

Questions *in* Politics

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About the Georgia Political Science Association



Founded in 1968, the Georgia Political Science Association (GPSA) is the professional association for political science practitioners and educators in Georgia. Membership is drawn from the public, private, and academic sectors. We welcome members, attendees, participants, and students from around the world.

Questions in Politics is the official journal publication of the GPSA.

Visit the GPSA website for more information visit www.gpsa-online.org.



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Preface

It is with great pleasure that we present *Questions in Politics*, Volume X, as the official peer-reviewed publication of the Georgia Political Science Association. These papers testify to the diverse and impressive scholarship in GPSA and at the annual meeting.¹ The 2022 GPSA annual meeting in Savannah was a great success with scholars presenting research in all fields of political science. That breadth is reflected in the papers published in this volume, and we are certain that scholars will profit immensely from the knowledge contained in these pages.

About the Issue

Volume X contains seven peer-reviewed papers plus the undergraduate Pajari Award paper. This class of accepted papers is larger than the previous years, which can be attributed to 1) the quality of these papers and 2) the number of submissions we received. We organized the issue in the following manner: The McBrayer Award paper, presented to the best paper published in *Questions in Politics*, is first; next, we organize the papers by topic—political theory, scholarship of teaching and learning, comparative politics, and American politics—and we close with the Pajari Award winner for the best undergraduate paper.

The McBrayer Award winner for 2022, presented in 2023, was a difficult decision given the quality of the papers accepted for publication in this volume. However, one paper stood out for its originality and contribution to the discipline. That paper is “From Rebellion to Equality: The Rhetoric of Creedal Nationalism in Early American Abolitionist Movements,” authored by Brian G. Smith. This paper explores the use of “creedal nationalism” to motivate and expand the abolitionist movement from the 1820s to the 1840s. Smith examines how “All men are created equal” evolves from the anti-monarchy claim to the near-sacred claim, espousing a civic equality from which American national identity can be defined. Using an original analysis from primary texts in American political development and thought, Smith’s explication of creedal nationalism and its use in the early American Republic is original, insightful, and a significant contribution to numerous fields of political science.

The second paper in Vol. X is “QAnon as Gnosis: A Voegelinian Explanation and Solution,” by Benjamin Clark. This paper analyzes the QAnon phenomenon through political philosopher Eric Voegelin’s concept of Gnosticism. Clark’s examination outlines the QAnon movement, its importance to modern American politics, and how their conspiratorial claims reflect a variant of Christian Gnosticism. An impressively detailed paper, scholars of American political thought, religion and politics, and political psychology will gain value from reading and citing this paper.

Turning to the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL), we have two papers exploring this important area of empirical research. First, Zachary A. Karazsia’s paper, “A Review of ‘High Stakes Diplomacy’: Fostering Effective Negotiation Skills through Experiential Learning,” earned the GPSA 2022 Teaching Innovation Award. This paper assesses an original “High Stakes Diplomacy” multi-day simulation on several experiential learning components. Using pre-assessments, multiparty peer observations, and a post-assessment survey and debriefing to gauge learning outcomes and experiment validity, the post-simulation survey revealed that 83.3 percent of participants found the High Stakes Diplomacy simulation facilitated greater learning of the method of principled negotiation. This result reflects a 50 percent increase in student learning from pre-assessment levels. Instructors who want to explore this simulation will find materials at a link in this paper’s acknowledgment section.

The second SoTL paper, “An Undergraduate Course on the Road to Law School and a Legal Career for First-Generation Students and Other Underrepresented Groups in the Profession,” is co-authored by Mara Mooney, Antoinette France-Harris, and Joshua R. Meddaugh. This paper adds to the growing area of literature that focuses largely on valuable pipeline programs law school-driven “top-down” models and proposes a

¹ To submit to *QIP*, papers must have been presented at the GPSA annual meeting the year of their submission.

complementary “bottom-up” model that has successfully been implemented at the authors’ institution, which other undergraduate programs can adapt. Using data from student surveys, the authors address several issues that first-generation and under-served students face by having the undergraduate institution take a more active role in students’ professional development.

Our next papers focus on comparative politics, specifically the French “radical right gender gap” and traditional and religious institutions’ effects on constituent-representative relationships in twenty African states. Jamie Scalera Elliot and Alison M. Clifton research how Marine Le Pen’s ability to moderate Rassemblement National (RN) rhetoric has legitimized its place as a mainstream French political party. Their paper, “Populism in Pink: How Marine Le Pen’s Revised Rhetoric Closes the Radical Right Gender Gap,” uses an original sample of French residents and citizens. Elliot and Clifton show that this party’s success has allowed other far-right parties to close their gender gaps. The next paper is “African Traditional Authorities and Religious Institutions as Intermediary Institutions to Contact Members of Parliaments” by Jean Francois Koly Onivogui. This paper examines how the sometimes controversial traditional authorities and religious leaders impact the constituent-representative relationship in twenty African countries. Onivogui finds African citizens use more informal linking mechanisms, such as traditional authorities and religious leaders, than formal channels like the party to contact their representatives, which fills a gap by probing and substantiating the role of informal intermediary institutions.

Our last set of papers, which includes the Pajari Award for the best undergraduate paper presented at the annual meeting, focuses on American politics and public opinion. First, “The Influence of Institutional Trust and Conspiracy Ideation on COVID-19 Behaviors” is co-authored by a large team with Russell E. Luke as the lead author.² This paper examines the effect of conspiratorial ideation and institutional trust on COVID-19 mitigation behaviors. Using a targeted sample of a highly Republican area, the authors fielded a three-wave survey gauging levels of trust, conspiratorial ideation, and COVID-19 mitigation behaviors. The results strongly support their pre-registered hypotheses and suggest that institutional trust and conspiratorial ideation may be more complex in determining health behaviors than previously considered. Finally, the 2022 Pajari Award goes to Lisa Calvert for her paper, “Race and Political Affiliation on Cultural Issues: How Have Different Races Within Political Parties Affected the Individual’s Political Attitudes on Cultural Issues.” Calvert uses data from the 2018 General Social Survey to examine whether racial and political identities explain differences in political attitudes. In this wide-ranging paper, Calvert uses a variety of questions to probe various aspects of political attitudes in the United States.

Thanks to the Reviewers

As always, we are deeply indebted to the reviewers for Volume X. We received an excellent slate of papers for this volume, which required us to find an outstanding slate of reviewers. In addition to ourselves, each article received peer reviews from scholars whose expertise could speak to the quality and significance of the submitted manuscript. Our reviewers’ expertise and suggested edits and revisions increased the quality of the work you see in this journal. Being a journal reviewer is often a thankless task, and—while it may not be much—we want to extend our heartiest “thank you” to our reviewers.

² Sean Richey, a co-editor of *QIP*, is a co-author on this paper. Per *QIP* editorial guidelines and practice, Richey had no role in this paper’s peer-review process. Ben Taylor oversaw all aspects of editorial process for this paper.

The reviewers and their affiliation for Volume X of *Questions in Politics* are as follows:

Toby Bolsen
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Sciences Po

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Brian Webb
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Andrew Wedeman
Georgia State University

For those who present at the 2023 GPSA meeting, please consider submitting your work to *QiP*. To find more information about submitting to *QiP*, please consult the [GPSA website](#). The deadline for submissions for Volume XI is December 31, 2023.

Sean Richey & Ben Taylor

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