



WPSA AWARDS ANNOUNCED AT THE 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2026 awards will be presented at the Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 2, at the San Diego Manchester Grand Hyatt. The ceremony will be held in room Coronado A starting at 6 pm. A reception follows in the Coronado Terrace.

BETTY MOULDS LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

The Betty Moulds Lifetime Service Award was created in 2015-16 to honor the remarkable contributions of the longtime Executive Director of WPSA, Betty Moulds. This year the members of the Betty Moulds Lifetime Achievement Award Selection Committee are delighted to announce that this year's awardee is

Luis Fraga

WPSA President, 1997-1998

Joseph and Elizabeth Robbie Professor of Political Science, Notre Dame University

For more than thirty-five years, Professor Fraga has contributed his time, leadership, and dedication to the Western Political Science Association in numerous roles. He served as president of the association from 1997–1998 after previously serving on the Executive Council and chairing the Committee on the Status of Chicana/os in the Profession. In addition to these leadership roles, Professor Fraga has served the association repeatedly as a section chair and program chair, and has long been an active participant at the annual meeting as a presenter, panel chair, and discussant. Throughout his career, he devoted substantial time and energy to ensuring the vitality and inclusiveness of the association, leaving an enduring impact on generations of scholars and colleagues.

Professor Fraga's distinguished scholarly career complements this remarkable record of professional service. He is the author, co-author, or co-editor of six books that have helped shape the study of Latino politics and American political behavior. Among his recent works are *Latinos and the 2016 Election: Latino Resistance and the Election of Donald Trump*, *Latinos in the New Millennium: An Almanac of Opinion, Behavior, and Policy Preferences*, and *Latino Lives in America: Making It Home*. Across his many roles, as scholar, mentor, teacher, and institutional leader, Professor Fraga has exemplified the spirit of service, collegiality, and commitment to inclusion that the Betty E. Moulds Lifetime Service Award was created to honor. His leadership and generosity have strengthened the association and enriched the broader discipline.

2026 WPSA Betty E. Moulds Lifetime Service Award Committee:
Lorrie Frasure, Lisa Magana, and Ricardo Ramirez (Chair)

BEST PAPER IN ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN POLITICS (\$250)

To: Rupinder Liddar, McGill University

Paper title: "Religious Institutions and Political Mobilization: The Role of Sikh Gurdwaras in Canadian Elections"

BETTY NESVOLD WOMEN AND POLITICS AWARD (\$250)

To: Yulenni Venegas-Lopez, University of Washington

Paper title: "Representing the Real Latino Electorate: Far Right Latinas, Group Capture, and Intersectional Visions of Latinidad"

BLACKS AND POLITICS AWARD (\$250)

To: Elizabeth Jordie Davies, UC Irvine

Paper title: "Affirming Black (Queer Feminist)"

CHARLES REDD AWARD FOR BEST PAPER ON THE POLITICS OF THE AMERICAN WEST (\$250)

To: Anna Nguyen, University of Washington

Paper title: "Forging a 21st Century Domestic Worker Movement: Coalition Building and the Mobilization of Precarious Labor"

CLAY MORGAN AWARD FOR BEST BOOK IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICAL THEORY

To: Alyssa Battistoni, Harvard University

Book title: *Free Gifts: Capitalism and the Politics of Nature*

DISSERTATION AWARD (\$250)

To: Alexandria Davis, Virginia Commonwealth University

For dissertation completed at University of California, Los Angeles: "Acknowledging the Apathetic Voter: Black Non-voting and Racial Group Apathy"

DON T. NAKANISHI AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE IN ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN POLITICS

To: Kim Geron, California State University East Bay

ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICAL THEORY AWARD (\$250)

To: Jessie Croteau, Haverford College

Paper title: "In Praise of Decay, Toward a Politics of Compost"

LATINA/LATINO POLITICS (\$250)

To: Samantha Chapa, University of Notre Dame

Paper title: "Sanctuary Policy and Civic Participation"

Honorable Mention To: Claudia Alegre, University of California, Los Angeles; Efrén Pérez, University of California, Los Angeles; and Tyler Reny, Claremont Graduate University.

Paper Title: "A Different Feeling: How Collective Emotions Drive Political Engagement Among Racially Stigmatized People"

Honorable Mention To: Paige A. Hill, Stanford University

Paper Title: "Autodeterminación: A Bay Area Case Study of Non-Citizen Political Incorporation"

POLITICS, GROUPS, AND IDENTITIES BEST ARTICLE AWARD (\$500)

To: Justin Michael Zimmerman, University at Albany (SUNY Albany)

For 2025 (Issue 5) Article: "Cooperating Through Distrust: Seeking Remedies to State and Community Violence"

Honorable Mention To: Fabian Bergmann, University of Konstanz

For "2025 (Issue 2) Article: An Efficacious Remedy for Status Inequality? Indigenous Policies in Norway and Sweden,"

WILLIAM E. CONNOLLY AWARD FOR BEST PAPER IN POLITICAL THEORY (\$250)

To: Burak Tan, University of Chicago

Paper Title: "Political Homophobia: Regulation of Public Performance and Appearance in Turkey"

Honorable Mention To: Milo Ward, Oberlin College

Paper Title: "The Aristotelian Turn in Neoconservative Political Science"

WPSA BEST PAPER AWARD (\$500)

To: Erik Severson, University of British Columbia

Paper Title: "Democracy and the Politics of Attention"

Honorable Mention To: Jennifer Merolla, University of California, Riverside; Laura Stephenson, Western University; and Elizabeth Zechmeister, Vanderbilt University

Paper Title: "Loneliness as a Threat to Democracy"