

## **Proposed WPSA award for best book in environmental political theory**

June 2, 2014

Title: "Clay Morgan Award for Best Book in Environmental Political Theory"

Brief Description: This award is intended to recognize outstanding scholarship, published in a book-length monograph, which utilizes the resources, literatures, and approaches of the field of political theory to address contemporary environmental challenges and the pursuit of sustainability. By its nature, such work is particularly attentive to the complex intersections of theory and practice.

Longer Description: "Environmental political theory" (EPT) is a burgeoning field of study and inquiry that is rooted in the discipline of political science but also represented in other disciplines and interdisciplinary fields. The WPSA annual meeting has established itself as one of the premier venues for work in this field, attracting scholars from across North America and abroad. The working group on EPT -- the only group of its kind -- is also affiliated with and sponsored an annual workshop before, the WPSA. Thus an award sponsored by this association is especially appropriate. EPT is also a field in which the book-length monograph is a particularly influential medium of scholarship, making a book award most appropriate.

The proposed award is named after Clay Morgan, a long-time acquisitions editor -- first with SUNY Press and then for many years with MIT Press -- prior to his retirement in January 2014. Clay has been uniquely influential in acquiring manuscripts in the field of environmental politics, and thereby among the most influential non-academics in cultivating and shaping the development of this scholarly field. Clay's important work is a primary reason that it seems appropriate to name this award in his honor. Moreover, the role of a knowledgeable and long-serving acquisitions editor seems particularly unsung -- yet vital -- in the development of a scholarly field and it seemed appropriate to recognize that role with a book award.