

## Recent Contributors to APSA Awards and Programs

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## Thank You!

## In Focus . . . Census 2000

### APSA Panel Discusses Politics of the Census

Representative Steve Horn (R-Cal.), a political scientist who chairs the House Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology, the body which oversees the Census, moderated a panel at the 1997 APSA Annual Meeting entitled "The Politics of Census 2000." In addition to Horn, panelists included David McMillen, a Democratic staff member of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, Richard Rockwell, who works with the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, and Robert B. Hill, chair of the Census Bureau's Advisory Committee on the African American Population.

Rep. Horn opened the panel with a brief overview of current plans for conducting the 2000 Census. He called special attention to the Office of Management and Budget's recent proposal to allow respondents to choose more than one racial category when providing demographic information, using that proposal to initiate a discussion of the sampling

techniques increasingly used to replace headcounts. Noting that the Census figures translated directly into the apportionment of House seats and government funds, Horn said that some members of Congress are uncomfortable with what they perceive as turning over such issues to a handful of statisticians.

Conceding that the Census has often brought politicians and statisticians together "in a way that neither side has been completely comfortable with," David McMillen defended sampling as a necessary and long-practiced Census method which is required now more than ever as the Census Bureau must do its job well in an era of scarce resources and produce figures which are "politically defensible."

Speaking as a statistician, Richard Rockwell argued that sampling was a way to prevent undercounting of people who cannot be enumerated through in-person or return-mail counting. Citing the problems of counting populations as diverse as residents of gated communities and recent non-English-speaking immigrants, Rockwell said that sampling was the only way to produce accurate numbers. He also pointed out that scientific sampling provides the underpinnings of knowledge in most disciplines.

Robert Hill spoke last and addressed the problem of allowing respondents to choose more than one racial category. Hill expressed his support for the OMB's proposal as a "fair compromise" over creating a multiracial category. He did caution that any reclassification of race identities should be viewed as a "political

### Pi Sigma Alpha

Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, has over 480 chapters on college and university campuses throughout the country. Juniors, seniors, and graduate students, who meet the academic criteria for membership in their chapters are eligible to compete for chapter activity grants, Pi Sigma Alpha graduate scholarships, and best paper prizes. Pi Sigma Alpha welcomes inquiries about establishing new chapters. For a list of the institutional and departmental qualifications, and a copy of the application questionnaire, interested political science faculty members may contact the national office at 1527 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036; Phone: (202) 483-2512; E-mail: [pisigmaa@erols.com](mailto:pisigmaa@erols.com); or visit the honor society's web site at [www.georgetown.edu/departments/government/psa](http://www.georgetown.edu/departments/government/psa).

vehicle and not a social vehicle,” and that such changes should adhere to “three principles to govern tabulation”: historical compatibility, compliance with statutory requirements, and accuracy in naming racial and ethnic groups.

—Adapted from COSSA Washington Update (September 15, 1997)

### **Anthropology Group Advocates Elimination of Race Category**

With a U.S. House Committee hearing pending on the OMB’s proposed revisions to the race and ethnicity categories on the Census form, which were last changed in 1977, the American Anthropological Association (AAA) has issued a resolution advocating the elimination of the race category altogether by the 2010 Census. Prior to eliminating the race category, the AAA wants to see “race” and “ethnicity” combined into a single category.

The group proposed replacing the terms “race and “ethnicity” with “ethnic origin,” which they believe will be more representative of people’s differences and better understood by respondents. While the members of the AAA recognized that eliminating the term “race” could complicate the formulation and enforcement of policies designed to end discrimination, they argued that “the effective elimination of discrimination will require an end to [racial] categorization.”

The AAA’s proposal is informed by their scientific and historical understanding of “race” as having “no justification . . . in human biology” and rather being based in an early European folk taxonomy that linked perceived biological and behavioral differences with a ranking of abilities.

—Adapted from COSSA Washington Update (September 29, 1997)

### **Forty-Fifth Class of Congressional Fellows Begins 1997–98 Program**

Recipients of this year’s Congressional Fellowship are preparing to

make their mark on Washington, D.C. The Program officially began November 6 with a month-long orientation for the 1997 Fellows, a collection of select political scientists, journalists, federal and foreign affairs executives, and health policy executives. In addition to the Fellows named in previous issues of *PS*, Laurie A. Zastrow, District Manager of the Social Security Administration, who replaces Craig Gralley of the National Intelligence Council, will be joining this year’s class.

Foreign Affairs and Health Policy Fellows began their pre-orientation program in September and were joined by the other Fellows in November for a series of tours, seminars, and workshops. Highlights from the CFP Orientation month included Al Hunt of the *Wall Street Journal* and Cokie Roberts of ABC News and National Public Radio speaking about “Changes in the Media’s Coverage of Congress”; Norman Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute addressing “Changes in the Institutions of Congress: Questions of Reform”; David Broder of the *Washington Post* discussing “How Congress is Viewed Inside and Outside of the Beltway”; Alan Ahrenhalt, editor of *Governing* speaking on the “View of Congress from the Heartland”; Professor Roger Davidson, University of Maryland, reviewing the “Changing Patterns in the Congressional Workload”; Tom Mann of the Brookings Institution examining “Congress After the 1994 Elections”; Professor James Thurber, American University, speaking on “Rivals for Power: Congress and the President”; Ronald Elving, the political editor of *Congressional Quarterly* discussing “Conflict and Compromise: How Congress Makes the Law”; Professor Christopher Deering, George Washington University, speaking on “Congress and its Committees”; Professor Candice Nelson of American University addressing “Campaign Finance Reform”; and Senior Vice President of the Council on Foreign Relations Alton Frye reviewing the “Congressional Role in Making Foreign Policy.”

The goal of the orientation is to prepare Fellows for their responsibilities as staff assistants to members of

Congress. Fellows are scheduled to begin working on Capitol Hill in early December.

## **Section News**

### **APSA Organized Sections Distribute Awards at Annual Meeting**

#### **Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations**

The Distinguished Scholar Award, which recognizes distinguished scholarly contributions to the study of federalism and intergovernmental relations, was presented to **Ronald Watts**, Queens University. **Greg Shaw** and **Robert C. Lieberman**, both of Columbia University, won the Section’s 1996 Best Paper Award for “State Welfare Policies and the Shifting Ground of American Federalism.” The Best Book Award, conferred for the best book on federalism and intergovernmental relations published at least ten years ago that has made a lasting contribution to the study of federalism and intergovernmental relations, was given to **Deil Wright** of the University of North Carolina for *Understanding Intergovernmental Relations*.

#### **Law and Courts**

**Gregory A. Caldeira**, Ohio State University, **Christopher J.W. Zorn**, Emory University, and **John R. Wright**, George Washington University, received the American Judicature Society Award conferred for the best paper on law and courts written by a faculty member and presented at the previous year’s APSA Annual Meeting for “Strategic Voting and Gate Keeping in the Supreme Court.” The Congressional Quarterly Press Award of the Law and Courts Section for the best graduate student paper during 1996–97 was presented to **Nancy Scherer**, University of Chicago, for “Reexamining the Politics of Crime in the Federal Courts: Are Bill Clinton’s Judicial Appointees ‘New’ Democrats or ‘Old’ Democrats?” **Wayne D. Moore** of Virginia Tech won the C. Herman Pritchett Award for the best book on law and