

Announcements

The Benedict Lectures in the History of Political Philosophy

Nominations are sought for distinguished scholars to deliver the 1999 Robert P. Benedict Lectures in the History of Political Philosophy at Boston University. A bequest left to the political science department at Boston University by Robert P. Benedict provides for an annual lecture series on "the history of political philosophy: Greek, Roman, or European." The lectures will be delivered during the Spring 1999 semester. The Benedict Lecturer will receive an honorarium of \$6,000 as well as travel and lodging costs.

Letters of nomination, which should include a brief discussion of the current research and the possible lecture topics of the nominee, should be sent to: James Schmidt, Chair, Political Science Department, Boston University, 232 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215.

The deadline for nominations is October 15, 1997. The Committee will solicit further information from selected nominees and announce the 1999 award by January 15, 1998.

Workshop on Parties and Elections Seeks Contributors

The Workgroup on Parties and Elections, a sub-group of the Committee for Political Sociology which is affiliated with both the International Political Science Association and the International Sociology Association is seeking possible authors for chapters in forthcoming volumes on the *Parties of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*. The workgroup is presently sponsoring the publication of a series of volumes on contemporary political parties, with an emphasis on the internal life of parties. The first volume, *How Political Parties Work* (edited by Kay Lawson), was published by Praeger in 1994, and includes studies of parties from around the world. Subsequent volumes are devoted to the parties of a single region. *The Organization of Political Parties in Southern Europe* (edited by Piero Ignazi and Colette Ysmal) *Political Cleavages and Parties in Eastern and Central Europe* (edited by Kay Lawson, Andrea Rommele, and Georgi Karasimov) are under contract to Praeger, and are expected to appear in late 1997. Planning for a fourth volume on parties in the Middle East is underway, as is that for a fifth, on Asian parties. A sixth, on

the new political party systems in Africa, is planned for the more distant future.

A key feature of all the Workgroup volumes devoted to particular regions is that the scholars who write the individual chapters are themselves citizens and residents in the nations whose parties they cover. Each chapter is devoted to a single nation, but more than one party may be discussed in that chapter—and there may be more than one chapter per nation. The organization and theme of each book is up to its editors to decide.

Indigenous parties scholars in the Middle East, Asia and Africa who are interested in exploring the possibility of taking part in this project are invited to write to the Workgroup Organizer, Kay Lawson, Department of Political Science, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA., 94132 (January through May: Departement de Science Politique de la Sorbonne, 17, rue de la Sorbonne, 75005 Paris), or to the Newsletter Editor, Andrea Rommele, Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung, Universität Mannheim, Steubenstrasse 46, D-68131 Mannheim, Germany. Please enclose a vita and a letter saying which party or parties are of interest to you. We would also be pleased to hear from parties scholars from other regions who have names (and addresses) to recommend.