website. We will vote on these new bylaws at the business meeting this summer in Washington.

Second, I want to inform you that we have a team in place working to migrate our website to its new, free, and (hopefully) permanent home on the APSA's server.

Our current website costs us around \$120; by moving the site we can save this money and ensure continuity. Also, because the APSA site works on a content-management system, it should facilitate easier site-maintenance. A full report on this change will appear in the August newsletter.

Finally, this issue includes several updates regarding the human rights program at the upcoming APSA meeting. We will again cosponsor a theme panel (details follow), and we are working to arrange a plenary speaker at this time. As you will see from the Vice President's report, the section was deluged with paper submissions, and we were forced to reject all but a relative few. As I mentioned in our last newsletter, the only ways we can increase (indeed, avoid a decrease) in our panel allotment is to improve attendance at our panels and recruit new members; memberships also generate the revenue we need for receptions, awards, speakers, and other purposes. Presently section membership stands at 410 – a good level, but one that puts us well below the median for APSA sections. Please, if you can, try to recruit a friend or colleague to join the section.

Theme Panel: Balancing Human Rights and National Security in the Age of Terror

This year the Human Rights section will once again cosponsor a theme panel with the APSA program chairs. This year's panel, entitled "Balancing Human Rights and National Security in the Age of Terror," will address the following theme: when cross-border conflicts are played out less between states and more between states and non-state forces with some capacity to threaten states' security, how can democracies respond without lowering standards of civil

liberties and international norms of human rights?

Chair:

Michael Goodhart, President, APSA organized section on Human Rights

Panelists:

Timothy Lynch, Director, Project on Criminal Justice, Cato Institute.

Paul Rosenzweig, Senior Legal Research Fellow in the Center for Legal and Judicial Studies, The Heritage Foundation.

Gayle Smith, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress; member of the Council on Foreign Relations, adviser to the U.N. Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa.

Respondent:

Dr. Amitai Etzioni, University Professor at The George Washington University and Director of the Institute for Communitarian Policy Studies; founder and director of the Communitarian Network.

Vice President's Report

[Mark Gibney]

This year the section was allotted six (6) panels for the APSA annual meeting. We received an incredible 121 individual paper proposals and 17 panel proposals.

Of these, we accepted five papers on courts, five on globalization, five on terrorism, four on NGO's, and four on Africa.

The next newsletter will contain a complete listing of the section's panels.

Secretary's Report

[Rhonda L. Callaway]

The Human Rights Section of APSA will hold elections this fall for two positions:

- Vice-President Elect
- Treasurer

According to the by-laws, the Vice-President Elect's duties include issuing the Section's call for papers "in conjunction with the incoming APSA program committee." In addition, the Vice-President Elect serves as the Human Rights Section representative on the program committee. Lastly, the Vice-President Elect is asked to assist the president in the preparation of the Human Rights Section newsletter. The Vice President-Elect becomes Vice President after one year and President after two years.

The Treasurer is charged with overseeing the financial affairs of the Human Rights Section which includes the disbursement of the section's funds, making arrangements for the annual business meeting and reception, and the maintenance of the section's financial and membership records.

Any member of the Human Rights Section may be nominated and the section welcomes self-nominations. Please note that all candidates for the open positions must be present at the annual meeting and their membership must be up to date. All nominations should be forwarded to Rhonda Callaway (rlcgsm@rit.edu).

Treasurer's Report

[Todd Landman]

Our 2004-2005 balance is \$2,376.32. The section currently has 410 members. With registration for APSA already underway, please encourage colleagues in the field to join the section when they renew their annual membership. The section is in

decent financial shape heading into the annual meeting, and we expect this situation to improve: our expenses for the meeting will be reduced this year because our theme panelists are all local (meaning we won't have to cover travel expenses) and our likely plenary speaker is also local and a government official (meaning no travel expenses or honorarium).

Best Book Award

The 2004 Best Book Award is given for the best single-authored, multi-authored, or edited volume on human rights published in 2004. The deadline for the this year's award has passed. The committee received 38 nominations and will now begin the process of selecting the winner. Any questions should be addressed to George Andreopoulos, the committee chair, at chrights@jjay.cuny.edu.

Best Dissertation Award

Political Science dissertations that focus on human rights and that are filed in academic year 2004-2005 are eligible for the award competition. Copies of the nominated dissertation and a letter of support from the dissertation Chair, which should specify the contribution of the work to the field of human rights within no more than 1000 words, should be received by members of the Dissertation Award Committee by May 31, 2005.

Award Committee Chair:

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Award Committee:

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James Bryce Endowment Fund

The James Bryce Endowment Fund for International Political Science was set up in honor of the British historian and politician. This fund will benefit the global study of political life and the internationalization of the political science discipline and profession.

Income from this fund will support research residencies in the Centennial Center and elsewhere, collaborative research workshops involving political scientists from the United States and abroad, teaching and curriculum development programs for emerging political science communities, and travel grants to the annual meeting. By contributing today you will help the endowment meet its plan of distributing the first grants in 2005.

To contribute, go to
www.apsanet.org/content_3914.cfm
Or send contributions to: APSA, Attn:
Development, 1527 New Hampshire Ave
NW, Washington, DC 20036

Announcements

- The University of Connecticut will host a conference on "Economic Rights: Conceptual, Measurement, and Policy Issues" this fall (October 27-29, 2005) and invites your participation. Full information and registration form are available online: www.humanrights.uconn.edu
- If you are interested in joining the section discussion forum, please send an email to apsahumanrights@yahoo.com. Please include your name, contact information, profession or affiliation in that email. You will then receive a confirmation and will be added to the discussion forum in a few days. You must also comply with the discussion forum rules set by Antigona Kukic and Mohammad Faridi (the organizers of this forum). We hope that you will take part in what we expect will be an informative and incisive dialogue.

Contacts and Current Officers

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At-large Steering Committee Members

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Lilian Barria, *Eastern Illinois University*,
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Melissa Scheier, *University of Houston*
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Proposed Section Bylaws – April 2005

Article 1. Membership and Dues

1. The Section comprises all members of the American Political Science Association who elect membership in the Section and pay the Section's membership dues.

2. The Section Steering Committee sets Section membership dues.

3. Non-members are free to attend Section events and subscribe to Section publications. However, because Section events and services are subsidized by Section dues, non-members may be asked to pay higher attendance and subscription fees than Section members.

Article 2. Officers and Steering Committee

1. Ultimate responsibility for the Section rests with its members. The Section's officers and Steering Committee act for the Section's members on a day-to-day basis.

2. The elective officers of the Section are the President, the Vice President, the Vice President-Elect, the Treasurer, and the Secretary. The Steering Committee comprises the elective officers, three elected members at-large, and the immediate past President. The Steering Committee conducts business between meetings of the Section; its members may discuss and resolve issues in person or using any means of communication on which they may agree by majority vote.

3. The members of the Section, voting by secret ballot, elect the Vice President-Elect, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and the at-large members of the Steering Committee. The President-Elect, Vice President, Vice President-Elect, and the immediate past President all serve one-year terms on the Steering Committee. All of the other elected officers and members-at-large of the

Steering Committee serve two-year terms. The Vice President-Elect serves in that capacity for one year; s/he then becomes Vice President. After another one year term as Vice President, s/he becomes President for a one year term.

4. The members of the Section may reelect officers and Steering Committee members to their previous posts or to new posts. However, no person who has served as Vice President-Elect may serve as Vice-President-Elect until two years after completing her or his most recent term on the Steering Committee and no member of the Steering Committee can serve on the Committee, in any capacity, for more than six consecutive years.

5. The terms of officers formally begin on the day immediately following the conclusion of the APSA meeting at which they were elected.

6. The President:

- a. coordinates the activities of the Section;
- b. oversees the organization of the Section's annual meetings;
- c. distributes relevant information to the Section's members, reporting to them as needed on the Section's activities;
- d. facilitates appropriate relationships between the Section and groups with similar concerns;
- e. appoints *ad hoc* Section officers and the members of Section committees and task forces with the approval of the Steering Committee;

- f. designates appointive Section officers in accordance with rules approved by the members of the Section; *and*
- g. directs the selection of recipients for any honors or prizes awarded by the Section.

7. The Vice President:

- a. serves as program chair, in accordance with APSA regulations, for the Section's annual meeting; *and*
- b. acts in the President's place when the President is absent from an official Section event or a meeting of any Section committee of which the President is an *ex officio* member.

8. The Vice President-Elect:

- a. issues the Section's "call for papers" each year at an appropriate time in conjunction with the incoming APSA program committee and serves as the Section's representative on the program committee;
- b. assists the President in the preparation of the Section newsletter.

9. The Treasurer:

- a. oversees the financial affairs of the Section;
- b. disburses Section funds as necessary;
- c. oversees the arrangements for the Section's annual business meeting and reception (when appropriate);
- d. maintains the Section's financial and membership records;
- e. communicates regarding membership applications with the appropriate office of the American Political Science Association; *and*
- f. reports annually in writing to the Section's members on the state of its finances.

10. The Secretary:

- a. maintains the non-financial records of the Section, including minutes of the Section's meetings, and makes them available to the Section's members;
- b. prepares ballots for elections and oversees the administration of elections; *and*
- c. publicizes the Section's activities, honors, and awards.

Article 3. Business Meetings and Elections

1. Business Meetings

- a. The Section holds a business meeting in conjunction with each annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.
- b. Any member may speak and vote at any Section meeting.
- c. Any member may participate in the meeting of any Section committee. The time and place of any committee meeting that takes place in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association must be publicly announced to all Section members.

2. Elections

- a. Section elections take place at each business meeting.
- b. At least three months before each election, the Steering Committee notifies the members of the Section that it will take place and encourages them to serve as candidates.
- c. Any member of the Section may be a candidate for elective Section office or at-large membership on the Steering Committee. A member may nominate her- or himself at any time before an election takes

place. However, if, two months before an election is to take place, no member of the Section has expressed interest in serving as a candidate for a given elective office or if at least three members of the Section have not expressed interest in serving as candidates for at-large seats on the Steering Committee, the Steering Committee nominates additional candidates as necessary.

d. To be elected a candidate must be present during the election for the office. To be elected to an office, the candidate must receive the largest number of votes cast for that office.

e. Immediately after the ballots in a given election have been counted, the Secretary publicly announces the winners and the vote totals for all candidates.

Article 4. Removal from Office

1. An elective officer or at-large member of the Steering Committee may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Steering Committee.

2. If the President resigns or is removed from office, the Vice President serves out the remainder of the President's term before beginning her or his own term as President.

3. If any elective member of the Steering Committee other than the President resigns or is removed from office, the Steering Committee selects a replacement to fulfill the responsibilities of the office until the next business meetings and election. In the event that any elective member of the Steering Committee is removed during the first year of her/his two year term, the newly

elected member will serve only until the conclusion of that full term.

Article 5. Amendment

1. Any member of the Section may propose an amendment of the bylaws

2. Proposed amendments must be posted on the Section website no fewer than two months prior to the business meeting at which they are to be considered.

3. Proposed amendments should be discussed and voted on during the business meetings. To be valid, an amendment must be approved by two-thirds of the members present at the business meeting.

* * *

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding these proposed bylaws, please contact any member of the Steering Committee. We will discuss and vote on these bylaws at our upcoming business meeting in Washington, DC.