

CHALLENGING AUTHORITY



3rd Biennial Conference of the Caucus for a New Political Science

February 26 – 28, 2023

**Isla Grand Beach Resort
South Padre Island, Texas**

“It is the first responsibility of every citizen to question authority.”

■ Benjamin Franklin

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The upward transfer of wealth and the dismantling of the welfare state have fused with toxic masculinity, renewed militarism, and rising ethno-nationalism. There is an increasing tendency to criminalize dissent, while the widespread distribution of misinformation from media monopolies casts a dark shadow across the prospect for progressive social and political change. In the face of this grim situation, challenging authority, as Francis Fox Piven suggests, has historically constituted the identity and path forward for the progressive Left.

“Ordinary people exercise power in politics mainly at those extraordinary moments when they rise up in anger and hope, defy the rules that ordinarily govern their daily lives, and, by doing so, disrupt the workings of the institutions in which they are enmeshed. The drama of such events, combined with the disorder that results, propels new issues to the center of political debate, issues previously suppressed by the managers of political parties that depend on welding together majorities. When the new issues fracture or threaten to fracture electoral coalitions, political leaders try to restore order and stem voter defections by proffering reforms. These are the moments that produce democratic moments in political development.”

- Francis Fox Piven, *Challenging Authority: How Ordinary People Change America* (2006)

What exactly does it mean to challenge authority today? Should critically oriented intellectuals use neoliberal language, tactics and strategies against neoliberalism itself? Must we attack and undermine neoliberalism head-on in the name of a socialist alternative? Is challenging authority ultimately an incomplete project if it lacks a utopian vision for political change? What creative, inspiring and innovative practices and strategies are taking place around the world today that challenge unaccountable authority in the name of a democratic alternative?

CAUCUS FOR A NEW POLITICAL SCIENCE

Preliminary Conference Program

February 26-28, 2023

Isla Grand Beach Resort

South Padre Island, Texas

GENERAL SCHEDULE

- Sunday, February 26, 2023: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.: Registration
Foyer, 2nd Floor
- Sunday, February 26, 2023: 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Panels
Royal and Majestic Rooms (all on 2nd Floor)
- Sunday, February 26, 2023: 4:45 p.m. to 5:45p.m.: Outdoor Reception (Cash Bar)
Hammerhead Deck, 2nd Floor (facing Gulf of Mexico)
- Sunday, February 26, 2023: 6:00p.m.: Dinner & Keynote Speaker
Sabal & Paradise Rooms (2nd Floor)
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.:
Pre-Meeting Breakfast: Danish, fruit, coffee, and tea (Foyer, 2nd Floor)
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration
Foyer, 2nd Floor
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 a.m.: Panels
Sabal, Paradise, Royal, and Majestic Rooms (all on 2nd Floor)
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 10:00 am -- Coffee (Foyer, 2nd Floor)
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 3:00 to 3:30pm – Afternoon Break: Cookies, soft drinks, coffee, tea
Foyer, 2nd Floor
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 3:45 to 4:45 Art Installation
Foyer, 2nd Floor
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.: Outdoor Reception (Host Bar)
Hammerhead Deck, 2nd Floor (facing Gulf of Mexico)
Sponsored by: Taylor & Francis/*New Political Science* and
UTRGV Department of Political Science

GENERAL SCHEDULE (continued)

- Tuesday, February 28, 2023: 8:00a.m. to 9:00a.m: Build Your Own Taco Bar
(Breakfast Tacos, coffee, tea)
- Tuesday, February 28, 2023: 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.: Registration (Foyer, 2nd Floor)
- Tuesday, February 28, 2023: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Panels
Sabal, Paradise, Royal, and Majestic Rooms (all on 2nd Floor)
- Tuesday, February 28, 2023: 10:00 am – Mid-morning Snack (breakfast muffins, coffee, tea)
(Foyer, 2nd Floor)
- Tuesday, February 28, 2023: 2:00 p.m. – Coffee Break (Foyer, 2nd Floor)

NOTICE: The Majestic Room is the only room with PPT capability.

PANELS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023: 2:30-4:30pm

Panel S1: The Discourse and Language of Neoliberalism (Majestic Room)

Chair/Discussant: Nicholas Kiersey, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

“The Literary Dimension to U.S. Foreign Policy: A Critique of Deep Engagement,”
Gregory P. Williams, University of Northern Colorado

Panel S2: *Radical Political Theory* (Sabal Room)

Chair/Discussant: TBD

“*Anti-Oedipus* and the Liberation of Desire: An Ecological Perspective
Chelsea Welker, University of Northern Colorado

“Challenging Authority Through Tolerance”
Sarah Perez, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Panel S3: Capitalism, Neoliberalism, and Higher Education

“Race, Class, and Neoliberalism: The Imposition of Tuition at CUNY in 1976”
Douglas A. Medina, City University of New York, Guttman Community College

“The Far-Right and U.S. Higher Education”
Bryan Sculos, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Randall W. Monty, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023: 4:45-5:45pm

Outdoor Reception (Cash Bar) Hammerhead Deck, 2nd Floor (facing Gulf of Mexico)

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023: 6:00 – 7:30pm OPENING DINNER
(Sabal-Paradise Rooms, 2nd Floor)**

Keynote Speaker: Matthew Gonzalez

Matthew Gonzalez is a politician, lawyer, and activist, who epitomizes this year's conference theme of "challenging authority." He served on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors from 2001 to 2005 and was president of the Board. In 2003, Gonzalez ran against Gavin Newsom for Mayor of San Francisco as a member of the Green Party. In the 2008 U.S. Presidential election, he was the Vice-Presidential running mate of Green Party candidate Ralph Nader. He currently works as the Chief Attorney at the San Francisco Public Defender's Office.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023: 9:00-11:00am

Panel M1: Poetry, Fashion, & Science Fiction as Critical Political Science (Royal Room)

Chair/Discussant: Daniel O'Connor, California State University, Long Beach

“Disrupting the Academic and Political War Machine”

William Sokoloff, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

“On the Political Dialectics of Fashion”

Maylin M. Hernandez, University of Massachusetts Amherst

“Star Wars versus Star Trek: Or Nietzsche versus Marx”

George Gonzalez, University of Miami

Panel M2: Authoritarian Neoliberalism and the Empire of Borders (Majestic Room)

Chair/Discussant: Joseph Peschek, Hamline University

“Latin American Women’s Access to Reproductive Care in US Border Zones: A Preliminary Analysis”

Andreanne Bissonnette, University of Quebec Montreal

“How Residents of Informal Settlements Organize for Community Resilience in Agricultural Spaces”

Anna Erwin, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Chelsea Silva, The River Network

Zhao Ma, Purdue University

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023: 11:15am-12:45pm

PLENARY PANEL (Majestic Room)

“What’s in a Name? From New Political Science to Critical Political Science.”

Clyde W. Barrow, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (Former Chair, CNPS, 2009-2013)

Discussants:

Nancy S. Love, Appalachian State University (Chair, CNPS, 2019-2023)

Chelsea Welker, University of Northern Colorado

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023: 1:30-3:30pm

Panel M5: Capitalism, Mexico, and the United States (Royal Room)

Chair/Discussant: TBD

“Social Protest and Social Spending in Mexico”

Dongkyu Kim, University Texas Rio Grande Valley

Mi-son Kim, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Panel M6: Populism in Theory and Practice (Majestic Room)

Chair/Discussant: TBD

“The Ascendance of Ethno-National Populism: Israel in Comparative Perspective”

Yoav Peled, Tel Aviv University

“Inflation of Ideologies as a Flywheel of Populism”

Roland Zarzycki, Collegium Civitas

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023: 3:45 – 4:45 p.m.:

Art Installation: “Tactics in Dialogue with the Other in the Process of Making a Painting”
Thomas Murray, Rowan University
Donna Mason Sweigart, Rowan University
Erum Javed, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021: 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

OUTDOOR RECEPTION (Host Bar) Hammerhead Deck, 2nd Floor
(facing Gulf of Mexico)

Event Sponsored by: Taylor & Francis/*New Political Science*
and
UTRGV Department of Political Science



The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023: 9:00-11:00am

Panel T1: Social Movements, Capitalism, and Democracy (Royal Room)

Chair/Discussant: TBD

“Is Occupy Really Over? Rethinking Agency, Property, and Sovereignty”

Nancy S. Love, Appalachian State University

“Local Grassroots and International Responses to Cultural Heritage Protection During the Current Conflict in Ukraine,”

Ashleigh Breske, Hollins University

Panel T2: On the Fringes of Environmental Political Theory (Paradise Room)

Chair/Discussant: TBD

“Towards a Dialectical Account of Interrelatedness in Contemporary Environmental Political Theory”

Rudy Leal McCormack, Colorado State University

“Sumak kawsay – Buen vivir: Indigenous Communities Epistemologies”

Eduardo Erazo Acosta, University Narino

Panel T3: Migration and Refugees (Sabal Room)

Chair/Discussant: TBD

“A Critical Look at Migrant Journeys: Gender, Violence, and Resilience”

Carla Angulo-Pasel, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

“Grass Roots Inclusion Work Under Dire Circumstances: Aiding Refugees and Asylum-Seekers While Resisting the Trump Administration and Recovering From Covid-19”

Barbara Franz, Rider University

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023: 9:00-11:00am

Panel T4: Citizenship and the U.S. Constitution (Majestic Room)

Chair/Discussant: Andrew Smith, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

“SCOTUS and the Politics of Citizenship Inequality”

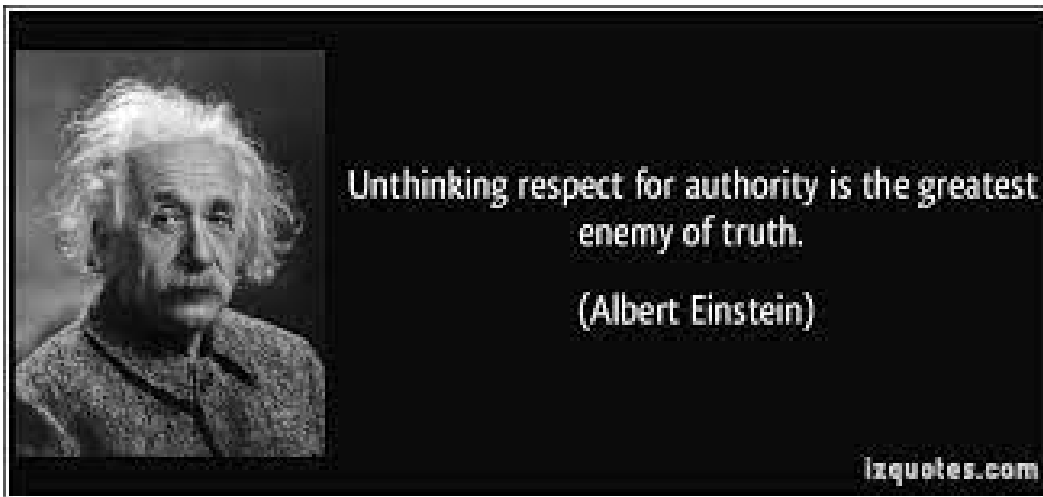
Cary Fraser, Appalachian State University

“Xenophobic Interpretations of Birthright Citizenship: A Linguistic Analysis of 14th Amendment Jurisprudence”

Paul James Pope, Montana State University Billings

“Should Progressives and democrats fight or welcome the Republican effort to call a Constitutional Convention?”

William L Niemi, Western Colorado University



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023: 11:15am-1:15pm

T5: Perceptions and Imagery in Contemporary Politics

“The Fallen Kingdom: The Rationals of the Kingdom of Sweden’s Collapse”
Barbara Bieniek, University of Silesia

“Propaganda: More Than Flawed Messaging”
Cory Wimberly, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Panel T6: Finance Capital, the State, and the Task of a New Political Science (Majestic Room)

Chair/Discussant: TBD

“Green Politics With and Against Authoritarian Statism”
Stephen Maher, Ontario Tech University

“Possibilities and Contradictions of the Rise of the New Finance Capital”
Scott Aquanno, Ontario Tech University

“Democratic Socialism: Transition and the Question of ‘Structural Reform’”
Joseph G. Peschek, Hamline University

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023: 2:30-4:40pm

Panel T9: Author Meets Critics (Royal Room)

Chair: TBD

Corporate Capitalism and the Integral State: General Electric and a Century of American Power
Stephen Maher, Ontario Tech University

Discussants

Clyde W. Barrow, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Bryant Sculos, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Panel T10: Race and Class in Municipal Politics (Paradise Room)

Chair/Discussant: Andrew Smith, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

“Does Municipal Labor Council Membership Impact Police Unions’ Contracts? Evidence from Connecticut Collective Bargaining Agreements”

Judson Abraham, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

“Whose Interests Matter in Non-Majority Black Cities Governed by Black Female Mayors? The Case of Washington, D.C.

Natasha Altema-McNeely, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley