

Format Changes in the 1971 APSA Annual Meeting

The Program Committee for the 1971 meeting has decided to experiment with several new formats for the sessions at the 1971 meeting. These formats will not replace all of the standard "panel-format" sessions, but will be used extensively.

Background: The decision to experiment with new formats grows out of some expressed dissatisfaction with the meetings. Part of the dissatisfaction appears to derive from the size and complexity of the meetings. This may be unavoidable in a growing and complex discipline. But part of the dissatisfaction derives from the standard panel format of two or three or more papers followed by two or three or more commentators.

These panels often are not useful learning experiences. (The remark is often heard, "The paper may have been very good, but you could not tell from that panel.") Brief summaries of a number of papers are given to an unprepared audience followed by a jumble of comments directed at one or another of the papers.

One reform might be to reduce the number of papers, so that each panel focused on one. We do hope to reduce the number of papers somewhat, but we cannot go too far because of the large amount of research waiting to be reported. Thus we would like to suggest some alternative formats which will be used for many of the sessions. None of these is new; they may have been used before. But we want to formalize their status and increase their use. The key to the formats is the *prepared audience* so that paper summaries are not needed.

In addition to regular panel sessions, we will schedule the following:

a. Overview sessions: The topic of such sessions would be an overview of some segment of the discipline: a critical analysis of past work, an overview of current research, future trends, etc. The format might involve a report by a single individual or a round table discussion. The important point is that the audience would be prepared if they were familiar with the general field of inquiry.

b. Continuities sessions: The participants in such sessions would be scholars who have recently published on a particular topic and who are continuing to work on that topic. The session would focus on a critical consideration of the work published and the alternative ways in which follow-up research has

been conducted. The audience would be prepared if its members were familiar with the previous writings, even if they had not read the specific papers for the session.

c. Research workshops: These would have similar topics to ordinary panels. But the hope would be that they would be narrowly focused and that the papers would be on a quite similar topic. The papers would be made available by mail by the beginning of the summer before the meetings. No summary of papers will be given. Those who attend the sessions should be forewarned. We hope they will be motivated to obtain the papers in advance.

Since this format will work only if papers are available in advance, we shall set up a rule that any paper for such a workshop not received in the Association offices by July 1, 1971 will not be listed on the final program for the meetings. We realize that this may cause unhappiness and the loss of some papers, but we do not think this experiment will otherwise work. To ease this problem somewhat, we expect that many of the papers prepared for these workshops will not be full-blown article length papers, but more precisely specialized papers presenting research findings. Thus we would hope for more five- or six-page papers than twenty- or thirty-page ones. Of course, we realize that length depends on subject matter and have no rigid regulations along these lines.

The Role of the Chairman: In most panel sessions the chairman's role is symbolic and not efficient. We hope to make the chairman more active. This is especially important for the "continuities" and "research workshop" sessions where no summaries of papers are given. We hope that the chairman will take the lead in presenting the subject of the discussion, highlighting similarities or differences among the participants.

The above list of new formats does not exhaust what will take place at the meetings. We will have usual panel sessions as well. The section chairmen will determine which format best fits a particular session. In addition we hope to continue opportunities for topical discussions, computer workshops, and so forth. Lastly we hope to reserve a set of rooms where people with similar interests can congregate. This should reduce random search time and save wear and tear on the hallway rugs.

Two new sections have been added to the program since the last listing. They are The Study of Central Political Processes (Legislatures, Executives, etc.)

(Robert Peabody, Johns Hopkins, section chairman), and The Philosophical Analysis of the Science of Politics (Michael Haas, University of Hawaii, section chairman). The full Program Committee list follows.

Program for the 1971 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association

The 67th Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association will be held in **Chicago** at the Conrad Hilton Hotel, **September 7-11, 1971**. The Program Committee is listed below. The members of the Committee and the Program Chairman welcome suggestions from members of the profession on specific papers, specific panels, or on the general structure of the program. We would be happy to have ideas for innovation; we would be happy to be reminded of tradition we have slighted. If you have suggestions or comments on the program, please communicate to one or more of those listed below. It is important to have these communications early. More definite plans for the meetings will be taking shape in the fall.

Program Chairman: **Sidney Verba**
Department of Political Science, University of Chicago

I. Research Areas (No distinction is made between American politics and Comparative politics. Panels will deal with either or both.)

- A. Political Belief Systems and their Formation
Dennis Sullivan, Department of Government, Dartmouth College
- B. Technology and Politics
Todd La Porte, Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley
- C. New Modes of Policy Analysis
Patrick Crecine, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
- D. Law and Social Change
Herbert Jacob, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
- E. Conflicts, Groups and Party Alignments
David Kovenock, Department of Political Science, University of North Carolina
- F. Urban Politics
Joel Aberbach, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
- G. Art as Politics
Claire Rosenfield, Department of English, Brown University

- H. International Relations and Organization
Joseph Nye, Department of Government, Harvard University
- I. Political Development: New Directions
Warren Ilchman, Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley
- J. Public Administration: The Administration of Social Services
Paul Puryear, Department of Political Science, Fisk University
- K. The Study of Central Political Processes
Robert Peabody, Department of Political Science, Johns Hopkins University

II. Philosophy, Theory and Method

- L. Ethical Theory
Richard Flathman, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago
- M. Formal Theory
Gordon Black, Department of Political Science, University of Rochester
- N. Problems of Measurement and Method
Lester Milbrath, Department of Political Science, State University of New York, Buffalo
- O. The Philosophical Analysis of the Science of Politics
Michael Haas, Department of Political Science, University of Hawaii

III. Political Science and Public Policy

- P. The Impact of the Social Sciences on Society: A Retrospect on Recent Major Policy Issues
Graham Allison, Department of Government, Harvard University
- Q. The Impact of the Social Sciences on Society: Prospects for the Major Issues of the Future
Murray Edelman, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin

IV. Political Science: A Self-Evaluation

- R. Political Science as a Vocation
Merle Kling, Department of Political Science, Washington University of St. Louis
- S. Teaching Political Science
G. Bingham Powell, Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley

Supplementary Report
APSA Nominating Committee for 1971 Officers

The Nominating Committee has been notified of the withdrawal of Tobe Johnson, Morehouse College, from the Nominating Committee slate for the Council. The Committee has nominated William P. Robinson, Sr., for the vacancy.