

## **WPSA Methods Café**

Harbor B

Friday, April 19, 2019, 3:15-5:00 PM

Brent Steele and Charles Turner, University of Utah, Greeters

### **Research Ethics and the IRB System**

Peregrine Schwartz-Shea, *University of Utah*

I've been studying this system since 2006 and served on the APSA ad hoc committee that produced draft ethical guidelines. Happy to discuss everything from nuts and bolts of IRBs, to how to engage with IRBs including resistance, to actual ethical issues in the social-political sciences.

### **Autoethnographic Methods**

Natasha Behl, *Arizona State University*

In my research, I turn to autoethnography to give voice to my experience of gendered, racialized, and epistemic violence in political science and in the field. Autoethnography enables me to ask questions that remain unasked: Why do we so often adopt an objective and cold academic voice? What if we spoke and wrote differently? Please join the critical reflection on autoethnography and its capacity to challenge the content, style, and form of academic writing.

### **Cross-Regional Contextualized Comparison Meets Analytic Eclecticism**

Rudra Sil, *University of Pennsylvania*

I began doing comparative research that incorporated the features of analytic eclecticism (AE) and cross-regional contextualized comparison (CRCC) during my doctoral studies, though neither label was introduced or defined until later. Over time, with Peter Katzenstein, the idea of AE took on a more elaborate form in a 2010 book as well as an article in *Perspectives on Politics*. More recently, CRCC has been articulated and illustrated in a 2018 Oxford University Press volume I co-edited on "Comparative Area Studies." These ideas operate at different levels of abstraction, but they share an "elective affinity" and are designed to make more space for styles of analysis that privilege complex, interactive processes and the interplay of different mechanisms with sustained attention to the impact of local context conditions.

## **Political Ethnographic Methods**

Osman Balkan, *Swarthmore College*

Tani Sebros, *Miami University*

Ethnography is both an immersive methodology and a sensibility-- a way of seeing, reading, and understanding social worlds. Join us for an open-ended conversation about how political scientists can employ ethnographic methods to develop insights into power and politics. Balkan and Sebros have conducted long-term fieldwork in Europe and the Middle East and Southeast Asia respectively and are happy to discuss best practices for planning and executing ethnographic research projects.

## **Sensory Methods and Storytelling as Political Research**

Sarah Wiebe, *University of Hawai'i at Mānoa*

Our fields of investigation touch us in many different ways as ethnographic sensibilities necessarily involve intimate relations that move the researcher beyond the desk, archive or laboratory. These practices of storytelling and sense-making require innovative, artistic tools. While being mindful of our positionality as researchers, how do we creatively, ethically, imaginatively and respectfully tell stories that reflect the lives of those we study?

## **Queer Methods**

Jack Amoureux, *Wake Forest University*

At this table, we will discuss queer methods as ways of theorizing, investigating, knowing, and living. Queer methods feature sensibilities that include curiosity and openness, but also seek ways of doing research that highlight the non-normative and processes of marginalization. Queer methods offer innovative practices of reflexivity and views of agency among researchers, their collaborators, and subjects.