

**Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Conference Group
Business Meeting 2018**

Minutes

The business meeting was convened in the Hynes Convention Center, Boston, Room 204, on Friday, August 31, 6:30-8:00 pm. It was chaired by Ido Oren and Dvora Yanow. More than 40 people were in attendance.

1. Reports

From this year's program chair (Denise Walsh)

IMM was allocated one panel on the program. We received one panel proposal and three individual paper proposals. The full panel submission was accepted and co-sponsored by QMMR:

- Ethnographies of the State in Contemporary Political Science

Additionally, we co-sponsored the following panel with QMMR:

- Interpretivist Approaches and Their Implications

One of the three individual paper submissions did not fit our program and ended up in a panel on clientelism and democracy. The other two paper submissions were forwarded to QMMR. One of them was included in the Interpretive Approaches panel mentioned above and the other was included in a panel on "Measurement, Mixed-Methods and the Research Process."

We also sponsored the Methods Café, which does not count toward our panel allocation (see item 3 below).

On Short Course (Dvora Yanow)

Held on Wednesday, August 29, between 1:30–5:30 pm, "The Methods Studio" started with a workshop on "Activism, Advocacy, and/vs. Scholarship," followed by the "Crit." Dvora Yanow set out the background for the session; Lahra Smith (Georgetown), Nick Cheesman (Australia National University), and Joe Lowndes (U Oregon) offered opening statements, which were followed by lively discussion. The "crit" featured three presenters—PhD students Brittany Leach (University of Virginia) and Andrew Marshall (Georgetown) and University of the District of Columbia Assistant Professor Kevin Funk. Mary Hawkesworth (Rutgers), Ahmed Khanani (Earlham), Sam Majic (CUNY), and Amy Cabrera Rasmussen (CSU Long Beach) served as official respondents; additional comments were offered by others in attendance. Over 2 dozen scholars participated in the short course this year.

On the Methods Café (Sam Majic and Timothy Pachirat)

This was the second APSA methods café coordinated by Timothy and Sam. The Café this year had 12 tables and 21 specialists. Over 60 scholars were in attendance, and the room was busy throughout the 90 minute duration of the event. Routledge Publishers and Cambridge University Press served as sponsors, displaying books and providing Beth Stone, our graduate student host, with a stipend for her work.

2. Award presentations

- Charles Taylor 2018 book award (presented by Sarah Wiebe, for the committee)
 - Presented to Bernardo Zacka, MIT, for *When the State Meets the Street: Public Service and Moral Agency* (Harvard University Press, 2017).
 - Honorable mentions went to Stefanie Fishel, University of Alabama, for *The Microbial State: Global Thriving and the Global State* (University of Minnesota Press, 2017); and Shiri Pasternak, Ryerson University (Toronto), for *Grounded Authority: The Algonquins of Barriere Lake Against the State*

(University of Minnesota Press, 2017).

- Award Committee: Sarah Wiebe, University of Hawaii, Chair; Kristen Monroe, UC-Irvine; Nick Cheesman, Australian National University.
- Hayward Alker 2018 best graduate student paper award (presented by Aarie Glas, for the committee)
 - Presented to Martha Balaguera (doctoral candidate at UMass-Amherst when the paper was written), for “Intersecting transit(ions): confinement, migration and gender at the limits of sovereignty.” The self-nominated paper was presented in November 2016 at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association in Denver, Colorado.
 - Award Committee: Farah Godrej, UC-Riverside, Chair; Aarie Glas, Northern Illinois University; David Forrest, Oberlin College.
- Grain of Sand award: presented by Samantha Majic, for the committee.
 - The award was given posthumously to Lee Ann Fujii, late of the University of Toronto (see below).
 - Award Committee: Ido Oren (University of Florida; co-chair), Dvora Yanow (Wageningen University; co-chair), Peri Schwartz-Shea (University of Utah), Sam Majic (John Jay College, CUNY), Timothy Pachirat (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Frederic C. Schaffer (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Joe Soss (University of Minnesota).

3. Announcements

- New APSA Working Group on Political Ethnography: Tani Sebro (Miami University of Ohio) announced the formation of this working group and invited attendees to participate in the group’s program at future APSA meetings. For more information, visit http://connect.apsanet.org/apsa2018/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2018/08/Political-Ethnography-Working-Group-Schedule_APSA.pdf
- Request for Collaboration: Nick Cheesman (Australian National University), on behalf of the new Interpretation, Method and Critique (IMC) Network and Research Cluster, Australian National University
- Interpretive book podcast: Nick Cheesman (Australian National University) presented a plan to host podcasts featuring books employing interpretive approaches.

4. Remembering and celebrating Lee Ann Fujii

Lee Ann Fujii died prematurely and unexpectedly in March 2018. In addition to being an innovative scholar and inspiring teacher and mentor, Lee Ann was IMM Program Chair (2016-18), Executive Committee Member (2013-18) and Chair (2017-18).

- Nick Rush Smith announced the creation of the Lee Ann Fujii Minority Fellow Travel Grants. The fund is administered by the APSA. To donate, visit <https://www.apsanet.org/Donate-Now>
- Peri Schwartz-Shea and Dvora Yanow announced that Routledge Publishers agreed to sponsor a “Lee Ann Fujii award for the interpretive study of political violence.” Natalja Mortensen, a Routledge editor in attendance, said the press was honored to support the award.
- Aarie Glas & Lahoma Thomas, on behalf of co-organizers Lahra Smith, Jessica Soedirgo, Ethel Tungohan, Robin Turner, chaired this part of the program, in which many audience members shared fond, poignant recollections of Lee Ann.

5. Members' announcements

This section of the agenda was skipped in the interest of time. It would have included the following announcements:

- Recent and forthcoming publications and publishing opportunities:
 - Routledge Series on Interpretive Methods, ed. by Peregrine Schwartz-Shea & Dvora Yanow:
 - Lee Ann Fujii, *Interviewing in Social Science Research: A Relational Approach* (2018)
 - Timothy Pachirat, *Among Wolves: Ethnography and the Immersive Study of Power* (2018)
 - Ron Schmidt, *Interpreting Racial Politics in the United States* (forthcoming)
 - Carisa R. Showden and Samantha Majic, *Youth Who Trade Sex in the US: Intersectionality, Agency, and Vulnerability* (Temple University Press, 2018).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Ido Oren.