



The 2026 Conference
Theme: *Legitimacy in
Flux: Conceptualizing
Political Obligation
Today*

CALL FOR POSTERS



Georgia
Political Science
Association

The Georgia Political Science Association (GPSA) is now accepting student posters for the 2026 GPSA Conference. The Conference will be held November 11–13 at Sea Palms Resort on St. Simons Island.

- The deadline for submission of student poster proposals is **August 1**. GPSA welcomes poster submissions from all fields of Political Science and related disciplines.
- Please email any submissions or questions to gpsasubmissions@gmail.com.
- Additional information available at <https://gpsa-online.org/opportunities-for-students/>



****Proposal submissions should include author(s) name(s), paper title, key words, and abstract (100–150 words). Posters should be printed on a stiff material (foamboard) for display.****



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2026 GPSA Program Schedule

Wednesday, 11 November

GPSA Registration	2:00pm-4:00pm (Lobby)
GPSA Executive Meeting	4:00pm-6:00pm (Oak Room)

Thursday, 12 November

Limited breakfast items available	7:30-8:30am (Musgrove Room)
Panel A Session	8:30am-9:45am
Panel B Session	10:00am-11:15am
Lunch break with presentation by McGraw-Hill Representatives	11:30am-12:30pm***
Panel C Session	12:30pm-1:45pm
Panel D Session	2:00pm-3:15pm
Coffee Break	3:30pm-4:00pm
Panel E Session	4:00pm-5:15pm
USG EU Studies meeting	4:00pm-5:15pm (Oak Room)
President's Reception	6:00pm-8:00pm (Musgrove Room)***
	President's Reception and Awards Presentation
	Undergraduate Research Poster Session

***Lunch and dinner are not provided by the conference but can be ordered through Sago (Sea Palms' on-site restaurant)

Friday, 13 November

Limited breakfast items available	7:30am-8:30am (Musgrove Room)
Panel F Session	8:30am-9:45am
Panel G Session	10:00am-11:15am
Lunch break	11:30am-12:15pm***
Annual Business Meeting	12:15pm-2:00pm (Musgrove Room)

***Lunch is not provided by the conference but can be ordered through Sago (Sea Palms' on-site restaurant)

Wednesday, 11 November

1. Title: GPSA Executive Board Meeting
 - a. Location: Oak Room
 - b. Time: 4-6pm

Thursday, 12 November

Panel A

1. Title: Comparative Politics Panel
 - a. Location: Mackay
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Mike Martinez**, *martinez19@ggc.edu*
 - c. Panelists:
 - i. **Brady Siegmund**, *bsiegmund@ggc.edu*, “The Foreign Agents Registration Act and Democratic Representation”
 - ii. **Breanna Donaier-Escoto**, *bdonaierescoto@ggc.edu*, “U.S. Intervention in Regime Changes Across Latin and Central American Regions”
 - iii. **Ruhamah Ferguson**, *rferguson3@ggc.edu*, “Sovereignty and International Governance: A Comparative Study in Internet Governance and Emerging Governance of AI in Great Power Conflicts”
 - iv. **Esmeralda Herrera**, *eherrera3@ggc.edu*, “CECOT and Due Process: A Comparative Study of Criminal Justice in El Salvador and the U.S.”
 - v. **Martin Balogun**, *mbalogun@ggc.edu*, “Capitalism in Nigeria: The Need for Checks and Balances to Enhance Democratic Governance”
2. Title: Judicial Politics and the Supreme Court
 - a. Location: Harrington
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Ted Rossier**, *tedrossier@ung.edu*
 - c. Panelists:
 - i. **Colin Glennon**, *glennon@mail.etsu.edu*, “A Confused Public Reacts: Perceptions of Supreme Court Rulings on June 27, 2005”
 - ii. **Kristyn Griffin**, *kpenney@radar.gsw.edu*, “Legislating Opposition to Immorality: Religious Influence and the Constitutional Architecture of Sports Betting Prohibition”
 - iii. **Marc Pufong**, *mpufong@valdosta.edu*, “Polarization of American Politics: Individual-Level Change and Its Determinants”
 - iv. **Shriyan Yamali**, *yamalishriyan@gmail.com*, “The Cost of Free Speech: Shifts in Independent Expenditures Across Party and Committee Lines after *Citizens United*”

3. Title: Populism and Politics
 - a. Location: Frederica
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Nathan Price**, *nathan.price@ung.edu*
 - c. Panelists:
 - i. **Alexandra Halounová**, *ahalouno@ff.zcu.cz*, and **Štěpánka Pospíchalová**, *pospichs@students.zcu.cz*, “What Does Populism Mean for Foreign Policy? The Czech Case After 2025”
 - ii. **Claire Scafidi**, *claire.scafidi@uga.edu*, “Wearing the Pants: Female Success in Far-Right Parties”
 - iii. **Michael Westberg**, *michael.westberg@ung.edu*, “Welfare Voter Mobilization Strategies: Effects of Family 500+ on Poland’s 2019 and 2023 Elections”

Roundtable: The New Southern Politics: Redistricting, Race, and Rural Voters

- a. Location: Cypress B
- b. Participants:
 - i. **Tim Golden**, *timgolden@bellsouth.net*
 - ii. **James LaPlant**, *jlaplant@valdosta.edu*
 - iii. **Keith Lee**, *keilee@valdosta.edu*

Panel B

1. Title: Topics in EU Studies
 - a. Location: Mackay
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Tom Doleys**, *tdoleys@kennesaw.edu*
 - c. Panelists:
 - i. **Michael Baun**, *mbaun@valdosta.edu*, and **Dan Marek**, *daniel.marek@upol.cz*, “Partners at the Periphery: Neoclassical Realism and External Differentiation of the EU’s SAFE Program”
 - ii. **David Felsen**, *dfelsen@ggc.edu*, “EU Enlargement and Prospects for the Western Balkans”
 - iii. **Raluca Viman-Miller**, *raluca.viman-miller@ung.edu*, and **Bibek Chand**, *bibek.chand@ung.edu*, “EU-Nepal Relations: Navigating Development, Diplomacy, and Strategic Engagement”
2. Title: American Politics Panel
 - a. Location: Harrington
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Jerry Herbel**, *jherbel@kennesaw.edu*
 - c. Panelists:
 - i. **Joel Garcia**, *kgarcia93@ggc.edu*, “Political Asylum Policy in Contemporary America: Law, Deterrence, Protection, and Economic Tradeoffs under Obama, Trump, and Biden”
 - ii. **Fiza Khwaja**, *fkhwaja@ggc.edu*, “The Return of Hereditary Advantage: Gene Editing and the Futures of Democratic Equality”
 - iii. **Sebastian Sneba**, *ssebastian@ggc.edu*, “Canvassing and Voter Behavior Across Varying Demographics”
3. Title: International Relations
 - a. Location: Cypress B
 - b. Discussant/Chair: **Petr Jurek**, *pjurek@ff.zcu.cz*
 - c. Panelists:
 - i. **Joe Dunn**, *joe.dunn@converse.edu*, “Traitors in the Ranks: U.S Military Deserters, Collaborators, and Defectors in Korea, Vietnam, and Recent Conflicts”
 - ii. **Craig Greathouse**, *craig.greathouse@ung.edu*, “European Security Dynamics: Understanding the New Reality with the Departure/Limitation of External Balancer”
 - iii. **Scott McDonald**, *scott.mcdonald@ung.edu*, “Guidance or Wastepaper: The Role of the National Security Strategy in Policy Execution”
 - iv. **Yi Zhang**, *yizhang138@student.gsu.edu*, “The Quasi-Ally Trap: Navigating Military-Economic Tensions in U.S. Hegemony”

4. *Roundtable: From the Gridiron to the Campaign Trail: When Football Gods Run for Congress*
 - a. Location: Frederica
 - b. Participants:
 - i. **Karen Owen**, *kowen@westga.edu*
 - ii. **James LaPlant**, *jlaplant@valdosta.edu*
 - iii. **Kristina LaPlant**, *klaplant@uwlax.edu*

Panel C

1. Title: International Relations
 - a. Location: Mackay
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Steve Elliott-Gower**, *steve.elliott-gower@gcsu.edu*
 - c. Panelists:
 - i. **Emily Agadzhanova**, *eagadzhanova1@gsu.edu*, “The Use of Terrorism in Asymmetric Warfare: Non-State Actors in Changing Conflict Environments”
 - ii. **Lenka Badíková**, *lbadi@students.zcu.cz*, and **Viola Kratochvílová**, *viokrat@students.zcu.cz*, “The Transformation of the European Union’s Energy Security Following Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine”
 - iii. **Rebecca Bohn**, *rebecca.bohn@uga.edu*, “LGBTQIA+ Women's Inclusion in Post-Conflict Peace Considerations”
 - iv. **Brady Siegmund**, *bradysiegmund123@gmail.com*, “Foreign Lobbying and its influence on United States Elections: An Analysis of the Most Recent Election Cycle”
2. Title: American Politics
 - a. Location: Frederica
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Kristina LaPlant**, *klaplant@uwlax.edu*
 - c. Panelists:
 - i. **Keith Lee**, *keilee@valdosta.edu*, “Congress at the Crossroads: Institutional Drift and the Decline of Congressional Authority”
 - ii. **Michael Lynch**, *mlynch@uga.edu*, and **Allison Vick**, *allison.vick@converse.edu*, “The Difficulties of Lawmaking under Unified Government: An Assessment of the 119th Congress”
 - iii. **Glenn Robins**, *glenn.robins@gsw.edu*, “The 95th Congress and the Joint Chiefs of Staff: Prelude to the Goldwater-Nichols Act”
 - iv. **Chris Tecklenburg**, *htecklenburg@georgiasouthern.edu*, and **Lara Wessel**, *lwessel@georgiasouthern.edu*, “An Overview of Censuring Members of Congress”
3. Title: Public Administration
 - a. Location: Cypress A
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Min Kim**, *min.kim@gcsu.edu*
 - c. Panelists:
 - i. **John Bennett**, *bennetj@savannahstate.edu*, “E-bikes Spark Debates: Examining Attempts to Regulate Electric Bicycles and Similar Vehicles”
 - ii. **Jing He**, *jing.he@ung.edu*, “How to Understand Discretion? A Conceptual Framework and Experimental Test”
 - iii. **Patrice Kerner**, *kerner_patrice@columbusstate.edu*, and **Kimberly Gill**, *gill_kimberly@columbusstate.edu*, “Preparing for Generation Alpha: Law

Enforcement Leadership, Organizational Legitimacy, and the Future of Public Service”

- iv. **Robert Smith**, *rsmit27@uis.edu*, “Public Administration in the Trump Era: Dialogue on Presidential Governance, Administrative Reform, and the Future of Public Administration”

4. *Roundtable: Changing Perceptions of American Leadership in the World*

- a. Location: Cypress B
- b. Participants:
 - i. **Craig Greathouse**, *craig.greathouse@ung.edu*
 - ii. **Jonathan Miner**, *jonathan.miner@ung.edu*
 - iii. **Nathan Price**, *nathan.price@ung.edu*
 - iv. **Raluca Viman-Miller**, *raluca.viman-miller@ung.edu*
 - v. **Dwight Wilson**, *dwight.wilson@ung.edu*

Panel D

2. Title: International Relations

- a. Location: Mackay
- b. Chair & Discussant: **Tom Doleys**, *tdoleys@kennesaw.edu*
- c. Panelists:
 - i. **Anna Mittal**, *amittal2@students.kennesaw.edu*, “The ‘Mother of All Deals’: Geopolitical Drivers of the 2026 EU-India Trade Breakthrough”
 - ii. **Dan Myrick**, *dm29201@georgiasouthern.edu*, “European Union and NATO Relations”
 - iii. **Paris Riconte**, *priconte@students.kennesaw.edu*, “A New Age for Unity in European Space Policy: In the Midst of a Paradigm Shift”
 - iv. **Eric Setzer**, *esetzer@students.kennesaw.edu*, “Analysis of Democratic Backsliding in the European Union”

3. Title: State & Local Politics

- a. Location: Harrington
- b. Chair & Discussant: **Joe Gershtenson**, *joseph.gershtenson@ung.edu*
- c. Panelists:
 - i. **Min Kim**, *min.kim@gcsu.edu*, “Nonprofit Financial Resilience and Community Vulnerability: A County-Level Study of Georgia”
 - ii. **Mike Martinez**, *martinez19@ggc.edu*, “Georgia’s Tom Watson and the Politics of Demagoguery,”
 - iii. **John Van Doorn**, *jvandoorn@valdosta.edu*, “Rage Against the Machine(s): Lessons Drawn from a Local Georgia Election”
 - iv. **Eric Wilk**, *eric.wilk@ung.edu*, “Fear & Loathing in the U.S.: Increased Executive Power and Polarization.”

4. Title: Technology and Politics

- a. Location: Frederica
- b. Chair & Discussant: **Scott McDonald**, *scott.mcdonald@ung.edu*
- c. Panelists:
 - i. **Robert Harding**, *rharding@valdosta.edu*, “International Relations in the New Space Race: How Will the Moon and Beyond be Governed?”
 - ii. **Emily Hwang**, *emily.hwang2@uga.edu*, “Betting the Farm: Strategic Risk in the Age of Online Sports Betting”
 - iii. **Nicole Pankiewicz**, *npankiewicz@ccga.edu*, “The Wisdom of Rapid Unscheduled Disassembly: Risk-Taking and Space Exploration”
 - iv. **Laurel Wei**, *laurel.wei@ung.edu*, “AI Sovereignty in the Shadow of Trump 2.0: Beijing’s Initial Reckoning”

4. *Roundtable: Role-Playing Simulations, National Security Decision-Making, Cybersecurity/Cyber-Conflict Experiential Learning*
 - a. Location: Cypress A
 - b. Participant:
 - i. **Steven Elliott-Gower**, *steve.elliott-gower@gcsu.edu*

Panel E

1. Pajari Panel on Distinguished Undergraduate Research
 - a. Location: Mackay
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Raluca Viman-Miller**, *raluca.viman-miller@ung.edu*
 - c. Panelist:
 - i. **Alexis Gonzalez**, *alegonzalez@valdosta.edu*, “Immigration and Trump’s Second Term: An Analysis of the Predictors of ICE Arrests Across the States” (Faculty sponsor: James LaPlant)
2. Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) Panel
 - a. Location: Harrington
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Nadia Jilani-Hyler**, *njilanihyler@augusta.edu*
 - c. Panelist:
 - i. **Catherine Funk**, *cfunk@abac.edu*, “Simulating the World: Engaging Students in Global Issues”
3. Title: Political Theory
 - a. Location: Frederica
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **John LeJeune**, *john.lejeune@gsw.edu*
 - c. Panelists:
 - i. **Richard Buckwalter**, *r.a.buckwalter@gmail.com*, “Montesquieu and the Highest Form of Political Obligation”
 - ii. **Mark Kremer**, *mkremer@hillsdale.edu*, “The Moral and Intellectual Life of the American Citizen”
 - iii. **Jerry Herbel**, *jherbel@kennesaw.edu*, “Administrative Centralization and Democratic Despotism”
 - iv. **Jack Moran**, *jmoran@kennesaw.edu*, “Tocqueville and the Dogmatic Obligations of American Religion and Politics”
4. Title: Comparative Politics
 - a. Location: Cypress A
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Michael Westberg**, *michael.westberg@ung.edu*
 - c. Participants:
 - i. **Jing He**, *jing.he@ung.edu*, “The Effect of Fiscal Transparency on Fiscal Deficits in China: A Regression Discontinuity in Time Design”
 - ii. **Jacob Kyer**, *jk26427@georgiasouthern.edu*, “Aid for the Intifada: A Comparative Analysis of Libya’s and Iran’s Support of the Palestinian Armed Struggle”
 - iii. **Joe Njoroge**, *jnjoroge@abac.edu*, “China and the United States in Africa: Competing Models of Engagement and Their Implications for Political and Economic Development”

- iv. **Hamid Serri**, *seyed.serri@ung.edu*, “Rethinking Middle Eastern Security”

5. EU Studies Executive Committee Meeting

- Location: Oak Room
- Facilitator: **Michael Baun**, *mbaun@valdosta.edu*

President’s Reception and Awards Ceremony at 6pm

Location: Musgrove

Friday, 13 November

Panel F

1. Title: Technology and Politics
 - a. Location: Mackay
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Robert Harding**, *rharding@valdosta.edu*
 - c. Panelists:
 - i. **Vikram Bharadwaj**, *vikram.bharadwaj@uga.edu*, “Big Brother’s Machine: Artificial Intelligence, Surveillance, and the Rise of the Executive Overreach”
 - ii. **Josie Bond**, *josie.bond@uga.edu*, “Prompted to War: Does AI Mitigate or Magnify Human Bias When Advising on Military Intervention?”
 - iii. **Garvey Cornick**, *cornickgarvey@gmail.com*, “No Network Available: Internet Shutdowns and Their Impacts on Protests”

2. Title: Political Theory
 - a. Location: Harrington
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Marc Pufong**, *mpufong@valdosta.edu*
 - c. Panelists:
 - i. **Benjamin Clark**, “Within a Practicable Sphere”: James Madison and the Scale of Republican Government”
 - ii. **John LeJeune**, *john.lejeune@gsw.edu*, “The Dialogue of Hannah Arendt and Jesse Glenn Gray”
 - iii. **Michael Westberg**, *michael.westberg@ung.edu*, “Was the American Revolution a Revolution? Returning to a Unified Theory of Revolution”
 - iv. **Dwight Wilson**, *dwight.wilson@ung.edu*, “What happened to evolution in Political Science?”

3. Title: Political Behavior
 - a. Location: Frederica
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Keith Lee**, *keilee@valdosta.edu*
 - c. Panelists:
 - i. **Joe Gershtenson**, *joseph.gershtenson@ung.edu*, “Polarization of American Politics: Individual-Level Change and Its Determinants”
 - ii. **Hannah Lee**, *hannahlee1@uga.edu*, “In Canisters We Trust? Measuring Public Attitudes Towards Spent Nuclear Fuel Management in the United States”
 - iii. **Benjamin Taylor**, *jtayl369@kennesaw.edu*, and **Joe Richey**, *joerichey359@outlook.com*, “Examining the Effects of Environmental Burden and Stress on Social Capital in the United States”
 - iv. **Joel Turner**, *jturner299@liberty.edu*, “Civic Attachment and Civic Optimism Among Southern Identifiers”

4. *Roundtable: Greg Domin Roundtable on the Presidency: The Trump Administration's Second First Year: What happened, why it happened, and bold predictions for what it means for the American Political System*
 - a. Location: Cypress A
 - b. Participants:
 - i. **Carl Cavalli**, *carl.cavalli@ung.edu*
 - ii. **Catherine Funk**, *cfunk@abac.edu*
 - iii. **Kristina LaPlant**, *klaplant@uwlax.edu*
 - iv. **Kimberly Martin Tecklenburg**, *kimberlymartin@georgiasouthern.edu*

Panel G

1. Title: Political Behavior
 - a. Location: Mackay
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Karen Owen**, *kowen@uwg.edu*
 - c. Panelists:
 - i. **TyAsija Hooten**, *tmhooten@valdosta.edu*, “Identity, Loyalty, and Bulletproof Support: Understanding of the Unyielding Commitment of a Contentious and Divisive Leader”
 - ii. **Dulce Montalban**, *dmontalban@valdosta.edu*, “The Feminist Attitude: Understanding Gender Backlash Through Political Identity”
 - iii. **Sean Richey**, *srichey@gsu.edu*, and **Areebah Zia**, *azia2@student.gsu.edu*, “Politics Over Price: Political Sorting and Residential Mobility”
2. Title: Policymaking
 - a. Location: Harrington
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Catherine Funk**, *cfunk@abac.edu*
 - c. Panelists:
 - i. **Natalia de Albuquerque Alves**, *nalves1@students.kennesaw.edu*, “From Conflict to Compromise: The Evolution of the Central Florida Tourism Oversight District (2024-2026)”
 - ii. **Gilvert Angervil**, *gangervil@valdosta.edu*, “Understanding History and Its Use in Policy Entrepreneurship: A Conceptual Framework”
 - iii. **David Kleinrock**, *david.kleinrock@uga.edu*, “Give Me Some Money: Geographic Dispersion and the Political Protection of Defense Programs”
 - iv. **Ted Rossier**, *ted.rossier@ung.edu*, “Bedfellows in the Courtroom: The Effect of Interest Group Coalitions on Policy Success”
3. Title: Policymaking
 - a. Location: Frederica
 - b. Chair & Discussant: **Jose de Arimateia da Cruz**, *jdacruz@georgiasouthern.edu*
 - c. Panelists:
 - i. **Brayden Bell**, *bb26758@georgiasouthern.edu*, “How Do Illegal Commodity Supply Chains Originating in Colombia's Amazon Affect Environmental Security, Legitimate Markets, and Regional Stability?”
 - ii. **Aaron Brack**, *ab59855@georgiasouthern.edu*, and **Cherneeka Lolita**, *ck05437@georgiasouthern.edu*, “The Response to 9/11: Analyzing How the Government Addressed the Environmental Impact Following September 11th”
 - iii. **Lukas Feichtel**, *lf10546@georgiasouthern.edu*, “Drone Combat in Multi-Environment Warfare”

4. *Roundtable: Politics and Legitimacy in a Global Context*
 - a. Location: Cypress A
 - b. Participants:
 - i. **Jack Moran**, *jmoran@kennesaw.edu*
 - ii. **Tinaz Pavri**, *tpavri@spelman.edu*
 - iii. **Tom Rotnem**, *trotnem@kennesaw.edu*

GPSA Business Meeting, 12:15pm

Location: Musgrove Room