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Editorial Information

Editor

Joan Fisher

Email: joan.fisher@psa.ac.uk

Political Studies Association

Elizabeth Meehan Suite

Regent House - Unit 2

Pratt Mews

London NW1 0AD

Email: info@psa.ac.uk

Email: membership@psa.ac.uk

Chief Executive Officer:

Michelle Doyle Wildman

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**Political Studies
Association**



A Message from our Chair

First off, a big thank you to conference convenors and colleagues from the University of Birmingham and Aston University, along with PSA staff and trustees and our keynote speakers for such a lively and successful conference in Birmingham this Easter. We had a record number of delegates and wide-ranging panels representing and reflecting the diverse areas of interest and expertise within our specialist groups. It is truly heartening to see such activity going on, to be part of such a vibrant community and to be able to spend time with colleagues working in so many different areas across the discipline. There were many highlights for me during the conference but, along with our keynotes, I'd include the fantastic range of prize winners at our prize-giving ceremony as well, of course, the awarding of our Founding Fellows to mark our 75th Anniversary at the annual dinner. You'll find full details of the recipients for the awards, prizes and Founding Fellows in this issue.

Being part of such a dynamic and inspiring community has made it all the harder to see the unprecedented impact that financial pressures and downsizing is having on our discipline. Sadly, these last few months have seen a steady increase in requests for support from the PSA from members facing the threat of job losses and cuts. I am aware that this is a very unsettling and difficult time for many of our members. The PSA is already working in this area - providing letters of support, working with other learned societies and consulting with our Heads of Department - and we will be

focusing specifically on advocacy as trustees. More updates on our work in this area will be available in due course.

In other news, I am sad to be saying a fond farewell to two excellent trustees: Dr Andy Mycock and Dr Indrajit Roy will be stepping down as trustees in June. I would like to personally thank them for their insights and hard work in supporting the PSA's work with regards to developing our new strategy and supporting our specialist groups. I am delighted to be welcoming on-board three new trustees: Dr Aleida Mendes Borges, Dr Emma Foster and Professor Georgina Blakeley will all be joining us from June 20. More Details on their areas of responsibility and portfolios will follow on the PSA website soon. In addition, I am also delighted that Dr Donna Smith - who is currently a trustee - will, from this month, be stepping into the role of PSA Honorary Secretary.

Next up on my PSA to-do list, in addition to developing our work on advocacy, will be working with trustees and PSA staff to implement our new strategic plan, improve our governance structures and develop our PSA fellowship scheme. Watch this space for updates! In the meantime, I hope that, notwithstanding the challenging times facing many members within the discipline, you are able to have a restful summer and time away with family and friends. Thanking all of you for your continued membership, support and engagement with the PSA. ●

● Professor Rose Gann, PSA Chair, Nottingham Trent University

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Political Studies
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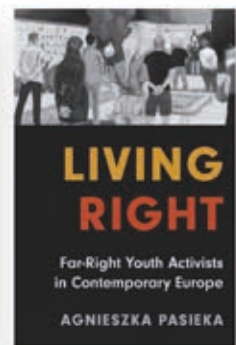
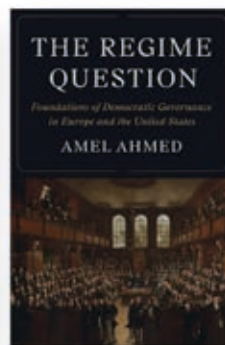
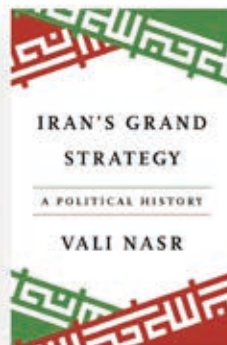
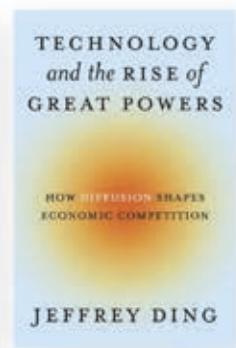
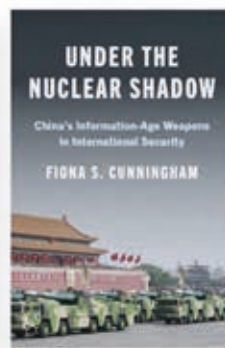
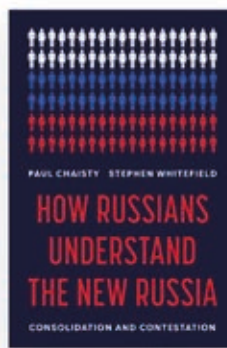
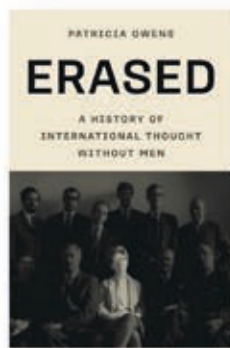


● Michelle Doyle Wildman, PSA Chief Executive

Check this out by [logging into the website](#), clicking on the resources section, and looking into these exclusive member-only benefits! ●

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PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

Convenors' Review of PSA25



May Chu



Stephen Bates



Parveen Akhtar



Patricia Correa Vila

With a theme of **What Next?** the 75th annual conference held in April in Birmingham was the biggest yet! Featuring over 200 sessions and nearly 900 delegates, highlights included excellent keynote talks, and roundtables on British Politics; teaching contentious issues; gender and the elections of 2024; and honouring the life and work of Jonathan Dean.

We - Stephen Holden Bates and Mai Chu from the University of Birmingham, and Parveen Akhtar and Patricia Correa Vila from Aston University - were the co-convenors and collaborated excellently across the two Universities with humour and efficiency: a rare combination.

The conference was also notable for the awarding of the first PSA fellowships during the conference dinner in Birmingham's grand Council House, and an excellent drinks reception in the University of Birmingham's Exchange.

A massive thank you from both universities for making PSA25

in Birmingham the biggest (and we would say the best) PSA conference in living memory!

Held over three (mainly) sunny days around Centenary Square, the 75th annual conference featured around 200 panels





and numerous excellent plenary sessions, roundtables, social events and more. Particular highlights include:

- Professor Rosie Campbell's keynote which challenged the discipline to continue to work on political representation, including on social class, even as such work is politicised
- A discussion between Prof. Anand Menon and Birmingham-born Ben Wright from the BBC on what next for post-Brexit Britain
- Professor Nicole Curato's keynote addressing how we can reimagine democratic institutions, challenge the "broligarchy," and cultivate a more inclusive global deliberative democracy.
- A drinks reception in the Exchange's glamorous vaults to celebrate the Department of Political Science and International Studies' 40th anniversary (in the same year that the University of Birmingham celebrates its 125th anniversary).
- A roundtable to celebrate 25 years of the British Politics journal, which co-sponsored the conference.
- A roundtable to celebrate the life of Jonathan Dean and his contribution to feminism, populism studies and political theory.
- The conference dinner in the Grade II-listed Council House where everyone dined on the world-famous Birmingham delicacy of balti.



- The Early Career Network event on the Sunday hosted at Aston University, and the ECN speed mentoring event on the Monday.
- The funfair immediately outside all three venues (not organised by the convenors but there serendipitously)

Thanks to everyone who helped make the conference so successful including:

- The convenors of the specialist groups who did an excellent job of putting together their panels.
- Colleagues in the Departments of Political Science & International Studies and of Public Administration & Policy at the University of Birmingham and of Society and Politics at Aston University who chaired panels, often at short notice.
- The PSA Trustees who did the same.
- Everyone at the PSA who were brilliant from start to finish and who were always a pleasure to work with.
- The student ambassadors who worked very hard and professionally but always with a welcoming smile throughout
- The two photographers who must have broken records for the number of photographs taken in one day.
- The keynote speakers and the respective chairs for their insightful discussions.
- The publishers who showcased the latest research in the field and sponsored some of the events
- The conference attendees for their contribution to this year's PSA success!

We hope you enjoyed the conference as much as we did. We now pass the baton on to [Oxford](#) and hope to see you there in 2026. ●

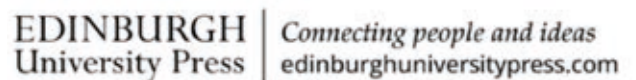


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75th Anniversary Political Studies Association

Meet Claire Davies

Head of Membership, Events and Communications



I joined the PSA in January 2025, at the start of this exciting 75th anniversary year, to take on the new role of Head of Membership, Events and Communications. Prior to this I led the events programme at the think tank, Centre for Progressive Policy, and before that, ran the academic events and prizes at the British Academy. I spent over 15 years at the Association for Art History and Visual Culture, a learned society, charity and membership body very similar in scale, scope and mission to the PSA. Having studied fine art then curating at Goldsmiths, I found myself drawn to, and working within, the realm of politics and policy.

I'm fortunate to be leading and working with the small but mighty PSA Membership, Events and Programmes team, and to work closely with CEO Michelle and other members of the wider team, our trustees, networks and specialist groups. Although only a few months into the role I feel like I've been here much longer (in a good way) as many new and exciting things have already happened, with many more to come!

It was fantastic to be able to celebrate our 75 years with nearly 1000 people at this year's PSA25 international annual conference in Birmingham. This was our largest conference in memory and it was great to have a filmmaker in residence on-site to help capture this milestone event. It was also the perfect platform to announce and award the PSA's new Founding Fellows initiative which you can read about on page 13.

We were delighted to host a keynote on every day of the PSA25 conference. Responding to the theme 'What Next?' these timely discussions covered a range of important topics, that were expertly navigated by the speakers. The opening keynote was delivered by Prof. Rosie Campbell (Kings College London) who was looking at political representation and shifting identities, culture wars and the quality of democracy. On the second day Prof. Anand Menon (Kings College London) held a thought-provoking in-conversation with the BBC's Political Correspondent Ben Wright on what next for post-Brexit Britain. Our closing keynote was delivered by Prof. Nicole Curato (University of Birmingham) who asked if democracy can survive the brologarchy. Huge thanks to all our speakers for delivering inspiring keynotes and making PSA25 a memorable, anniversary event. We'll be making available some recordings from keynotes in due course.

Other anniversary initiatives to look out for this year will be the launch of an Excellence & Impact Fund, a widening of the Fellowship scheme and our anniversary Annual Lecture. We're also looking forward to launching our new PSA website, and we'll be inviting members to share their views and feedback on getting the most out of PSA's digital platforms in due course.

This year, like many organisations, the PSA has made a concerted effort to spread its wings across more social media platforms, adopting a 'Bluesky first' approach with our social media comms, including the badging of this year's PSA25 conference. Our PSA groups and networks also have Bluesky accounts so please do follow us, sharing our posts with others and tagging us with your relevant content. ●



PROF. ROSIE CAMPBELL
11:30 MONDAY

PROF. ANAND MENON
17:15 TUESDAY

PROF. NICOLE CURATO
11:30 WEDNESDAY

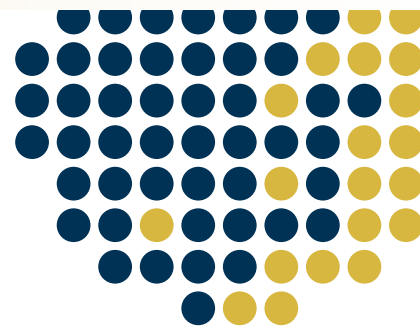




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Introducing PSA's Founding Fellows



2025 marks the Association's 75th year and, as part of our celebrations to mark this milestone, we are pleased to announce the introduction of a brand-new scheme: [PSA Founding Fellows](#).

The PSA has chosen to award 12 founding fellowships to celebrate our history and shape our future. Founding Fellows have been selected by the PSA's Executive Committee in recognition of their important contribution to the PSA and to the discipline more broadly. As founding fellows their role will also be that of

advisors and champions for the Association, discipline and a wider fellowship programme that will be launched later this year.

PSA Founding Fellows were formally announced at this year's 75th anniversary annual conference in Birmingham. We are proud to recognise these outstanding and esteemed colleagues, and their significant contributions.

The PSA Fellowship programme is co-ordinated by PSA Trustee, Dr Donna Smith, The Open University. ●

● Please contact fellowship@psa.ac.uk for further information.

“As PSA President I am delighted to see the awarding of 12 Founding Fellows as part of the PSA’s 75th Anniversary celebrations and as a first step in creating a new PSA Fellowship scheme for its members. This is an important development for the PSA, enabling the association to value and to work with colleagues who have made an important contribution to the PSA and the wider discipline. I look forward to supporting the development of this scheme.” Roger Awan-Scully



Professor Sarah Childs FPSA,
University of Edinburgh



Professor Sir John Curtice
FPSA, University of
Strathclyde



Professor Philip Davies
FPSA, Emeritus Professor,
De Montfort University



Professor Justin Fisher
FPSA, Brunel, University
of London



PSA Vice-President,
Professor Matthew Flinders
FPSA, University of Sheffield



Professor Kimberly
Hutchings FPSA, Queen
Mary, University of London



Professor Meryl Kenny
FPSA, University of
Edinburgh



Professor Fiona Mackay
FPSA, University of
Edinburgh



Professor The Lord Norton of
Louth, Philip Norton FPSA,
University of Hull



Professor Shirin Rai FPSA,
SOAS, University of London



Dr Manjeet Ramgotra FPSA,
SOAS, University of London



PSA Vice-President,
Professor Jon Tonge FPSA,
University of Liverpool

PSA 2024 – 2025 Academic Prizes – celebrating achievement



PSA's Academic Prizes judges were:

- Dr. Dion Curry (Swansea University)
- Dr. Nick Or (City University of Hong Kong)
- Dr. Michael Keary (Research Institute for Sustainability, Potsdam, Brandenburg)
- Dr. Nick O'Donovan (Keele University)
- Dr. Valentina Ausserladscheider (University of Vienna)
- Dr. John Kenny (University of East Anglia)
- Prof. Simon Usherwood (Open University)
- Dr. Samuel Ritholtz (University of Oxford)
- Prof. Indrajit Roy (University of York)
- Dr. Adrian Millican (Durham University)
- Dr. Gregory Stiles (University of Sheffield)
- Dr. Gulshan Khan (University of Nottingham)
- Dr. Ana Isabel Nunes (Nottingham Trent University)
- Dr. James Weinberg (University of Sheffield)
- Dr. Omar Khan (TASO (Transforming Access and Student Outcomes in Higher Education))
- Prof. Rosie Campbell (King's College London)
- Prof. Arianna Giovannini (University of Urbino)
- Prof. Jon Tonge (University of Liverpool)
- Dr. Andy Mycock (University of Leeds)
- Prof. Rose Gann (Nottingham Trent University)
- Prof. John Craig (University of Hull)
- Prof. Stefan Wolff (University of Birmingham)
- Dr. Akshay Mangla (University of Oxford)
- Dr. Giulia Sandri (Université Catholique de Lille)
- Dr. Sameen A. Mohsin Ali (University of Birmingham)
- Dr. David Jeffery (University of Liverpool)

The PSA is proud to host a prestigious prizes programme for academic research and professional recognition in political studies and international relations. At this year's 75th anniversary international annual conference we had the pleasure of awarding an array of worthy winners with their PSA academic prizes.

A huge thanks to all who participated in this year's PSA prizes, whether it was by entering, nominating or judging the submissions. The quality of nominations was particularly high, and judges had to make some tough decisions.

We are proud to celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of our members and showcase the impact that their work has within and beyond the discipline. Join us in congratulating their well-deserved success!

Nominations for our 2026 PSA Prizes programme will open later in the year and details will be shared in PSA News, on the website and across our social media channels.

Dissertation Prizes 2025



Sir Ernest Barker Prize 2025 for the best dissertation in political theory

Dr. David Guerrero - Reframing
Expressive Freedom: Free Speech
Libertarianism, Republicanism and the

Political Economy of Communication

"Built on a closely argued critique of the libertarian tradition's framework for free speech, this thesis develops an original and compelling neo republican alternative, the merits of which are convincingly demonstrated with reference to the contemporary media environment".



Walter Bagehot Prize 2025 for the best dissertation in the field of government and public administration

Dr. Viviana Baraybar Hidalgo - An
Intuitionist Approach to Corruption

"This thesis offers a fascinating and innovative reflection on the complex concept of corruption through the lens of morality and emotions and backs it up with original and robust empirical evidence in multiple cultural settings".



Shirin M. Rai Prize 2025 for the best dissertation in the field of International Relations

Lucy Maycox - Implementing Global
Gender Norms at the Global Local
Nexus: The Case of Kosovo

"The thesis provides a thoughtful, rigorous and well-presented analysis of an under-explored topic with much wider significance. The author demonstrates a confident and considered engagement with a range of academic literatures and with the living experience of post-conflict work on women's economic empowerment in Kosovo".



Elizabeth Wiskemann Prize 2025

*for the best dissertation in the
field of (in)equality and social
justice*

Dr. Asma Abdi - Towards a Feminist

International Political Economy of Sanctions: Social
Reproduction, Labour and Survival in Iran

"This dissertation is an outstanding piece of scholarship that stands out for how it reveals the lived, gendered impact of international sanction regimes in Iran. Building on the literatures of feminist international political economy and postcolonial feminism, the author re-centers the study of international sanction regimes from macro-level debates of state power to micro-level debates on women's lives and labour".



The McDougall Trust Prize 2025

*for the best dissertation in the
field of elections, electoral
systems and representation*

Dr. Daniel Casey - The Opinion-Agenda

Linkage: How Letters from the Public to the Prime Minister
Impact the Policy Agenda

"This is an impressive thesis that makes novel theoretical and empirical advances in the field of political representation. Clearly articulated and persuasive its analyses, it is a deserving winner of this prize".



Lord Bryce Prize 2025 for the best dissertation in comparative politics

Dr. Ali Al Youha - Inventing the
Khalji State: Formation of Political
Sovereignty in the Gulf

"The best research in comparative politics does not just illuminate unfamiliar aspects of the political world but also casts the familiar in a new light. This dissertation takes us on a tour of the Gulf from the early nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century, exploring how today's Gulf states were formed through the interactions of local, regional and global actors".



Mackenzie Book Prize 2025 *for the best book in the field of Political Studies*

Barbara Piotrowska, C. Maia King,
Iain McLean, Christopher Hood - *The Way the Money Goes: The Fiscal*

Constitution and Public Spending in the UK

"Based on several years of work by an interdisciplinary research team, this impressive book greatly expands our understanding of how public spending occurs in practice, while making novel theoretical contributions to the politics of public finance and administration. Combining a range of sources, including in-depth interviews and archival materials, it persuasively demonstrates how the UK's 'fiscal constitution' - the formal and informal institutional arrangements that oversee public expenditures, taxes and debt - has evolved over time and shaped public spending patterns and controls. The book's analytical approach, rich empirical materials and comparative perspective make it a noteworthy contribution to political studies".

Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize

for outstanding professional contributions to political studies, through service to professional associations, advancing public knowledge of politics and political literacy, or through other major contributions



Prof. Cristina Leston-Bandeira

"Through teaching, research, and engagement initiatives spanning more than 30 years, Cristina has been instrumental in promoting the relationship between parliaments and citizens. Her pioneering work on symbolic representation and the way it facilitates public engagement has profoundly shaped the subfield of parliamentary and legislative research in the UK and beyond. The author of over 70 publications, Cristina has recently edited the highly innovative 'Reimagining Parliament' which asks what Parliament should be in the 21st century and offers wide ranging suggestions for parliamentary reform".

Professional Prizes 2025



Joni Lovenduski Prize *for outstanding professional achievement by an early-career scholar*

Dr. Jessica Smith

"Through her academic work on gender and politics, voter behaviour and democratic institutions, Dr Smith has shaped the field and developed a profile as a leading early career scholar. Her research has generated wide policy impact and provided the foundation for her inspirational approach to teaching. Dr Smith has also demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the PSA - especially through her long-lasting contribution to the Women and Politics Specialist Group and the ECN. Dr Smith is a well-rounded scholar and a worthy recipient for this award".



Prof. Paul Carmichael

"We are delighted to award Professor Paul Carmichael the 2024/5 PSA Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize in recognition of career-long excellence and faithful service to the discipline. Paul has taught at the University of Ulster since 1992, being made Professor of Public Policy and Government in 2004. He has published more than 40 articles and book chapters on aspects of public policy and administration. Widely liked and respected, Professor Paul Carmichael has made a significant and sustained contribution the work and development of the Political Studies Association and the wider discipline(s) of Political Studies and Public Administration and is a worthy recipient of the Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize."

Research Prizes 2025



Richard Rose Prize 2025
for an early career academic
who has made an outstanding
contribution to advancing
knowledge in political studies

Dr. Alasia Nuti

"Selected from an incredibly strong field of nominees, this year's winner of the Richard Rose prize is Alasia Nuti. Working at the intersections of analytical political theory and feminist studies, Alasia has clearly carved out a niche for impactful and public-facing scholarship on injustice, anti-liberalism, and gender. Underpinning all her academic work, there is a clear and robust desire to champion creative emancipatory possibilities for those who have faced and continue to face structural injustice and inequality. Alasia is evidently a rising star in the discipline and a worthy winner of this year's prize."



Pippa Norris Prize 2025
for a research team that
have made an outstanding
contribution to advancing
knowledge in political studies

Scottish Election Study: Prof. Ailsa

Henderson, Prof. Chris Carman, Prof. Rob Johns, Dr. Jac Larner, Dr. Fraser McMillan, Prof. Chris Hanretty

"The Scottish Election Study team has made a truly outstanding contribution to political studies. The team includes colleagues who have been involved since 2007 and is led by Professor Ailsa Henderson. The outputs have gone from strength to strength. The breadth of data collected and the public impact of the work is impressive. Team members are regular media commentators bringing rigorous analysis and insight into public debate."

Teaching Prizes 2025



Sir Bernard Crick Prize 2025
for outstanding contributions to
advancing teaching and learning
in political studies by an early
career academic

Dr. Alexandra Meakin

"Her contributions to scholarship within her role at the University of Leeds and beyond have been substantial and positive. Notably, her work on attendance and understanding the reasons behind student dropouts has been particularly noteworthy. She has made significant strides in overcoming this challenge. Our judges were impressed by the range of initiatives introduced to support students from diverse learning styles and innovative approaches to supporting students through placements."



Jacqui Briggs Prize 2025
for outstanding contributions in advancing teaching
and learning in political studies by a team or group
of scholars

School of Social and Political Science (Politics and IR),
University of Edinburgh; Centre on Constitutional Change,
University of Edinburgh; UK in a Changing Europe.
Team members: Dr. Davide Vampa, Prof. Sarah Childs, Prof. Ailsa Henderson, Dr. Fraser McMillan, Prof. Meryl Kenny, Prof. Anand Menon, Jill Rutter, Prof. Jonathan Portes, Sarah Hall, Michael Crick, Rachel Amery, Sophie Stowers, Prof. Paula Surridge, Jim Blagden, Prof. John Curtice, Dr. Stefanie Reher, Dr. Jan Eichhorn, Dr. Hayley Bennett, Prof. John Garry, Prof. John Denham, Prof. Richard Wyn Jones, Prof. Robert Ford
"Our Judges were impressed by the significant work taken to create an innovative and inclusive team-taught module focusing on the 2024 UK General Election. The approach to team delivery with such substantial expertise across a number of Think Tanks and Universities is impressive and provided students with a unique opportunity to engage in the development of and analyse the outcome of the

election. The decision to open up the sessions to a wider audience through public lectures demonstrates significant impact that this work has had in bridging gaps between university and community."



Vicky Randall Prize 2025
for outstanding professional contributions to advancing teaching and learning in political studies

Dr. Susan Kenyon

"Our winner has demonstrated a considerable and commendable approach to treating students as individual learners and undertaking significant work to support students in their journey through higher education. Her focus upon building a sense of belonging in the classroom and work on diversifying teaching methods to suite a wide range of learners. Her innovations in teaching have supported students from their first steps in higher education through to preparing them for life after higher education through developing core employability skills through a partnership with representatives from the UK Civil Service."

Group Prizes 2025

Specialist Group of the Year Prize 2025
for a PSA Specialist Group which has raised awareness of the study of politics and increased impact of the discipline

We were delighted to award this prize to two groups this year – and you can read their responses in the Specialist Groups feature on page 27!



Populism Specialist Group

"The PSA Populism Specialist Group champions an interdisciplinary approach which widens the remit of political studies, builds collaborations with other Specialist Groups, and supports early

career researchers while engaging some of the most influential voices in the sub-field thereby enhancing the vitality and visibility of the PSA in our troubled times."



Women and Politics Specialist Group

"We commend the PSA Women and Politics Specialist Group for performing a stellar service to the entire PSA community and beyond by addressing key issues of gender underrepresentation, work-life balance pressures, and limited networking opportunities for women and non-binary scholars through its strategic collaborations."



Politics Society of the Year 2025

for a university Politics Society that has made a distinctive contribution to the study and understanding of politics

Warwick University Politics Society

"This impressive nomination from the University of Warwick's Political Society aligns closely with the PSA's strategic thinking around advocacy and inclusion. The society provides students and the broader community with engaging and inclusive opportunities to participate in political discourse and agendas. Additionally, the society publishes an active 'Perspectives' magazine and hosts the 'Beyond the Page' podcast, complemented by an innovative outreach initiative targeting local secondary and primary schools. This recognition makes them a highly deserving recipient of this year's PSA Political Society prize."



APSA/PSA International Partnership Award 2025
honouring Political Studies academics engaged in collaborative and productive cross-national partnerships that

make a significant contribution to the discipline in the areas of teaching, research, or civic engagement

Dr Akshay Mangla, University of Saïd Business School, University of Oxford (with Sandip Sukhtankar and Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner (University of Virginia) for: Policing the Patriarchy - an experimental evaluation of reforms to improve police responsiveness to women in India

"We were very impressed by the high level of scholarship, the public policy impact, the impact on actual practice, and the excellent example of corporation with others to create change." ●



Join Political Scientists at the 2025 APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition

September 11–14 | Vancouver, BC, Canada

"Reimagining Politics, Power, and Peoplehood in Crisis Times"

Register to join political science experts and scholars for the APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition, September 11–14, 2025, held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, to address the latest scholarship in political science. The conference theme is **"Reimagining Politics, Power, and Peoplehood in Crisis Times."**

APSA and the 2025 program co-chairs, Tatishe Nteta, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Christian Dyogi Phillips, University of Southern California, look forward to your participation in panels and sessions prepared by APSA's divisions and numerous related groups!



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Political Studies Association
**TEACHING &
LEARNING NETWORK**

QUE VENUES
BIRMINGHAM



Teaching & Learning Network

The Teaching and Learning Network enjoyed another busy conference at PSA25, with a number of panels and roundtables demonstrating the excellent scholarship and research on teaching in the discipline going on around the country.

Our first roundtable of the conference focused upon the teaching of contentious issues. Chaired by Dr Adrian Millican, with participation from Prof. Helen Williams, Prof. Cathy Elliott, Dr. Madeleine Le Bourdon, Dr. Karen Scott, and Dr. Temidayo Eseonu, the session provided an overview of their experiences, lessons learnt, and top tips for engaging with contentious issues. Participants covered a broad range of topics from the teaching of race and gender to numerous considerations of the decolonising agenda. The importance of how we frame these issues was a central theme, particularly in ensuring that students of all backgrounds feel able to engage without feeling targeted. The panellists emphasised that teaching contentious issues requires the thoughtful presentation of a range of well-articulated arguments and reflection on how knowledge is produced and shaped.

Our second roundtable explored the role pedagogical research plays within education-focused careers in higher education. Chaired by Prof. Cathy Elliott, the panel featured Dr. Christopher Huggins, Dr. Jeremy Moulton, Professor Rose Gann, Professor Helen Williams, and Dr. Andrew Judge. Discussions ranged from the visibility and value of pedagogical scholarship to the institutional barriers and enablers of teaching-focused career progression. The panel shared their experiences navigating this evolving space and offered practical advice for colleagues looking to develop and be recognised for their pedagogical contributions.

Beyond the roundtables, the programme featured a range of excellent panels showcasing diverse pedagogical innovations. Professor Rose Gann chaired a session on Methods of Teaching and Learning featuring Dr. Gregory Stiles, who presented twice: first on using humour and scandal to teach academic skills, and then in collaboration with Scarlett Vickers on the use of model summits to enhance employability and close the widening participation gap. Dr. Natalia Piskunova explored the use of gamification in Eurasian classrooms, while Dr. Giuditta Fontana



Political Studies Association
TEACHING & LEARNING NETWORK

and Dr. David Wilcox demonstrated the flexibility and creativity of using LEGO® as a playful and effective teaching tool in Political Science.

Another panel on The Dynamics of Teaching, chaired by Dr. Adrian Millican, included Dr. Christopher Byrne's work on addressing ethnicity-related attendance gaps and Professor Alasdair Blair's multi-institutional presentation on the development of the first QAA Subject Benchmark for Public Policy and Public Administration. Additional contributions included Dr. Amandine Hostein's paper on higher education as a space for cosmopolitan citizenship, Dr. Jeremy Moulton and Dr. Rebecca Tapscott's discussion of student-involved research ethics, and Dr. Susan Kenyon's analysis of the challenges facing commuter students in UK higher education.

The day concluded with a panel on Skills and Assessment, organised by Dr. Andrew Judge. Dr. Terry Hathaway examined how essay skills can be embedded within seminars, while Dr. Jeremy Moulton addressed the intersection of optionality and employability in assessment design. Dr. Judge, along with Dr. Philipp Heinrich and Dr. Michael Toomey, also shared research evaluating support structures for students undertaking unfamiliar policy-writing assessments.

We would like to thank all organisers, presenters, and attendees for their insightful contributions and for fostering such a collaborative and forward-thinking community. We look forward to building on these conversations throughout the year. ●



And we hope to see you at this year's PSA TLN Annual Conference on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th September at Royal Holloway, University of London, in Egham, Surrey. It will bring together academics to share

what lessons we can learn, what practices we have tried, and what we can take forward under the capacious theme of 'Teaching Well'.

Farewell from outgoing TLN Convenor, Prof. Cathy Elliott

I was really sad to step down at the end of my three year term as a co-Convenor of the Teaching and Learning Network at the PSA conference in Birmingham. The TLN is rightly famous for being a friendly, welcoming community and the



highlight of being a co-Convenor was definitely meeting so many passionate educators, making friends and being able to help create productive spaces for conversations about education.

I also very much enjoyed being part of a national conversation about education in the discipline. Throughout my time as a co-Convenor, I have been particularly interested in supporting and advocating for education-focused careers, so it's fitting that Politics has just published a co-authored article that some colleagues and I wrote based on our PSA Conference Roundtable on the '[Joy of the Teaching Track](#)'. We are still in the early days of thinking about education-focused careers, and the most recent conference featured a great roundtable on the role of scholarship for educational specialists.

The TLN will continue to be a place where people get together to support each other and figure out what a joyful educational career will look like in future. Last but not least, one principal joy of being involved has been working with my fantastic co-Convenors, Victoria Honeyman and Adrian Millican, as well as the wider academic and professional team at PSA, especially Rose Gann, John Craig, Nick Allen and Joan Fisher. I am certain that I won't be a stranger to future TLN events and hope to stay very involved. Thanks to everyone who has taken part in TLN events during my convenorship and I look forward to seeing you again at the TLN conference in September!



Early Career Network

The ECN programme offers a series of interactive sessions and panel discussions that address key challenges in the early stages of an academic career, such as navigating the job market, preparing academic publications, building a public profile, and maintaining wellbeing in research-intensive environments.

Our 'ECN Day', held at Aston University, took place on the Sunday before the main conference, serving as a space to welcome both members and newcomers ahead of their participation in the conference. At this year's event, a welcome and introduction, from the PSA's CEO, Michelle Doyle Wildman, was followed by four panels chaired by our committee members:

PhDs by PhDs

Our first session set a reflective and supportive tone for the day. The panel brought together current PhD students and recent graduates to share their academic journeys and personal experiences. They offered practical advice and

insights on pursuing a PhD and on navigating the complexities of early career academia. The discussion touched on a range of topics, often absent from formal training, including strategies for maintaining a healthy work-life balance, protecting mental wellbeing during the PhD, and seizing opportunities beyond the thesis - such as presenting at conferences, pursuing part-time teaching, and engaging in various forms of professional development.

Careers inside and outside of academia

Exploring the diverse professional pathways available to PhD students, panellists emphasised that while there is no single route to success, a key factor across both academic and non-academic careers is the ability to demonstrate your value and the relevance of your experience. For those pursuing an academic path, building a competitive profile through teaching, training, publications, and conference participation was encouraged.



The final session of the day showcased many of the opportunities available for PSA's ECN members. As one of the largest professional organisations dedicated to the study of politics, the PSA provides a vibrant platform for academic and professional development

Further, activities such as blogging and engaging with the public through events and non-academic publications were presented as effective ways to showcase expertise and build a strong profile for the academic job market. At the same time, the session highlighted the growing receptivity of employers outside academia to PhD graduates and invited participants to reflect on their transferable skills, such as project management, data analysis, communication, and critical thinking, and to consider how these can be applied across sectors in industry. This conversation offered reassurance that doctoral training can open multiple doors beyond teaching and academic research and encouraged participants to remain open-minded, strategic, and confident in exploring the full range of opportunities they can pursue with their skills and qualifications.

CV workshop

Our third session, with established academics, provided practical guidance for PhD students preparing to enter the academic job market or looking to improve their skills in crafting a CV. The workshop had a panel section for questions, followed by academics and participants in small groups for further discussions. The academics shared strategies for effectively structuring a CV with an emphasis on clarity, relevance of experience, and evidence of impact. Participants were encouraged to follow conventions such as

using clear sub-headings to organise their profiles. Particular attention was given to highlighting teaching experience and the most impactful or field-relevant publications and tailoring each application to reflect the specific requirements of the role. This session also addressed how prior non-academic experience can be reframed to demonstrate transferable skills, such as leadership, project management, and public engagement, aspects that are increasingly valued in the academic job market.

Making the most of the PSA's ECN membership

The final session of the day showcased many of the opportunities available for PSA's ECN members. As one of the largest professional organisations dedicated to the study of politics, the PSA provides a vibrant platform for academic and professional development. Through the ECN, early career academics can participate in a wide range of events during the year, including skills workshops, mentoring schemes, an online conference, and networking sessions designed to support scholars at different stages of their careers. It was highlighted how joining PSA Specialist Groups allows early career academics to connect with others who share their thematic or regional interests, fostering intellectual communities around topics ranging from electoral politics to area-specific studies.



Our ECN events at the main conference:

Speed mentoring

During the first day of the main conference, we hosted our popular speed mentoring session for PhD students and early career academics. This event was dynamic and energising, offering participants a unique opportunity to engage in small-group conversations with experienced academics from several universities. It provided participants with practical guidance on a range of crucial topics, including strategies for publishing during the PhD, tips for preparing for the viva examination, and advice on building a sustainable academic career path. The fluid roundtable format allowed personalised and focused exchanges, providing space for individual questions from participants. Whether seeking reassurance about their progress or looking for concrete next steps, mentees left the session with clearer perspectives and a sense of community support. Events like these highlight the value of peer learning and mentorship as key components of professional development in the early stages of an academic career.

Meet the Editors

Our roundtable with the editors from the PSA journals was a particularly insightful session, offering participants a valuable window into the publication process and

demystifying what it takes to succeed in academic publishing. PhDs and early career academics were encouraged to reach out directly to editors with ideas and proposals, reinforcing the importance of taking the initiative and building relationships in the academic publishing landscape. Furthermore, the editors highlighted the various strengths of the PSA journals, including rigorous peer review by high-calibre scholars and constructive feedback that supports the development of individuals' work.

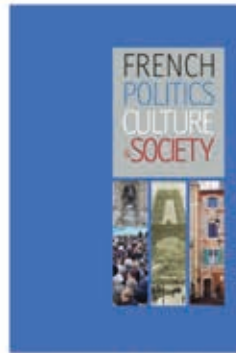
The session also provided clear guidance on what makes a strong submission - starting with a compelling abstract, a transparent and robust methodology, and a well-articulated contribution to the field. Participants were reminded that rejection, whilst discouraging, is an inevitable part of academic life and not a judgment on one's worth or potential. Rather, it can be a stepping stone toward stronger, more refined work. The editors also addressed feelings of imposter syndrome, reassuring participants that their voices and research matter. ●

● Mathew Hepplewhite and Manuel Hernández-González on behalf of the ECN Committee

Essential reading in politics from berghahn



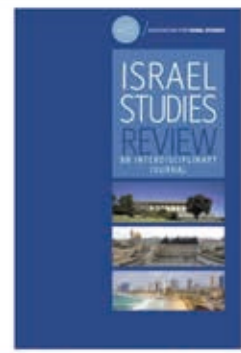
CONTENTION
The Multidisciplinary
Journal of Social Protest
Editors: Benjamin Abrams
and Giovanni A. Travaglino



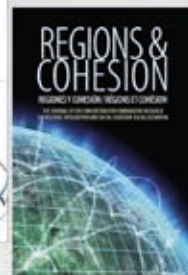
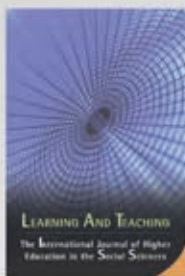
**FRENCH POLITICS,
CULTURE & SOCIETY**
Executive Editor:
Edward Berenson
Editor: Elisabeth Fink



**GERMAN POLITICS
& SOCIETY**
Editor: Jeffrey J. Anderson



ISRAEL STUDIES REVIEW
An Interdisciplinary Journal
Editors: Oded Haklai and
Adia Mendelson-Maoz



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CRYPTOPOLITICS

Exposure, Concealment and
Digital Media

Edited by Victoria Bernal, Katrien
Pype, and Daivi Rodima-Taylor



AGENCY IN

TRANSNATIONAL MEMORY

POLITICS

Aline Sierp
Edited by Jenny Wüstenberg and



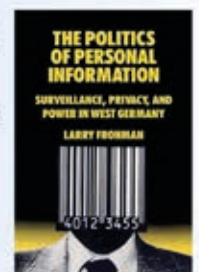
SHIFTING PARADIGMS IN CONTEMPORARY GERMAN POLITICS AND POLICY

Edited by Eric Langenbacher



THE POLITICS OF PERSONAL INFORMATION Surveillance, Privacy, and Power in West Germany

Larry Frohman



PSA's Specialist Groups

The PSA's network of [*Specialist Groups*](#) (SGs) offers a research focus for all members and covers a vast range of specialities within the discipline. SGs provide a space for groups of academics who share a common interest in a particular area to organise meetings and facilitate networking. They also provide an outlet for research as well as giving PSA members opportunities to develop academically and professionally. At the heart of our association, SGs also play a major role in contributing the papers, and forming the panels, that make up the PSA's annual conference each year.

We celebrate joint winners of this year's [*Specialist Group of the Year academic prize*](#)!



Women and Politics

We are honoured that the Women and Politics Specialist Group has been named joint winner of the Political Studies Association Specialist Group of the Year. This is the second time we have received this award (the first was in 2014) and we are proud to continue building on the work of our gender politics community.

As a group that represents those underrepresented in political science, our focus this year has been on addressing the systemic challenges in academia while creating inclusive and meaningful opportunities for our members. We have concentrated on key issues, such as gender underrepresentation; work-life balance pressures; and the limited networking opportunities for women and non-binary scholars, all while expanding our reach and influence.

One issue we paid close attention to was the disproportionate caring responsibilities that many women in academia face, particularly during the school holidays, which can hinder research productivity. In response, we ran our online Summer Writing Group, initially launched in 2023, with even greater numbers. This initiative provided a supportive online space where members could pursue their writing goals over the summer while staying connected to others.

In January 2025, we launched our first ever PSA Mid-Career



PSA's Specialist Groups

Researcher Mentoring Programme, supported by the PSA Trustees. The pilot initiative responded to a critical gap in PSA's existing mentoring provision, particularly recognising the combination of women's higher caregiving load and increased workloads at the mid-career stage which together creates barriers to career progression. The two-day workshop offered tailored mentoring sessions to a diverse cohort of PSA members, led by experienced professors and independent consultants.

We also worked to identify further areas in political science where women remain underrepresented and sought to engage with new audiences to promote our discipline, collaborating with two specialist groups. Over the summer, we co-hosted the online event 'Entering a New Era? Gender, Sport, and Politics' with the Sport and Politics Specialist Group. Held to celebrate a bumper summer of sport (Olympics, Paralympics, and the Men's World Cup) and to mark the Paris 2024 Olympics as the first ever 'gender equal' games, the event explored the intersection of gender, sport, and politics. Secondly, we partnered with the Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP) Specialist Group to co-host a 'Women in the Discipline Breakfast at the Elections' at the EPOP Annual Conference. This event provided a valuable space for networking and mentoring, enabling participants to connect with senior women in the discipline and share experiences and we look forward to co-hosting a similar event at EPOP's conference.

Finally, we would like to thank our members. None of this would be possible without their continued support, dedication and engagement and whose commitment and collaboration underpin everything we do. We have built a wonderful community over the years and are always keen to welcome new members. If you are interested in joining the Women and Politics Specialist Group, we would be delighted to hear from you.



Populism

The Populism Specialist Group is truly honoured and incredibly grateful to receive the prize of Specialist Group of the Year 2025. This recognition is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our members and convenors, past and present, since the group's creation in 2016. Our group has always sought to provide an inclusive platform for critical reflection on populism from a variety of theoretical and empirical angles, championing an interdisciplinary approach to populism studies, drawing from comparative politics, discourse analysis, political communication, social movements, and contemporary political theory, among others. This interdisciplinary orientation attracts a diverse membership base, encompassing scholars from multiple research backgrounds at all stages of their academic career.





PSA's Specialist Groups

The growing success of our annual workshop and panel stream during the annual conference has allowed us to become one of the largest specialist groups of the Political Studies Association with over 600 members, bringing together a global network of scholars from institutions in the United Kingdom and beyond. We are particularly proud that our group has grown into an international network with members coming from over 30 countries. Indeed, the diversity of our group also comes from its international orientation, which is reflected in the fact that we now organise our annual workshops in various locations throughout Europe, starting with our latest workshop, on the 19th and 20th of September 2024, which was hosted by the Democracy Institute of the Central European University in Budapest. Furthermore, we are particularly conscious in our workshop to showcase research shedding light in on underrepresented cases beyond Europe and the United States, emphasising perspectives from the Global South.

In the increasingly crowded field of populism studies, this critical, interdisciplinary and international outlook has allowed our group to become one of the most established and vibrant research groups on populism in the world. Founded by preeminent scholars of populism, our group has since then featured in our keynotes some of the most influential voices in populism studies and beyond. We are particularly proud that our upcoming 9th annual workshop, which will take place on the 2nd and 3rd of October 2025 at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece, will feature two exceptional keynote speakers: Yannis Stavrakakis, who was one of our co-founders, and Judith Butler, one of the most important philosophers in contemporary political theory.

As convenors, we are also keenly aware of the responsibility that comes with the success of the specialist group and we have always been particularly attached to preserving the feeling of community that attracted us to the group in the first place. It has always been paramount for us to provide a friendly and collegial space where early career scholars feel respected and encouraged to be creative, which is why we are honoured by the loyalty of our members who attend our events year after year. Witnessing promising and innovative researchers on populism grow as peers has always been one of the most rewarding parts of our work as convenors.

Ever since its explosion on the mediatic and academic scene - the rise of the "populist hype" to use the now famous expression of our dear colleagues Aurelien Mondon and Jason Glynos - populism has been a complex and delicate concept to engage with. From its use as an attack against any alternative to the liberal status quo, which fostered the rich literature on anti-populism, to its conflation with demagoguery and nationalism, populism remains a contentious concept which resonates with some of the most pressing issues in our democracies: radicality, representation, polarisation, identification and much more. The critical orientation of our specialist group is a fundamental part of its identity, and we have always been careful to showcase research that is both thought-provoking and unafraid to challenge established understandings and flaws in the wider discourse on populism. This prize is a recognition that our efforts have been fruitful and we seek to keep on curating events that push the boundaries of political studies ever further. We would like to thank all our members and past convenors for making this possible. ●



PSA **Diverse
Voices**

PSA EDI Corner

We are delighted to have received the Academy of Social Science's ESRC EDI small grant funding to support our ongoing efforts to promote diversity and inclusivity within our networks, specialist groups, programmes and events. The PSA has recently developed a series of video resources which educate and encourages our members, and others, to play a part in our endeavours to ensure everyone feels welcome and respected by being an active bystander.

What does it mean to be an active bystander?

It is being **aware** of any behaviour or system that may have

the potential of causing harm, or alienating a person or a group, and **choosing to intervene**. Being an active bystander is not just limited to interactions between individuals, but also systems, structures and processes that are designed to exclude certain groups or individuals.

It is important to learn about these (often) subtle behaviours and actions in your environment and everyday interactions that could lead to people feeling uncomfortable or excluded.

We understand that sometimes the fear of reporting or intervening may pose a challenge that prevents individuals from acting. This is why we recommend using the 4 D's **approach**.



The four D's of being an active bystander

Direct

You may directly intervene in an issue if it is physically and psychologically safe to do so. You may respond verbally - "I think you should refrain from using phrases like that, we should be more respectful." Or by your body language - if someone makes a joke about another person, you may keep a straight face to show your disapproval.

Distract

An alternative intervention may be to interrupt the conversation - maybe asking for directions/time - or change the subject/create a diversion - "hey, John, come on, we'll be late for our coffee!".

Delegate

Another way you can intervene is by delegating to a more appropriate authority – informing/meeting with event organisers or security/police

Delay

if for any reason you are unable to intervene immediately, you may do so afterwards through the appropriate channels. Delaying is still an intervention. If possible, check in with the person afterwards, recognising the situation and offering support.

It is important that we challenge inappropriate behaviours when they occur, whether this is done directly or by distracting, delegating, or delaying.

When can you be an active bystander?

- in your everyday conversations
- when making decisions and designing processes
- at events and conferences
- during peer review processes and conversations
- at social events such as dinners or drinks events
- in lectures, workshops, and meetings.

At the PSA, we are committed to celebrating diversity in all its forms, and ensuring that our systems and processes, events and conferences are accessible and inclusive to all. We believe this is achievable when you make the decision to be an active bystander.

We will be developing additional resources over the next few months, please visit our website and check our socials to stay updated. ●

● Joan McDappa, PSA Diversity and Projects Officer





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Association**

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