

Organized Section on Human Rights

[Website: <http://www.apsahrs.org>]

[Webmasters: mfaridi@apsahrs.org or akukaj@apsahrs.org]

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Message from the President [George Andreopoulos]

I have a few announcements on the issues that our Steering Committee has been working on.

First, I would like to bring you up to date on the arrangements concerning our Section's Program at the Convention. I am pleased to inform you that the Section will sponsor/co-sponsor ten panels, which, together with our already approved thematic panel, will bring the total to eleven. I would like to thank Michael Goodhart and Mahmood Monshipouri for their wonderful work as program co-chairs. As you will see in their report that is included below, the selected panels address a wide variety of issue areas, and reflect different and increasingly sophisticated methodological approaches. This is clearly an indication of an encouraging trend, namely the growing profile of human rights scholarship within our discipline.

I am also pleased to confirm the composition of our thematic panel on "Human Rights after 9/11": William Schultz (Executive Director, Amnesty International), Nicolas de Torrente (former Executive Director, Doctors Without Borders in the United States), Susan Waltz (University of Michigan), and Jean Bethke Elshtain (University of Chicago).

As I indicated in our previous newsletter, our plenary session will feature the Honorable Lloyd Axworthy. Dr. Axworthy will speak on "Multilateralism in the Age of Empire." I am pleased to report that our Section has managed to secure the co-sponsorship of Comparative Democratization, Foreign Policy, and International Security and Arms Control. I want to take this opportunity to thank the presidents of these three sections, Cynthia McClintock, Deborah Larson, and Chris Demchak, for all their efforts in this direction. Last, but not least, I am pleased to inform you of the acceptance of our proposal for a pre-Convention Workshop on the Measurement of Human Rights. The report prepared by the workshop's organizers, Claudia Dahlerus and Todd Landman, is included below.

A quick word on the awards: please remember that the deadline for book award nominations is April 30th, while the deadline for dissertation award nominations is May 31st. If you have any questions as to the procedures, please contact Mark Gibney (for books) and Claudia Dahlerus (for dissertations).

Finally, a brief note on the preparations for the 2005 Convention Program: I am pleased to report that, in response to my call for volunteers to work with Mark Gibney, who will be the 2005 Program Chair, Clair Apodaca and Chip Carey very kindly offered to do so. Mark, Clair and Chip will work on all the necessary arrangements for next year's program.

If you have any questions or comments on the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me and/or the other members of the Steering Committee.

The next issue of our Newsletter is scheduled for July.

Report of the 2004 Program Co-Chairs

[Michael Goodhart, Mahmood Monshipouri]

The Human Rights Section will sponsor or co-sponsor 11 panels at the upcoming APSA annual meeting in Chicago, including a convention theme panel on human rights after 9/11. The panels touch on a wide range of subjects in the study of human rights, showcasing the best in current human rights scholarship within our discipline. Brief descriptions of the panels are included below.

We received 83 individual paper submissions and 5 complete panels for a total of six panel slots. Overall, our acceptance rate is around 30% -- which would make human rights among the most competitive sections within the APSA. Unfortunately, due to the overwhelming interest in participation, many solid and intriguing papers had to be turned down. While this undoubtedly spells disappointment for many prospective participants, the volume and quality of submissions testifies to the vitality of human rights studies within political science.

One way we can facilitate the inclusion of more human rights scholars in the future is to boost attendance at our sponsored panels in 2004. Please make an effort to attend as many panels as you can (human rights panels are designated by the number 46 in the APSA program). We will try to

provide more information about the times and locations of our panels prior to the convention.

Transitional Justice (I): Truth and Reconciliation in Emerging Democracies

Co-sponsored with Comparative Democratization

This panel addresses problems of transitional justice linked to amnesties, criminal tribunals, and truth and reconciliation mechanisms. The panelists deal with a number of cases ranging from South Africa to Sierra Leone, Cambodia, and the Czech Republic.

Human Rights and Democracy Amid Global Inequalities

Co-sponsored with Normative Political Theory

This panel examines how the recent appropriation of the language of democracy and human rights in the service of an aggressive foreign policy loads them with new political baggage. Focusing on this new discursive environment, the panelists ask whether and how these terms can be salvaged of terms of counter-hegemonic power and politics.

Transitional Justice (II): Socioeconomic Rights and Democracy in Global Perspective

Co-Sponsored with Comparative Democratization

This panel addresses important themes of poverty and social and economic rights (including the right to health) in connection with processes relating to globalization.

Promoting Accountability in Conflict Zones: The Case of Non-State Armed Groups

This panel deals with problems of accountability concerning non-state armed groups, addressing such topics as accountability vs. plausible deniability, as well as implementation of standards. It covers cases in Africa, Europe, Latin America and Asia.

Gender, Culture, and Human Rights in Democratizing Countries

Co-Sponsored with Women and Politics

The panelists employ cases from Turkey, Iran, and West Africa, as well as the broader international arena in considering how culture and religion affect women's human rights.

Globalization, Inequality, and Human Rights

Co-Sponsored with International Political Economy (IPE)

The panelists bring a number of methodological perspectives to bear in addressing questions concerning inequality in the context of globalization. Topics addressed include the role of transnational corporations and structural adjustment programs in fostering global inequalities, and the broader impact of globalization on human rights

Globalizing Democracy? Human Rights and Economic Justice in the World Economy

Co-Sponsored with New Political Science

This panel addresses important questions of democracy, human rights, and economic justice from a normative perspective.

Measuring Human Rights: Comparative Cross-national Surveys

This panel examines human rights and human rights violations through large-N cross-national studies; topics include the roles of state strength, civil conflict, and global economic processes and their impact on human rights.

Human Rights and the Rhetoric of Intervention: Four Cases

Co-Sponsored with New Political Science

This panel looks at four cases where governmental policy threatens, undermines, or violates human rights, but where the rhetoric of humanitarian intervention is used to justify the policies and disguise their human rights impact.

Patterns of Sexual Violence in Civil War

Co-Sponsored with Women and Politics

This panel looks at how women's human rights come under unique threat during periods of civil war and civil unrest, addressing topics of agency, militarism, states of emergency, and the varied patterns of sexual violence in civil wars.

Theme Panel: Human Rights After 9-11

A roundtable featuring prominent human rights scholars and practitioners addressing issues relating to the impact of post-9/11 developments on the human rights/humanitarian space.

Treasurer's Report

[Todd Landman]

Our balance, as of March 31, 2004 is \$2,666.00.

Secretary's Report

[Clair Apodaca]

The APSA's Human Rights Section elections will be for 5 new officers:

- ❖ 2nd Vice-President
- ❖ Secretary
- ❖ The 3 at-large Members

The candidates for each position are listed below:

2nd Vice-President

James McCormick (Iowa State University)

Darren Hawkins (Brigham Young University)

Secretary

Rhonda Callaway (Rochester Institute of Technology)

Jon Allen (University of Illinois)

At Large

Bethany Barratt (Roosevelt University)

Lilian Barria (Eastern Illinois University)

Karen Mitchell (Kansas City)

Melissa Scheier (University of Houston)

Michael Struett (University of California – Irvine)

Daniel Whelan (University of Denver)

Best Book Award

The committee has so far received 9 nominations for books that focus on human rights. Books that have not been nominated for this award previously, and have been published in 2003/2004, are eligible for the award competition. Copies of the nominated books should be sent to the members of the Book Award Committee by **April 30, 2004**.

Committee Chair:

Mark Gibney
University of North Carolina, Asheville
Political Science
Asheville, NC 28805
Email: [mgibney@bulldog.unca.edu]

Committee Members

Peter Juviler
Columbia University, Barnard College
New York, NY 10027
Email: [pjuviler@barnard.columbia.edu]

Clair Apodaca
Florida International University
International Relations
DM 432, University Park
Miami, FL 33199
Email: [apodaca@fiu.edu]

Best Dissertation Award

The Committee has so far received 4 nominations for political science dissertations that focus on human rights. Dissertations that have not been nominated for this award previously, and completed and accepted within the 2003-2004 academic year are eligible for this award competition. Copies of the nominated dissertation accompanied by a letter from the dissertation Chair, specifying the contribution of the work to the field of human rights in approximately 1000 words, should be sent to the members of the Dissertation Award Committee by **May 31, 2004**.

Committee Chair:

Claudia Dahlerus
Department of Political Science
KC #4852
Albion College
Albion, MI 49224
Email: [cdahlerus@albion.edu]

Committee Members

John Wallach
Hunter College, CUNY
Department of Political Science
695 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10021
Email: [jwallach@hunter.cuny.edu]

Henry Carey
Georgia State University
Political Science
1005 GCB Peachtree Center Avenue NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
Email: [polhfc@langate.gsu.edu]

2004 APSA Workshop on Measurement Issues in the Analysis of Human Rights

This workshop brings together a diverse panel of scholars who have developed measures for a broad range of human rights. It examines how and why we measure human rights, while assessing existing work within the social sciences and discussing its limitations. The main objective of the workshop is to share the cumulative knowledge of empirical measures of different rights categories. These range from physical integrity rights; civil and political rights (e.g., free speech, due process), and the sometimes more contested economic, social, and cultural rights (e.g., gender equality, right to employment). The focal point of evaluating different measurement schemes is to confront and work through the challenges of using and developing multiple measures, and how their related indicators may advance both scholarly analysis, as well as work done by governments, IGOs, and NGOs.

Key measurement issues addressed in the workshop will include use of events-based and standards-based data and measures, with special attention given to the challenges of data collection, establishing consistent coding procedures, and related reliability and validity concerns for both types of data. Attention will also be given to how and why it is important to disaggregate the characteristics of individuals and groups who experience human rights violations (e.g., gender, ethnicity, age, political affiliation). Finally, the workshop will examine the sophistication of different empirical methods used in the analysis of human rights, in terms of different quantitative designs. Collectively these foci seek to improve on existing measures and methods, while

maintaining our commitment to the accessibility of our research findings to the broader human rights community.

Workshop Presenters:

Patrick Ball, head of the Human Rights Data Analysis Group (HRDAG) and affiliated with the Benetech Initiative in Silicon Valley; worked on TRCs in Haiti, Guatemala, South Africa, and Sierra Leone. **David Cingranelli** (SUNY Binghamton); **Christian Davenport** (University of Maryland) has worked extensively on measurement issues in the study of human rights and state repression. He is also the co-founder of GenoDynamics, a project that has been collecting available information on all discrete actions undertaken during the 1994 Rwandan genocide (e.g., instances of rape, torture, beating, abduction and killing); **Ronald Francisco** (University of Kansas). P.I. of *European Protest and Coercion Project*, events-data on domestic conflicts (rights violations and protest events) in Europe from 1980 through 1995 (funded by an NSF grant); **Mark Gibney** (University North Carolina, Asheville), **Oona Hathaway** (Yale Law School), **Linda Camp Keith** (Collin County Community College), **Steven Poe** (University of North Texas); and **David L. Richards**, who is an associate at ETS and independent scholar working on an NSF project on measuring human rights.

Full Day (9:30am – 5:30pm)

Registration Fee:

Graduate students: \$5

Faculty: \$15

Payable To:

APSA Human Rights Section

Sent to Treasurer:

Todd Landman

Human Rights Centre

University of Essex

Wivenhoe Park

Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ

United Kingdom

Email: todd@essex.ac.uk

New Data Set on Human Rights

[David Cingranelli and David Richards]

David Cingranelli and David Richards have developed a new Human Rights Data Set (CIRI) which contains standards-based quantitative information on government respect for 17 internationally recognized human rights for 161 countries, annually from 1981-2002. The data set contains measures of government human rights practices, not human rights policies or human rights conditions.

Thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation's Political Science Division, the data will be freely available to the general public in August 2004. With financial assistance from the World Bank, the data will be updated to include information for 2003. The 2003 update will be available in December of 2004 at the latest.

If you would like to be notified when the CIRI data set when becomes available, please register at the temporary CIRI website at <http://mysite.verizon.net/~daver68/ciri.htm> and you will receive an e-mail message as soon as the data are available for distribution. From the CIRI website, you will be able to download the variables and years you need in a variety of formats.

The primary source of information about human rights practices is obtained from a careful reading of the *US State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*. Coders are instructed to use this source for all variables. For a group of four rights known as "Physical Integrity Rights" (the rights to freedom from extrajudicial killing, disappearance, torture, and political imprisonment) coders also use a second source, Amnesty International's *Annual Report*. Both reports can be found online for recent years. If there are discrepancies between the two sources, coders are instructed to treat the Amnesty International evaluation as authoritative. Some scholars believe that this step is necessary to remove a potential bias in favor of US allies, although Poe, et al, have found evidence of great and increasing agreement between these reports.

The basic unit coded is a "country-year." A country-year is a particular country in a particular year. For instance, "United States 1998" is a particular country-year. It is a single snapshot of space and time -- one country in a particular year. The Cingranelli and Richards data set contains

information about government respect for a wide range of human rights. These include measures of the practices of governments that allow or impede citizens who wish to exercise their:

- Physical integrity rights--the rights not to be tortured, summarily executed, disappeared, or imprisoned for political beliefs. The scores of these variables can be summed to form a statistically valid cumulative scale.
- Civil liberties such as free speech, freedom of association and assembly, freedom of religion, and the right to participate in the selection of government leaders.
- Workers' rights
- Rights as women to equal treatment politically, economically, and socially.

Proposed "Human Rights Day Teach-In"

[David Cingranelli]

I would like to urge all faculty with interests in human rights to help organize an annual "Human Rights Day Teach-in" on their respective campuses. I did so during this academic year, and, while I encountered some rough spots along the way, I intend to do so again in the fall of 2004. I want to take this opportunity to share with you the benefit of my experience with this venture.

As you all know, December 10 is International Human Rights Day. I contacted some student groups on campus and asked them if they would be interested in helping to organize a Human Rights Day Teach-in on that day. The goals were to educate students about important human rights issues and to encourage them to mobilize to promote progressive social change.

I offered to help line up other faculty if they would take care of getting space, publicity, and organizing related events. They were eager to help. The problem, as you might imagine, is the date. Too many students stayed away because it was the end of a semester, and they had no time to participate. So, for 2004, here's what I have in mind as a format that should work:

- Choose a date in the middle of the fall semester (late enough to get publicity out, but avoid the midterm period).
- Hold the teach-in in the student union or in another central location. Begin at 10am with two one-hour sessions focusing on international human rights issues. Choose those issues based on the interests of your faculty (for example children's rights, women's rights, human rights and foreign policy). Allot one hour to each of two topics—about 50% presentation and 50% questions and answers. If possible, use panel discussions and include at least one student activist on each panel.
- Have a lunch break from noon to 1pm
- From 1-2 or 3pm focus on human rights issues in or concerning the United States. If you contact Sheldon Friedman at the AFL-CIO [sfriedma@afcio.org] and mention "Workers' Rights Teach-ins" in your e-mail, he will provide lots of valuable materials for a two-hour session devoted to worker rights in the United States. The AFL-CIO has developed a Teach-ins Toolkit, a workers' rights power point presentation, and good teach-ins pass-out materials. They even provided a speaker who had direct experience with organizing efforts in the United States. "Repression of Worker Rights" was the subject I chose to focus on at our teach-in during the present academic year. This topic is especially important given the dismal state of workers' freedom to form unions and bargain collectively in the USA—and is especially timely in view of the recent introduction of the Employee Free Choice Act, (**S. 1925/ H.R. 3619**). This landmark bill when passed will protect the fundamental human right of American workers to join unions and negotiate first contracts without employer interference. But there are many other potential topics including the Patriot Act, immigration Policy and human rights, the death penalty, and human rights for gays and lesbians.
- Evening events should include the showing of one or more films on human rights themes. Consider showing *American Dream*, an excellent film about the unsuccessful attempt by workers to form a union at a Hormel plant in 1984.

For my session on worker rights, the educational goals were to impart the knowledge that workers' freedom to form unions is, and should be, a

fundamental human right; that calling something a human right imposes obligations on government and business; and that suppression of freedom to form unions is widespread in the U.S. and costly for workers and society.

The major mobilization goal was to convince students that they had a stake in the struggle for workers' freedom to form unions, and that they could make a difference. Students were encouraged to support organizing underway on their campus. They were asked to support the Employee Free Choice Act. They were encouraged to apply to the AFL-CIO's Organizing Institute and Union Summer programs. Some have done so.

If you decide to go ahead with this venture, please let me know, so I can write a brief update for the next Human Rights Section Newsletter. My e-mail address is davidc@binghamton.edu. Also, after you have held the event, please share your experience and future suggestions with me, so I can pass that information on as well.