

# *Organized Section on Human Rights*

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## Contents

- ❖ The Steering Committee
- ❖ Message from Section President, George Andreopoulos
- ❖ Treasurer's Report [Todd Landman]
- ❖ Secretary's Report on Upcoming Elections [Clair Apodaca]
- ❖ Section's Website [Antigona Kukic and Mohammad Faridi]
- ❖ Report of the Section Program Co-Chairs for the 2004 Program [Michael Goodhart and Mahmoud Monshipouri]
- ❖ Best Book Award
- ❖ Best Dissertation Award
- ❖ Pre-APSA Convention Workshop on the Measurement of Human Rights
- ❖ New Book Series on Human Rights

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### **Steering Committee**

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Clair Apodaca  
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Judith Kornberg  
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## Message from the President

[George Andreopoulos]

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I would like to welcome you all to another exciting year of activities planned by our Section. Recent events have brought into sharper focus critical issue areas that we have been working on, and I trust that our panels for the 2004 Convention, as well as other initiatives, undertaken by members of our section, will reflect these developments.

One of our top priorities is to make sure that our Section has a dynamic presence at next year's Convention, building thus on the momentum generated by our past performances. Michael and Mahmood, our 2004 program chairs, are working very hard on our program and they will report in great detail on this in our next newsletter (March 2004). Their preliminary report is included below. Moreover, I am pleased to inform you that the keynote speaker for our plenary session will be the Honorable Lloyd Axworthy, former Foreign Minister of Canada and currently Director and CEO of the Liu Institute for Global Issues at the University of British Columbia. I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Comparative Democratization Section for agreeing to co-sponsor our keynote speaker

and for assisting us in securing additional co-sponsorship for this event.

I have two additional and important announcements that relate to the Convention. Following our Steering Committee's deliberations, we decided to recommend a thematic panel on "Human Rights After 9/11" for the Convention, and our proposal was positively received by the Program Chairs, Anne Norton (University of Pennsylvania), and Atul Kohli (Princeton). As a result, we were given the green light to contact and confirm the prospective panelists. So far, we have confirmed the participation of William Schulz (Executive Director, Amnesty International), Nicolas de Torrente (former Executive Director, Doctors Without Borders in the United States) and Susan Waltz (University of Michigan). Last, but not least, the Steering Committee agreed to organize a pre-APSA Convention Workshop on the Measurement of Human Rights. I would like to thank Claudia and Todd for taking the lead on this project. Their initial report is included below.

As you can see, there is a very promising series of events planned for the Convention. I very much hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us in Chicago and participate in our programmatic activities.

A brief note on our By-Laws: they were amended at our last business meeting held at the Philadelphia Convention. The most important change was the addition of the position of Vice President Designate, who will become Vice President/President Elect the following year, and, the year after that, President of our Section. The reason for this change was in order to ensure continuity in our activities and put our section into the APSA cycle. Mark Gibney was elected to serve in that capacity.

Finally, as most of you already know, our section has a new, updated and expanded, website. For those who have yet to visit it, please do so at your earliest convenience [<http://www.apsahrs.org>]. Among its new features is the discussion forum, which will be launched very soon. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Antigona Kukic and Mohammad Faridi, the site's webmasters,

for all their good work. Their report on our new website is included below.

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

Please encourage your colleagues, friends and acquaintances to join our Section.

My best wishes to you and your families for the holiday season!

## Treasurer's Report

[Todd Landman]

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Our current membership is 393 and our balance, as of 30 November 2003 is \$2,353.33. To date, the only expenditure incurred has been for our new website [<http://www.apsahrs.org/>] which came to \$119.40.

## Secretary's Report

[Clair Apodaca]

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

- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President
- ❖ Secretary
- ❖ The 3 at-large Members

The office of the President will be filled by the Vice-President, who in turn, will be replaced by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President (leaving thus a vacancy).

Since our By-Laws stipulate that – except for the President, the Vice-President/President-Elect and the Second Vice-President – “all other members of the steering committee serve two-year terms,” the Secretary and the three at-large officers will need to be replaced.

Any member of the Section can be nominated and self-nominations are also

welcome. Please note that all candidates must be present at the business meeting that will be held in Chicago and that their membership to the Section must be up-to-date. All nominations should be forwarded to Clair Apodaca [[apodaca@fiu.edu](mailto:apodaca@fiu.edu)] Prospective candidates should check our By-Laws at our website to see what each position entails.

## Section's Website

[Antigona Kukic and Mohammad Faridi]

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A new website for the Organized Section on Human Rights was developed and uploaded in November/December 2003. The website can be accessed by visiting the following URL: [<http://www.apsahrs.org/>]. The website has an easy to remember URL, has new sections such as "Announcements" and "Upcoming Events", and is updated on a regular basis. The website is being hosted by Webmasters.com, and was developed and is maintained by us. The service provider [[webmasters.com](http://webmasters.com)] provides for 750 MB disk space with 30 GB burstable bandwidth, which allows for 30,000 different users to access the site daily. The host also provides for 300 POP3 mailboxes, which are made available to the members of the Steering Committee and the Awards Committees.

We have also created an online discussion forum, which gives the members of the Section an opportunity to exchange their views and research on substantive issues in human rights. This forum will bring together a community of scholars, practitioners, students and others from all over the world to take part in a dialogue and debate. If you have any questions about the website or would like to register for the forum, please email us at [[akukaj@apsahrs.org](mailto:akukaj@apsahrs.org)] or [[mfaridi@apsahrs.org](mailto:mfaridi@apsahrs.org)].

# Report of the Section Program Co-Chairs for the 2004 Program

[Michael Goodhart, Mahmoud  
Manshipouri]

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We are pleased to report that, once again, our section's call for papers (the full text appeared on the APSA website and in the October 2003 PS) has generated many interesting submissions. Here is a breakdown of the submissions received:

❖ Individual papers:	83
❖ Panels:	5
❖ Discussants:	9
❖ Chairs	2

We are currently working on selecting the papers and developing the panels. In the next newsletter, we will report in great detail on the issues that each of our panels will be addressing at the Convention.

## Best Book Award

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As one way to recognize excellence in human rights scholarship, the Steering Committee established a Best Book Award in 2003. The inaugural award was given to Richard Pierre Claude for his pioneering work *Science in the Service of Human Rights*, published by University of Pennsylvania Press.

The Steering Committee is currently soliciting nominations for political science 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**.

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## Best Dissertation Award

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As one way to recognize excellent scholarship among our beginning scholars, the Steering Committee established a Best Dissertation Award in 2003. The inaugural award was given to Claudio A. Fuentes, who received his PhD from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2003. The award was presented at the Human Rights Reception during the 2003 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Dr. Fuentes's thesis, "Contesting the Iron Fist: Advocacy Networks and Police Violence in Democratic Argentina and Chile," examines the expansion of transnational human rights advocacy networks during the course of democratic consolidation. He explains how the new democratic context presents certain challenges to advocacy groups in the area of regulating police practices and reducing police violence in Argentina and Chile. Dr. Fuentes is currently Academic Coordinator of FLASCO-Chile (Latin American Academy of the Social Sciences).

The Steering Committee is currently soliciting 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**.

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## Pre-APSA Convention Workshop on the Measurement of Human Rights

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The Steering Committee has decided to organize a pre-APSA Workshop on measurement to examine how and why we measure human rights, while assessing existing work within the social sciences and discussing its limitations. The focal point will be on the challenges of using and developing different types of measures, and how sets of indicators can facilitate both scholarly analysis and work done by government, IGO, and NGO officials. Some of the measurement issues addresses in the workshop will include use of events-based and standards-based data and measures; disaggregating target characteristics (e.g.,

sex, ethnicity, age, political affiliation); and sophistication of empirical methods used in terms of scientific rigor, while maintaining our commitment to the accessibility of our research findings to the broader human rights community.

The workshop organizers are Todd Landman [[todd@essex.ac.uk](mailto:todd@essex.ac.uk)], from the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex, and Claudia Dahlerus [[cdahlerus@albion.edu](mailto:cdahlerus@albion.edu)], Department of Political Science, Albion College. The organizers are currently drafting a proposal to seek funding from the Science and Technology Section of the *National Science Foundation* to support the workshop. The current list of invited presenters includes: Steven Poe, Mark Gibney, Oona Hathaway, Linda Camp Keith, and David Cingranelli. More information will be forthcoming from the Steering Committee via the Human Rights Section email list and newsletter. A formal announcement of the time and location of the workshop will appear in the preliminary program of the 2004 APSA Annual Meeting and in the last issue of the newsletter before the Convention.

## New Book Series on Human Rights

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The State University of New York Press is pleased to announce that it has launched a new book series on Human Rights. Professor Zehra F. Kabasakal Arat of Purchase College will serve as the series editor.

The series is based on an understanding that while the concept of human rights gained considerable significance in national and international politics and public discourse, the present books on the subject have been largely limited to the investigation of the concept's philosophical foundations, advancement and use in international law, and promotion and place in the foreign policy formulations of the advanced industrial states. The dominance of the legalistic approach in human rights scholarship and advocacy has privileged civil and political rights at the expense of

social and economic rights and undermined the interdependency and indivisibility of human rights.

Thus, the new series attempts to advance research on the political and social processes of human rights and help disseminate findings to a large audience by publishing manuscripts that are interdisciplinary in approach and accessible in style. It encourages studies that examine the cultural, economic, political and international factors that contribute to the violation or advancement of human rights in all countries, including the industrial societies of the global North. Theoretical and empirical studies that address the full scope of human rights, analyze human rights issues at the intersection of domestic and international politics, or explore the political economy of human rights are particularly welcome.

Interested authors should send their manuscript and CV to either of the following:

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