



New Zealand Political Studies Association Newsletter: September 2011

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NZPSA News

NZPSA Office Holders Update: President back from Leave

First and foremost, our congratulations go out to NZPSA President Jennifer Lees-Marshment, who had her second child on the 18th June 2011.

From September 5th 2011 Jennifer will be resuming her duties as the NZPSA President. We would like to thank both Xavier Marquez and

Julienne Molineaux for taking on these responsibilities over the last couple of months.

Jennifer Lees-Marshment: Acting President from September 5th 2011

Email: j.lees-marshment@auckland.ac.nz

Call for Contact Details

Xavier Marquez
NZPSA Secretary & Membership
Lecturer - Political Science and International Relations
Victoria University of Wellington

From time to time the New Zealand Political Studies Association receives queries from journalists wanting to know names and contact details of people who have expertise on events in the news. The response from NZPSA has been hit and miss. If the Exec has known of an appropriate contact off-hand, or can find out easily, then details have been forwarded. But sometimes we have not had the information necessary to respond.

To assist with the level of expertise in public debate and to help raise the public profile of members who wish this, the NZPSA Exec is approaching the membership with two projects:

1. In the very near future, to compile a list of people who are interested in being contacted about the MMP referendum. We would expect this to include political scientists who have expertise on electoral systems (including overseas comparisons); political scientists

who have aligned themselves with a campaign for or against MMP; and supervisors of graduate students who have done quality research on some aspect of electoral systems, where a summary of the research findings might be interesting to local media. This information will be edited, posted on the NZPSA website, and/or made available to journalists on request.

2. A broader expertise database project. This is a longer term project and more information will be available later in the year.

If you would like your name and contact details to be included on a collation of electoral system expertise, please contact

Xavier Marquez
Xavier.marquez@vuw.ac.nz.

Please also provide a brief statement of your expertise and whether or not you would want your contact information to be made available on the NZPSA website. If you are a postgraduate student with a project related to MMP, please also provide a brief summary of your research project and contact info for your supervisor.

NZPSA Conference 2011 - Dunedin

The annual NZPSA conference will be held this year in Dunedin, hosted by the University of Otago Politics Department on 1-2 December 2011. The Conference and Welcome Reception on November 30 will be held in the Commerce Building, the University of Otago. A Postgraduate Pre-Conference Event is also being held on Wednesday 30 November 1-5pm.

Abstract Submission & Papers

The conference organisers are now welcoming applications to present papers in the four streams and the two panels below. Postgraduates are encouraged to submit an abstract and their papers will be included in the main conference. Please email the respective stream coordinator with your proposal and include an attached word document with a 200 word abstract, title, your name, and your affiliation. The deadline for abstracts is October 1 2011 but the stream convenors will aim to inform you whether your paper has been accepted within a week of receiving your proposal.

2011 Conference Streams and Panels:

NZ Politics - Dr Brian Roper:
brian.roper@otago.ac.nz

Political Theory - Dr Carla Lam:
carla.lam@otago.ac.nz

International Relations - Dr Lena Tan:
lena.tan@otago.ac.nz

Comparative Politics: Dr Jim Headley:
james.headley@ac.nz

Maori and Pacific Islands Politics - Dr Iati Iati:
iati.iati@otago.ac.nz

NZ 2011 Election - Bryce Edwards
bryce.edwards@otago.ac.nz

Papers consist of 15-20 minute presentations. The distribution of written papers is entirely optional. Facilities for PowerPoint presentations will be available, if required. The organising committee is also calling for any other panel suggestions and volunteers to organise them.

The Annual Dinner will take place in the University Staff Club on the evening of December 1.

Conference Organisers

Dr Chris Rudd:
chris.rudd@otago.ac.nz

Dr Vicki A. Spencer:
vicki.spencer@otago.ac.nz

An online registration form will be available shortly but to assist with your planning all other information about registration costs, accommodation and the postgraduate Pre-Conference Event is now available on the [NZPSA webpage](#)

<http://nzpsa.wordpress.com/2011-nz-political-studies-association-conference>

New Zealand Post-Graduate News

Anthony Deos
PhD Representative
University of Otago
deoan894@student.otago.ac.nz
Anthony.deos@gmail.com
Twitter: @asdeos

Unbelievable! It's already September and final planning for the 2011 NZPSA Conference is already underway. Hosted by the University of Otago, the 2011 NZPSA Conference is sure to be a wonderful experience for New Zealand's postgraduates, so I urge you to attend and present as well.

Of course, you can find a good amount of information regarding the conference both in this newsletter and on the website

<http://nzpsa.wordpress.com/2011-nz-political-studies-association-conference/>

However, I wanted to be sure to focus your attention on one specific detail of this year's NZPSA conference – *The Postgraduate Pre-Conference*.

As I wrote in the last issue, one of the main goals for the NZPSA executive this year was to provide greater support and networking opportunities to graduate students. As post-graduate representative I was tasked with helping make this happen. As with all projects changes take time, but we have been working to generate an accurate and updated list of post-graduate members.

So again I will urge all post-graduate members to join the following Google Group list-serve: NZPSA Postgraduate list

Email
Anthony.Deos@gmail.com
Subject line: **NZPSA Post-Grad** list to be added.

In addition, we have organized a Postgraduate Pre-Conference. This pre-conference will be a half day event on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 from 1:00-5:00pm, with an optional lunch gathering beginning at 12 noon. The Postgraduate Pre-Conference is free and also includes a delectable afternoon coffee & snacks break and an evening pizza gathering for participants.

During the Postgraduate Pre-Conference attendees will have the opportunity to network with other postgraduates from across New Zealand, present and discuss their research and gain peer insight. Furthermore, there will be time set aside to discuss postgraduate research needs, NZPSA representation and plans for 2012. Finally, upon conclusion at 5:00pm the group will be invited to attend the opening reception for the 2011 NZPSA General Conference.

Finally, please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions or ideas about the Postgraduate Pre-conference as we continue to finalize details – we want to be sure it will be both interesting and useful for you!

Other Conferences

Victoria University of Wellington Post-Election Conference

Mid-February 2012

As in past years, the VUW Political Science and International Relations Programme will be organising a post-election conference following the November 2011 New Zealand general election.

The conference, in Wellington, is expected to be held in mid-February 2012 in the Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament Buildings. The conference offers an opportunity to hear from political party representatives – campaign directors for each of the parties represented in Parliament – and from journalists involved in covering the campaign, as well as from political scientists and other researchers.

This will be the 9th consecutive post-election conference sponsored by the VUW programme, going back to the last three FPP elections as well as the five MMP elections held thus far. Publications emerging from these conferences include 'The Baubles of Office' (2005) and 'Key to Victory' (2008).

The post-2011 conference will feature presentations on New Zealand's electoral system referendum – with MMP up for reconsideration in November 2011 – as well as on the general election.

The organisers – Professor Stephen Levine and Dr Jon Johansson – invite proposals from political scientists (and others) wishing to present research-based findings dealing with aspects of the election – the campaign; the candidates; the results; the aftermath. Academics wishing to contact them either about their own participation or about work that they may be supervising should email either of the organisers:

Stephen Levine
stephen.levine@vuw.ac.nz

Jon Johansson
jon.johansson@vuw.ac.nz

Call for Papers for Flinders University's Conference

Alidade, Australia

17-18 February 2012

Is Social Democracy Exhausted? Pathways, Reflections, and Dilemmas

Conference Details

The School of Social and Policy Studies at Flinders University is pleased to host a two-day conference reflecting on the future of social democratic politics and policy. Social democratic politics is in state of flux, and has failed to offer a compelling response to the dominance of neo-liberalism. Remarkably,

since the 2008 global financial crisis, the fortune of many social democratic and labour parties in advanced industrial societies has declined. In 2000, 27 left-leaning governments were in power across the EU, and currently this number stands at just five. The end of the British New Labour government in 2010 marked the exhaustion of

the 'third way' project, perhaps one of the most publicised attempts to institute a revitalised 'new social democracy'.

This conference invites papers which examine the current state of social democratic politics and policy. While a strand of the conference will examine the health of social democratic parties, the conference is focused more broadly on the future challenges facing social democratic politics. Papers on (but not limited to) the following themes and issues are encouraged.

Conference Themes

- ❖ Comparative social democracy – examining alternative paths and strategies of social democratic and labour parties in advanced industrial settings.
- ❖ Assessing the dilemmas and challenges facing social democratic political economy.
- ❖ Social democracy and alliances with wider progressive politics – including Green parties, Trade Unions, and NGO's.
- ❖ The changing role of the state and civil society in social democratic politics.
- ❖ Social Democracy and specific policy areas: education, health, democratic renewal.
- ❖ Australian Social Democracy at the State and Federal level.

Abstracts

Abstracts should be between 250-400 words, and offer a concise outline of the proposed paper. Presenters will be given 20 minutes to deliver their paper. Abstracts should include: name of presenter(s), title of presenter and institution, title of paper, and outline the relevance to the main conference themes. Final deadline for abstracts is 28 October 2011.

Please send abstracts on proposed papers to:

[Dr Rob Manwaring](mailto:rob.manwaring@flinders.edu.au)

rob.manwaring@flinders.edu.au.

Video-Conferencing

We are also encouraging papers from researchers and academics based overseas to participate in the conference. We appreciate that travelling to Adelaide may well not be feasible, and to this end we are offering that a limited number of papers may be presented using video conferencing technology. Please indicate if you are unable to deliver your paper in person.

Venue

Flinders University City Campus, Old Reserve Bank building, Victoria Square, Adelaide, 5000.

International Research Conference

Phuket, Thailand

16-18 May 2012

Innovative Research in a Changing and Challenging World

Traditionally research has been rigidly confined to a single academic discipline. This is important for maintaining its research vigour. However it can also create a discourse of research hegemony which can stiffen creativity and innovation. This conference promotes diversity and unity in research on an interdisciplinary basis. Phuket is chosen as our meeting place for sharing innovative

research in a changing and challenging world. Conference themes Conducting research in an intercultural context; Competing discourses of research; Research methodology issues; Challenges in conducting research in an interdisciplinary context; Language, literacy and communication in educational research; Health and environment issues in research; Science education research; Challenges to

translating theory into research; Ethical issues in conducting research; Cognitive and affective dimensions in research; Research and social empowerment; Management issues in research; Innovative ideas and practices in educational research; Cultural and linguistic issues in conducting research; Technologies: new frontiers in research;

Discourse analysis and critical discourse analysis in research; and Research and globalisation.

Enquiries: Conference_convenor@auamii.com

Phuket Thailand Conference website:
www.auamii.com/conference.html

IPSA Call for Papers for Gender RC's for Madrid Conference

July 7-12, 2012

To be held at the Universidad Complutense, Madrid.

IPSA Pre-Conference Announcement - Joint Call by RCs 7, 19, 52 (July 7, 2012)

(RC 19=Gender, Politics and Policy; RC 7= Gender and Development Politics; RC 52= Gender and Globalization)

Pre-Conference Theme for Gender-based panels:

“In this together? Women’s movements and the politics of intersectionality.”

Theories of intersectionality highlight the ways in which multiple axes of identity—including race, class, sexuality, age, disability, motherhood and so on—interact in many levels of women’s lives. These intersections of identity have long complicated any notion of feminist ‘sisterhood’ or solidarity, while simultaneously drawing attention to the multiple forms of discrimination and oppression that many women experience.

While these insights are not new, they continue to have significant implications for the way in which women engage in politics and activism, raising questions of voice, authority and legitimacy. This is true both in domestic and transnational contexts, in movement organizations and in online communities, and in politics that is focused on the state or constituted in social and cultural spaces.

The pre-conference workshop seeks to examine the ways in which intersectionality continues to influence women’s movement organizing. How does intersectionality create new voices and spaces? How is it imposing silences? How has intersectionality changed feminists’ relationship to each other? To states and institutions? How have these insights changed the way that women’s movements organize between the Global South and North?

If interested in submitting paper or panels to this joint effort for the PRE-CONFERENCE only, please contact the relevant RC’s at www.ipsa.org or the conveners:

Melissa Haussman(RC 19)
Melissa_haussman@carleton.ca

Mariel Lucero (RC 7)
rc07women@yahoo.com.ar

Nancy Kwang Johnson (RC 52)
nancykwangjohnson@gmail.com

Call for Papers by RC 19 on Gender, Politics and Policy for IPSA Conference (July 8-12, 2012)

Theme for RC 19 for the Conference:
 “Re-ordering Boundaries, Shifting Power”-
 Governance Shifts and Gender

We seek papers which may cover but are not limited to the following themes:

- ❖ Intrastate changes (such as election of Socialists in Spain and the decriminalization of abortion and gay marriage); electoral quota adoption.
- ❖ Interstate changes-whether states are finding ways to cooperate with each other in policy areas such as “sending” and “receiving” countries with respect to migration or refugee status, for example;
- ❖ Devolution of previously supranational responsibilities to national governments (Lisbon Treaty and delineated role of national Parliaments for first time) and national to subnational (such as “expensive” women’s social policies and assignment to sub-national levels of government where tax and administrative resources are generally fewer);
- ❖ The ratification and institutionalization of certain supranational treaties and mechanisms since the last IPSA Congress,

such as increased size of EU, ratification of Lisbon Treaty and EU Charter of Fundamental Rights; new UN Agency for Women, headed by former Chilean President Michele Bachelet; and increased number of bilateral trade agreements between Global North and South.

Panels and papers which include comparisons of Global Southern and Northern states are especially sought but all panels and papers will receive enthusiastic consideration!

If interested in submitting papers or panels, please contact RC 19 through:

www.ipsa.org

or individuals:

[Melissa Haussman](#)

Melissa_haussman@carleton.ca

[Sarah Maddison](#)

sarah.maddison@unsw.edu.au.

Panel to be co-sponsored during the Conference with RC 28 (Federalism)

Title: "The Jurisdictions of Federalism or the Politics of Scale: Opportunities for Women's Activism? (will take place during the July 9-12 conference)

If interested in submitting papers for this panel, please contact the IPSA website for RC 19 or 28, or the conveners:

[Sonja Walti](#)

walti@american.edu or

[Melissa Haussman](#)

Melissa_haussman@carleton.ca

Important Deadlines

2011

July 1

Deadline for interested individuals to submit papers as individuals directly to IPSA site

August 18

Deadline to submit RC panels

October 7

Deadline to submit abstract/paper proposals

November 18

Deadline to submit travel grant applications

2012

January 13

Travel grant applicants are notified of final results

March 11

Registration Deadline for paper givers, discussants and chairs who wish their names to appear in the printed program. All panel chairs must register by this deadline.

June 1

Deadline for paper presenters to upload papers

Prizes, Awards and Benefits - Reminders and Updates

NZPSA Prizes - Reminder

All NZPSA prize winners will be announced at the Annual Dinner at the NZPSA Conference in December and their names will be recorded at the NZPSA AGM.

Deadline for 2011 applications: 15 November

New Zealand Politics Postgraduate Conference Paper Prize

Details

From 2009 due to the generosity of Raymond Miller a prize of \$500 will be awarded each year for the best postgraduate paper at the NZPSA conference in the field of New Zealand domestic politics. The NZPSA President will appoint a panel of judges including a representative from the University of Auckland as the administrator of the prize. When Raymond Miller is available, he will be included as a member of the judging panel. The panel's decision will be final. The prize is intended to be received by only one student but it can be shared by one or more students on the recommendation of the NZPSA President.

To apply

Those interested must provide an electronic copy of an abstract and their paper via email and 4 hard copies, along with evidence it has been accepted by the NZPSA Conference Organisers of the year of presentation by the deadline to the President of NZPSA

Past Winners

2010: Victoria Crockford (Honours student, Victoria University of Wellington) - Paper

2009: Joint winner Ashley Murchison at the University of Otago - Paper and Margaret Joiner at the University of Auckland – Paper

NZPSA Postgraduate Conference Paper PrizeDetails

Since 2007 a prize of \$500 has been awarded for the best postgraduate paper at the NZPSA conference. From 2009 it will be awarded to a paper in any area of political studies other than New Zealand domestic politics. An independent panel of judges will be appointed by the NZPSA President whose decision will be final. The prize is intended to be received by only one student but it can be shared by one or more students on the recommendation of the NZPSA President.

To apply

Those interested must send an electronic copy of an abstract and their paper via email and 4 hard copies, along with evidence it has been accepted by the NZPSA Conference Organisers of the year of presentation by the deadline to the President of NZPSA.

Past Winners

2010: Joint winners Rosanna Keam (Masters student, Auckland University) and Nobuhiro Ihara (PhD student, University of Melbourne) - Paper

2009: No entries

2008: Kim Summersby, PhD candidate, Māori Studies Department, University of Auckland, 'Does Māori Representation Matter?: Māori Substantive Political Representation in Practice' - Abstract.

2007: Joint winners: David Hall, 'An Inconvenient Obligation: How Governments Justify the Restriction of Asylum Seekers in Canada and Australia' (Victoria University of Wellington) and Rupert Mackintosh, 'Now or Later? New Zealand and Australian Climate Change' (Victoria University of Wellington).

Undergraduate Essay Prize for New Zealand PoliticsDetails

Due to the generosity of Raymond Miller each year a prize of \$500 will be awarded for the best undergraduate essay submitted as part of the requirements for a course on New Zealand domestic politics. One nomination per year can be made by a Head of Department at any New Zealand University. It will be expected that the Departments nominating an essay will have taken full precautions against any possible plagiarism and will be held fully responsible if this proves not to be the case. The NZPSA President will appoint a panel of judges including a representative from the University of Auckland as the administrator of the prize. When Raymond Miller is available, he will be included as a member of the judging panel. The panel's decision will be final. The prize is intended to be received by only one student but it can be shared by one or more students on the recommendation of the NZPSA President.

To Apply

4 hard copies of the essay and a letter of no more than one page outlining the merits of the paper must be sent by the deadline to the President of NZPSA

Past Winners

2009: Lewis Mills from the University of Auckland.

International Awards and BenefitsAward

- UKPSA: The UK PSA which is held around April of each year offers up to 2 NZPSA members free registration, up to 3 nights and accommodation, and usual meals at the conference. They may also assist with airfares. Once delegates are accepted for this award, the UK PSA will automatically accept the chosen delegate's paper in the conference. The UKPSA may also assist with airfares depending on budget and demonstrated need. In return, the NZPSA offers 1-2 United Kingdom PSA members are also eligible for free registration at the annual NZPSA Conference, usual conference meals, and up to three nights conference accommodation.

Generally, the NZPSA decides which of their members receive these benefits; just as the overseas organisation selects which of their members receives benefits at our conference, although in 2010 the UKPSA made the decision. Priority for these benefits will be given to new and emerging New Zealand scholars. Recipients are asked to write a short report for the NZPSA newsletter on the conference to share their experience and raise awareness of the awards and cross-association relationships.

Applying for This Awards

Those interested in applying need to make an email submission to the NZPSA President (j.lees-marshment@auckland.ac.nz: or acting president) by the set deadline. Please send: Your CV; Affiliation; Paper-title; Abstract; Evidence of acceptance of your paper (or explanation of submission/acceptance deadlines); A short paragraph outlining the reasons why you should receive it. eg If you are an emerging scholar, whether you have any other funding, importance of the conference to your research, and the potential benefits to the NZ research community. We will allocate on a needs basis in the first instance.

The NZPSA will decide and notify the applicants and the UKPSA by mid-October at the latest. Those who receive the award need to then liase with the UKPSA regarding local arrangements and potential travel assistance.

Deadline for Application for Benefits

UK PSA 2012 – September 15 2011

Recipients of Award

UKPSA 2011 recipient: David Lindsey (Auckland) and Reuben Michael Steff (Otago)

New Books from New Zealand Based Academics

Thesis Survivor Stories

Professor Kate Kearins
Dr Marilyn Waring
AUT Media
240 pages
Release Date:
16 September 2011

THESIS survivor stories



practical advice on getting through
your PhD or Masters thesis
Marilyn Waring and Kate Kearins

Description

Whether you're toiling through the depths of thesis research, about to embark on further study or supervising others on the journey, these 23 stories will entertain and inspire. At times humorous, poignant and uplifting, there's plenty to learn from the struggles and success of those who survived a thesis to tell the tale. The real-world advice and hundreds of tips and tricks will help you make the most of this significant stage of your life.

Author's Bio

Professor Kate Kearins has been joint-recipient of several international awards for case research and won the AUT Vice-Chancellor's award for Excellence in Research Supervision in 2009. Dr Marilyn Waring is known internationally for her groundbreaking work in political economy, development assistance and human rights, and for her classic work, *Counting for Nothing* - what men value and what women are worth.

Other Items

Political Science Journal

The following is the list of articles in the December issue of the *Political Science Journal*.

- Muthiah Alagappa, "A changing Asia-Pacific: prospects for war, peace, cooperation and order"
- Janine Hayward, "Mandatory Māori wards in local government: Active Crown protection of Māori Treaty rights"
- B. K. Greener, "The Diplomacy of International Policing: A Case Study of the New Zealand Experience"
- Gregory R. Stephens and John Leslie, "Parties, Organizational Capacities and External Change: New Zealand's National and Labour Parties, Candidate Selection and the Advent of MMP"

Joining NZPSA

Membership Benefits

Membership provides you with:

- Discounted rates at the NZPSA Conference
- Discounted members' rates at the Australian Political Studies Association Conference and the Canadian Political Science Association Conference
- Opportunity to apply for awards for the Australian PSA Conference, the Canadian PSA Conference and the UK PSA Conference

How to Join

The cost of joining is minimal at \$20 per year for standard membership and \$10 per year for students. Standard members can also join for 2 or 3 years at a time to further ease the process. To join, simply submit the online form electronically and then make a payment by any of the methods described below.

(Members no longer need to download the membership form, fill it in, and send it in by e-mail and hard copy. The membership page on the NZPSA website now has a new online form which will directly send the form in.)

Payment Methods

By electronic payment:

If you wish to make an electronic payment, the account details are: NZPSA 38 9008 0278876 00. Please include your name as a reference on the payment.

By cheque: Payable to the 'New Zealand Political Studies Association'. Cheques must be in NZ \$ drawn on a NZ bank. Please enclose your cheque together with the a copy of the completed application form and post it to: Dr Julienne Molineaux, NZPSA Treasurer, Centre for Business Interdisciplinary Studies, AUT University, Private Bag 92006, Auckland 1142, New Zealand.

A receipt will be sent within a month of receiving your application form.

Please contact Xavier Marquez (xavier.marquez@vuw.ac.nz) if you require any further help.

Article

Reflections

Peter Nunns
Former MA Student
University of Auckland

Starting a master's degree at the University of Auckland was, in a sense, a step into the unknown. I hadn't previously studied here and so wasn't familiar with the professors (or the procedures) in the Political Studies department. (While I had been living and working in New Zealand, I earned my

undergraduate degree from Williams College in Massachusetts.) I was coming in with some respectable credentials and a proposal for a thesis topic. Fortunately, several professors were willing to hear me out on the topic; in the end, Jacqui True agreed to advise me. In retrospect, I couldn't have been much luckier with advisors. In addition to being an excellent scholar with a knack for asking the right questions, she caught on to the right mix of supportiveness and hard deadlines that I

needed to keep working (without despairing of the whole process).

For me, completing a master's thesis involved two main stages. First, I had to narrow in on a specific research question, and a framework for exploring it. Second, I had to compile and synthesize the evidence required to answer that question. I had come in with a general question – *Why are slums expanding in developing-world cities?* – and a strong suspicion that that question would be answered by examining processes occurring within cities (rather than nations or regions).

This question was important to me for both personal and academic reasons. As I grew up partly in Lagos, Nigeria and studied in Buenos Aires, Argentina, I've had a longstanding interest in the patterns of disadvantage and deprivation emerging in developing-world cities. Reading Mike Davis's *Planet of Slums* encouraged me to think more systematically about the issue, which has in recent years attracted an increasing amount of scholarly attention. I started thinking about ways to draw the issue of slums into political science, as my early intuition was that slums had both political implications and political origins.

My perspective on slums, or shelter deprivation, evolved throughout the research process. Quite early on, it became apparent that many of the changes taking place in developing-world cities, including those in India (the geographical focus of my thesis), were tied in to processes of globalization. In order to understand the ways in which the expansion of trade, financial flows, and information technology had changed cities, I looked to theoretical accounts provided by sociologists Saskia Sassen and Manuel Castells. While the subjects of their research – New York, London, Silicon Valley – differ greatly

from Mumbai and Kolkata, their insights helped to frame my investigation.

The actual mechanics of the research are not particularly interesting – unfortunately, I wasn't able to conduct field research, so I worked mostly with a range of primary and secondary sources, sifting through a morass of hundreds of case studies, reports, surveys, and official statistics. But during the process, something quite unusual happened. At the outset, my supposition (drawn from Davis) was that slums were causally linked with urban poverty. By the end, I was arguing for a very different understanding of slums, one which placed less emphasis on the economic dimension and more on the ways in which (formal and informal) decisions about land use and housing are made in developing-world cities. As I showed in several case studies, the representation – or lack thereof – of groups of city-dwellers in the planning process has serious implications for the quality of housing available to them. And, furthermore, the globalization of the Indian economy has reshaped the terrain upon which different groups contest access to housing and urban space.

I am the first to admit that my master's thesis is not perfect. (In the caffeine-comedown haze of the last day, I managed to misspell my grandmother's name in the acknowledgments section.) Structurally, it's somewhat clumsy, and some sections are too broad in scope. While writing the conclusion, I realized that my thesis had major implications for the debate over the changing nature of citizenship under globalization – or what some people call the “right to the city”. But if the worst that I can say about it is that it points the way towards future areas of investigation, I'm not doing too bad. It's been an extremely interesting year.

Call for New Items for Upcoming NZPSA Newsletters

We want to facilitate information transfer between all members in order to enable you to get information out to other New Zealand political science scholars. Member's active participation is essential to making this newsletter successful. The NZPSA newsletter provides you with the opportunity to communicate with other political science academics and students. If you have anything you would like included in a NZPSA newsletter (being released in the March, June, and September) please send it to Edward Elder, at eeld001@ aucklanduni.ac.nz. Items that may be included may be, but not exclusive to, recently released or upcoming books, PhD thesis or Masters thesis; Upcoming events and conferences, departmental news or appointments, career or scholarship opportunities, or any proposed articles you would like to write for the newsletter.