

The Charles Taylor Book Award 2021

The Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Conference Group of the APSA calls for nominations for the Charles Taylor Book Award for the best book in political science that employs or develops interpretive methodologies and methods.

This award is named in recognition of the contributions of Charles Taylor to the advancement of interpretive thinking in the political and social sciences. In his 1971 essay “Interpretation and the Sciences of Man,” Taylor powerfully critiqued the aspiration to model the study of politics on the natural sciences and cogently explained how “interpretation is essential to explanation” in the human sciences. This essay, along with Taylor’s “Philosophical Papers” and many other articles, book chapters, and volumes, have long been a source of inspiration for scholars seeking to develop and apply an interpretive approach to the study of politics.

The award will be given to a book exploring any aspect of political life that either engages interpretive methodological issues or reports the results of empirical research conducted using interpretive research methods. Eligible books will pursue one or both of these interpretive projects. The book may engage some variety of interpretive ideals or practices philosophically, in keeping with much of Professor Taylor’s work and consistent with the sense of methodology as a practical rationality rooted in a set of philosophical concerns and dispositions (e.g., ontological and epistemological assumptions). At the same time or alternatively, the book may take the form of an empirical study that pursues and explicitly reflects on methodological issues surrounding the conduct of interpretive research. The nominated work may be either a single- or multi-authored book or an edited volume.

The award will be announced and presented at the annual APSA conference during the business meeting or reception of the Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Conference-related Group (IMM CG). To be eligible, books must have been published during the two-calendar-year period prior to the year of the APSA meeting, as defined by the book’s copyright date. To be eligible for the 2021 Taylor Award, the nominated book must bear a copyright date of either 2019 or 2020. The award committee is under no obligation to make an award in a year in which submissions do not merit such recognition.

To be considered for the 2021 award, please do the following:

1. Mail **one copy** of the nominated book to **each member of the award committee** (listed below) **by April 10, 2021**.
2. Email the committee chair, Lisa Wedeen, at lwedeen@uchicago.edu, notifying her of the nomination.

NOTE: Authors may nominate their own work; the committee will also accept nominations from readers and publishers.

Members of the award committee for 2021 are:

Lisa Wedeen (committee chair), Department of Political Science, University of Chicago
Mail to: 31 East Elm Street, Apt. 3A, Chicago, IL 60611

Juliet Williams, Department of Gender Studies and the Social Science Interdepartmental Program, UCLA
Mail to: 3425 Inglewood Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90066

Philip Ayoub, Diplomacy & World Affairs Program, Occidental College
Mail to: Blücherstraße 32, HH Rechts, 10961 Berlin, Germany

Previous award winners:

2020: Lisa Wedeen, University of Chicago, *Authoritarian Apprehensions: Ideology, Judgment, and Mourning in Syria* (University of Chicago Press, 2019)

Honorable Mention: Nicholas Rush Smith, City College-CUNY,
Contradictions of Democracy: Vigilantism and Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa (Oxford University Press, 2019)

2019: Matthew Longo, Leiden University, *The Politics of Borders: Sovereignty, Security, and the Citizen After 9/11* (Cambridge University Press, 2018)

Honorable Mention: Timothy Pachirat, University of Massachusetts-Amherst,
Among Wolves: Ethnography and the Immersive Study of Power (Routledge, 2018) and Lee Ann Fujii, University of Toronto, *Interviewing in Social Science Research: A Relational Approach* (Routledge, 2017)

2018: Bernardo Zacka, MIT, for *When the State Meets the Street: Public Service and Moral Agency* (Harvard University Press, 2017)

Honorable Mention: Shiri Pasternak, Trent University, *Grounded Authority: The Algonquins of Barriere Lake against the State* (University of Minnesota Press, 2017) and Stefanie Fishel, University of Alabama, *The Microbial State: Global Thriving and the Global State* (University of Minnesota Press, 2017)

2017. Sarah Wiebe, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. *Everyday Exposure: Indigenous Mobilization and Environmental Justice in Canada's Chemical Valley* (University of British Columbia Press, 2016)

2016: Daniel Kato, Queen Mary University of London, *Liberalizing Lynching: Building a New Racialized State* (Oxford University Press, 2015)

2015: Davina Cooper, University of Kent, *Everyday Utopias: The Conceptual Life of Promising Spaces* (Duke University Press, 2014)

2014: Paul Amar, UC-Santa Barbara, *The Security Archipelago: Human-Security States, Sexuality Politics, and the End of Neoliberalism* (Duke University Press, 2013)

2013: Sharon Sliwinski, University of Western Ontario, *Human Rights in Camera* (University of Chicago Press, 2011)

2012: No books considered

2011: No award presented

2010: Michael Loriaux, Northwestern University, *European Union and the Deconstruction of the Rhineland Frontier* (Cambridge University Press, 2008)