

Organized Section on Human Rights

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Message from the President

[George Andreopoulos]

I would like to begin with a few remarks regarding our section's program at the Convention. Our scheduled plenary speaker, Lloyd Axworthy, had to withdraw from our program due to scheduling conflicts relating to his new position as President of the University of Winnipeg. In his place, we were fortunate to secure as speaker Paul Heinbecker, a distinguished Canadian diplomat and foreign policy analyst. Mr. Heinbecker, the Inaugural Director of the Laurier Centre for Global Relations, Governance and Policy at Wilfrid Laurier University, has had a long and distinguished career with the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs. Among his numerous posts, he has served as former Prime Minister Mulroney's Chief Foreign Policy Advisor and speechwriter, as Canadian Ambassador to Germany, and as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, where he was a leading advocate of the International Criminal Court. Mr. Heinbecker will address our plenary session on "Multilateralism in the Age of Empire." Our plenary is scheduled for Saturday, September 4, at 8:30 p.m. I would like to take this opportunity to express once again our thanks to Foreign Policy and International Security and Arms Control for co-sponsoring this session.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, our section is sponsoring/co-sponsoring eleven panels at the Convention, as well as a short course on "Measurement Issues in the Analysis of Human Rights" scheduled for Wednesday, September 1, from 9:30 a.m. to

5:30 p.m. I would like to ask you to encourage colleagues and friends to attend as many section activities in Chicago as possible. Our section has worked hard to prepare a very comprehensive program for the Convention, and it is important to acknowledge this with our participation.

I have a few brief remarks on the statement issued by Human Rights Action on the Abuse of Captives in US Custody. As many of you are well aware, the proposal that such a statement be issued by our section generated quite a debate in our discussion forum. After extensive deliberations and discussions with the APSA staff, it was decided to create Human Rights Action, an ad hoc group of human rights scholars, students and practitioners, under whose auspices the statement was eventually released last June. So far, it has attracted 90 signatures and it has been sent to more than 50 media outlets (print, radio, electronic) with a cover note explaining the rationale behind it and encouraging them to use it in any upcoming stories on the detainee issue. The controversy surrounding this statement has rekindled the debate over APSA's rules concerning statements on public policy issues. After several discussions with Susanne Rudolph, APSA's president, I am pleased to report that Susanne has agreed to place this issue on the agenda of the next APSA Council meeting to be held in Chicago during the Convention.

Last, but not least, a note on our membership: according to the information provided by APSA, as of August 2, our section has 404 members.

This is the last newsletter issued during my term as president of our section. I want to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the steering committee and in the section at large who made this a very rewarding experience. I also want to wish the incoming team all the best in ensuring the continuing growth and success of our section.

Message from the 2004 Program Co-Chairs

[Michael Goodhart, Mahmood
Monshipouri]

Our business meeting will be held on Friday evening, September 3, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by our reception from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Both events will be held in the Hilton. During our reception, we will present the awards for best book and best dissertation (see below).

Secretary's Report

[Clair Apodaca]

The following are brief biographies of all the candidates in the upcoming elections. As a reminder, all candidates must be present at the business meeting to be eligible to run for office.

2nd Vice President-Elect

- Darren Hawkins (Brigham Young University)
- James McCormick (Iowa State University)

Darren Hawkins

Darren Hawkins is associate professor of political science at Brigham Young University, where he is also the interim director of the International Relations program. He has published a book on International Human Rights and Authoritarian Rule in Chile with Nebraska University Press and a variety of articles on human rights issues in *International Studies Quarterly* (forthcoming), *Comparative Politics*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Global Governance*, and elsewhere. In Fall 2001, he received a Fulbright Grant to spend a semester at the Danish Center for Human Rights. His research focuses on the evolution and influence of international human rights norms.

James M. McCormick

James M. McCormick is professor and chair of the Department of Political Science at Iowa State University. He is also a former American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow (1986-1987), who worked in the office of Congressman Lee Hamilton of Indiana, and was co-editor of *International Studies Quarterly*, the official journal of the International Studies Association (1999-2003). McCormick has authored or edited seven books, including the recently published fourth edition of *The Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy: Insights and Evidence* (co-edited with Eugene R. Wittkopf) and the forthcoming fourth edition of his text, *American Foreign Policy and Process*. In addition, he has published fifty book chapters and articles in such journals as *World Politics*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *The Journal of Politics*, *International Studies Quarterly*, and *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. His research interests are the domestic sources of American foreign policy and global human rights. His work in the latter area currently focuses on the role of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus in the formulation of America's human rights policy (with Neil Mitchell).

Secretary

- Jon Allen (University of Illinois)
- Rhonda Callaway (Rochester Institute of Technology)

Jon Allen

Jon Allen is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Rhonda Callaway

Rhonda L. Callaway, Ph.D. University of North Texas, 2001. Dr. Callaway is currently an assistant professor at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. She teaches courses in International Relations, Human Rights, International Organization and American Foreign Policy. Her research primarily focuses on the connection between globalization and human rights. She has published in *International Interactions* and has a chapter in *Understanding Human Rights Violations*, edited by Sabine Carey

and Steven C. Poe, with her co-author Julie Harrelson-Stephens.

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)

Bethany Barratt

Bethany Barratt received her PhD from UC Davis in 2002 and is currently Assistant Professor of Political Science at Roosevelt University in Chicago. She is author of "Aiding or Abetting? Human Rights and British Foreign Aid Decisions" in the 2004 Ashgate Press volume, *Understanding Human Rights Violations: New Systematic Studies*, ed. Steven Poe and Sabine Carey; "War and the Fate of Legislators: War Casualties, Policy Positions, and the U.S. Senate Elections during the Vietnam War" (with Scott Sigmund Gartner and Gary M. Segura), forthcoming in *Political Research Quarterly*; "Rhetoric and Reputation: Human Rights in Canadian Foreign Policy and Practice," forthcoming in a yet-untitled Lexington Press volume on Canadian foreign policy, ed. Patrick James and Marc O'Reilly; and several encyclopedia articles on globalization, human rights, and gender and politics. She is currently working on a book manuscript based on her dissertation, which examines inconsistencies in the role of human rights in foreign aid policy.

Lilian Barria

Lilian A. Barria is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Eastern Illinois University. Her research interests focus on international institutions that promote human rights. She has published articles and book chapters on comparative war crimes tribunals and is currently working on a co-authored book entitled "The New International Institutions of Human Rights: Efforts to Promote International Justice in Domestic Contexts." She is interested in

becoming an officer in order to promote the Human Rights Section within APSA and to a broader audience.

Karen Mitchell (Kansas City)

Karen Mitchell is an associate professor of political science at Ottawa University, Ottawa Kansas. She is also a lecturer in political science at The University of Missouri-Kansas City where she is writing a dissertation on charismatic women leaders. The focus of her research is Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma and she is actively working to educate students and the community on the human rights violations in Burma. Before beginning her academic career, she served in the Peace Corps in Chile working in urban community development.

Melissa Scheier (University of Houston)

Melissa Scheier is the Director of Undergraduate Studies at the University of Houston. Dr. Scheier completed her graduate work at Texas A & M in 2003. Her dissertation was an in-depth analysis of the constitution-making processes in Eastern European countries, using cross-sectional time series data to test the relationship between human rights and individual level valuations of the post-authoritarian regimes. Melissa's current research looks at human rights and repression in regimes transitioning from authoritarian rule.

Michael Struett (University of California-Irvine)

Michael Struett is a PhD candidate at UC Irvine and a Visiting Instructor at Whittier College. His dissertation analyzes the role of non-governmental organizations in establishing the International Criminal Court.

Daniel Whelan

Daniel J. Whelan is a Ph.D. candidate at the Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS), University of Denver. He is writing a dissertation on the contemporary genealogy of human rights, focusing primarily on the concept of "indivisibility" of human rights vis-à-vis the modern state. Since 2000, he has been a Senior Editor of the peer-reviewed online journal Human Rights & Human Welfare (www.du.edu/gsis/hrhw). He is currently the Executive Director of the Association of Professional Schools of

International Affairs (APSIA), which will be based at GSIS through June 2006. From 1993 until 1998, he was Program Associate at the International Center for Research on Women in Washington, DC, working on policy and research programs pertaining to gender, HIV/AIDS and human rights worldwide. He holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and an MA in International Affairs from the American University in Washington, DC.

Treasurer's Report

[Todd Landman]

Our balance, as of August 4, 2004, is \$3,504.00.

Best Book Award

The Book Award Committee (Mark Gibney, Peter Juviler and Clair Apodaca) has selected Rhoda Howard-Hassmann's *Compassionate Canadians: Civic Leaders Discuss Human Rights* (University of Toronto Press, 2003) as the "Outstanding Book" in Human Rights.

Award Citation

In *Compassionate Canadians*, Rhoda Howard-Hassmann makes a significant contribution to the analysis of the civic politics of human rights by providing a fascinating and insightful examination of how Canadian civic leaders conceptualize various human rights issues. Employing a technique of semi-structured interviews, Howard-Hassmann achieves a rare marriage between social science and human rights. More than that, her book is literature in the sense that individual respondents come to life as real people – with inspirations and aspirations, but also with human warts and fears. What the reader learns is not so much what human rights might mean in law or in theory, but what it does mean in practice.

In this book, Dr. Howard-Hassmann continues her vital and often path breaking work in the realm of human rights. Not since Robert Lane's *Political Man* have we been so privy to the intersection between the political and the personal. In recognition of this achievement, the Human Rights Section of the American Political Science Association is both pleased and honored to select *Compassionate Conservatives* as the 2003-2004 Outstanding Book in Human Rights.

Best Dissertation Award

The Dissertation Award Committee (Claudia Dahlerus, Henry F. Carey and John Wallach) has selected Dr. Emilie M. Hafner-Burton as the recipient of the Best Dissertation Award in Human Rights, completed within the 2003/2004 Academic Year. Dr. Hafner-Burton received her Ph.D. in political science in 2003 from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Award Citation

Dr. Hafner-Burton's thesis is titled *Globalizing Human Rights? How International Trade Agreements Shape Government Repression*. The thesis visits an important and vigorously debated topic within human rights studies, namely one that asks "to what extent and in what ways do international trade agreements influence government observance of human rights?" To tackle this question Dr. Hafner-Burton deftly weaves together a theoretical framework derived from studies on human rights and international political economy. She makes three specific arguments in order to explain how human rights practices are a function of choice at the state level, mediated by institutional processes at the global level. First, state repression is influenced by cognitively available choices embedded within international organizations; second, state integration in the global trade regime is not inimical to respect for human rights; and third, there is variation in how international trade agreements influence states' human rights practices. Dr. Hafner-Burton tests these arguments through a

rigorous quantitative analysis of a global sample of countries. This analysis is then complemented with a detailed case study on the human rights performance of nation-states within two regional level economic associations: *Mercosur* (Southern Cone Market) for the Southern Cone countries and *Comesa* (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa). Dr. Hafner-Burton's results suggest preferential trade agreements exercise a positive effect on human rights. Specifically, preferential trade agreements appear to exert a stronger positive effect on improving human rights performance versus membership alone in an international human rights regime, while controlling for the structural factors of regime type and level of economic development. One of the implications of Dr. Hafner-Burton's thesis is that global economic integration may function as a positive source of influence for the improvement of human rights, along with economic development prerogatives.

The committee is delighted to honor Dr. Hafner-Burton with this award and recognizes the contribution of her thesis to the study of human rights. Currently Dr. Hafner-Burton is on fellowship at Nuffield College, Oxford, where she is revising her dissertation into a book manuscript.