The American Political Science Association
Section on Migration and Citizenship

Minutes of the Business Meeting 2020

Date: Friday, September 11, 2020, 6:30-7:30 pm (EST)
Location: Zoom
Note taker: Abigail Fisher Williamson (outgoing secretary)

AGENDA

I. Welcome
II. Approval of Business Minutes from 2019 meeting
III. Officer Reports
IV. New Business
V. Awards
VI. Adjournment

I. WELCOME
Section co-presidents Elizabeth Cohen and Antje Ellerman welcomed the 43 section members in attendance.

II. APPROVAL OF BUSINESS MINUTES FROM 2018 MEETING
The minutes of the 2019 business meeting (shared on the section website and via email) were approved unanimously by present section members.

III. OFFICER REPORTS

Treasurer’s Report
Elizabeth Cohen shared an update from treasurer Melanie Kolbe on the section’s finances, which are somewhat reduced due to the pandemic. We ended the fiscal year in September 2019 with a remaining budget of $9491 (after revenue and expenses were accounted for). In comparison, in 2018 we closed out with a surplus of $1060. Member dues in 2019 totaled $3460, while expenses came in at approximately $2400. While we began this fiscal year with around $1000 extra, member dues markedly decreased this year. As of July 2020 (last available data), the section had only received $2155, which is $885 less (a 30% decrease) in membership fees, as compared to July 2019 (which had revenue of $3040). However, since we will not have expenses for a conference reception this year, we may nonetheless end up with an anticipated carry-over of approximately $2500. The lack of expenses thus somewhat offsets the lowered member dues.

Cohen asked attendees to encourage colleagues to renew membership.

Secretary’s Report
Abby Fisher Williamson reported that the section continues to provide its syllabus bank as a resource (https://connect.apsanet.org/s43/syllabus-bank/) and encouraged members to submit syllabi. The syllabus bank contains 67 syllabi from the last five years, organized by topical category. An additional 60 older syllabi reside in the bank’s archive, linked from the main page. In the past academic year, however, we added just under ten syllabi because the appeal coincided with the start of the pandemic. Please send your post-2015 syllabi to our new secretary, Rebecca Hamlin. All recent syllabi would add value, but particularly syllabi on the
topics of: Gender and Migration; Emigration, Transnationalism, and Diaspora studies; Human Rights, Security, and Migration; and Political Economy, Development, and Migration.

Williamson reported that we continue to send section communications via both the MigCitizenship listserv and APSAConnect, which results in some duplication. She encouraged members to join the listserv, as it is well-used for member announcements and other useful information throughout the year. To join, use this link: https://baruch.listserv.cuny.edu/Scripts/wa-bb.exe?SUBED1=MIGCITIZENSHIP-L&A=1

[In conversation with Els de Graauw at and following the meeting, we agreed to a new system in which the incoming secretary will receive section membership lists from APSA quarterly and share them with Els who will update the listserv so that it includes a full up-to-date census of members. The listserv is now up to date with members as of August 2020.]

Lastly, Abby thanked social media coordinator and executive council member, Rachel Torres, who has continued to grow our social media presence. Her efforts add value to section membership by highlighting members’ scholarship and achievements. Thanks to Rachel, we are especially strong on Twitter, with 1280 followers. To share news with section social media, you can:

- Tweet at @MigCitizenAPSA for us to repost
- Email migcitizensubmission@gmail.com
- Join and post on our public Facebook group (https://facebook.com/groups/690358917841498/)

Newsletter Editors’ Report
Elizabeth Cohen thanked outgoing editors Ruxandra Paul and Fiona Barker, who published one section newsletter in 2020. The new newsletter editors will be Laura Cleton (University of Antwerp) and Annika Hinze (Fordham). They aim to return to a schedule of producing two newsletters annually.

Program Chairs’ Report
Michael Paarlberg shared the program chairs’ report, on behalf of himself and Anna Boucher.

We were allocated 23 panels this year. We rejected two pre-constructed panels and accepted 11, of which two were strong author meets critics sessions. There were a very high number of paper submissions (141) and this included some strong transfers from other sections. We could only allocate 44 papers, which meant a 31% acceptance rate. We created three panels on diasporas as this was a strong focus in many of the papers (unfortunately due to scheduling via COVID-19, this could not be presented as a mini-conference).

We sought to select papers and construct panels that were diverse in terms of the demographic features of the contributors – gender, rank and country of origin or university location. This involved using Google as APSA does not have this information. We have raised this as an issue with APSA for future years to avoid division organizers.

We also selected papers and panels that were methodologically diverse and eclectic in terms of the areas of the world and the immigration issues they address including some new and pressing immigration issues. We constructed panels from all subfields, some united by methodological approach (ethnographic, experimental), institutions (media, parties, electoral regimes), and policy focus (borders, citizenship, refugees, workplace rights). Many panels had crossover appeal to other divisions and related
groups such as normative theory, elections and voting behavior, public opinion, REP, and labor politics.

We sought to select chairs and discussants who would add value to the panel given their distinctive research areas and skills. We aimed to give many PhD students opportunities to serve as chairs, and sought discussants whose subject matter expertise spoke to the panel theme, sometimes with different geographic areas of focus to broaden discussion. This at times involved reaching out beyond the pre-existing list and we were also fortunate to enlist a political theorist for the normative theory panel. We thank everyone for their support and cooperation during these trying times.

In the Zoom chat, members offered ample praise to Anna and Michael for developing great panels.

The incoming program chairs are Michael Sullivan (St. Mary’s University) and Monica Varsanyi (John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY).

**Co-presidents’ Report**

Elizabeth Cohen reported on elections, section membership, and goals for the coming year.

**Elections:**

In conjunction with the elections committee, we ran successful elections with high member participation (157 votes filed, up from last year’s 113 and exceeding quorum requirement in bylaws)

- Our incoming co-president, replacing Elizabeth Cohen, will be Dan Tichenor.
- Our incoming secretary, replacing Abigail Williamson, will be Rebecca Hamlin.
- Our incoming board members will be Ahmed Khattab, Noora Lori, and Rahsaan Maxwell.
- The Section co-chairs for the 2021 Annual Meeting will be Michael Sullivan and Monica Varsanyi.
- In addition, we have a new newsletter team (Laura Cleton and Annika Hinze).
- We want to warmly thank outgoing Executive Committee members: Osman Balkan, Loren Collingwood, and Rita Nasser. We also want to thank outgoing Secretary, Abby Williamson, who has been an enormous help to all the officers during her tenure.

**Recognitions**

The co-presidents expressed their thanks to the following section members:

- Executive Council Member and Social Media Coordinator Rachel Torres. We continue to increase visibility due to her branding, designing, and internet/meme savvy. She has kindly agreed to stay on until December.
- Program Co-Chairs Michael Paarlberg and Anna Boucher managed to put together a lively program and keep our panels afloat despite the fact that some people had to exit their panels because they were unable to attend the online conference due to time zone conflicts and other logistical complications.

**Section membership:**

- We currently have 340 members, down from 387 in 2019.
- We attribute this largely to the move to an online APSA, as we had grown the previous two years.
- The co-presidents encourage section members to consider ways we can stay connect in the absence of an in-person conference, and to encourage those who are able to renew memberships.

**On the horizon**

- A goal we worked toward this year is starting to design a new mentoring program that will pair senior scholars in the section with junior scholars who are seeking guidance. The Executive Council has created a subcommittee to investigate options.
• Next year we would like to transfer some of the responsibility for planning the reception to the office of the Treasurer, working in consultation with the Co-Presidents. We also need to rethink either our expectations for the reception or how we fund it because there is a radical gap between what we can afford and the expectations for an off-site reception with free drinks and food for members. The Executive Council has designated subcommittee led by section treasurer Melanie Kolbe to investigate options. In the chat, Willem Maas encouraged the section to continue off-site receptions, which reduce costs.
• In 2021 we will aim to return to two newsletters each year, one with a symposium.
• In 2021 we will be implementing measures to increase transparency in how section award committees reach their decisions.

IV. NEW BUSINESS
Cohen opened the floor to member comments.

Els de Graauw expressed her willingness to work with the secretary to update the listserv to include the full membership (see above in the secretary’s report for a new plan). She also encourages the leadership to conduct outreach to recent members who have lapsed.

Beth Whitaker asked whether the drop in membership raised concerns about section viability and Willem Maas confirmed that we remain significantly above the threshold of viability.

Several members encouraged collaboration between our APSA section and similar sections of other professional associations.
• Irene Bloemraad is now chair of the international migration section of the American Sociological Society (ASA). She has webinars planned and will share them with APSA members.
• Daniel Naujoks is the ENMISA chair (Ethnicity, Nationalism, & Migration Studies of the International Studies Association) and suggests that APSA, ASA, and ENMISA could work together.
• Victoria Finn reported her membership on the migration and ethnicity standing group of European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) and expressed interest in collaboration on webinars and the like.
• Willem Maas reported that IPSA (International Political Science Association) has a new migration and citizenship group. He noted that internationally many scholars are struggling to pay professional association membership dues and that virtual workshops and conferences might be an answer.

Gallya Lahav asked whether faculty members in the section might consider subsidizing the reception in the future.

V. AWARDS
Three section awards were announced, to ample applause and congratulations in the Zoom chat.

The 2020 winner of the Best Dissertation Prize is:
Lama Mourad (“Open Borders, Local Closures: Decentralization and the Politics of Local Responses to the Syrian Refugee Influx in Lebanon.”)

The committee also awarded Honorable Mention to Yang-Yang Zhou (“The Political Effects of Hosting Refugees in Local Communities”) and Alexander Kustov (“Borders of Compassion: International Migration and the Politics of Parochial Altruism”)

Thanks to the committee: Lamis Abdelaaty, James McCann, and Adrian Shin.
The 2020 co-winners of the **Best Book Prize** are:
Jeffrey S. Kahn, *Islands of Sovereignty: Haitian Migration and the Borders of Empire* (Chicago)
and
Noora Lori, *Offshore Citizens: Permanent Temporary Status in the Gulf* (Cambridge)

Thanks to the committee: Matthew Longo, Jeffrey Pugh, and Kaija Schilde.

The 2020 co-winners of the **Best Article Prize** are:
and

The committee also awarded Honorable Mention to Nathaniel Cogley, John Doces, and Beth Whitaker. 2019. "Which immigrants should be naturalized? Which should be deported? Evidence from a survey experiment in Cote d’Ivoire." *Political Research Quarterly* 72(3): 653-668.

Thanks to the committee: Hannah Alarian, Chris Haynes, and Alexander Kustov.

Cohen announced that due to low submission rates, the committee charged with selecting a Best Graduate Student Paper award was not able to make a selection. We regard this as a problem for faculty mentors to take seriously going forward and plan a discussion of how to proceed fairly with the pool from this year and future years, with an emphasis on making sure that faculty nominate students and convey to graduate students the importance of self-nomination as well.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**
The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm followed by a section panel on navigating the academic job market.