

Preliminary LPSS event schedule, 2010 ALA Annual – Washington D.C.

Saturday, June 26, 2010

9:00 am-10:30 am. **Executive committee meeting**

11:30 am –1:00 pm **Marta Lange luncheon and CQ Press Tours** honoring

Bruce Pencek

1:30-3:00 pm. **Section program:** “Participatory Democracy in an Internet Age”

Sunday, June 27, 2010

8:00 am-11:00 am. **All committee and Membership meeting**

Consult the official ALA/ACRL schedule for locations. Times listed there may differ slightly from actual meeting times listed above.

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LPSS Program Examines Participatory Democracy in an Internet Age

Candidates on YouTube? Fan pages on Facebook? Tweeting about the election? Blogging about politics? The 2008 elections demonstrated new communication avenues for campaigns such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, blogging and other social networking tools. This year’s annual program at ALA will focus on how the Internet is intersecting with politics and examine how these tools may alter campaigns, politics, revenue streams and participatory democracy.

The panelists include:

- Julie Barko Germany was the director for the Institute for Politics, Democracy & the Internet and director of marketing and communications for The George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management and has just taken a job as Vice President of Digital Strategy at DCI Group.
- Dave Karpf is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Brown University's Taubman Center for Public Policy. He is a recent graduate of the University of Pennsylvania where he wrote his dissertation on the Internet’s impact on political associations.
- Decker Ngongang is the Vice President of Programs for Mobilize.org.

The program is scheduled for Saturday, June 26, 1:30 – 3:00 pm. Consult the conference program and the LPSS website <<http://www.ala.org/acrl/lpss/>> for location and updates.

Letter from the Chair: Erik Estep

LPSS Leading the Way

As I write this report to you, it has been just a week since the Health Care Bill has passed. In the past seven days, I’ve listened to public radio, watched the major news networks, read the New York Times, jostled with friends on Facebook, and all of this information I’ve done has been.... *online*. But before you reach for that reference book to toss at me, let me explain that I’ve also worked with students and faculty, taught them out to use the online catalog, pulled political books off the shelf, try to answer some law schoolish questions, etc.

We are in the midst of an information revolution, and no this isn’t a newsflash but it is important to view this from the



ALA Annual will be held in Washington DC June 24-29, 2010

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The Globalization of LPSS

By Lucy Lyons

For the last few years, I have happily served as the LPSS's informal liaison to the annual meetings of the International Studies Association (ISA). I recently returned from the 51st conference ready to write my report when I decided on an op-ed instead.

It is getting to be that attendance to the ISA is rivaling that of the APSA conferences. So, it is time to ask: Should the LPSS consider making an effort to have more presence at and coverage of this significantly growing gathering?

As you may know, a few years ago there was a revolution of sorts at the APSA. The Perestroika movement protested that both the conference and the association's main publication (ASPR) had always been and continued to be dominated by the American Politics subfield. And yet, more scholarship as well as students were moving toward other subfields, especially Comparative Politics and International Relations. Are these scholars moving away from the APSA and to the ISA? I do not know, but I do believe we need to take serious note of the ISA.

How do these conferences differ? The most obvious difference is the make-up of the participants. The huge presence of non-Americans (U.S.) is quite notable in the

hallways, the smoking areas, and in the panels. The perspective of scholars from Austria, Brazil, Croatia, Egypt, South Korea and so many other countries are presented. "Protecting Communication," for example, included scholars from Canada, the Netherlands, Russia, and the U.S.

The exhibitions are smaller at the ISA than the APSA, but I *always* find new publishers and new resources that are not present at either the ALA or APSA conferences. And the panels, in my biased opinion, are so much more interesting; it is difficult to choose which competing talks to attend.

The APSA covers all subfields, though as noted earlier, not as well as some would like. It would be a mistake, though, to think that the ISA is exclusively IR and Comparative. American Politics, for example, is found in panels by sections such as Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA) and Intelligence Studies (ISS). In addition, the ISA is very interdisciplinary, and includes sections such as Environmental Studies (ESS) and International Political Sociology (IPS). When I was also selector for journalism, I easily found enough panels to attend that bridge both political science and journalism.

"Should the LPSS consider making an effort to have more presence at and coverage of this significantly growing gathering?"

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Leading the way

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lense of a small section like ours. Size matters, and our small section has had a nimbleness in the last decade that should be the envy of other sections. It has been nearly a decade since my close friend and colleague, Chad Kahl, suggested that I join. And what a ride it has been!

We've been a trendsetter in technology, information literacy, and blogging, and other avenues that I'm certain I've forgotten. As a member for nearly a decade, I've had tremendous opportunities to participate, and, hopefully, make a difference. And I don't think my experience has been unique. We are a friendly and collegial group, for those of you starting your careers, and, perhaps, beginning your Long March towards tenure I'm sure you'll be delighted.

For LPSSers, DC is sort of a Candyland, so many think tanks to see, sites, etc. Saturday should be named unofficially "LPSS Day" at Annual. We have executive committee in the morning, then the Marta Lange luncheon, a tour of CQ Press by our generous sponsors, and yet another exciting conference program. And let's not forget the nuts and bolts committee meetings Sunday morning.

Before your eyes wander to other parts of the newsletter, let me tell you I was gratified to learn that Bruce Pencek is our 2010 Marta Lange winner. This superb newsletter you are reading is due, in large part, to Bruce's hard work and great skill. Not only that, Bruce has worked hard to foster and develop connections with our sister colleagues at APA. He has gently prodded us to have a presence at major political science conference and to develop content that will be useful to faculty across the discipline.

So, read this newsletter online, print it out, Twitter about it, FB update it, but remember there is nothing like being there in DC. See you soon!

Librarians at the 2010 Teaching and Learning Conference

By Mara Degnan-Rojeski and Bruce Pencek

Section members were again among the participants in Philadelphia February 5-7 for the 2010 American Political Science Association (APSA) Teaching and Learning Conference (TLC). Extreme winter weather made conference travel difficult for many, but almost 300 still were able to participate in the conference.

With a theme of "Advancing Excellence in Teaching," the conference opened with an address from former Sen. Bob Graham entitled "Salvaging Scholarship: A Partnership for Pols and Scholars?" Rogers M. Smith of the University of Pennsylvania gave the keynote address "Teaching as Redemption." The final plenary session concluded with a roundtable, "Teaching Political Science During Hard Times," facilitated by APSA president Henry Brady.

Some participants were able to participate virtually, and recordings of the plenary sessions are available

from APSA at < http://www.apsanet.org/content_69203.cfm?navID=785>.

The TLC features a working group model where participants attend one themed track throughout the conference, with two opportunities built into each track's schedule to visit workshops or sessions on other tracks. In this format, there are no spectators: all attendees must participate as either presenters or discussants, and APSA will send a letter to department heads or deans attesting to one's role.

This year, two tracks were devoted to civic engagement, another two to simulations and role play. A track devoted to teaching political theory was added this year. Others have become standards: core curriculum/general education, diversity/inclusiveness/equality, graduate education, classroom technology, internationalizing the curriculum, program

assessment, and teaching research methods.

Session presentations ranged from conventional conference papers to shorter essays, bibliographies, slide presentations, and instructional materials. The TLC paper server is freely available at <http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/JELJOUR_Results.cfm?form_name=journalbrowse&journal_id=1535169>

LPSS member Mara Degnan-Rojeski attended the conference and participated in the "Integrating Technology in the Classroom" track. Derrick L. Cogburn of American University moderated the track and also facilitated virtual participation for contributors and presenters via Elluminate.

Track topics included: blended learning, multimedia in the classroom, using web 2.0 technologies to facilitate

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An LPSS Member to Know: Amalia Monroe

By Nadine Hoffman



Amalia Monroe Member to know, Spring 2010

I had the pleasure of interviewing Amalia Monroe as an LPSS "Member to Know." She is a newer political science librarian at the University of Kansas (KU) who is also responsible for public administration and international government documents with some attachment to the formats of public opinion & surveys and speeches & transcripts.

Amalia graduated with her Master of Library Science from Indiana University in December 2007 and was able to jump right into her position as a Social Sciences Librarian at KU; her prior education includes a Bachelor and Master of Science in Political Science from Illinois State University. As part of her regular duties, Amalia is involved with collection development,

reference, and instruction for the Political Science and Public Administration departments. She is also KU's organizational representative to the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR).

Amalia's research interests include presidential power and election information and, more recently, International Governmental Organizations (IGOs). She created a web guide for finding presidential election information with a custom search engine as part of KU's library pages, published a bibliography on presidential power resources in *Reference and User Services Quarterly* (RUSQ), and has a forthcoming article in the April issue of *Collection Management* related to IGOs.

Amalia was inspired to go to library school while working as a research assistant for the Political Science Librarian, considering it to be a good progression in her career. When asked what she likes best about being a librarian, Amalia responded "I like being useful in a helping profession." She likes the challenge our research and

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LPSS Virtual Meetings: A Preview of Survey Results

By Ann Marshall, LPSS Past Chair

As many of you know, for the last two Midwinter ALA meetings (2009 and 2010), LPSS has opted to hold virtual meetings in lieu of (and in some cases in conjunction with) our in-person meetings. For both of these virtual events, Erik Estep and I have conducted surveys both before and after the meetings, with LPSS-ers who participated. In this newsletter article, I'll give you a taste of the sorts of things we learned from these surveys, by focusing just on the 2009 survey. We'll be providing a more in-depth report by ALA Annual this coming summer.



Here is a brief synopsis of our 2009 post-meeting survey. Twenty three people responded to this 2009 survey, all of whom participated in the virtual meetings. The most common type of technology used was the phone (96% of respondents), while other participants used (either in addition or instead of) chat, an online white board, Powerpoint, video, website access, and in-person contact. 50% of users said that the technology worked "very well," while the other 50% said that the technology worked "well," but "more sophisticated software might be helpful." Almost all of the respondents (21 out of 23) indicated that they would be willing to attend a virtual meeting in the future. In addition, we asked respondents about what they liked the most and what they liked the least about virtual meetings. Then, we asked this same set of questions (with just a few adjustments) for the 2010 virtual meetings. So, stay tuned for more survey results about the LPSS virtual meeting experience!

Member to Know: Amalia Monroe

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service-oriented work. Balancing the number of diverse duties, keeping up with technology, and the need for flexibility were mentioned as the most demanding parts of our line of work.

The LPSS listserv is an important benefit of membership to Amalia, providing answers to difficult questions she may face one day. Amalia is enjoying her involvement with LPSS as a member of the Conference Program Planning Committee for the upcoming ALA Conference in Washington. She finds this volunteer work to be a rewarding and interesting way to meet colleagues at all levels from across the country as well as to learn about potential speakers and people in our profession. Amalia encourages everyone to get involved with LPSS—"a bunch of nice people."

Thank you to Erik Estep for recommending Amalia Monroe for an interview. We had a delightful conversation and Amalia is definitely an interesting member to know. Amalia looks forward to meeting more LPSS members at the ALA Annual Conference in June!

Is there an LPSS member whom you'd like to know better through a profile in the LPSSNews?

Is there a member you could profile in 500-600 words who would interest the rest of the section?

Email your suggestions to the editor at <jrshepherd@csuchico.edu>.

Guidelines for contributors

The deadline for the next edition of the *LPSS News*, subject to decisions by ACRL, will be around Sept. 10. Expect to receive that *News* by mail about mid-November. For next spring's edition, figure late March and mid-May, respectively.

Email articles, illustrations (*at least 300 dpi resolution, grayscale preferred*), and correspondence to the editor at <jrshepherd@csuchico.edu>.

Length: most articles should run fewer than 400-600 words.

Write in short paragraphs. Use the most direct, energetic style you can muster. Have a point, and don't be reluctant to have a point of view, too. Write as an analyst or critic, or at least as a journalist, not a booster.

Write to be useful to the membership. The format and publication frequency make features, not old news, the strength of the newsletter. The LPSS listserv is the best place to post, discover, and comment on breaking events. Our website is the natural location of our official reports and meeting minutes. The LPSS wiki will become what you make it.

2010 Teaching and Learning

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student participation, and using new technological tools to push the boundaries of the definition of the classroom.

Mara also gave a workshop for conference participants entitled “Enhancing the Research Competency of Your Political Science Students.” Approximately 18 conference attendees contributed to the workshop and actively engaged to brainstorm current trends in research issues for political science students. Attendees discussed ways to improve the research outcomes of political science students through specifically targeted assignments. The workshop also suggested ideas for faculty-librarian collaboration to improve political science research quality.

Fellow LPSSer Bruce Pencek chose the “Graduate Education and Professional Development” track. This track, usually among the smallest in the conference, was made smaller this year because of the snow. John Ishiyama, long an advocate for teaching within APSA and editor of the *Journal of Political Science Education*, chaired.

Discussion repeatedly returned to insights made in papers dealing with teaching political science to military students, using writing circles to improve professional

skills, and the ways biographies of “transformational individuals” lend themselves to teaching different approaches to political development.

In the assessment track, Pencek’s regular faculty collaborator, Prof. Craig Leonard Briens, presented the results of an ongoing, multiyear information-literacy assessment in the Virginia Tech political science department.

An informational meeting of the APSA Political Science Education Section drew nearly three dozen. Moderated by new PSE section chair Carlos Huerta, the bulk of discussion centered on how the section could serve the needs of community college professors and adjunct faculty.

The date and location of the next TLC have not been determined. APSA Executive Director Michael Brintnall said the conference is sufficiently well established to permit planning more than one year out. As only one TLC has been held outside the East Coast (San Jose in 2008), he adds that the association will give careful thought to locations further west – especially if they can promise more congenial travel weather in February.

ACRL sets 2010 Legislative Agenda

Each year, the ACRL Government Relations Committee, in consultation with the ACRL Board of Directors and staff, formulates an ACRL Legislative Agenda. Drafted with input from the ACRL Scholarly Communications and Copyright Committees, along with additional committees, ACRL leaders, and ALA Washington Office, the legislative agenda is prioritized and includes objectives for legislative action at the national level on issues that may affect the welfare of academic and research libraries. The ACRL Board of Directors recently approved the 2010 ACRL Legislative Agenda in time for Library Advocacy Day on June 29 in Washington, D.C.

The 2010 ACRL Legislative Agenda focuses on eight priorities, including public access to federally-funded research, Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, network neutrality, government information, orphan works, fair use and ant circumvention, lead in books, and supporting school librarians. Read the complete legislative agenda for more details at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/washingtonwatch/10agenda.cfm>

Globalization of LPSS

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At my institution, IR and Comparative garner most of the graduate applications. Undergraduate globalization courses are in record high demand. And a phenomenal number of students study abroad. So, in conclusion (almost), I do believe that LPSS needs to give more recognition to the internationalization of political science in the U.S.

That is my almost-conclusion. The reality is that a very tiny proportion of LPSS-ers are active. Our presence at the APSA is thanks to a very small, dedicated, hardworking cohort. And we should not, of course, lessen our presence at the APSA for the sake of the ISA. Instead, this article is written in the hopes that you (who do not go to the APSA) will get excited by a new opportunity to be on the cusp of change in the study of politics and to serve your colleagues by attending the ISA. See you in Montreal in 2011? (Hey, it has also been scheduled in Hawaii.)

The LPSS website is the official repository of the minutes of the meetings of the LPSS executive committee and of the general membership. Get the gritty details of LPSS in action at <<http://www.ala.org/acrl/lpss>>.

ACRL 2011
Philadelphia
March 30 – April 2, 2011



ACRL 2011: A Declaration of Interdependence

In today's fast paced and changing world, keeping current is more essential than ever. Access cutting-edge information, discover new ideas, and engage in conversations with academic and research librarians from around the world at ACRL 2011. You can't afford to miss it!

Program

ACRL 2011 will feature more than 300 peer-reviewed programs addressing hot topics such as assessment, digital initiatives, information literacy, scholarly communication, and emerging technologies.

Registration

Registration begins May 18, 2010 at www.acrl.org/acrl/nationalconference. Register by February 4, 2011 to take advantage of discounted early-bird registration fees and save more than 20%! Group discounts are available for institutions that register ten or more employees. Save up to an additional 20% off conference registration fees.

Scholarships

ACRL is offering over 80 scholarships worth over \$40,000 for librarians, support staff and students to participate in the ACRL 2011 conference. Apply at www.acrl.org/acrl/nationalconference by November 9, 2010.

Connect with ACRL 2011 Online www.acrl.org/acrl/nationalconference

Twitter: #acrl2011

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