



Flinders
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**INSPIRING
ACHIEVEMENT**

Australian Political Studies Association Annual Conference, 22-25 September 2019

Conference Report



APSA 2019 – Annual Conference

This report was prepared by the Local Organising Committee and outlines the core information of the APSA conference, hosted at Flinders University from 22-25 September 2019.

Conference Theme: 'Shifting Identities, Political Change and the Idea of the Nation'

The theme for this year's conference focussed on questions of political identity, political change, linked to wider themes of nation and nationhood.

Politics in the early 21st century is undergoing significant transformation across the globe, with the rise of populism, new threats to democracy and related challenges. These issues present wider challenges to the nation-state, and shifting ideas of citizenship and belonging. An ongoing concern for political science is to better understand the underpinning dynamics of political change, but also continuity.

APSA 2019 also had a dedicated focus on Indigenous politics and policy issues, and the wider process of reconciliation. We strongly encouraged papers and panels that examined these core questions, that go to the heart of Australian 'identity' and nationhood. In terms of political change in the Australian context, we saw further evidence of leadership instability.

Finally, we also had a dedicated stream to 'Asia and Politics' inviting colleagues to explore the key ideas, changes and trends in the wider region.

Innovations and New Developments

At APSA 2019, there were a number of new developments and innovations building on the well established structure of the conference. APSA President for the conference, professor Sarah Maddison was instrumental in making indigenous politics and policy a central part of the conference. For the first time, there was a First Nations forum for scholars working in the field, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander membership has significantly been strengthened and given renewed focus. Dr Huggins is the first Indigenous scholar to deliver a keynote at the conference.

At the conference, reflecting research specialisms and expertise at Flinders, we introduced a 'Politics in Asia' stream, to give a new focus to political and related issues in the region. This was a key innovation and attracted strong attention, especially from a number of overseas presenters.

Keynote Speakers

Flinders hosted two keynote speakers for the conference.

Dr Jackie Huggins AM FAHA

Dr Jackie Huggins is a Bidjara (central Queensland) and Birri-Gubba Juru (North Queensland) woman from Queensland who has worked in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs for over 30 years. Jackie is a celebrated historian and author who has documented the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout the decades. In 2001, Jackie received the Member of the Order of Australia for services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. For Jackie's keynote address, she explored the key political issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Professor Meredith Weiss

Prof Meredith Weiss delivered the second keynote address for the conference. Meredith is Professor and Chair of Political Science in the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy at the University at Albany, State University of New York. She has published widely on social mobilisation and civil society, the politics of identity and development, electoral politics and parties, institutional reform, and subnational governance in Southeast Asia, with particular focus on Malaysia and Singapore. Her books include *Student Activism in Malaysia: Crucible, Mirror, Sideshow* (Cornell SEAP, 2011), *Protest and Possibilities: Civil Society and Coalitions for Political Change in Malaysia* (Stanford, 2006), and the forthcoming *The Roots of Resilience: Party Machines and Grassroots Politics in Southeast Asia* (Cornell). She has also edited or co-edited eleven volumes, including the forthcoming *Toward a New Malaysia? The 2018 Election and Its Aftermath* (NUS) and *The Political Logics of Anticorruption Efforts in Asia* (SUNY). In her keynote, Professor Weiss explored key issues of nationhood and change in the Asia Pacific region, and examined ethical and related dilemmas for researcher and scholars of the region and its politics.

Main Conference - Panels

The main conference was organised across a range of parallel panel sessions, encompassing the following stream areas. We had the following number of panels in each stream area (on average 4 papers per panel) – shown in brackets. In total, 229 papers were presented at the conference across a diverse range of fields in political science, policy, international relations and related fields.

A – Australian Politics (14)

ASA – Politics in Asia (10)

IND – Indigenous Politics (4)

GEN – Gender and Sexuality (3)

POL – Policy and Governance (6)

ENV – Environmental Politics and Policy (6)

M – Media and Politics (4)

THE – Political Theory (4)

IR – International Relations (9)

Registrations Details

At APSA 2019, 229 papers were presented across 9 main stream areas.

Final numbers: 242 Delegates (+ 55 Postgraduate Day Registrations)

Registration Type	Amount of Registrations
APSA Member Early Bird	68
APSA Member Standard	19
Day Registration	1
Exhibitor	2
Guest	1
Invited Speaker	2
Non-Member Early Bird	54
Non-Member Standard	7
Student Member Early Bird	29
Student Member Standard	4
Student Non-Member Early Bird	48
Student Non-Member Standard	7

Postgraduate Day	55
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* Those who registered for Postgraduate Day also were registered for the main Conference

Expected numbers: 200 Delegates

Countries represented:

Country	Amount of Registrations
Australia	195
Chile	1
China	4
Germany	1
Ghana	1
Hong Kong	2
Indonesia	5
Japan	5
Malaysia	1
New Zealand	7
Philippines	2
Singapore	2
South Korea	2
Taiwan	1
United Kingdom	1
United States	3
Not listed	5

Number of submitted abstracts: 299

Number of streams: 9

Number of Sponsorship booths: 3

Thanks & Acknowledgements

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) for APSA 2019, was led by Dr Rob Manwaring, who also coordinated the media politics stream. The following colleagues were all key members of the LOC, and gave key input to ensure the successful running of the conference (all based at Flinders). Each coordinated specific stream areas (indicated below)

Professor Andrew Parkin (Australian politics)
Dr Josh Newman (Policy and Governance)
Dr Michael Sullivan (International Relations, Politics in Asia)
Dr Rodrigo Praino (Comparative Politics)
Dr Maryane Kelton (IR)
Dr Anthony Langlois (Gender and Sexuality)
Dr Cassandra Star (environmental politics)
Professor George Crowder (Political Theory)
Dr Miguel Vatter (Political theory)
Dr Pete Tangney (environmental politics)

Professor Sarah Maddison coordinated the indigenous politics stream

Special Thanks also to Professor Michael Barr and Dr Priyambudi Sulistiyanto who were instrumental in setting up the Politics in Asia stream. Thanks also to Dr Haydon Manning for sage advice in the running of APSA.

Thanks is also given to the following key colleagues who were critical in their support for making the conference a success:

Michael O'Brien, Guarna elder for his brilliant, insightful and powerful Welcome to Country.

Professor Sarah Maddison, then President of APSA, was instrumental in offering support and advice and ensuring the conference ran well. Thanks too to Dr Tim LeGrand (then APSA treasurer) for critical assistance, and also the APSA Executive who provided important support and advice. Great support also from APSA executive officer, Dr Lei Yu.

Emma Taylor, Jessica Moebus at ICMS, the professional conference organisers for APSA. Emma and Jessica provided invaluable support, and coordinating key aspects of the conferencing organising process, including budget oversight, submission processes, and on-site coordination.

Julie Dover, Nick Rylander, Vicki, Laura (and colleagues at the Victoria Square Campus) at Flinders University for important administrative and website assistance

The catering for the conference – thanks to Sally Bevan at Alere catering for the main conference, and hosting the main conference welcome reception. Catryn at the Caterers provided the refreshments for the PhD workshop, and Kate at Treasury 1860 at King William Road hosted the PhD welcome drinks. The Conference dinner and award ceremony was held at Fork in the Road Winery at the McLaren Vale.

Thanks also to the following student volunteers based at Flinders for their input and assistance, especially during the conference. Adam Ridley, Paige Fletcher, Ros Wong, Cliff Sayer, Elizabeth Forest, Josh Sunman, Dieu Thong Ha, Nancy Kleinig, and Felicia Kim.

Overview of Postgraduate Workshop

On Sunday 22 September, Flinders hosted the dedicated PhD Student workshop for the APSA conference with over 30 students in attendance. The format of the event is outlined in the table below, and special thanks to all colleagues for the input and assistance. All the sessions were well received, and as a result of the conference APSA is now developing a new mentoring scheme for APSA PhD students. Thanks to Flinders Students Paige Fletcher (who was also nominated successfully to the APSA executive as the PhD representative) and Adam Ridley for coordinating the day and the workshop.

Session	Speaker/Format
Introduction	Paige Fletcher, Adam Ridley
APSA President Welcome	Prof. Sarah Maddison
'Managing your Supervisor'	Dr Peter Chen, University of Sydney
'The Imposter Syndrome'	Hugh Kearns, Thinkwell
'The PhD Student experience'	5 Min presentations from 4 PhDs
Publishing during and after the PhD	Prof. David Schlosberg (University of Sydney)
What to do after your PhD	Dr Jill Sheppard, ANU

APSA Prize winners

A key part of the conference is to acknowledge some of the key achievements across the discipline, and at the conference dinner the following awards were granted. A special mention is given to Professor Carol Johnson (University of Adelaide) who was recognised with the APSA lifetime achievement award. Professor Sarah Maddison gave a key address acknowledging many of the Carol's impressive and important contributions.

APSA 2019 Postgraduate Conference Paper Prize
Winner: Jordan McSwiney (University of Sydney)
Social Networks and Digital Organisation: Far Right Parties at the 2019 Australian Federal Election

APSA 2019 Henry Mayer Book Prize (biennial)
Winner: Paul Strangio, Paul 'T Hart and James Walter,
The Pivot of Power: Australian Prime Ministers and Political Leadership, 1949–2016 (MUP 2017)

APSA 2019 Mayer Journal Prize
Winner: Dr Alastair Stark (University of Queensland),
'New institutionalism, critical junctures and post-crisis policy reform', Australian Journal of Political Science (53:1, 24-39)

Carole Pateman Gender and Politics Book Prize (biennial)
Winner: Professor Laura J. Shepherd (University of Sydney)
Gender, UN Peacebuilding and the Politics of Space: Locating Legitimacy

APSA 2019 PhD Thesis Prize
Highly commended: Dr Christine Winter (University of Sydney)
The Paralysis of Intergenerational Justice: Decolonising Entangled Futures
Winner: Dr Melissa Johnston (Murdoch University)
The Political Economy of Gender Interventions: Social Forces, Kinship, Violence, and Finance in Post-Conflict Timor-Leste

ANSOG Policy Study Prize
Joint award:
Winner: Dr. Prudence Brown (University of Queensland)
Understanding barriers to new approaches – a case study from Australian remote indigenous policy
Winner: Catherine Cochrane (University of Adelaide)
Boundary making in anti-corruption policy: Behaviour, responses and institutions

APSA Lifetime Achievement Award: **Professor Carol Johnson, University of Adelaide**

Sponsors

We thank the following organisations for their sponsorship and support of APSA 2019



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