

# CHALLENGING AUTHORITY



## **3<sup>rd</sup> 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

# CHALLENGING AUTHORITY

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Conference of the Caucus for a New Political Science

February 26 – 28, 2023

Isla Grand Beach Resort  
South Padre Island, Texas

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor
- Sunday, February 26, 2023: 2:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.: Panels  
Royal and Majestic Rooms (all on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
- Sunday, February 26, 2023: 4:45 p.m. to 6:00p.m.: Outdoor Reception (Cash Bar)  
Hammerhead Deck, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (facing Gulf of Mexico)
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.:  
Pre-Meeting Breakfast: Danish, fruit, coffee, and tea (Foyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration  
Foyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.: Panels  
Royal and Majestic Rooms (all on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 10:30 am -- Coffee (Foyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 pm.: Plenary Panel  
Majestic Rooms (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.: Lunch (free time)
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 2:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.: Panels  
Royal and Majestic Rooms (all on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 3:30 to 4:00pm – Afternoon Break: Cookies, soft drinks, coffee, tea  
Foyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 4:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.: Panel  
Royal Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

## **GENERAL SCHEDULE (continued)**

- Monday, February 27, 2023: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.: Outdoor Reception (Host Bar)  
Hammerhead Deck, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (facing Gulf of Mexico)  
Sponsored by: Taylor & Francis/*New Political Science* and  
UTRGV Department of Political Science
- Monday, February 27, 2023: 7:15p.m. – 8:45 p.m.: Dinner & Keynote Speaker  
Sabal & Paradise Rooms (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
- Tuesday, February 28, 2023: 8:00a.m. to 9:00a.m: Pre-Meeting Breakfast  
Danish, fruit, coffee, and tea (Foyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
- Tuesday, February 28, 2023: 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.: Registration (Foyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
- Tuesday, February 28, 2023: 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 p.m.: Panels  
Royal, and Majestic Rooms (all on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
- Tuesday, February 28, 2023: 11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.: Panels  
Royal, and Majestic Rooms (all on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

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

# PANELS

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023: 2:30-4:15pm**

**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

“The Great Gatsby Trap: Parents’ Education, Happiness and Life Satisfaction among Youth in South Korea”

Dongkyu Kim, University Texas Rio Grande Valley

Mi-son Kim, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

“Inflation of Ideologies as a Flywheel of Populism”

Roland Zarzycki, Collegium Civitas

**Panel S2: Capitalism, Neoliberalism, and Higher Education (Royal Room)**

Chair/Discussant: Joseph Peschek, Hamline University

“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: 4:45-6:00pm**  
Outdoor Reception (Cash Bar) Hammerhead Deck, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
(Facing the Gulf of Mexico)



**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023: 9:00-10:45am**

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

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

“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: Carla Angulo-Pasel, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

“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: 11:00am-12:30pm**

**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)

William Niemi, Western State College



**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023: 2:00-3:45pm**

**Panel M3: Who Really Governs? (Majestic Room)**

Chair/Discussant: Anna Erwin, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

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

“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

“Policy-Planning Organizations and the Empowerment of the Far Right in Texas”  
Michelle Keck, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

**Panel M4: Radical Political Theory (Royal Room)**

Chair/Discussant: William Niemi, Western State College

“Towards a Dialectical Account of Interrelatedness in Contemporary Environmental Political Theory”  
Rudy Leal McCormack, Colorado State University

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

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023: 4:00-5:45pm**

**Panel M5: Finance Capital, the State, and the Task of a New Political Science (Royal Room)**

Chair/Discussant: Clyde W. Barrow, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

“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

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**OUTDOOR RECEPTION (Host Bar) Hammerhead Deck, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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



**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023: 7:15 – 8:45pm PLENARY DINNER  
(Sabal-Paradise Rooms, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023: 9:00-10:45am**

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

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

“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: Migration and Refugees (Royal Room)**

Chair/Discussant: Mi-son Kim, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

“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: 11:00-12:45am**

**Panel T3: 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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

