The business meeting was convened at the Washington Hilton, Tenleytown East, on Friday, August 30, 6:30-7:40 pm. It was chaired by Ido Oren and Dvora Yanow. Approximately 30 people were in attendance.

1. **Reports**

*From this year’s program chair (Nick Rush Smith)*

IMM was allocated one panel on the program. We received no full panel proposals and six paper proposals in which IMM was either the primary or secondary choice for the author.

Unfortunately, the allocation of a single panel—which is all a “conference group” usually gets—meant that we couldn’t accommodate all of the proposed papers. However, four of them dealt broadly with issues of participation and could be turned into a cohesive panel:

- Interpretive Approaches to Poverty, Participation, and Populism

Additionally, we co-sponsored two panels with QMMR:

- Positionality and Reflexivity in Political Science I: The Domestic Context
- Positionality and Reflexivity in Political Science II: The International Context

We also sponsored the annual Methods Café, chaired by Samantha Majic and Timothy Pachirat. The café does not count against our panel allocation.

*On “The Methods Studio” Short Course (Rina Williams and Peri Schwartz-Shea)*

The 2019 short course was organized by Rina Williams, University of Cincinnati, and Peri Schwartz-Shea, University of Utah. It was held on Wednesday, August 28, between 1:30–5:30 pm, and included a workshop on “Interpretive Discourse Analysis,” followed by a “Crit.” For the workshop part of the Methods Studio, SUNY-Oswego Assistant Professor Eric Blanchard provided an overview of what can be an "unruly" area of methods inquiry, asking participants to consider definitions, goals, and analytic questions to ask about any empirical project that uses discourse analysis. The “crit” featured two presenters—Ph.D. students Crystal Whetstone (University of Cincinnati) and Philip Johnson (CUNY). Kevin Bruyneel (Babson College) and Sam Handlin (Swarthmore College) served as official, invited respondents; additional comments were offered by others in attendance. Over 2 dozen scholars participated in the short course this year.

*On the Methods Café (Sam Majic and Timothy Pachirat)*

This was the third and last APSA Methods Café coordinated by Timothy and Sam. The Café was very well attended; the room was packed. Twenty seven “experts” staffed the various tables. Three publishers cosponsored the event, providing a stipend for the graduate assistant who helped with the café. Beginning next year, the Methods Café will be coordinated by Biko Koenig (Franklin and Marshall) and Sarah Wiebe (University of Hawai‘i). Both of them are highly dependable, and it will be an opportunity for them to showcase their outstanding work. Timothy and Sam will continue to
serve as a resource for them, just as Dvora and Peri served as resources when Timothy and Sam took over the cafe three years ago.

**On the Lee Ann Fujii Minority Fellow Travel Grant Fund (Nick Rush-Smith)**

So far, somewhat over $50,000 has been raised, far exceeding the target of $35,000. That amount came from 146 contributors. The first group of 9 LAF Minority Fellows is currently participating in the APSA meeting. Each one of them received a $500 travel grant, as well as a copy of the QMMR newsletter issue commemorating Lee Ann. Additional contributions to the fund may be made via the APSA development webpage at [https://www.apsanet.org/Donate-Now](https://www.apsanet.org/Donate-Now)

2. **Award presentations**

- Charles Taylor 2019 book award (presented by Bernardo Zacka, for the committee)
  - Honorable mentions went to Lee Ann Fujii, late of the University of Toronto, for *Interviewing in Social Science Research: A Relational Approach* (Routledge, 2018) and to Timothy Pachirat, UMass-Amherst, for *Among Wolves: Ethnography and the Immersive Study of Power* (Routledge, 2018).
  - Award Committee: Cai Wilkinson, Deakin University, Chair; Andrew Dilts, Loyola Marymount University; Bernardo Zacka, MIT

- Hayward Alker 2019 best graduate student paper award (presented by Sam Majic, on behalf of the committee)
  - Presented to Zainab Alam (Ph.D. candidate, Rutgers University, New Brunswick), for “Do-it-Yourself Activism in Pakistan: The Fatal Celebrity of Qandeel Baloch.” The paper was presented at the International Feminist Journal of Politics (IFJP) Conference in April 2018 and at the North American Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies (NAAIMS) Conference in September 2018. It was self-nominated.
  - Award Committee: Sarah Marusek, University of Hawaii, Chair; Martha Balaguera Cuervo, University of Toronto; Alexandra Budabin, Dayton University.

- Lee Ann Fujii Award for Innovation in the Interpretive Study of Political Violence (presented by Kristen Monroe, for the committee, and by Natalja Mortensen, Senior Editor, Political Science, Routledge/Taylor & Francis)
  - Presented to Jana Krause, University of Amsterdam, for *Resilient Communities: Non-Violence and Civilian Agency in Communal War* (Cambridge University Press, 2018).
  - Award Committee: Kristen Monroe, UC-Irvine, Chair; Mary Hawkesworth, Rutgers University; Timothy Longman, Boston University.

3. Old business: updates on

- **the 2021 Lee Ann Fujii Award committee** (Peri Schwartz-Shea): Cecelia Lynch, Fred Schaffer, and Robin Turner kindly agreed to serve on the committee. They will decide on a chair and a deadline among themselves. Eligibility for the award, which is presented every two years, will be for books, book chapters, and journal articles published in 2019 and 2020. See the forthcoming Call for Papers for details.
• **the 2020 program chair** (Ido Oren): Nick Rush Smith kindly agreed to continue as program chair in 2020.

• **IMM Executive Committee new members** (Ido Oren and Dvora Yanow): Lisa Wedeen, University of Chicago, and Nick Cheesman, Australian National University, have recently joined the committee.


Nick will also be looking for a co-host; anyone interested is invited to contact him: nick.cheesman@anu.edu.au.

• **APSA’s new Conference Group policy—implications for IMM** (Dvora, Peri, and Ido): This week the APSA Council approved a new policy governing the association’s conference-related groups. The new policy, which will go into effect a year from now, requires IMM and other conference groups to gather at least 35 signatures of supporters (who are APSA members) to maintain their existence and to draft formal bylaws. These requirements need to be met within one year. Within 3 years, APSA will decide whether to begin collecting a $1-2 annual administrative fee from group members; the fee will go to APSA, not to the group. In a Skype meeting held a few months ago, the IMM Executive Committee decided to maintain IMM’s status as a conference group rather than seek to upgrade it to an organized section.

• **The IMM website** (Aarie Glas): The website has just been successfully migrated to the APSA domain at [https://connect.apsanet.org/interpretationandmethod/](https://connect.apsanet.org/interpretationandmethod/). The APSA-hosted website is free of charge and its format is identical to that of the old site.

4. **Members’ announcements**

• The department of political science at Indiana University is seeking to fill two positions. Interpretive scholars are invited to apply (Timothy Pachirat).

• John Jay College (CUNY) is hiring and interpretive scholars are encouraged to apply (Sam Majic).

• Recent and forthcoming publications and publishing opportunities:
  - **Routledge Series on Interpretive Methods**, ed. by Peregrine Schwartz-Shea + Dvora Yanow:
    - Lee Ann Fujii, *Interviewing in Social Science Research: A Relational Approach*
(2018)
- Ronald Schmidt, Sr., *Interpreting Racial Politics* (working title; in progress; expected 2020)

• The job market: job openings of particular interest to IMM members? Job searches? Please post to:

  - IMM Webpage—https://connect.apsanet.org/interpretationandmethod/; syllabi, working papers, and other items of interest.
  - Interpretation & Methods listserv—http://lists.digital-discourse.org/listinfo.cgi/interpretationandmethods-digital-discourse.org; venue for questions/discussion, information about workshops, conferences, publications...

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Minutes submitted by Ido Oren.