

perceived to be consolation prizes or those appropriate for only weaker students.

CAREER GUIDANCE

If departments make adjustments to meet the needs of non-academic markets, they can't stop there. There needs to be commensurate assistance for students to identify and secure those positions. To the extent that doctoral students in political science already receive help in obtaining employment, most comes in the forms of practice job talks, workshops on publishing, and the like—all geared toward the academic job market.

Many political science faculty are ill-suited to provide career assistance outside of academia; most have never held a job outside of the academic context. To get up to speed, faculty members will need to educate themselves about opportunities outside of academia and take advantage of webinars and training sessions offered by APSA and other professional associations. Making non-academic jobs salient and achievable in the eyes of graduate students is also necessary. This can be done by raising the prospects and providing information about non-academic placement during orientation and the first year of graduate study. Bringing successful alumni who hold those kind of positions back to campus can provide inspiration to students, but also offer the kinds of connections and dialogue with those outside the ivy walls to which academic institutions aspire.

Political science and related departments are unlikely to

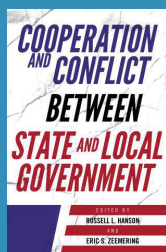
accomplish career advice on their own, or at least would benefit from assistance available on their campuses. Normally, career services at institutions are almost exclusively directed at undergraduates. Political science students will need to depend on services offered at a school/college or campus level, assuming that such things exist. Ideally these would include advising, job boards, workshops on non-academic employment, career exploration groups, and access to job fairs targeted at doctoral students. Economies of scale suggest that graduate colleges or other campus-level entities might be best positioned to fill these needs.

Any initiative organized at the trans-departmental level runs the risk of falling into a "one size fits all" trap (especially at a comprehensive university). It also would require additional staffing and cost to be effective. Perhaps equally important, this is an adaptation not in the control of political science departments.

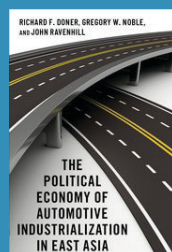
For most graduate faculty members, secure in their own positions and preoccupied with their own lives and careers, it is easy to ignore the shrinking academic market for doctoral students. Nevertheless, political science departments cannot continue with business as usual. The purpose of this essay was not only to raise the issue, but offer some adaptations that are available. Not all might be desirable, but the status quo is not sustainable in either the short or long run. ■

The views and opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of APSA.

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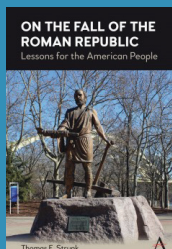
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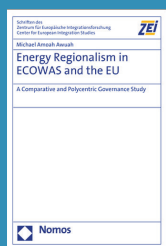
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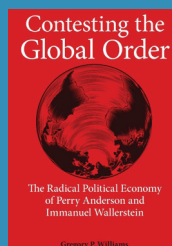
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