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VOX POP Newsletter

of Political Organizations and Parties

An official section of the American Political Science Association
Produced by the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, The University of Akron

POP Panels at the APSA

The upcoming APSA meeting in Philadelphia promises to bring some excellent scholarship on parties, interest groups, and social movements. This year's theme is "Power Reconsidered," which fits nicely with many of the issues raised by POP paper givers. I believe that we will have a strong set of panels, interesting poster sessions, and a short course on building civic engagement into an American politics curriculum. I particularly encourage you to stop by the theme panel on "Political Organizations and Power" that will be co-sponsored by POP and the meeting chairs.

Acceptance into the program was extremely competitive again this year. I received 157 individual paper proposals (down slightly from last year) and 16 full panel proposals (up slightly from last year). The APSA allocation formula granted POP just 8 panels and 8 poster slots. I worked diligently to select papers that were well-developed and fit together substantively. I was also careful to represent graduate students and faculty from different kinds of institutions adequately.

To overcome this year's panel constraint, I managed to co-sponsor 4 panels with other divisions. Following Kevin Esterling's innovative model from last year, I also created one "blockbuster" panel. However, in the end I was able to accept only 36 out of the 157 individual paper proposals for an acceptance rate of just 23%. I accepted just 2 of the 16 full panel submissions, which lowers the effective acceptance rate

further. It is clear that 8 panels were not adequate.

With support from current POP chair, John Aldrich, and last year's section organizer, Kevin Esterling, I approached APSA meeting organizers with our concerns. As you might know, the formula is based partly on the previous year's attendance and acceptance rate, but the real problem is that this year's allocations depend so heavily on last year's allocations. Unless the rules change, this high level of built in "autocorrelation" will probably keep POP's panels from growing much. As a section we should continue to keep this issue on APSA's radar screen.

You can help simply by showing up at as many POP panels as possible! I hope to see many of you in Philadelphia.

Barry C. Burden

Harvard University
APSA 2006 POP Section Organizer

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FROM HEADQUARTERS

POP Administrative News

Elsewhere in this issue, Barry Burden is presenting what promises to be a very interesting set of panels, posters, and the like (pages 4-5). He has done a fine job, both in putting this year's programs together and in representing our interests at APSA on these matters. We all owe him our thanks for his service.

We need to do our part, as well. As you recall, we have a relatively small number of panel slots, and the major bottleneck has been relatively low attendance at our panels, in spite of a large number of members in the section and a large demand for presenting work throughout panels. Please make a point of attending at least one more POP panel than usual and the rewards will accrue to us all. And, while you are planning your time at APSA, please plan to attend our business meeting as well. Thank you.

One more pleasant task: As you attend the panels, keep in mind nominations for awards. While I am naturally thinking first of the POP awards (casting a wide net is especially helpful for the best paper and emerging scholar nominations), it is generally true that award committees could benefit from receiving more nominations.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to introduce Michael Brady (michael.brady@duke.edu) to you as our new master for our web page: <http://www.apsanet.or/~pop/>. He has put up new announcements, we have received a new syllabus or two for our syllabus archive, and he has made some of last year's award winning papers available through the page. Please feel free to send him or me (aldrich@duke.edu) any such relevant materials for the web page. We are also considering ways to make the page more valuable to you. If you have ideas along those lines, please let us know. We want this to be a page that serves your needs and interests as well as possible.

I look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia,

John Aldrich

Pfizer-Pratt University Professor
Duke University

CONGRATULATIONS

Sean J. Savage (Saint Mary's College) received the **2005 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title Award** for his book, *JFK, LBJ, and the Democratic Party* from SUNY Press.

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POP
Executive Council Meeting
Thursday, August 31, 2006
12:00 pm.

POP
Business Meeting
Friday, September 1, 2006
12:00 p.m.

FROM HEADQUARTERS
**Organized Section on
Political Organizations and Parties (POP)
List of Award Committees for 2006**

Jack L. Walker, Jr. Outstanding Article Award

This award “honors an article published in the last two calendar years that makes an outstanding contribution to research and scholarship on political organizations and parties.”

Larry Evans (William and Mary University), Chair,
clevan@wm.edu

John Ishiyama (Truman State University),
jishiyam@truman.edu

Matthew Wilson (Southern Methodist
University), jmwilson@mail.smu.edu

WINNER(S): Michael Laver (New York University) for “Policy and the Dynamics of Political Competition,” APSR, May 2005.

Leon D. Epstein Outstanding Book Award

This award “honors a book published in the last two calendar years that makes an outstanding contribution to research and scholarship on political organizations and parties.”

Marjorie Hershey (Indiana University), Chair,
hershey@indiana.edu

Scott James (UCLA), scjames@ucla.edu

Beth Leech (Rutgers University), leech@polisci.rutgers.edu

WINNER(S): Gary W. Cox and Mathew D. McCubbins, *Setting the Agenda: Responsible Party Government in the U.S. House of Representatives* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005).

Samuel J. Eldersveld Award

This award is “to honor a scholar whose lifetime professional work has made an outstanding contribution to the field.”

Ken Kollman (University of Michigan), Chair,
kkollman@umich.edu

Jeffery Berry (Tufts University), Jeffrey.Berry@tufts.edu

David Rohde (Duke), rohde@duke.edu

WINNER(S): Herbert Kitschelt (Duke University)

Emerging Scholar Award

This honor is awarded to a scholar who has received his or her Ph.D within the last seven years and whose career to date demonstrates unusual promise.

John Coleman (University of Wisconsin), Chair,
coleman@polisci.wisc.edu

Barbara Burrell (Northern Illinois),
T10BCB1@wpo.cso.niu.edu

Larry Rothenberg (University of Rochester),
lrot@mail.rochester.edu

WINNER(S): Andrea Campbell (MIT)

Party Politics Award

This awards honors the best paper presented on a POP panel at the preceding APSA annual meeting. The award recipient is offered the opportunity to publish the paper in *Party Politics*.

Kevin Esterling (UC, Riverside), Chair,
kevin.esterling@ucr.edu

Robert Lowery (Iowa State University), rlowry@iastate.edu

Josephine Andrews (UC, Davis), jtandrews@ucdavis.edu

WINNER(S): Hans Noel (Princeton University) for “Ideology, Party, and the Creation of the Anti-Slavery Coalition.”

**APSA 2006 Short Course
Integrating Civic Engagement into the
American Government Curriculum**

Wednesday, August 30, 1:00 p.m.

Short Course Sponsors:

Political Organizations and Parties Section
Undergraduate Education Section
Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Section

Short Course Organizer and Contact Information:

Brigid Harrison,
Professor of Political Science
Montclair State University,
Montclair, NJ 07043
(609) 652-5013
harrisonb@mail.montclair.edu

Length: Half Day, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
No Registration Fee
No Equipment Needed
Short Course held on premises
of the APSA Annual Meeting

Brigid Harrison, Montclair State University
Suzanne Samuels, Seton Hall University
Jean Wahl Harris, University of Scranton
Susan Tolchin, George Mason University

“Integrating Civic Engagement into the American Government Curriculum” is a short course geared at those who teach introductory undergraduate American Government courses, and who seek to infuse their pedagogy with tools that will combat what seems to be a growing lack of engagement among their students, and apathy toward governance in the United States. The course will focus on strategies that encourage students to be active learners and to think critically about the way our government works. The participants will explain their own experiments with encouraging students to participate actively in their governing institutions, including assignments that emphasize technology, political participation in political organizations and parties, and service learning. Each participant will focus on a specific area within the standard American government curriculum. The hope is that a significant portion of the short course will consist of a dialogue between presenters and attendees of useful strategies and tactics for increasing students’ civic engagement.

FROM HEADQUARTERS

Division 35:

Political Organizations and Parties American Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2006 Section Chair: Barry C. Burden (Harvard University)

PANELS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2006

2:00 pm 35-10. Party Strategy in Western Europe: Contemporary Challenges to Established Patterns.

- Chair:** William Safran (University of Colorado - Boulder)
Author(s): Christopher S. Allen (University of Georgia)
"Forming Left Wing Coalition Governments? Sweden and Germany in the Early 21st Century"
Jae-Jae Spoon (University of Iowa),
"Policy or Votes? How Electoral Rules Influence Party Strategy: Evidence from the UK"
Jennifer K. Smith (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee),
"Campaign Outsourcing and the Transformation of Party Organization in Britain and German"
Michelle Hale Williams (University of West Florida),
"Party Polarization, Convergence, or Decline in the German Elections of 2005? Revisiting Kirchheimer's Prediction"
Discussant: Bonnie M. Meguid (University of Rochester)

4:15 pm 35-3. Framing and Lobbying

- Chair:** Burdett Loomis (University of Kansas)
Author(s): Dorie Apollonio (University of California, San Francisco) and Lisa A. Bero (University of California, San Francisco)
"Forms of Evidence Used in Testimony on Statewide Smoking Restrictions"
Jessica C. Gerrity (Indiana University)
"Presenting a United Front: Similarities and Differences between Interest Group and Congressional Issue Framing"
Marie Hojnacki (Pennsylvania State University),
Frank R. Baumgartner (Pennsylvania State University), Jeffrey Berry (Tufts University),
David Kimball (University of Missouri - St. Louis), and Beth Leech (Rutgers University)
"Obstacles and Opposition in Policy Debates"
Dana J. Patton (Eastern Kentucky University) and Sara L. Zeigler (Eastern Kentucky University)
"Winning the Abortion Wars: A Comparative Study of Interest Group Tactics"
Jennifer Nicoll Victor (University of Pittsburgh)
"Strategic Lobbying: The How and Why of Congressional Lobbying"
Michelle L. Chin (Arizona State University) and Eric Lindquist (Texas A&M University)
"Searching for Cures: Assessing Interest Group Influence in the Federal Grantmaking Process"
Discussant: Burdett Loomis (University of Kansas)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2006

- 8:00 am 35-4. Money and Candidates**
Chair: Brian J. Brox (Tulane University)
Author(s): Anne Elizabeth Baker (University of Notre Dame)
"Are Self-Financed House Members Free Agents?"
Robert C. Lowry (Iowa State University)
"The Determinants of Transfers from National to State and Local Party Committees: Does Anything Matter Other Than Winning Elections in the Short Run?"
Susan E. Orr (University of Florida)
"Using 'Change' to Win? Exploring the Dynamics of Union Political Contributions"
Susan Scarrow (University of Houston)
"Money, Politics and the Balance of Power: Comparing Official Stories"
Discussant: Robert G. Boatright (Clark University)

10:15 am 35-9. Political Parties, Policy Space, and the Dynamics of Political Representation (Co-sponsored with Division 34)

- Chair:** Michael McDonald (Binghamton University)
Author(s): Heather Stoll (UC - Santa Barbara)
"Ideological Space Dimensionality and the Number of Competitors"
Michael McDonald (Binghamton University)
"Does Centrism Enhance Electability in SMD Systems?"
Ronni Abney (UC - Davis) and Andrea Morris (UC - Davis)
"Can More Equal Less? Explaining Party Divergence in Postwar Democracies"
Josephine Andrews (UC-Davis)
"Defining Change in Party Systems"
James Adams (UC - Davis) and Zeynep Somer (UC - Davis)
"How Political Parties Adjust their Policy Programs in Response to Past Election Results: A Cross-National Analysis of Twenty-Five Democracies"
Discussant: Jack Nagel (University of Pennsylvania)

2:00 pm 35-5. Party Reputations

- Chair:** Jeff Grynawski (University of Chicago)
Author(s): Kenichi Ariga (University of Michigan)
"Empirical Estimation of the Electoral Value of the Party Label in Developed Democracies"
Alejandra Betanzo de la Rosa (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)
"Party-Label Sharing and Compromise Among Different-Level Governments"
Hans Noel (Princeton University)
"The Coalition Merchants: How Ideologues Shape Parties in American Politics"
Jeremy Clayne Pope (Brigham Young University) and Jonathan Woon (Carnegie Mellon University)
"The Sources of Party Reputation"
Discussant: Seth E. Masket (University of Denver)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2006

8:00 am 35-1. Parties, Genders, PACS, and Lobbyists (Co-sponsored with Division 31)

- Chair:** Peter Francia (East Carolina University)
Author(s): Rosalyn Cooperman (University of Maryland Washington)

“Women or Party First? How Party Activists Shape Women’s Candidacies for Congress”
Angela L. Bos (University of Minnesota)
“Stereotypes at the Gate? The Influence of Institutional Rules on Evaluations of Women Candidates in Electoral Nominating Processes”
Jamie Pamela Pimlott (University of Florida)
“Pulling in the Dough: The Contribution Patterns of Donors to EMILY’S List”
Nidhi Sharma (University of Illinois, Chicago)
“Competitiveness in the Lobbying Community in Washington, D.C.”

Discussants: Sarah Brewer (American University)
Peter Francia (East Carolina University)

8:00 am 35-2. Religion, Interest Groups, and Ideology (Co-sponsored with Division 33)

Chair: Clarke Cochran (Texas Tech University)
Author(s): Frank Guliuzza III (Weber State University)
“Give Me that Old Time Religion . . . The Impact of the Political Left’s Recent Case for Religious Expression”
Kathryn Lindsay Oates (University of Florida)
“The Expansion of Interest Power: Religious Interest Groups Use of the Expanding Court”
Jessica Robinson Preece (UCLA)
“Where are the Christian Democrats in America? Or, A Network Analysis of life in a Two-Party System”
Angelo J. Gonzales (University of California at Berkeley)
“The Religious Progressive Movement as a Counter to the Christian Right”

Discussant: Clyde Wilcox (Georgetown)

10:15 am 35-6. Party Nomination Politics

Chair: Thomas Carsey (Florida State University)
Author(s): Rachael Vanessa Cobb (Suffolk University)
“Who Nominates? The Politics of Gubernatorial Nominations in Six States, 1994-2002”
Christian Andrew Farrell (University of Oklahoma)
“Comparing the Decisions: Presidential Nomination Voters in Early and Late Primary and Caucus States”
David A. Hopkins (University of California, Berkeley)
“The Rise and Fall of Howard Dean and the Dynamics of Contemporary Presidential Nominations”
John R. Zaller (UCLA) and Marty Cohen (UCLA)
“A Nomination-Centered Analysis of John Aldrich’s Question, Why Parties?”

Discussant: Thomas Carsey (Florida State University)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2006

10:15 am 35-7. Political Organizations and Power (Co-sponsored with Annual Meeting Chairs)

Chair: Kevin Esterling (University of California - Riverside)
Author(s): Jeffrey M. Berry (Tufts University), Kent E. Portney (Tufts University), Robin Liss (Tufts University), Jessica Simoncelli (Tufts University), and Lisa Berger (Tufts University)
“Power and Interest Groups in City Politics”
Hahrie C. Han (Wellesley College)
“Sources of Power Among Interest Groups: An Examination of Internal Organizational Practices and Public Influence”

Richard L. Hall (University of Michigan)
“Private Power, Political Parties, and the Purchase of Access”
Burdett A. Loomis (University of Kansas) and Allan J. Cigler (University of Kansas)
“Tom DeLay Meets E.E. Schattschneider: The Size and Shape of Today’s Interest Group Politics”
Discussants: Kevin Esterling (University of California -Riverside)
Robert Mickey (University of Michigan)

10:15 am

35-8. Intraparty Operations
Chair: Bonnie Meguid (University of Rochester)
Author(s): Georgia Kernell (Columbia University)
“Party Constitutions and Constituent Representation”
Kenneth Mori McElwain (Harvard University)
“Herding Cats: Measuring Variance in the Internal Discipline of Political Parties (and Why it Matters)”
Tatiana Petrova Rizova (University of California, Los Angeles)
“The Party is Dead, Long Live the Party! Successor Party Regeneration After Democratization”
Michelle Hale Williams (University of West Florida)
“Parties, Power and Outcomes: Factors in Political Party Goal Attainment in France, Germany, and Austria”
Discussant: Nahomi Ichino (Harvard University)

POSTERS

Kevin Pirsch (Lehman College - CUNY)
“The Others: Third Party Presidential Candidates and the Media”

Eric Russell (Ohio State University)
“Major Party Cooptations of Minor Party Issues: A Systematic Study of this Political Phenomenon”

Bernard Ivan Tamas (Illinois State University)
“Ballot Access Laws and the Two-Phase Decline of American Third-Parties?”

Laura R. Olson (Clemson University) and Sue E.S. Crawford (Creighton University)
“Cleavages, Camps, and Parties: Interest Group Affiliation in the Mass Public”

Matt Grossman (University of California, Berkeley)
“Generating Organized Leadership: What Kinds of Public Groups are Well-Represented?”

Quentin Kidd (Christopher Newport University)
“A Paucity of Difference? Estimating American Party Policy Positions using Computer Wordscoring”

POP SHORT COURSE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1:00 pm

Integrating Civic Engagement into the American Government Curriculum (Co-sponsored with Division 10 and Division 36)
Brigid C. Harrison (Montclair State University)

SCHOLARLY PRECINCTS

CALL FOR PAPERS for a special issue of *JOURNAL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS*

Guest Editors:

Conor McGrath, University of Ulster
mcgraths@iol.ie
and

Tom Spencer, European Centre for Public Affairs
Visiting Professor of Public Affairs, Brunel University
tomspencer@publicaffairs.ac

THEME: FUSION PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**Deadline for the submission of full papers:
1st, December 2006**

All submissions should be made to both editors by email; write 'JPA Special Issue' in the Subject line.

The *Journal of Public Affairs* is seeking both theoretical and empirical submissions for a double special issue on Fusion Public Affairs. Just as we used to have French, Chinese, Italian, American restaurants but now have fusion cuisine which blends several traditions together on one plate, so too we increasingly see that what were formerly regarded as distinctively national styles of public affairs are melding together. In part, this is due to best practices in one location being adapted for use in other places. In part, it is driven by the globalization of corporate and NGO issues and interests and the consequent need for PA campaigns to cross borders. In part, it has been prompted by media scrutiny which requires that an organization's messages are harmonious from Sacramento to Washington, from Madrid to Brussels, from Berlin to Sydney, from Delhi to Beijing.

The need to conduct transnational and international public affairs campaigns is already evident and will increase considerably in the next twenty-five years as economic, social and political globalization advances. Two major factors drive this new, emerging need in lobbying campaigns within and across countries and in international organizations. Firstly, multi-national organizations need and want to communicate in a consistent manner across a number of political systems. Secondly, even with a single system such as the United States or the European Union, national organizations must deal with a number of levels of government.

But this need brings challenges as well as opportunities. In practical terms, for instance, how exactly can organizations structure themselves in order to effectively manage global PA campaigns? To what extent should responsibility for implementing such a campaign be devolved from the organization centrally to its national or local representatives? Conversely, how do they input, into the setting of strategy centrally? More philosophically, if voluntary groups and those seeking to represent relatively poorly-resourced interests were thought to be at an immediate disadvantage *vis-a-vis* powerful economic entities in a national setting, how much worse off are they in an age of global public affairs?

The topics which articles may consider include, but are not limited to:

- The increasing professionalization of public affairs practices in emerging democracies in regions such as eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America;
- How, and to what extent, do public affairs practitioners in one political system adopt and adapt tactics used elsewhere?;
- An identification of the common elements of effective public affairs strategies around the world;

- How will public affairs develop worldwide by 2020?;
- The challenges involved in building effective pan-national or global public affairs teams;
- In an era of "fusion public affairs," can distinctive PA styles still be identified in particular political systems?;
- How can practitioners deal with differences in political culture, public opinion, institutional frameworks and modes of regulation across the systems in which a single campaign is undertaken;
- How does the system of multiple capitalisms (described by Frank-Jorgen Richter) impact on public affairs practices?;
- Case studies of how to successfully influence international governmental organizations;
- Which are the important emerging public affairs markets, and how should organizations position themselves in relation to those new markets?;
- An analysis of why a particular public affairs activity can work very well in one political system yet not be appropriate or effective in another location;
- How US and Asian firms and NGOs adapt to the institutional architecture of the European Union, and conversely how EU and US organizations adapt to the Asian institutional architectures;
- Developments in the use of what are traditionally thought of as 'American-style' tactics such as grassroots campaigns and coalitions in the EU, Asia and elsewhere;
- Whether the Abram off scandal in the US will affect public affairs practitioners in the EU or elsewhere;
- What blends of intercultural competencies will organizations increasingly require to operate successfully on a global basis?;
- What role will professional bodies play in equipping lobbying and public affairs practitioners with those competencies?;
- To what extent can individual firms devolve part of their public affairs activities to national or international associations?;
- The role of narratives or story-telling in public affairs;
- How can, or should, organizations best increase their accountability and transparency through the reporting of their public affairs activities?;
- In what ways will the environmental crisis have an impact on public affairs?;
- What similarities and differences can be observed in the treatment of public affairs by journalists around the world, and how can practitioners respond to these?;
- In what ways will new communication technologies impact PA practice?; and
- How organizations integrate their public affairs campaigns with their wider corporate communication activities.

Submissions are encouraged from government officials and policy makers, practitioners of public affairs, NGOs and young researchers, as well as from established academics.

Papers should be around 4,000-6,000 words in length, and must strictly follow the *Journal of Public Affairs* style guidelines.

In conjunction with this special issue, the *Journal of Public Affairs* and the European Centre for Public Affairs will be co-hosting an international research conference in Brussels in March 2007. At least one author of each article submitted should be prepared to present their paper at this conference. Submissions will be blind reviewed by members of the *Journal of Public Affairs* editorial board, and authors will be informed of initial acceptance decisions no later than 15th, January 2007; the authors of submissions received before the deadline will be notified within two months of submission.

Papers will be presented and discussed at the conference, following which all participants will be asked to provide written comments about each paper by 30th, April 2007. Authors will then be able to revise their papers in light of these comments, and must make a final submission by 30th, June 2007. Final submissions will again be reviewed, and final decisions about inclusion in the special issue of *Journal of Public Affairs* will be communicated to authors by 31st, August 2007. The special issue will be published in 2008.

SCHOLARLY PRECINCTS

LOBBYING IN WASHINGTON, LONDON AND BRUSSELS: THE PERSUASIVE COMMUNICATION OF POLITICAL ISSUES

by *Conor McGrath*

0-7734-6096-9 \$119.95 / £74.95 378pp. 2005

This book examines the activities of lobbyists in the three largest global lobbying markets — Washington, London, and Brussels — and places those activities in the context of the political, cultural, and institutional environments within which lobbying is undertaken in those locations. Its fundamental premise is that institutions and political frameworks make a great deal of difference to which effective lobbyists will approach their work. The book describes the range of activities which they undertake — from monitoring to research, grassroots efforts to coalition building, atmosphere setting to direct advocacy.

“Certainly, there has been a burst of interest in the activities of lobbyists among popular writers and academics alike during the past twenty-five years . . . What is lacking is a book that combines the theoretical approach and systematic structure of an academic book with the practical insights of field research. This book is a path-breaking work which fills this gap . . . Overall, this book is an important addition to the work on interest groups and lobbyists and particularly for understanding the lobbyists as political players across political systems.”

— Professor Clive S. Thomas,
University of Alaska, Juneau

“. . . Those already familiar with the literature will find much reassurance on conventional thinking, for this book tends to confirm rather than unsettle. Its originality, however, stands out: it is to take readers into the three capitals which are the powerhouses of modern lobbying. It will be a standard, international text on lobbying until a new political economy adds Beijing and Baghdad as global power centers.”

— Dr. Kevin Maloney, Principal Lecturer,
Bournemouth University

“A major feature of the study is that it offers a very useful detailed analysis of how the institutional frameworks, particularly the Party systems and Executive/Legislative relationships, have played a major role in determining the differing public policy processes in Washington, London and Brussels . . . Overall, this is an important and extremely useful book which will be of interest to a range of audiences: lobbyists, politicians, academics and students of public relations/political communication . . . A very valuable contribution to the emerging body of work in the field of political public relations.”

— Dr. Ian Somerville,
Queen Margaret University College

Table of Contents:

Acknowledgments

Abbreviations

Preface by Clive S. Thomas

1. Introduction
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5. Political Environments
6. Lobbying Institutions
7. Conclusion

Washington, London and Brussels Perspectives

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Conor McGrath is a lecturer in Political Lobbying and Public Affairs at the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland. Before joining the University, he worked as a self-employed lobbyist in London, as an aide to a British member of Parliament, and in the office of a Republican member of Congress.

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SPECIAL INTERESTS

Lobbying Disclosure Data

POP is seeking to coordinate the work of scholars working with the U.S. Congress Lobbying Disclosure data that was made available through the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995. We believe that a central coordinated effort can avoid duplication in the data collection process and can facilitate the work of those who are using these data.

We hope to support the effort in a number of ways. First, we would like to provide a central location for any scholars who have data that they would like to make publicly available. If you would like to post a description of the type of data that you are collecting, but would like to have your data collection private until a later date, it would also be helpful if you would contribute information about your data, including the dates, specific pieces of information that you are coding, coding format, etc. This will allow communication between scholars who may wish to share data or collaborate in the future. Finally, we would like to facilitate communication among those who may wish to work together on a larger effort to either write a grant application, to have the data collected, or to combine the resources of their individual universities to work on compiling and collecting a larger dataset. If you have any questions or data to contribute, please contact Holly Brasher at the University of Alabama at Birmingham by phone, 205-942-7078, or by email at hbrasher@uab.edu.

WANTED ABSTRACTS, RESEARCH REPORTS BOOK REVIEWS, RANDOM THOUGHTS

**Just completed seminar research on parties
or political organizations?**

**Got a wild idea you would like to run by
fellow scholars?**

Read any good (or bad) books lately??

WRITE SOMETHING FOR VOX POP!

Send your material to:

**John Green, Editor, VOX POP
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