

ASA Political Sociology Sessions

Session Title: Putting Culture in Its Place in Political Sociology

Session Description: Political sociology, along with other areas of our discipline, has taken a 'cultural turn' in recent years. This panel seeks to examine what insights have been gained from the focus on culture and whether this new approach has slighted structural factors that are necessary for understanding political processes and outcomes.

Session Organizer: Richard Lachmann, University of Albany, rlachmann@albany.edu

Session Title: The Politics of Immigration and Citizenship Rights

Session Description: Immigrants with their diverse experiences, languages and religions face challenges in integrating into their new societies. This panel will address cross-border migration as it affects trends and developments in the political and social rights of citizenship within nation-states. It includes issues of policy formation and diffusion, levels of political and legal citizenship, the rights of undocumented immigrants, and the social consequences of civic vs. ethnic citizenship. We especially welcome papers that address how political parties and interest groups frame citizenship issues and press for integration for their constituencies, papers that present comparative perspectives and/or papers that address change over time.

Session Organizers: Thomas Janoski, University of Kentucky, tjanos@uky.edu and Patricia McManus, Indiana University, pmcmanus@indiana.edu

Session Title: Inequality and Citizenship

Session Description: The gap between democracy's promise of full political equality among citizens and the reality of significant socio-economic inequality, with its impact on varied political processes and outcomes, has been a theme of enduring concern for political sociologists. Citizenship – both in the sense of active involvement in public matters and of the claiming or elaboration of rights – is arguably the main arena where this gap is addressed. This panel welcomes contributions addressing the impact of inequality on the exercise of citizenship, as well as analyses of responses to inequality articulated around citizenship.

Session Organizer: Robert M. Fishman, University of Notre Dame, rfishman@nd.edu

Session Title: Gender Equality and Democratic Development

Session Description: In new or developing democracies, trends toward greater gender equality in politics have been uneven and inconsistent across levels of governance. Models that described change in Western democracies often fail to capture processes or outcomes in nations developing democratic practices. In this session we will examine gender equality in these newer or less stable democracies across a range of political institutions. A discourse on the relationship of gender equality to democracy will conclude our examinations.

Session Organizers: Catherine Bolzendahl, University of California, Irvine, cbolzend@uci.edu

Session Title: From Financial Crisis to Global Institutional Alternatives?

Session Description: The current global financial crisis and its various regional manifestations have led some analysts to announce 'the end of neoliberalism' and the return of the state. Others have noted the reinvigoration of international financial institutions. This panel will examine whether and, if so, how the financial crisis has influenced the international political architecture by changing how much power different institutions hold, or by altering political ideologies and related policies proposed. Exactly what real-world changes have occurred at the level of global governance, and what does this mean for political and economic inequalities across regions and nations? The panel is open to discussing both powerful global institutions and social movements.

Session Organizer: Jon Shefner and Paul Gellert, University of Tennessee, jshfner@utk.edu and pgellert@utk.edu