The American Politics Group of the Political Studies Association
Postgraduate and Early Career Network Conference

‘Continuity and Change in the Trump Presidency’
British Library Knowledge Centre
4 July 2019
Welcome

Welcome to the second postgraduate and early career conference of the American Politics Group (APG). Following on from the success of last year’s event at the University of Reading, today’s conference is an opportunity for researchers in the early stages of their academic career to showcase their research and findings, gain feedback from their fellow delegates, and develop a network that will support them throughout their career.

The event would not have been possible without the support and involvement of those attending the conference – thank you! Today would have a great deal harder to organise without the support and encouragement of Dr Andrew Wroe in his role as chair of the APG; Co-Chair Professor Phillip Davies for his wise counsel; Dr Dafydd Townley, the APG’s Treasurer and organiser of last year’s event, who has provided considerable advice and guidance; and both Dr Phillip Hatfield and Dr Cara Rodway for their support and prompt responses to enquiries, no matter how trivial!

As with most conferences, financial assistance has been a necessity in making this dream a reality. The American Politics Group is immensely grateful to the funding it has received from the Political Studies Association through its ‘Pushing the Boundaries’ initiative. Further thanks must be given to the Eccles Centre at the British Library for hosting the event.

Kind regards,

Darius Wainwright

Conference Organiser
Programme

10:30 – 11:00 – Registration/Coffee/Tea

11:00 - 12:30 – Panel 1: Assessing the Trump Presidency

Chair: Dr Andrew Wroe (University of Kent)

Emma Hall (University of Warwick) – ‘Conditional Exceptionalism: President Trump’s Desire to “Make US Exceptional.””


Diane Smith (Brunel University, London) – ‘The Lack of Originality in the Trump Presidency.’

Tom Watts (Royal Holloway, University of London) – ‘When Ends Trump Means: Continuity Versus Change in US Counterterrorism Policy.’

12:30 – 13:15 – Lunch

13:15 – 14:45 – Panel 2: Trump and American Foreign Policy

Chair: Darius Wainwright (University of Reading)

Peter Finn (Kingston University) – ‘Foreign Operations, Wrongdoing and the Preservation and Destruction of the Official Foreign Record.’

Matthew Gallagher (University of East Anglia) – ‘Playing for Trumps: The Changing Role and Behaviour of Foreign Policy Advisors Within the Trump Administration.’
Megan Karlshoej-Pedersen (Remote Warfare Programme, Oxford Research Group) – Uneasy Alliances: The Political Consequences of Remote Warfare

Daniel Mobley (University of Edinburgh) – “Not Isolationist, I’m not Isolationist”: Isolationism as a Security Discourse in US Foreign Policy.

Pedro Ponte e Sousa (New University of Lisbon) – ‘Trump, the United States and Portuguese Foreign Policy: Opportunity or Challenge?’

14:45 – 15:15 – Tea/Coffee

15:15 – 16:45 – Panel 3: American Politics in Comparative and Historical Perspective

Chair: Jo Harmon (University College London)

Francesca Akhtar (University College London) – ‘The Impact of the Cold War on the US-Canadian Defence Relationship in the Arctic.’

Adenyi Oso (De Montfort University) – ‘US Democracy Promotion During the Clinton Presidency: A State Goal or Functional Bureaucratic Tension?’


Ben Quail (University of Strathclyde) – ‘Continuity in Presidential Media Relations: Analysing Johnson and Trump.’

16:45 – 17:00 – Comfort Break
17:00 – 17:45 – Roundtable Discussion: ‘Using Eccles Centre Collections for Research.’

Chair: Dr Dafydd Townley (University of Reading)

Dr Phillip Hatfield (Head, Eccles Centre for American Studies);
Dr Cara Rodway (Deputy Head, Eccles Centre for American Studies); Darius Wainwright (University of Reading)

17:45 – Close (Wine Reception)
The American Politics Group (APG)

The American Politics Group was founded in 1974 and held its first conference at the University of Keele in January 1975. It is the leading professional organisation for researchers and lecturers whose work focuses on the government and politics of the United States. Although it is a sub-group of the Political Studies Association, its members come from a diverse range of disciplines such as political science, history and law. Membership is not restricted to the United Kingdom, and our conferences and colloquiums attract the regular involvement of European and US-based scholars.

The group holds two noteworthy events each year - a colloquium in November, and a three-day conference in January. The colloquium is hosted by the Eccles Centre at the British Library in London, whilst the conference has been hosted over the last few years at the universities of Oxford, Leicester and Reading. The next conference will be held at the University of East Anglia.

The APG awards the Richard E. Neustadt Book Prize to the best book in the field of US government and politics published in each calendar year and authored by an academic permanently employed at a UK university. Perhaps of more interest to postgraduate are the group's two annual travel awards. The Ros Davies Memorial Research Travel Award and the Alan Grant Memorial Research Travel Award are for postgraduates undertaking research in an area involving current or historic US politics. Each prize is for £750 to be used for travel costs for research. Those awarded the prize are asked to prepare a report of their trip briefly outlining the research that was undertaken, and to acknowledge the APG's input in any future publication that occurs as a result of the research undertaken.

In addition to the travel awards, the Richard E. Neustadt paper Prize is awarded to best paper in the field of US government and politics presented by a postgraduate at the annual APG conference. The prize is worth £100 and is open to postgraduate students registered at UK universities and to papers authored singularly and jointly by postgraduates.

Membership of the APG is free to undergraduate and postgraduate students. Benefits of membership include reduced rate fees for the APG annual conference; an invitation to the APG November colloquium, and eligibility for prizes and awards. For more information on membership and the group in general visit american-politics-group-uk.net
The Political Studies Association (PSA)

The Political Studies Association exists to develop and promote the study of politics. The Association was founded in 1950 and has since become the leading association in the field in the United Kingdom. Members of the PSA include academics in political science and current affairs, theorists and practitioners, policy-makers, researchers and students in higher education.

The PSA is actively engaged in promoting the study of politics and both arranges and supports events throughout the United Kingdom. It works tirelessly to promote the interests of the discipline at all levels, to ensure that it continues to flourish and grow. Part of the reason for its success is down to the composition of the association which includes 55 specialist groups (such as the APG), the Early Career Network, and PSA affiliated secondary schools.

The PSA Annual Conference is a key event in the political science calendar, offering a unique opportunity for debate, interaction and networking. The association also awards travel grant awards, which enables members to present papers at overseas national PSA conferences and to attend the APSA Teaching and Learning conference. Workshops are organised on issues of practical professional concern to early and mid-career academics, such as enhancing teaching and learning skills, getting published, and achieving research impact through engagement with policy-makers and the media.

The Early Career Network allows all postgraduate and early career researchers to join the Political Studies Association at a reduced rate. Membership of the PSA includes free Early Career Network (ECN) membership. The ECN exists to promote links amongst postgraduate politics students and early career researchers throughout the UK, via a varied annual programme of events such as workshops and conferences. The Network also provides resources for ECN members and travel grants for enhanced networking opportunities, as well as access to all the latest developments in the field.

For more detail on joining the PSA visit www.psa.ac.uk
APG Awards, Conferences and Dates for your Diary

1. The American Politics Group’s 2019 Richard E. Neustadt Book Prize, supported by the University of Cambridge Mellon Fund

£400 for the best book in American politics published in 2018 by a UK or European-based academic.

Closing date for entry is 30 June 2019. For details, go to https://www.psa.ac.uk/specialist-groups/group-news/nominations-2019-richard-e-neustadt-book-prize-supported-university or email Dr Andrew Wroe at a.j.wroe@kent.ac.uk.

2. The American Politics Group’s 2019 Rosamund Davies Memorial Research Travel Fellowship provides a grant of £750 to help support a research trip to the USA for young scholars, primarily postgraduates, working on projects related to American politics.

Closing date for entry is 1 October 2019. For further details, go to https://www.psa.ac.uk/specialist-groups/group-news/2019-rosamund-davies-memorial-research-travel-fellowship or email Dr Andrew Wroe at a.j.wroe@kent.ac.uk.

3. The American Politics Group and British Association for American Studies Annual Colloquium at the British Library on 8 November 2019.

Highlights include keynote address by Professor Larry Jacobs (University of Minnesota) and roundtable with ex-Members of Congress. Details to follow shortly.


Details to follow, but please email Dr Andrew Wroe at a.j.wroe@kent.ac.uk with any enquires or if you wish to give a paper.