

NZPSA

New Zealand Political Studies Association
Te Kāhui Tātai Tōrangapū o Aotearoa



Welcome to the 2016 Spring Edition of the NZPSA's quarterly newsletter. This issue is our first two-page version; in addition to our regular news and information, we have initiated a 'back page' featuring profiles of doctoral candidates who have recently completed. My thanks to Lara Greaves and Geoff Ford for their direction on this. I am sure there are many more we should be celebrating so please let us [know](#). It is also our last issue for 2016 and my sincere thanks go to Pia McKay for her continued administrative assistance this year. See you at the Conference, enjoy the summer and best wishes for 2017. — [Jennifer Curtin](#), NZPSA President

2016 NZPSA Conference

We look forward to welcoming attendees to the University of Waikato in November. The deadline for [conference registration](#) is 14 November. Undergraduate and postgraduate students are encouraged to submit full papers for the chance to win one of the five 'best paper' [conference prizes](#) listed below. Students are invited to attend the postgraduate workshop on Sunday 27 November which features a [research escalator session](#) for those with papers-in-progress. Participants **will need to submit an extended abstract** to take part, the deadline for which is 2 November.

Upcoming Prizes and Applications

- Entries for the [Undergraduate Essay Prize in Māori Politics](#) are due by 14 November and should be submitted to [Dominic O'Sullivan](#)
- Entries for the [Undergraduate Essay Prize for Aotearoa New Zealand Politics](#) are due by 14 November and should be submitted to [Jack Vowles](#)
- Entries for the [NZ Politics Postgraduate Conference Paper Prize](#) are due by 7 November and should be submitted to [Jack Vowles](#)
- Entries for the [NZPSA Postgraduate Conference Paper Prize](#) are due by 7 November and should be submitted to the [NZPSA President](#)
- Entries for the [Environmental Politics and Policy Postgraduate Conference Paper Prize](#) are due by 7 November and should be submitted to [Julie MacArthur](#).

Civics, Citizenship and Political Literacy Working Group

On 10 October 2016 a workshop on *Civics, Citizenship and Political Literacy* was held in the Legislative Council Chamber of Parliament House. Organised by Bronwyn Hayward, Working Group Chair, the half-day programme featured politicians, academics, teachers, students, and representatives from a range of government and non-government agencies. Discussions focused on what was needed to grow a more vibrant and inclusive democracy in Aotearoa/New Zealand. More information and video-clips will be available soon on the [CCPL Working Group page](#).

Other News

Long-time NZPSA member Julienne Molineaux, editor of the *Policy Observatory Briefing Paper Series*, recently authored [a piece on online voting](#). Meanwhile, two Otago members, Carla Lam and Robert Patman featured at a recent [Fulbright](#)-sponsored event on the upcoming US Election.

Masters Scholarship in Political Science

Applications are invited from students with a BA Hons in Political Science and International Relations (or who will complete a BA Hons in Politics and IR in 2016) for a scholarship of **\$6,000 towards one year of fees** to pursue an MA in Political Science and International Relations at the University of Canterbury, on a topic related to *Small States and the New Security Environment*. Applications are due by 1 December 2016 to SSANSE@canterbury.ac.nz; further information is available [here](#).

NZPSA's Biannual Grant

Anne Marie Brady has been awarded the NZPSA Biannual Grant to host a two-day conference on "Small states and the changing global order: NZ faces the future" in 2017. This will support graduate involvement in the conference and the publication of an edited book that will be useful for courses and research on NZ foreign policy.

Teaching the Practice of Politics: A free online library of resources to teach employability in Politics & IR.

Developed by Jennifer Lees-Marshment, this resource site has power-point slides, handouts, workshop preparation, group exercises, assessment ideas, sample syllabi, and resources including job adverts, links to practitioner articles and videos, and relevant literature. Self-enrol to access the resources here: www.coursesites.com/s/TeachingPracticeofPolitics

Upcoming Conferences

- The [Australia and New Zealand Public Policy Network Conference](#) is being held at Flinders University, Adelaide from 30 Jan-1 Feb 2017. Call for papers closes [4 November](#)
- Call for Papers for the [2017 Canadian Political Science Association Conference](#) also closes on [4 November](#)
- The [International Conference on Public Policy](#) will be held in Singapore 28-30 June. A call for papers will be made in the coming weeks, so watch [this space](#)
- The [2017 NZPSA Conference](#) will be hosted by Politics at the University of Otago. Put the dates in your diary now: Wed 29 Nov-Fri 1 Dec with the postgraduate workshop on 28 November.

Gender Research Network

The Gender Research Network will hold a session as part of the 2016 NZPSA Conference Postgraduate workshop (on Sunday 27 November). For information contact [Jennifer Curtin](#).

Scroll down for our **PhD Page**. Our next issue will be out 1st February 2017.

PhD Page



Lucas Knotter pictured here (left) with Geoff Ford, former NZPSA PG rep

Lucas Knotter recently completed his PhD titled **“Geopolitical Anomalies: Exceptionalities and Regularities of International Politics.”** His research looks into the nature of so-called geopolitical anomalies – political entities that are unrecognised in international law. Through a Classical Realist meta-theoretical analysis of the manifestations and characteristics of such entities, Lucas argues that by exercising the *de facto* sovereign capacity to decide on the exception, geopolitical anomalies are testament to the irregularity of international political life. In doing so, they expose the limitations of predominantly normative, legal, or cosmopolitan paradigms of international politics.

Lucas was supervised by Dr. Jeremy Moses, University of Canterbury and he is currently lecturing international politics and humanitarian ideals at UC. lucas.knotter@pg.canterbury.ac.nz

Ashley Murchison has completed her thesis **“Aim for the Heart? A Study of New Zealand Voters' Responses to Emotional Appeals in Televised Political Advertising.”** Political commentators and scholars have long maligned political parties' use of emotionally evocative imagery and music in televised election advertising. Two emotions in particular have attracted the attention of international scholars: enthusiasm and fear. Despite concerns about the impact of these emotional appeals, systematic investigation into how voters respond to such content remains under-researched in New Zealand.

Drawing on experiment and focus group data, Ashley's thesis, **Aim for the Heart?**, suggests that enthusiasm and fear advertisements could potentially polarise voters, with the latter often resulting in an unintended backlash against the party sponsoring the advertisement. There is also evidence that New Zealand voters have little appetite for negative advertising in general and are highly critical of advertisements that fail to articulate policy detail.



Ashley Murchison

Ashley now works as a Policy, Research and Communications Advisor to Brett Hudson, National MP based in Ōhāriu and runs electionads.org.nz—an online repository of New Zealand election advertising—in her spare time. Anyone wishing to discuss her research can contact her at ashley.murchison@gmail.com



Shahzad Akhtar

Shahzad Akhtar has recently completed his PhD (2016) in Politics and International Relations at the University of Auckland under the supervision of Associate Professor Stephen Hoadley and Dr Chris Wilson. Shahzad's thesis titled **“Explaining Rebellion in a Weak State: A Case Study of Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)”** focusses on the Taliban insurgency in Pakistan's North Western Region, also known as Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

Shahzad proposes a three-step theoretical model to explain the onset, rise and decline of the FATA insurgency, thus advancing theoretical knowledge on insurgency and empirical knowledge on the FATA case. Shahzad recently returned to Pakistan and is looking forward to pursuing his academic career at a university in Islamabad. He can be contacted on shazad_qau@yahoo.com



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To let us know about a recent doctoral completion email admin@nzpsa.co.nz