

Nobelists Series Continues in New York

Jim Alt, Harvard University, Margaret Levi, University of Washington, and Elinor Ostrom, Indiana University

Three further sessions of "The Impact of Economics on Political Science: A Conversation with Several Nobelists" took place at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York between November 13 and November 18, 1997. The format followed that begun at the last APSA Annual Meeting, where the ideas of James Buchanan, Douglass North, and Herbert Simon were discussed by Vincent Ostrom, Thomas Schwartz, Barbara Geddes, Robert Keohane, Robert Goodin, and Bryan Jones.

The November sessions considered the contributions of Kenneth Arrow, Gary Becker, and Reinhard Selten. Papers were presented by Norman Frohlich and Joe Oppenheimer, Norman Schofield, Russell Hardin, Ronald Rogowski, David Laitin, and Kenneth Shepsle. Covered topics ranged from advances in preference and belief aggregation through uncertainty, information, rationality and strategy to interests and interest group competition, with substantive applications including ethnicity, identity, and discrimination.

The series was intended to begin an exchange between some Nobelists, explaining what they thought had affected the discipline of political science, and some political scientists, describing what they thought had and had not come in to the discipline. Remarkably, it turned into a well-integrated and consistent set of contributions to what can best be called a massive reworking of economics' neoclassical paradigm by scholars dissatisfied with its assumptions as a basis for analyzing human behavior. That Simon's challenge to scholars to build rational models with empirically-based behavioral foundations resonates with the work of other social scientists might come as no surprise to those familiar with North's work on transactions costs or Buchanan's on political structure and externalities, but the questions of framing, information, and values

and their relationship with rationality were equally central elements in the discussions of Arrow, Becker, and Selten. This high degree of communality and consistency across the contributions of so many distinguished scholars has encouraged the organizers to edit the papers and responses into a volume provisionally entitled "Taking Economics Seriously: Conversations with Nobelists on Economics and Political Science."

The organizers would like to take the opportunity to thank once again the American Political Science Association and the Russell Sage Foundation for their generous support in

making this series of conversations possible.

Mellon Foundation Supports PROceedings

The Mellon Foundation has awarded a planning grant to APSA to support the hiring of several consultants to critique APSA's project to place Annual Meeting papers online and to assist in making the project self-supporting as soon as possible. Bill Ball of The College of New Jersey is the principal investigator and the director of the project,

Recent Contributors to APSA Awards and Programs October - January

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We Say Thank You!

called Political Research Online or PROceedings.

Through PROceedings, APSA and Harvard University Library have teamed up to increase the accessibility and reach of papers presented at the Annual Meeting. This year, Bill Ball, in cooperation with the 1997 Annual Meeting Program Committee, initiated a pilot project that has made 135 of the papers from the 1997 meeting available online.

In addition to the consultants, focus groups are being assembled at regional political science meetings this year to assess the value of this service and the ease of use. All APSA members are urged to visit the site at <http://PRO.harvard.edu>, search for topics of interest, download one or more papers, and then fill in the survey in order to let the creators of the project know their assessments of it. Comments may also be directed to PROceedings@apsanet.org.

The abstracts of all posted papers are searchable, and the papers themselves can be easily downloaded using Adobe Acrobat. This is the same freeware used by government agencies to make large files publicly accessible, and allows accurate transmission not only of text but also charts, graphs, tables, and strings of symbolic logic. Instructions for downloading Adobe Acrobat are available on the PROceedings site.

APSA Hosts International Delegations

During the Fall of 1997 the Association hosted visiting delegations of scholars from both Poland and Vietnam. In November six Polish teachers of civics met with members of the APSA staff as part of the APSA's participation in the International Civic Education Exchange program. Members of the delegation included: Lidia Korecka, Ewa Bobinska, Ewa Koclejda, Jaroslaw Pietrzak, Elzbieta Krolikowska, and Katarzyna Kozaewska.

Sheilah Mann, APSA Director of Educational Affairs, coordinated the visit with the American Federation of Teachers and hosted the teachers during their half-day visit. Among the activities were a briefing by Dr.

Mann on the status of civic education in the United States, an introduction by APSA Staff Associate Jun Yin to the Association's ongoing international programs, and a demonstration of the Association's web site. Executive Director Catherine Rudder joined the group for lunch and informal discussion. A variety of APSA publications, including directories, course syllabi collection, *State of the Discipline II*, *APSA Ethics Guide*, *Political Science: An Ideal Liberal Arts Major*, *Earning a Ph.D. in Political Science*, and multiple issues of *PS: Political Science & Politics*, and *American Political Science Review*, were distributed to the teachers attending the meeting. The APSA also provided a one-year complimentary membership to each.

Later in November a delegation of six Vietnamese political scientists from the Ho Chi Minh National Political Academy visited the National Office. This delegation was led by Julie Bunk of the University of Louisville and co-sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies and Princeton University. The delegation visited the United States seeking knowledge, experience, and guidance from American political scientists in an effort to establish political science as a rigorous and independent discipline in Vietnam. The delegation included Le Huu Nghia, Ho Van Thong, Nguyen Dang Thanh, Tran Danh Tao, Ho Ngoc Minh, and Vu Viet Dung.

Catherine Rudder greeted the delegation and introduced the Association and its major functions and activities. APSA Staff Associate Jun Yin briefed the delegation on the Association's ongoing international programs and Jeffrey Biggs, Director of APSA's Congressional Fellowship Program, introduced the Congressional Fellowship Program and the Association's efforts to extend the international component of this program. The visit concluded with a demonstration of the Association's web site. A variety of APSA publications and promotional materials were presented as gifts to the delegation.

IPSA World Congress Set for Quebec in 2000

Following a successful event in Seoul, South Korea, the 18th International Political Science Association World Congress has been scheduled to take place August 1–6, 2000 in Quebec City. William Lafferty of the University of Oslo and Prosus (Program for Research and Documentation for a Sustainable Society) has been selected to serve as Program Chair. A program committee and theme for the Congress have not yet been named. Cochairs of the local organizing committee are Guy La Chapelle, Concordia University, and John E. Trent, University of Ottawa.

All queries regarding the upcoming Congress should be directed to either the IPSA Secretariat at International Political Science Association, Department of Politics, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland; Phone: 353-1-706-8182; Fax: 353-1-706-1171; E-mail: ipsa@ucd.ie; or Dr. Guy Lachapelle at Département de science politique, Concordia University, 7141 rue Sherbrooke Ouest, Montréal, Quebec H4R 1R6, Canada; Phone: (514) 987-3000 ext. 4582; Fax: (514) 987-4878; Email: sqsp@er.uqam.ca.

IPSA also maintains a web site at <http://www.ucd.ie/~ipsa/>.

Minority Identification Project Joined by Seven New Core Schools

Seven graduate programs have recently joined APSA's Minority Identification Project as core departments. The programs are Miami University(OH), University of Missouri at Columbia, University of New Mexico, University of New Orleans, Washington State University, University of California, Santa Barbara, and University of Southern California. These new additions bring the total number of core participants to 41.

To participate, a Ph.D. program is asked to: (1) Submit names of undergraduate minority students to the program. Faculty in undergraduate programs meet with minority stu-