Pacific Northwest

Political Science Association

ANNUAL MEETING 2026
November 6–7
Historic Davenport Hotel, Spokane



PNWPSA Officers

President
Travis Ridout, Washington State University

President-Elect
Kylee Britzman, Lewis-Clark State College

Secretary
Leif Hoffmann, Lewis-Clark State College

Treasurer
Ross Burkhart, Boise State University

Executive Council
Earlene Camarillo, Western Oregon University
Cole Grisham, Portland State University
Tom Hawley, Eastern Washington University
Paul Lenze, Northern Arizona University
Chris Shortell, Portland State University
Edwin Taylor, Missouri Western State University

Ex-Officio
Season Hoard, Washington State University

Executive Director
Richard Elgar, Washington State University

The Pacific Northwest Political Science Association is hosted by the
Thomas S. Foley Institute for Public Policy and Public Service at Washington State University

FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

SESSION 1
8:30-10:00AM
Environmental Politics & Policy 1 | International Relations 1 | Election Post-Mortem

ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY 1

LINCOLN ROOM

Chair & Discussant: **Christopher Klyza**, Middlebury College

Mateo Caso, **Erika Allen Wolters** and **Hilary Boudet**, Oregon State University
"Public Participation Amid a Fast-tracked Process: Assessing Public Sentiment around the McDermitt Lithium Project"
Tommy Kegler, UC Riverside
"Roots as a Mode of Knowing: Unpacking Frontline Knowledge"
Erika Allen Wolters and **Brent Steel**, Oregon State University, **Tamara Krawchenko** and **Michael Paramchuk**, University of Victoria
"Plans on the Shelf or Living Frameworks? Community Wildfire Planning and Adaptive Capacity in the Pacific Northwest"

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 1

Chair: **Ross Burkhart**, Boise State University
Discussants: **Ross Burkhart**, Boise State University and **Leif Hoffmann**, Lewis-Clark State College

ROOSEVELT ROOM

Ross Burkhart, Boise State University
"Pumping Blues: Global Energy Crises and Executive Punishment"
Abhishek Chatterjee, University of Montana
"Rulers and Land in Historical Perspective: The Colonial State and Land Rights in India"
Jason Kindree, Idaho State University
"National Security Conceptions and Operationalization: Theoretical Case Study of Canada"
Mridani Pandey, University of Allahabad
"Hedging as Systemic Practice: Neoliberal Interdependence, Strategic Multipolarity, and India's Role in the Emerging World Order"

MIDTERM ELECTION POST-MORTEM

WORTHY ROOM

Thessalia Merivaki, Washington State University
Kevin Pirch, Eastern Washington University
Travis Ridout, Washington State University
Todd Schaefer, Central Washington University

SESSION 2
10:15-11:45AM
American Politics | Indigenous Politics | Politics and Pop Culture

AMERICAN POLITICS

WORTHY ROOM

Chair & Discussant: **Todd Schaefer**, Central Washington University

Emre Balikci, Boise State University
"The Populist as a "Hero": The "Great Man" Theory and Modern Populism"
Dustin Ellis, Eastern Oregon University
"Charlatans, Demagogues, & Sycophants: Pathologies in American Conservatism"
Joseph Akowuah, **Francis Benjamin**, and **Nicholas Lovrich**, Washington State University; **William Schreckhise**, University of Arkansas; **Brent Steel**, Oregon State University; **Stephanie Witt** and **Jaclyn Kettler**, Boise State University; **John Piece**, University of Kansas; and **Steven Stehr**, Washington State University.
"Perceptions of State Legislative Civility and the Endorsement and Use of Political Violence Across the United States"
Zach Baum, Rutgers University
"Equal Seats, Unequal Power: LGBTQ Legislators and Institutional Inequality in State Legislatures"

INDIGENOUS POLITICS: INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP, AND POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

LINCOLN ROOM

Chair & Discussants: **Erika Allen Wolters**, Oregon State University

Shane Day, Portland State University
"Intertribal and Intergovernmental Conflict over the Expansion of Tribal Gaming in Oregon"
Cheryl Ellenwood, Washington State University
"Achieving Full Management Authority of Two National Fish Hatcheries: IDSov as a Framework and Methodology"
Margo Hill, Eastern Washington University
"Tribal Leadership and the Fight for Tribal Sovereignty with Tribal Leader Mel Tonasket"
Kait Pinkerton, University of Oregon
"Observing the Friends and Neighbors Voting Effect in the Cherokee Nation"

POLITICS AND POP CULTURE

ROOSEVELT ROOM

Chair & Discussant: **Edwin Taylor**, Missouri Western State University

Paul Pope, Montana State University-Billings
"Service Guarantees Citizenship: Starship Troopers, the Hero Fallacy Paradox, and the Performative Patriotism of the Trump Regime"
Jay Gentry, Montana State University-Billings
"Security Above All: Race, Place, and Heroism in Tom Clancy's The Division"
Adriana Lozjanin, University Canada West
"Rebellions are Built on Frames: Collective Action in Andor"

12:00-1:15PM
LUNCH WITH MAYOR LISA BROWN
FLOWERFIELD ROOM
TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE

SESSION 3
1:30-3:00PM
Media and Politics | Policy and Technology | Political Theory

MEDIA AND POLITICS

WORTHY ROOM

Chair: **Parakh Hoon**, South Puget Sound Community College
Discussants: **Travis Ridout**, Washington State University; **Parakh Hoon**, South Puget Sound Community College

Parakh Hoon, South Puget Sound Community College
"What Is AI? Rival Understandings, Political Assumptions, and Governance Choices"
Travis Ridout, Washington State University; **Erika Franklin Fowler**, Wesleyan University; and **Michael Franz**, Bowdoin College
"AI-Generated Advertising and Deepfakes in the 2026 U.S. Midterm Elections"
Robert Zinke, Eastern Washington University
"Star Trek's 'The Menagerie', Artificial Intelligence, and the Politics of Epistemic Illusion in Democratic Societies"

POLICY AND TECHNOLOGY

ROOSEVELT ROOM

Chair/Discussant: **Eliot Dickinson,** Western Oregon University

George Busenberg, Soka University of America
"The Policy History of Hydropower"
Paige Kolnes, The College of Idaho
"Lessons from Ghost Towns: What Congress's Policy Responses to U.S. Deindustrialization Reveal About the Possibilities for Guiding the Development of Artificial Intelligence Technology"
Aaron Ley, Brendan Mark, and **Christopher Parker**, University of Rhode Island
"The New Surveillance State: Explaining the Adoption and Distribution of Automated License Plate Reader Cameras"

POLITICAL THEORY

LINCOLN ROOM

Chair & Discussant: **Tom Hawley**, Eastern Washington University

Emily Beatty, University of Oregon
"Reconstructing Pluralism – The Embodied Roots of Freedom and Counter-Hegemonic Practice"
Patrick Mahoney, Washington State University
"Repressive State Apparatuses and Militaristic Signifiers: Looking the Part"
Choudhury Amir Hamza, Idaho State University
"Disaster Response from Literature to Legislation Through the Rawlsian Lens of Justice"
Andrew Johnson, Gonzaga University
"Historical Vertigo: Everything, Everywhere, All at Once"

SESSION 4
3:15-4:45PM
Law and Courts | Peace and Conflict Studies | Poster Session | Voting and Elections 1

LAW AND COURTS

WORTHY ROOM

Chair: **Chris Shortell**, Portland State University
Discussants: **Nathan Carrington**, St. Louis University, and **Chris Shortell**, Portland State University

Nathan Carrington, St. Louis University
"Disproportional Sentences and Court Support"
Aaron Ley, University of Rhode Island
"Legal and Extra-Legal Mobilization Campaigns against Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Surveillance"
Adriana Lozjanin, University of Canada West
"Faith Against the Machine: Religious Exemptions in Canadian Law and Intersections with AI"
Chris Shortell, Portland State University
"Evaluating State Sovereign Immunity and the Rule of Law"

PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

ROOSEVELT ROOM

Chair & Discussant: **Paul Lenze,** Northern Arizona University

Caden Hicks, University of Oregon
"Conflict Related Targeting of Sexual Minorities: Insurgent Militant Masculinity"
Nasrin Jabin, Washington State University
"Voting Under Threat: Why Some Voters Risk Violence to Cast Their Ballots"
Paul Lenze, Northern Arizona University
"Canada's Status in a Multipolar World: Feminist Foreign Policy and the Return to Peacekeeping"

POSTER SESSION

EARLY BIRD ROOM

Chair & Discussant: **Leif Hoffmann**, Lewis-Clark State College

Collin Bannister, Washington State University
"Student Governments as Political Interest Groups in State Politics"
Garrett Dyemartin, Western Oregon University
"Removal of the Dams on the Lower Snake River"
Kaden Fisk, Whitworth University
"Cult of Personality: Overlooked Dimensions in Authoritarian Regime Classifications"
Michael Goldsby, **Mirren Edwards**, and **Roberta Simonson**, Washington State University
"Democrats and Republicans agree they hate AI, but don't agree on why"
Tristan Hoffmann, Lewis-Clark State College
"Education in Action: How Field Trips Enhance Learning in History and Political Science"
Sarah (Sam) Molloy and **Rebecca MacPherson**, Washington State University
"How Does Age Shape Political Information and Trust in Elections?"
Paul Plato, Northern Arizona University
"European Security amid the War in Ukraine"
Jeneane Sorensen, Idaho State University
"New Guinea: A Land with Many Conflicts and Poor Governance"

VOTING AND ELECTIONS 1: VOTING SYSTEMS, TURNOUT, AND TRUST

LINCOLN ROOM

Chair: **Thessalia Merivaki**, Washington State University
Discussant: **Paul Gronke**, Reed College

Todd Donovan, Western Washington University, **Hyeri Seo**, University of Iowa, and **Caroline Tolbert**, University of Iowa
"Estimating Effects of Social and Moral Ballot Measures on Voter Turnout Using State Voting Records."
Diana Pasquali, Secure Democracy Foundation
"Building Trust on The Ground: The Trusted Neighbors Campaign
Michael Ritter, Washington State University
"Understanding and Assessing Mail Voting through a Postal Voting Theoretical Framework"

5:00-7:00PM
MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND RECEPTION
EARLY BIRD ROOM
PLEASE JOIN US FOR UPDATES, ELECTIONS, AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

SESSION 5
9:00-10:30AM
International Relations 2 | Political Issues in the Pacific Northwest | Race, Gender, and Politics

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 2

ROOSEVELT ROOM

Chair & Discussant: **Ross Burkhart**, Boise State University

Sean Chabot, Eastern Washington University
"Stretching Said to Free Palestine: Beyond Imitation of the West"
Do Kyung (Christy) Kim, Seoul National University
"Strengthening the Cyber Resilience of the US NC3 System and its Implications for the US Allies in East Asia"
Matthew Rains, Whitworth University, **Ella Schoenfelder**, Whitworth University, and
Chun-Young Park, Nazarbayev University
"Unequal in Influence: Advocacy Non-Governmental Organizations at the Universal Periodic Review"
Majid Sharifi, Eastern Washington University
"Al-e Ahmad, Gharbzadegi, and the Psychic Life under Colonial Conditions"

POLITICAL ISSUES IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

EARLY BIRD ROOM

Chair: **Leif Hoffmann**, Lewis-Clark State College

British Columbia: **Adriana Lozjanin**, University Canada West
California: **George Busenberg**, Soka University of America
Idaho: **Leif Hoffmann**, Lewis-Clark State College
Montana: **Paul Pope**, Montana State University-Billings
Oregon: **Earlene Camarillo**, Western Oregon University
Washington: **Season Hoard**, Washington State University

RACE, GENDER, AND POLITICS

LINCOLN ROOM

Chairs & Discussants: **Sandra Reineke**, University of Idaho, and **Dustin Ellis**, Eastern Oregon University
Adam Hobbs, Whitworth University, and **Alex Ross**, Independent Researcher
"Group Threat and Solidarity: Evidence from Yelp Reviews of Mexican Restaurants"
Kylee Britzman, Lewis-Clark State College, **Karra McCray Gibson**, University of South Carolina, **Paul Testa**, Meta Corporation, and **Tarah Williams**, Allegheny College
"When You See Me, Do You Hear Me? The Persuasive Power of Black Women in U.S. Politics"
Sydney Smith, Washington State University
"State Feminism and the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Slovenia and Croatia"
Nick Squires, University of Oregon
"The Choreography of Refusal: Absurdist Tactics and the Racialized Politics of Immigration Enforcement"

SESSION 6
10:45AM-12:15PM
Political Psychology | Supreme Court Roundtable | Teaching Roundtable

POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY

LINCOLN ROOM

Chair & Discussant: **Kylee Britzman**, Lewis-Clark State College

Joseph Shaw Akowuah and Francis Benjamin, Washington State University
"Democratic Citizens, Undemocratic Actions: Perceived Illegitimacy and Support for Political Violence in the United States"
Edward Greer, Idaho State University
"What About Straight Pride?" Heterosexuality as a Political Identity"
Anika Wood, Washington State University
"Social Determinants of Vigilante Violence"

SUPREME COURT ROUNDTABLE

ROOSEVELT ROOM

Scott Lemieux, University of Washington
Chris Shortell, Portland State University
Gene Straughan, Lewis-Clark State College

TEACHING POLITICAL SCIENCE IN THE NEW WORLD ORDER

EARLY BIRD ROOM

Chair: **Erin Richards**, Cascadia College

Earlene Camarillo, Western Oregon University
Dustin Ellis, Eastern Oregon University
Mary Pettenger, Western Oregon University
Alouise Urness, Pierce College

SESSION 7
12:30-2:00PM
Environmental Politics and Policy 2 | Ethics and Policy | Voting and Elections 2

ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY 2

Chair & Discussant: **Shane Day**, Portland State University

LINCOLN ROOM

George Busenberg, Soka University of America
"The Policy History of Wind Power"
Dakota Kuhn, Lewis-Clark State College
"Talk and Talk, and Something Done: Nimiipuu Energy Sovereignty and the Lower Snake River Dams."

VOTING AND ELECTIONS: ELECTION 2026: THE VIEW FROM THE FRONTLINES

ROOSEVELT ROOM

Chair: **Paul Gronke**, Reed College
Discussant: **Thessalia Merivaki**, Washington State University

Paul Gronke, Reed College
"Perceptions of trust among US local election officials"
Wren Orey, Bipartisan Policy Center
"Noncitizen voting and list maintenance in the 2026 midterm elections"
Andrew White, Center for Tech and Civic Life
"The Cost of Excellent Elections"

CONFERENCE CONCLUDES
2:00PM

THANK YOU TO OUR INSTITUTIONAL SPONSORS FOR THIS YEAR

- ~ Boise State University
- ~ Central Washington University
- ~ Eastern Washington University
- ~ Thomas S. Foley Institute for Public Policy and Public Service
- ~ Washington State University

CASCADIA AWARD: PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO NOMINATE ANY EXCELLENT PAPERS THAT YOU SEE DURING THE CONFERENCE! YOU CAN NOMINATE THEM HERE: https://pnwpsa.org/cascadia-award

---

THE FOLEY INSTITUTE
The Thomas S. Foley Institute for Public Policy and Public Service

The Thomas S. Foley Institute for Public Policy and Public Service was established at Washington State University in 1995 with a congressional endowment to honor the service of former Speaker of the House, Thomas S. Foley.

The institute's mission is to foster civic education and public affairs program, promote public service, and support public policy research in a nonpartisan, cross-disciplinary setting. The Foley Institute has hosted the PNWPSA since 2012.

www.foley.wsu.edu