

CALL FOR POSTERS

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

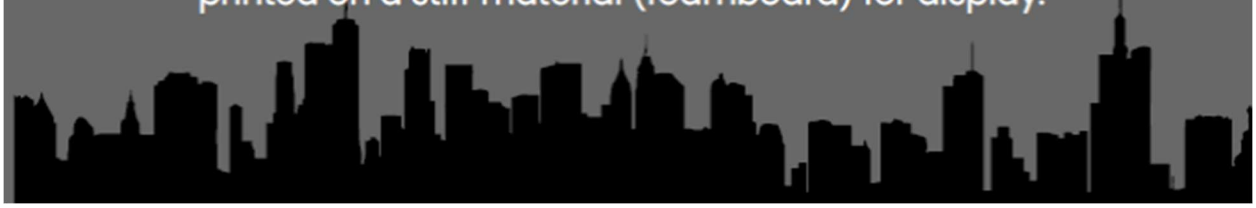
Georgia Political Science Association

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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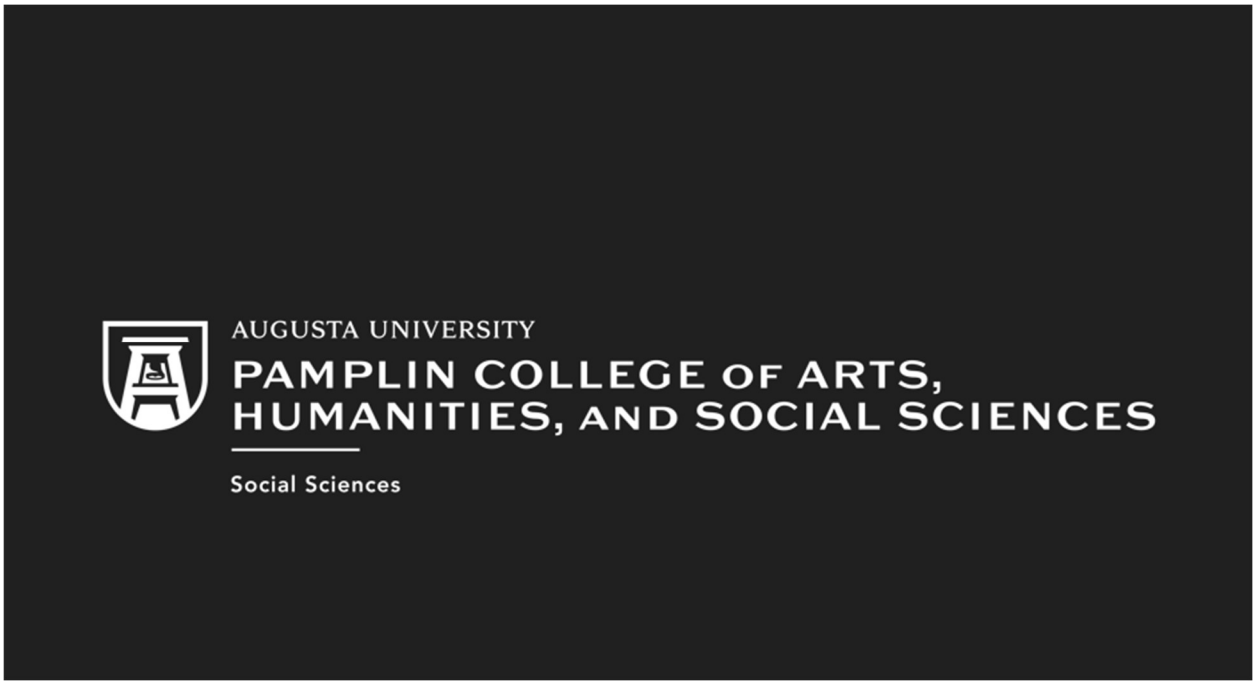
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Master of Science in International Policy Management

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	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 *(NOTE: only light appetizers offered at the reception)*

****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**, *jmartinez19@ggc.edu*
    c. Panelists:
        i. **Brady Siegmund**, *bsiegmund@ggc.edu*, "The Foreign Agents Registration Act and Democratic Representation"
        ii. **Breanna Donaire-Escoto**, *bdonaireescoto@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*, "Cracks, Fissures, and Fractures in SCOTUS Removal Decisions: Doctrinal Tensions in *Trump v. Slaughter* and *Trump v. Cook* cases"
        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**, *jgarcia93@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. **Sneha Sebastian**, *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**, *yzhang138@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**, *lbadik@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"

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**, *jmartinez19@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**, *rcharding@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 and Contemporary Challenges
    a. Location: Frederica
    b. Chair & Discussant: **John LeJeune**, *john.lejeune@gsw.edu*
    c. Panelists:
        i. **Jack Moran**, *jmoran@kennesaw.edu,* "Tocqueville and The Delicate Balance of Luxurious Egalitarians"

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**, *rcharding@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. **Dulce Montalban**, *dmontalban@valdosta.edu*, "The Feminist Attitude: Understanding Gender Backlash Through Political Identity"
        ii. **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. Title: Politics and Legitimacy in a Global Context
    a. Location: Frederica
    b. Chair & Discussant: **Hamid Serri,** *seyed.serri@ung.edu*
    c. Panelists:
        i. **Tinaz Pavri**, *tpavri@spelman.edu, "*Political Legitimacy in the New India: Who is Held Accountable?"
        ii. **Tom Rotnem**, *trotnem@kennesaw.edu*, "The TATC, Asian Transit Clients, and Russian Legitimacy"
        i. **Jerry Herbel**, *jherbel@kennesaw.edu*, "Administrative Centralization and Democratic Despotism"
        ii. **Jack Moran**, *jmoran@kennesaw.edu*, "Tocqueville and the Dogmatic Obligations of American Religion and Politics"

GPSA Business Meeting, 12:15pm

Location: Musgrove Room