CenterPAGE

A Look at the Centennial Center for Political Science & Public Affairs

Apply Now for Summer and Fall 2008!

The Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs is an invaluable resource to political and social scientists. Since its opening in September 2003, the Center has housed more than 100 scholars. The center, located in the APSA headquarters near Dupont Circle, provides a great base of operations for scholars researching in the D.C. metro area. The Center offers Visiting Scholars furnished work space, telephone, fax, computers, Internet access, conference space, a reference library and access to George Washington University's Gelman Library. Visiting Scholar stays range from a few days to 12 months. Space is limited to APSA members and is available for faculty members, post-doctoral fellows, and advanced graduate students from the U.S. and abroad. Scholars are expected to cover their own expenses and a modest facilities fee for the use of the Center. Prospective Visiting Scholars may apply at any time. Positions are awarded on a space-available basis. Full details on the Center and the Visiting Scholars Program, including application form, is online at www.apsanet.org/centennialcenter. You may also contact Bill Harder at APSA: 202-483-2512; wharder@apsanet.org.

Research Funding Available

The APSA sponsors a number of funds to help finance research. Many of these funds can support your stay at the Centennial Center or elsewhere.

Rita Mae Kelly Fund
Supports research on the intersection of gender, race, ethnicity and political power.

The Presidency Research Fund
Provides supplemental support for examination of the presidency.

Special Study for the Study of Women and Politics
Provides supplemental support for the study of women and politics.

Warren E. Miller Fellowship for Electoral Politics
Provides supplemental support for research residencies in national and comparative electoral politics.

Ed Artinian Endowment for Advancing Publishing
Provides supplemental support to assist young scholars in publishing their research.

Fund for Latino Scholarship
Provides support to individuals or programs that promote the recruitment, retention and promotion of Latino and Latina political scientists.

James Bryce fund for International Political Science
Provides supplemental support for research residencies, collaborative research workshops, and teaching and curriculum development programs for emerging political science communities.

To see all available funding opportunities offered by APSA, please visit www.apsanet.org/centennialcenter.

*In***Profile**

Chieko Kitagawa Otsuru

Chieko Kitagawa Otsuru is professor of American politics and international politics at Faculty of Law of Kansai University, located in Osaka, Japan. She has written on various aspects of American politics and U.S. foreign policies, as well as led several joint projects, focusing on the function of American democracy. Throughout her academic career, her interests have rested on grassroots activists, and she has tried to connect her works with the activities on the ground.

Chieko is at the Centennial Center from October 2007 to September 2008 on a research leave from her university. While at the Center her main research theme is the consensus formation by Congress in the time of polarized politics. More than one factor has caused the current political situation, and some of them are, by themselves, not contrary to democratic decision making. For example, an explicit party government can be more accountable than an ambiguous inter-party coalition.


Chieko Kitagawa Otsuro

As numerous congressional scholars have pointed out, however, Congress has weakened its major function, namely deliberation, due to the current polarization. As the minority is excluded from the meaningful deliberation, the policy outcome will be less likely to receive lasting support from the public. Such deficiency of exclusive process is well recognized, but still the most recent Congress continues to limit meaningful deliberation.

Chieko's research is based on the premise that deliberation is deprived not just through the internal process of Congress, but also by the constituency relations on one hand, and presidential relations on the other hand. After examining the committee and floor records on specific bills, she plans to conduct extensive interviews towards the end of her stay. This research constitutes a part of her book project on democratizing decision making in U.S. Congress.

Besides working on her research topic, she finds it quite exciting to follow the development of supposedly "history-making" American presidential elections. She enjoys writing and speaking about how American electoral democracy works toward the Japanese audience.

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