

FRONT



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN INDIANA[®]
Political Science,
Public Administration
and Philosophy

2025
Conference



IPSA
INDIANA POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

Friday, November 21





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Conference Schedule

Registration and Conference Breakfast

8 - 8:45 a.m.

Welcoming remarks

Dr. Matt Hanka, President, Indiana Political Science Association

8:45 - 9 a.m.

Session 1

9 - 10:15 a.m.

Session 2

10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Lunch and Keynote Presentation

Noon - 1:15 p.m.

Session 3

1:30 - 2:45 p.m.

Roundtable on 2026 and 2028 Elections

3 - 4:15 p.m.



Session 1

9 - 10:15 a.m.

Roundtable

Carter Hall A

Beyond the Sentence: Perpetual Punishment and Diminished Citizenship in the Criminal Justice System

Dr. Melissa Stacer, University of Southern Indiana (mjstacer@usi.edu)

Dr. Jason Callahan, University of Southern Indiana (jcallahan@usi.edu)

Dr. Taylor Petty, University of Southern Indiana (tepetty@usi.edu)

Jennifer Dennis Schaefer, University of Southern Indiana (jjschaefer1@usi.edu)

Panel 1: Communication and Intergroup Relations

Carter Hall B

Chair/Discussant: **Dr. Nicholas LaRowe**, University of Southern Indiana
(nllarowe@usi.edu)

From Trust-Busting to Platform Capture: Rethinking Regulation in the Algorithmic Age

Chloe Morgado, UMass Amherst (cmorgado@umass.edu)

LGBTQIA+ Hate Crimes and State Non-Discrimination Policies: An Analysis

Jillian Jones, University of Southern Indiana (jsjones5@usi.edu)

Bookmobiles: Using Library Outreach Models to Meet the Needs of Rural Communities

Dr. Mary (MT) Hallock Morris, University of Southern Indiana (mhmorris@usi.edu)

Session 1 (Continued)

9 - 10:15 a.m.

Panel 2: Conflict and Resistance

University Center 226

Chair/Discussant: Dr. Misa Nishikawa, Ball State University (mnishikawa@bsu.edu)

The Essential Effects of Material Capability Balances and Terrain on the Outcomes of Interstate Wars

Dr. Connor Sutton, Anderson University (csutton@anderson.edu)

Geographies of Resistance Against the Us-Enabled and Funded Israeli Genocidal War and Ethnic Cleansing in Palestine

Dr. Mohamed Elyassini, Indiana State University (mohamed.elyassini@indstate.edu)

Dictators to the Left of me Democracies to the Right

Dr. John W. Megson, Purdue University Indianapolis (jmegson@purdue.edu)

Panel 3: Urban Planning: Comparing Policy Outcomes

University Center 227

Chair/Discussant: Dr. Javier Juarez-Perez, DePauw University (javierjuarez)

Comparing Small Scale to Large Scale Cities in Urban Planning

Alicia Cotton, University of Southern Indiana (accotton@eagles.usi.edu)

Union City: A Successful Town in Two States

Jerome Zirnheld, Ball State University (jezirnheld@bsu.edu)

Formal Education Systems in a Growing City

Samantha Fleischaker, University of Southern Indiana (sdfleischa@eagles.usi.edu)

Session 2

10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Panel 4: Issues in American Politics

Carter Hall A

Chair/Discussant: Dr. Mary (MT) Hallock Morris, University of Southern Indiana (mhmmorris@usi.edu)

Tone at the Trump: The Impact of President Trump's Idiolect on the Informational Efficiency of Conference Calls

Dr. Pamela Schaal, Ball State University (pmschaal@bsu.edu)

Dr. Ben Angelo, Ball State University (bangelo@bsu.edu)

Dr. Mitchell Johnston, University of Dayton (Mjohnston2@udayton.edu)

The Correlation of Age to Political Ideology

Madison Fritchley, University of Southern Indiana (mkolberdin@eagles.usi.edu)

Effect of Campaign Spending on Ballot Measure Approval

Nathan Maxwell, Ballotpedia (nathan.maxwell@ballotpedia.org)

Panel 5: Democracy and Democratic Support

Carter Hall B

Chair/Discussant: Dr. Ethan Hollander, Wabash College (hollande@wabash.edu)

A Comparative Case Study of National Identity and the Migrant Crisis in Europe

Dr. Milind Thakar, University of Indianapolis (mthakar@uindy.edu)

Democracy Rating and Confidence in Courts in Former Socialist States in Europe

Casen Lake, Ball State University (casen.lake@bsu.edu)

Social Media and Elections in Romania

Dr. Oana Armeanu, University of Southern Indiana (oiarmeanu@usi.edu)

Session 2 (continued)

10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Panel 6: Law and Morality in the Age of AI

University Center 226

Chair/Discussant: Dr. Taylor Petty, University of Southern Indiana (tepetty@usi.edu)

Moral Implications of Stare Decisis and its Remedies

Jordan Niemeier, Indiana University South Bend (jniemeie@iu.edu)

The Exhausting Process of Seeking Judicial Review While Incarcerated: Administrative Exhaustion and the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA) of 1995

Mindy Youngs, University of Southern Indiana (mindy.s.youngs@gmail.com)

Clankers and Their Fourth Amendment Protections

Dr. Dustin Nelson, Morehead State University (d.nelson@moreheadstate.edu)

Panel 7: Challenges in Public Administration

University Center 227

Chair/Discussant: Dr. Trent Engbers, University of Southern Indiana (taengbers@usi.edu)

Measuring Fiscal Trajectories with the Total Fiscal Effects Index (TFEI): Evidence from Discretionary Economic Incentives in Four Alabama Cities

Dr. Javier Juarez-Perez, DePauw University (javierjuarez-perez@depauw.edu)

Reassessing the Political-Administrative Dichotomy in the 21st Century

Cadyn Smithson-Cox, University of Southern Indiana (crsmithson@eagles.usi.edu)

Washington, DC's Long Journey to Home Rule, Voting Rights, and Statehood

Dr. Matthew Hanka, University of Southern Indiana (mjhanka@usi.edu)

IPSA Luncheon

12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

Carter Hall D

“The Redistricting Wars: Political Science in the Courtroom”

Keynote Speaker Dr. Stephen Voss



Dr. Stephen Voss has been on the University of Kentucky faculty since 1998. As part of his broader interest in cultural politics, he researches elections in both voting behavior and electoral rules. He has served as a consultant or expert witness in a half-dozen redistricting and voting-rights cases.

A nonpartisan analyst, Voss regularly appears in the news media as a political commentator, including as a regular guest on WVLK radio and occasional columnist for the Kentucky Lantern, and he works as a political analyst for Louisville’s Spectrum One News. He holds a doctorate in government from Harvard University and two bachelor’s degrees from Louisiana State University, one in journalism and one in history.

Session 3

1:30 - 2:45 p.m.

Panel 8: Explaining Health and Recreational Drug Policy

Carter Hall B

Chair/Discussant: Dr. Pamela Schaal, Ball State University (pmschaal@bsu.edu)

The Political Economy of Pediatric Heart Transplant

Dr. Ethan Hollander, Wabash College (hollande@wabash.edu)

Rural Hospital Closures and Their Impact on Emergency Medical Services Response Times

Howard Whetstone Jr, Indiana University South Bend (hwhetsto@iu.edu)

The Classroom Meets the Field: Designing the 2025 Hoosier Survey Questionnaire to Teach and Explore Public Opinion

Dr. Andrew Bauman, Ball State University (andrew.bauman@bsu.edu)

Casen Lake, Ball State University (casen.lake@bsu.edu)

Dr. Misa Nishikawa, Ball State University (mnishikawa@bsu.edu)

Panel 9: Refugees and Immigrants in an Interconnected World

University Center 226

Chair/Discussant: Dr. Oana Armeanu, University of Southern Indiana (oiarmeanu@usi.edu)

The United Nations and the Refugee Crisis: Perspectives, Analyses, and What's to Come

Mallory Friend, University of Southern Indiana (mefriend@eagles.usi.edu)

The Need for Global Awareness in an Interconnected World: A Quantitative Study of the University of Indianapolis Student Body

Laura Allende Castilla, University of Indianapolis (allendecastillal@uindy.edu)

Constructing Perspectives: Media Narratives and Intergroup Relations

Cole Barnett, University of Southern Indiana (nbarnett@eagles.usi.edu)

Session 3 (continued)

1:30 - 2:45 p.m.

Panel 10: Overcoming Economic and Political Barriers: Nonprofits and Youth Movements

University Center 227

Chair/Discussant: Dr. Milind Thakar, University of Indianapolis (mthakar@uindy.edu)

Jewish and Arab Nonprofits in Israel: A Comparison of the State of the Sector

Dr. Trent Engbers, University of Southern Indiana (taengbers@usi.edu)

From Streets to State: Youth Movements and Democratic Transformation in Bangladesh and the United States

Dr. Saraf Wasima, University of Illinois Chicago (swasi@uic.edu)

Session 4

3 - 4:15 p.m.

Roundtable on 2026 and 2028 Elections

Carter Hall A

Dr. Nicholas LaRowe, University of Southern Indiana

Dr. Stephen Voss, University of Kentucky

Dr. Mary Halock Morris, University of Southern Indiana

Dr. Matthew Hanka, University of Southern Indiana



Journal of Political Science Studies

The Journal of Political Science Studies is a peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to the advancement of knowledge in the field of political science. The journal publishes high-quality, original research that explores the multifaceted nature of politics, governance, and policy-making. We aim to foster an interdisciplinary dialogue among scholars, practitioners, and students of political science, and provide a platform for theoretical, empirical, and methodological innovations.

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- Political Economy

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Email questions to editor-in-chief Laura Merrifield Wilson at lmwilson@uindy.edu

We would like to thank the following individuals, departments and organizations for making this event possible:

Dr. Oana Armeanu, Chair, USI Department of Political Science, Public Administration, and Philosophy

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USI College of Liberal Arts

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Megan Doyle, Associate Director, USI Special Events & Scheduling

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