CenterPAGE

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

Apply Now for Summer and Fall 2007!

The Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs is quickly becoming an invaluable resource to political and social scientists. Since its opening in September 2003, the Center has housed more than 70 scholars. The Center, housed 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 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 an application form, can be found online at www.apsanet.org/centennialcenter. You may also contact Brian Daniels at APSA: 202-483-2512; bdaniels@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.

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Provides supplemental support for the study of women and politics.

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Provides supplemental support for research residencies in national and comparative electoral politics.

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Provides supplemental support to assist young scholars in publishing their research.

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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

Marketa Valkova

Marketa Valkova is a Ph.D. candidate in political science at Brandeis University and is currently working on her dissertation, entitled Agenda-Setting in Foreign Policy: A Comparative Study of Human Rights in U.S., British, and French Foreign Policies (1991–2006). Her dissertation examines cross-national differences in agenda-setting dynamics of international human rights issues and her cases include the foreign policy processes of the U.S., Britain, and France in the post-Cold War era.

Western response to international human rights abuses is often perceived in monolithic terms, but significant differences exist in how quickly and how intensively various advanced industrialized democratic states address such issues. Western democracies show a surprisingly wide range of responses in terms of speed with which they address problems and the level of commitment they are willing to make to distant populations abroad. Marketa's dissertation focuses on the initial stage of foreign policymaking—agenda-setting—and examines several factors that may contribute to bringing human rights issues to Western policymakers' attention. She analyzes two human rights cases in detail—the Sudanese and the East Timorese ethnic conflicts—and shows how they rose onto the foreign policy agendas of the U.S., Britain, and France at different times, through different institutional actors, and under different frames. She considers several factors that might have had an impact on these differences, including the roles of constitutions, domestic institutional structures, political entrepreneurs within the national governments and outside of them, international organizations, multinational corporations, and other governments.



Marketa Valkova

Marketa builds on an agenda-setting framework developed by scholars of American public policy to formulate a theory of why foreign policy monopolies get disrupted and issues previously unaddressed become highly salient. The dissertation's preliminary hypothesis is that the variation in agenda-setting dynamics in human rights policymaking found across Western democracies can be explained by two sets of characteristics: (a) the nature of policy toward a human rights abusing regime a given Western state has had and (b) the nature of challengers seeking a disruption of that policy in a given Western state.

While a visiting scholar at the Centennial Center, Marketa is researching the various institutional venues in the U.S. system in which human rights issues have appeared, including the State Department, USAID, the Defense Department, the National Security Council, the White House, Congress; the French, British, Sudanese, East Timorese, and Indonesian Embassies in Washington, D.C.; the EU Mission to the U.S., and other governmental channels. Upon gathering evidence documenting the trajectory of human rights issues in the U.S., she will conduct interviews with staff members at these institutions as well as representatives of human rights NGOs based in Washington, D.C.

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