

CALL FOR PAPER AND PANEL PROPOSALS

Australian Political Studies Association Annual Conference, Sydney 2014



The annual conference of the Australian Political Studies Association will meet from Sunday 28th September to Wednesday 1st October 2014 at the University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW, 2006, Australia.

Call for Panel and Paper Proposals

The association welcomes paper and panel proposals falling within any area or subfield within the discipline of political studies, broadly defined. This includes:

- International Relations
- Public Policy
- Australian and Indigenous politics
- Political Theory
- Comparative Politics
- Environmental Politics
- Thematic stream: Elections, democracy and autocracy
- Open stream

Submissions are sought for standalone papers, as well as for special panels where three to five papers address a common theme.

Conference theme: Elections, democracies, and autocracies

In addition, the organizers encourage submissions addressing the main conference theme of '*Elections, democracies and autocracies*' from multiple disciplinary and methodological approaches.

One of the most dramatic transformations during the twentieth century has been the spread of elections as the dominant mechanisms for selecting government leaders, a shift occurring in all but a handful of countries worldwide. Nevertheless often elections around the globe are deeply flawed or even fail. Opponents are banned. Campaigns are awash with money. Reporters are muzzled. Registers are outdated. Parties boycott contests. Officials are partisan. Elections spark violence. Courts fail to resolve disputes. Irregularities arise in mature democracies such as Australia, the United States and Britain, as well as in many other types of regimes and global regions.

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This raises concern because it is widely suspected that flawed, or even failed, contests will violate basic human rights, undermine confidence in elected authorities, damage voting turnout, trigger protests, exacerbate conflict, and occasionally spark revolutions. Well-run elections, by themselves, are insufficient for successful transitions to democracy. But flawed, or even failed, contests wreck fragile progress.

Proposals would be welcomed for the main theme including, although not limited to, the following topics:

- The role of the international community in strengthening elections;
- The strengths and weaknesses of talk of 'international democracy';
- Public policies regulating the conduct of elections, including electoral management bodies, political finance, and campaign media;
- The role of 'flanking' institutions that nurture or disable elections, including the media, parties, the courts, parliaments, public monitoring agencies and regulatory bodies;
- The challenges facing Australian elections;
- The role of new information and communication technologies and social media in campaigns and electoral administration;
- Challenges of social diversity and gender equality in elected office;
- Normative theories about the role of elections in democracy;
- The comparative study of elections in democracies and autocracies

Pre-APSA Workshops Sunday 28th September

Several thematic workshops held the day before the main conference are designed to bring together scholars presenting research papers around a common topic, involving a series of four related panels during the day. This format provides opportunities for an intensive exchange of ideas and network-building. Refreshments, lunch and an early evening drinks reception will be provided for all participants. Some workshops are also organizing a dinner in the early evening. This includes the following workshops:

- A graduate student workshop;
- The legal regulation of political parties;
- Electoral integrity in Asia-Pacific;
- Comparative immigration policy and politics; and,
- The future of environmental movements.

Further details are available via the event website and similar processes are followed for submitting paper proposals online.

Submission Deadline: 1st March 2014

Contributors are invited to go online to the conference website, www.apsa2014.org by the deadline of 5pm (AEDT) 1st March 2014, to submit a proposal. This includes providing the author(s) contact details and institutional affiliation(s), a title, and a short (250 word) abstract. Participants are also asked to indicate where the proposal would fit within one or two relevant streams or workshops.

The organizers will confirm acceptance by 1st April 2014. Attendees will need to register and pay the conference fee to confirm attendance and be listed in the program although membership of

APSA is not required. Refereed papers seeking review need to be submitted by 1st June 2014. Papers are requested to be uploaded to the conference website by 1st September 2014.

Travel Awards

A limited number of \$200 travel awards will be available for selected doctoral students, younger scholars (under 30), women, indigenous scholars, and participants from developing countries. To qualify, applicants must be presenting a written paper at the conference submitted by the deadline of 1st September 2014.

More details about this event are all available at:

www.apsa2014.org

Queries should be sent to the conference assistant: apsa2014sydney@gmail.com

CONFERENCE CONVENERS:

Pippa Norris (University of Sydney and Harvard University)

Richard W. Frank (University of Sydney)

CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND STREAMS

- *International Relations stream:* **Susan Park**, University of Sydney and **John Langmore**, University of Melbourne
- *Public Policy stream:* **Paul Fawcett**, University of Sydney and **Brian Head**, University of Queensland
- *Australian and Indigenous Politics stream:* **Rodney Smith**, University of Sydney and **Marian Sawer**, Australian National University
- *Political Theory stream:* **John Dryzek**, Australian National University/University of Canberra and **John Keane**, Sydney University
- *Comparative Politics stream:* **Ryan Griffiths** (University of Sydney)
- *Environmental Politics stream:* **David Schlosberg** (University of Sydney)
- *Thematic stream:* Elections, democracy and autocracy **Ferran Martinez i Coma**, University of Sydney
- *Open stream:* **Ariadne Vromen**, University of Sydney

PRE-APSA ONE-DAY WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS

- *Graduate Workshop:* **Christopher L. Neff**, University of Sydney
- *The legal regulation of political parties:* **Anika Gauja**, University of Sydney
- *Electoral integrity in Asia-Pacific,* **Max Grömping**, University of Sydney
- *The future of environmental movements,* **David Schlosberg**, University of Sydney
- *Comparative immigration policy and politics,* **Anna Boucher**, University of Sydney and **Juliet Pietsch**, ANU.