

## **Starting the (Im)migration and Citizenship Section @ WPSA**

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Ron Schmidt (Emeritus, California State University, Long Beach)

WPSA's (Im)migration and Citizenship Section began to come together in 2009. Dvora Yanow and Ron Schmidt had started collaborating on a paper (along with one of Ron's CSULB students and a post-doc working with Dvora in Amsterdam) on immigration politics and immigrant integration for the 2010 WPSA annual meeting. Noticing a groundswell of papers on the subject at the 2009 WPSA conference, Dvora approached Ron with the idea of starting a new section. They agreed to test the waters, and Dvora emailed authors of those 2009 papers to check their interest in gathering at the 2010 WPSA conference in San Francisco to discuss the idea. Meanwhile, the 2010 conference program once again demonstrated increasing interest in research on immigration and citizenship politics.

Some two dozen people showed up at the San Francisco meeting, swelling the mailing list to 149. All present agreed to propose the section for the next WPSA conference, meeting in San Antonio, and Dvora and Ron agreed to co-chair it if the proposal was accepted. After discussion with Manny Avalos, the 2011 conference program chair, and Betty Moulds, WPSA executive director, the new section was approved, and its co-chairs sent out the following call for paper and panel proposals:

## **Call for Papers**

### **New WPSA Section on Immigration and Citizenship**

The last four decades have witnessed a dramatic increase in international migration throughout the world, raising important political questions in many countries. Political science remains one of the few social sciences without an explicit and organized focus on these phenomena. The 2010 WPSA annual meeting saw papers and/or panels on various aspects of international migration and citizenship spread across the program's sections (e.g., political theory, public law, public policy, racial and ethnic politics, comparative politics, and more). This new section seeks to highlight a shared scholarly concern with this increasingly important subject, albeit from various disciplinary, theoretical, and methodological approaches, by bringing these papers into focus under one organizational roof.

We seek paper and panel proposals from a wide range of scholars studying and analyzing the overlapping subjects of international migration and politics, (im)migration policy, (im)migrant integration policies and their implementation, political incorporation and "citizen-making," and the changing meanings and practices of "citizenship" in an era of heightened international migration. We welcome studies that explore these overlapping subjects in a variety of settings, including global, national, sub-national, regional, municipal, using a variety of approaches, from single-state to comparative, and drawing on a variety of methodologies and methods.

We would also welcome expressions of interest from those planning to attend the meeting who are not submitting papers on this topic this year but who have an interest and research background in it and would like to be involved as session chairs or discussants.

#### Meeting details:

Place: San Antonio, TX

Date: April 21-23, 2011

Deadline for submission of proposals: **September 24, 2010**

WPSA conference webpage: <http://www.csus.edu/org/wpsa/mtgs.stm>

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That call for papers led to an initial program with 41 papers across 11 panels, five of them co-sponsored by other sections' chairs whom we had approached. By the time of

the conference, we had 33 papers. We also had 2 additional panels, deriving from co-sponsorship requests from chairs of two other sections, for a total of 13 panels—quite a showing for a new section!

Soon thereafter, we joined an organizing group proposing a new Section on Migration and Citizenship at APSA headed by Els DeGraauw, Leila Kavar, and Willem Maas. APSA's new section began hosting panels at the national meeting in 2013. The Western's Section on (Im)migration and Citizenship has continued to offer panels at annual conferences for a decade, and we expect it to continue as the intensity of migration politics is unlikely to subside in the foreseeable future.

Following is a list of Section Chairs and panel numbers at annual meetings since the section's beginnings:

2011, San Antonio	Ron Schmidt, CSU Long Beach and Dvora Yanow, University of Amsterdam 13 panels
2012, Portland	Anna Sampaio, Santa Clara 10 panels
2013, Hollywood	Francisco Pedraza, Texas A&M 13 panels
2014, Seattle	Ricardo Ramirez, Notre Dame 5 panels
2015, Las Vegas	Tom Wong, UC San Diego 7 panels
2016, San Diego	Robin Harper, York College, CUNY 7 panels
2017, Vancouver	Tom Wong, UC San Diego 8 panels
2018, San Francisco	Christian Phillips, Ohio State 8 panels
2019, San Diego	Linda Alvarez, CSU Northridge 10 panels

2020, Los Angeles (cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic; a small virtual conference was held)	Loren Collingwood, UCR 2 panels
2021, Seattle (held virtually due to Covid-19)	David Cortez, Notre Dame 5 panels
2022, Portland	Christian Phillips, USC 7 panels