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**

Stacie Pettyjohn

Stacie Pettyjohn is a Ph.D. candidate in the department of politics at the University of Virginia, and is currently working on her dissertation entitled "Talking with Terrorists: American Policy toward the ANC, PLO, Sinn Fein, and Hamas." Her dissertation examines United States policy toward nationalist terrorist organizations, and identifies when the U.S. will begin a public dialogue with a terrorist organization. She also explains the conditions under which a policy of engagement can help to transform nationalist terrorist organizations into legitimate political parties, and when it will encourage further violence.


Stacie Pettyjohn

Political scientists have not only failed to answer these particular questions, but have more generally neglected the phenomenon of terrorist or revolutionary groups evolving into lawful political parties. In an effort to fill this gap, Stacie's research focuses on organizations the U.S. government considers to be terrorists. The domain of her study is restricted to nationalist terrorist organizations targeting American allies, which have a political as well as military branch. She argues that two conditions create a situation favorable for a policy of engagement: (1) the absence of preferred alternatives to the terrorists; and (2) the perception that the terrorist's aims are limited. While both of these conditions are necessary for the U.S. to shift to a policy of engagement, they alone are not sufficient. Additionally, an exogenous catalyst must alter the expected utility of engaging a national terrorist organization, pushing a reluctant American government to adopt the risky policy. She claims that engagement is likely to convince an NTO to disarm and enter a political system if three conditions hold: the terrorists are in deep decline, the U.S. is able to sustain a long-term policy of conditional engagement, and it acts as a fair mediator by pushing both sides to make compromises.

While at the Centennial Center, Stacie is concluding her research and writing the final three chapters of her dissertation. As a part of her study, she is using U.S. government documents at the National Archives as well as a number of presidential libraries. Stacie is also using her time at the Center to interview former and current American officials.

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