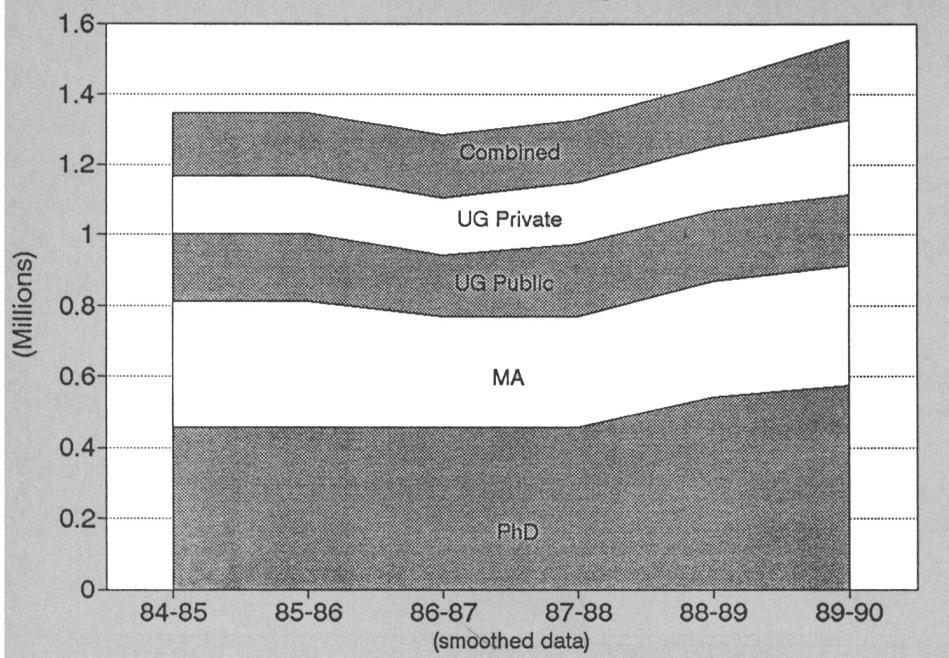


FIGURE 9.
Undergraduate Course Enrollments by Year and Type of Institution



In the largest and smallest departments—Ph.D. institutions and combined social science programs—numbers of African-American faculty have remained level in the last several years; appointments in undergraduate departments have increased. Numbers of Latino faculty in full-time positions have generally increased in all types of institutions except private undergraduate schools. These trends are shown in Figures 7 and 8.

Undergraduate Enrollment

We can also look at where most students are learning about political science. Figure 9 shows total numbers of individual enrollments in political science classes, stacked by type of department. Total undergraduate enrollments have increased in the last five years, especially because of growth in large, Ph.D.-granting institutions and in private undergraduate institutions. Data on awarding of undergraduate degrees shows similar patterns, particularly growth in all types of schools with substantial increases in the Ph.D. programs.

Notes

1. All data in this article have been drawn from APSA Departmental Surveys, weighted to reflect the universe of 1,300 departments.

See “The Political Science Professoriate: A Report on the Profession,” *PS*, March 1991, pp. 81-85 for more information about the data and about the profession. Time series sequences in this article have been smoothed using running medians of 3.

2. This article does not report on political science faculty teaching in two-year schools because APSA does not regularly gather information about them. *PS* will report on this component of our professoriate in a future issue.

National Research Council Survey Highlights 1989 Doctoral Recipients in Political Science and Other Social Science Fields

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Each year, the National Research Council publishes a survey of earned doctorates, based on surveys that graduate students complete as they finish requirements for their doctoral degrees.* These survey data allow pictures both of the composition of the class of new Ph.D.s in general, and comparison of political science with other disciplines.

In 1988-89, 34,319 Ph.D.s were awarded in all fields, more degrees than ever before, surpassing the peak of 33,755 in 1973. The combined

fields of political science, international relations, and public policy accounted for 601 of these degrees. In the disciplines commonly thought of as social sciences, degree production in political science was exceeded only by economics in which 898 degrees were awarded; 435 degrees were awarded in sociology, 324 in anthropology, and 105 in geography. Figure 1 shows political science degrees as slices of the social science pie.

Ph.D. production in the social sciences is the smallest of major academic fields. The largest rates of Ph.D. production occur in the physical and life sciences, and in education, with over 5,000 Ph.D.s each year. Figure 2 shows the number of new Ph.D.s awarded in 1988-89 for major fields, and for selected disciplines within them.

Ph.D.s Received by Women

Across all fields, women earned 12,510 doctorates—36% of all degrees and a 1% increase over the past three years. In some major fields, and some social sciences, women account for more than half of the doctorates earned—receiving, for example, 56% of the doctorates in psychology, 58% in education, 59% in language and literature, and 51% in sociology. Twenty-seven per-

cent of the degrees in political science, international relations, and public policy were earned by women. Nineteen percent of economics degrees go to women. The proportions for various social science disciplines, and for psychology, are compared in Figure 3.

Ph.D.s Received by Minorities

Among U.S. citizens, minority students earn 10% of Ph.D.s in all

fields—4% (811 degrees) earned by African-Americans, 3% (624 degrees) by Asians, 2% (569 degrees) by Latinos, and under 1% (93 degrees) by American Indians. In political science, public policy and international relations, proportions of degrees earned by African-American and Asian students is slightly better—accounting for 7% and 5% of degrees awarded. However, under 2% of political science degrees were awarded to Latino students. One

political science degree was earned by an American Indian student. Figure 4 shows percentages of degrees to minorities for various social science disciplines in 1989.

Ph.D.s Awarded to Non-U.S. Citizens

Since 1960 the proportion of Ph.D.s in all fields awarded to non-U.S. citizens with temporary residence has more than doubled to 21%. Most of these degree recipients come from Asian countries. These patterns hold for the social sciences as well as academia as a whole. Almost one-quarter, 24%, of Ph.D.s in political science, international affairs, and policy were earned by non-U.S. citizens with temporary residence in the U.S. Sociology and geography show similar rates. Anthropology is the social science with the lowest rate of foreign students—10%; economics is the highest with 40%.

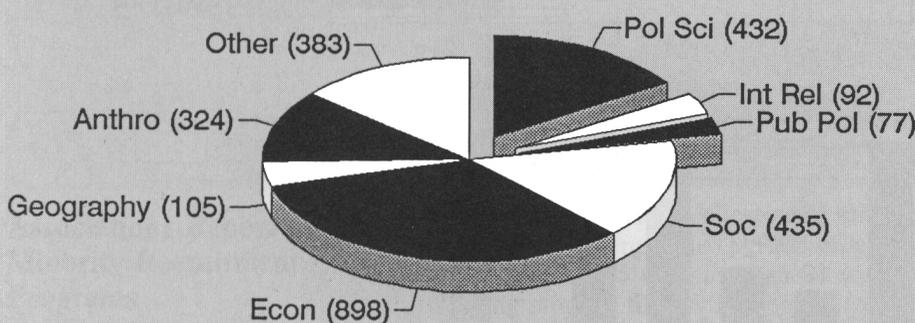
Characteristics of the Graduate Experience

The NRC report documents many other features of the graduate experience. Elapsed time from B.A. to Ph.D. in political science is 10.5 years, with 8 years actually registered. As a rule, time spent earning the Ph.D. is greater in the social sciences than physical sciences, where elapsed time is 7.3 years and registered time is 6.1. The most prolonged graduate experience remains anthropology, with 9 years time registered for the degree. Comparison among many fields is shown in Figure 5.

The median age of political science doctorate recipients is 33.8 years, equal to the median for all Ph.D. recipients (the youngest are chemists at age 29; the oldest are education doctorates, at 41). The median age of women earning their Ph.D. in political science is 33.4; of men 34.0.

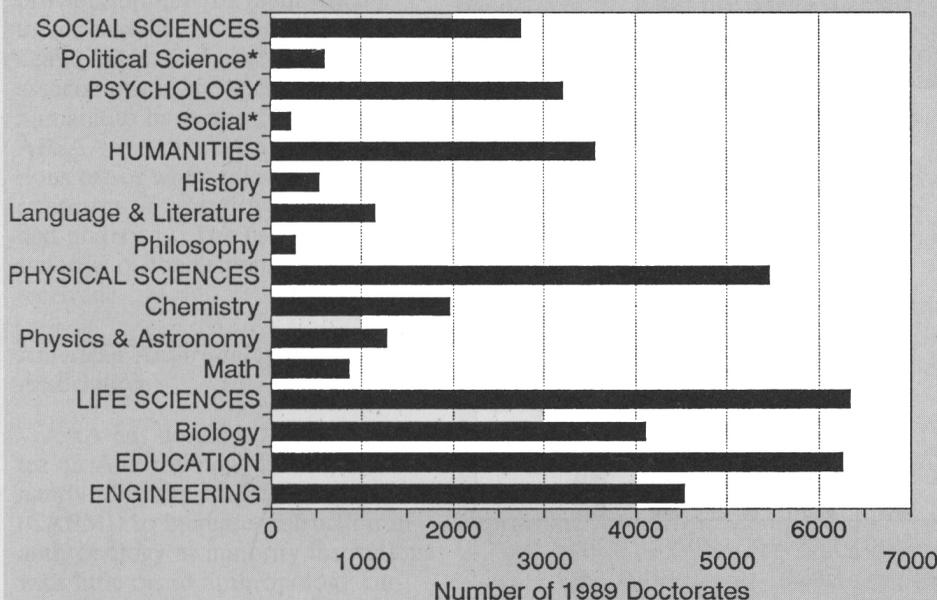
Finally, the NRC study reports on sources of support for doctoral study. Data are aggregated broadly by field; social sciences, including psychology, are grouped together. Over half of all doctoral recipients in social sciences (53%) rely on personal resources, including loans, to com-

FIGURE 1.
1989 Total Doctorates Earned in the Social Sciences
Based upon NRC Summary Report 1989



Other includes area studies, criminology, demography, statistics, urban studies, social sciences general, and social sciences other.

FIGURE 2.
Ph.D.s by Fields and Selected Disciplines
Based upon NRC Summary Report 1989



*Political Science includes political science and government, international relations and public policy studies. Social includes social psychology and industrial and organizational psychology.

plete their degree—compared to 14% in the physical sciences, 16% in engineering, 25% in life sciences, 48% in humanities, 77% in education, and 54% in fields such as business. In turn, degree recipients in the social sciences complete their studies holding the largest median level of debt of any field. The median level of debt for social science graduates is

\$11,100, compared to between \$6,800 and \$7,700 median level of debt for all other non-business fields.

Subsequent articles in *PS* will report on trends in many of these areas since 1980, particularly addressing women and minorities in political science and sources of support for study in the field.

Notes

1. The surveys are conducted on behalf of the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the National Institutes of Health, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

2. All data is drawn from the *Summary Report 1989: Doctorate Recipients from United States Universities*, Office of Scientific and Engineering Personnel, National Research Council, Washington, D.C. 1990. Graphed data is found in the Appendix, Tables A-1, A-2, and A-3.

FIGURE 3.
1989 Doctorates Earned by Women in Selected Social Science Fields
Based upon NRC Summary Report 1989

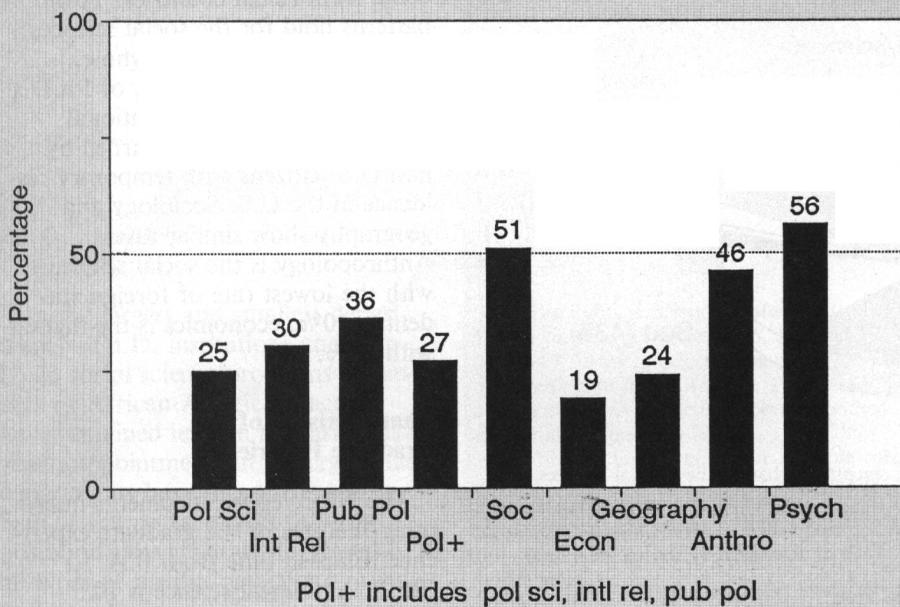


FIGURE 4.
Ethnic and Racial Composition of the 1989 Ph.D. Class
Based upon NRC Summary Report 1989

