

Society for Political Methodology  
The 16th Annual Summer Conference

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

JULY 15-17, 1999, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

**Registration for Invited Participants**

To register please (1) fill out [this form](#) between Tuesday May 18 and June 15, (2) send in [your registration fee](#), (3) make [travel plans](#).

Note: the registration form requires Netscape 4.0+ or IE 4.0+ (Win98).

**Registration Fee**

Faculty should mail the \$100 conference registration fee to our secretary-treasurer, Phil Schrodtt by July 4th. If you plan not to take reimbursement for travel expenses, or plan to pay the fee as a graduate student, please send Phil a note. You can reach him at:

*Professor Philip A. Schrodtt*  
*Dept of Political Science*  
*University of Kansas*  
*Blake Hall*  
*Lawrence, KS 66045 USA*  
*phone: 1-785-864-9024*  
*fax: 1-785-864-5700*

Although the Society will pay for your travel, and only faculty are required to pay a registration fee, the methods group has sustained itself by stretching existing support due to our generous members not taking reimbursement for travel when they have other sources of funding. If your university will pay for travel, if you have a grant, if you got a nice raise last year, if you can hit up your department chair (which we highly recommend!) or anyone else, please use these sources; the methods group can use your help. Several of you have already volunteered to fund some or all travel yourself, which we appreciate. For the others, we ask faculty to seek out these sources of funding, and graduate students to ask their departments for some or all of the registration fee and travel. This is completely voluntary and will likely remain so for as many years as we can afford it, but your contribution is important to the future of the group.

**Travel**

If you are flying in, you should book your flights to and from College Station. Most flights to College Station are routed either through Houston or Dallas and take about a half hour to and from those intermediate destinations. You should plan to arrive in the late afternoon of Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> and fly out on Sunday morning, July 18<sup>th</sup>. The Society will pay for the least expensive air fare (for everyone giving a paper, poster, or serving as a discussant), and so *please make reservations very early*.

The College Station airport is about 5 minutes from the George Bush Presidential Conference Center where the conference will be held. It is also about 10 minutes from Eppright Hall, where most of you will be staying, and the Quality Suites Hotel. The Department of Political Science will be providing (air

conditioned) transportation to and from the airport and to all locations. In case of a mix-up or late hour arrival, taxi service is also available, but beware that taxis are very expensive in College Station so avoid this option if at all possible. Courtesy transportation is available to the Quality Suites Hotel by using the courtesy phones inside the airport. In order to coordinate your transportation, we need to know your arrival and departure times. Send an email on this to Scott Robinson ([srobinson@polisci.tamu.edu](mailto:srobinson@polisci.tamu.edu)) who will be coordinating transportation for the conference. If you run into problems on arrival, then contact our local conference organizer [Dan Wood](#), 845-1610 office, 690-0390 home.

## **Papers and Posters**

Paper givers should submit their paper to the methods paper server by July 4th. This will give everyone time to read them. If you are giving a poster that is based on a paper, or you are not on the program but have written a paper that might be of interest to the methods group, please submit the paper to the [methods server](#) also. This will make for much better informal conversations, and will likely result in some good feedback for you. This is an informal, casual conference, where papers and posters about work in progress are the norm. Please also see the [information about posters](#) we have compiled. If you have questions about your place on the [program](#), please contact [Gary King](#).

## **Lodging**

As is the usual methods conference practice, we have reserved dormitory accommodations in Eppright Hall for everyone. The dormitory option is included in your \$100 registration fee, so there is no additional charge for choosing this option. For those flying in, upon initial arrival you will be given a room key and conference packet. For those driving in, you will need to go to 2010 Bush Academic Building West before 5:00 p.m., July 14<sup>th</sup> (see map below) to obtain your room key and conference packet. The room key should be returned on or before Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. The standard accommodation will be two to a room, with separate linen packet for each participant. Please notify us well in advance if you will need specially equipped rooms (roll-in showers and grab bars) or first floor accommodations. Single rooms are subject to availability and for a nominal fee (Contact Alesha Doan, [alesha@polisci.tamu.edu](mailto:alesha@polisci.tamu.edu), with any conference housing questions.)

The Department will be providing transportation to and from the George Bush Presidential Conference Center. Eppright Hall is a short walk from the Commons Dining Hall where all breakfast meals will be served.

For those willing to pay for slightly better accommodations, we have reserved a block of rooms at the Quality Suites Hotel. Make your reservations by calling (409) 695-9500. Tell the reservation agent that you want to book accommodations in association with group #1171. The Hotel is located at 1010 University Drive East, College Station, which is about 10 minutes by car from the George Bush Presidential Conference Center. The Department will be providing transportation to and from this location.

## **Parking**

Those who have vehicles and require campus parking should let us know in advance so that we can provide parking tags. Send an email to Scott Robinson ([srobinson@polisci.tamu.edu](mailto:srobinson@polisci.tamu.edu)) who will be coordinating transportation for the conference.

## **Child Care**

Those attending the conference who need child care should contact [Alesha Doan](#) as soon as possible but definitely by June 28th. Her phone is (409) 268-0767.

## **Dinner Wednesday Night**

As is usual at these conferences, participants are on their own for the Wednesday evening meal. Taxi service is expensive in College Station (about \$8 for a 4 mile ride), so you probably want to keep it close to the dorm or travel in groups. Some viable dining options include the following:

Mexican: *On the Border*, 709 Texas Avenue, College Station- This is a southwestern style Mexican restaurant with a nice assortment of grills. About 1/3 mile from Eppright Hall across Texas Avenue within walking distance. *Garcia's Mexican Café*, 1704 George Bush East (at Harvey Road), College Station- This is a TexMex style restaurant with a more traditional Mexican menu. A short taxi trip from Eppright Hall.

Texas Barbecue: *Tom's Barbecue and Steakhouse*, 3610 S. College Avenue, Bryan -This is an Aggie tradition with the best Texas style barbecue in town. Standard practice is to eat without silverware (except a knife), and off butcher paper. Silverware available on request. A short taxi trip from Eppright.

Cajun: *Alicia's*, 317 College Avenue, College Station- Distinctive Cajun flavored cuisine. About a 3/4 mile walk from Eppright or short taxi trip.

Indian: *The Clay Oven*, 1905 S. Texas Avenue, College Station- Decent Indian food and a short taxi trip from Eppright.

American: *Café Excell*, 101 Church Avenue, College Station- Good food and about a mile walk or taxi trip from Eppright.

Also, the Northgate Area, within walking distance across University Drive from the main campus, contains numerous bars, sandwich shops, live entertainment, and country-western dancing. The *Dixie Chicken* in particular is a Texas A&M tradition for visitors to this area.

## **Directions**

Maps to Texas A&M University and the Bush Library complex from anywhere.- <http://www.tamu.edu/map/>

Directions to the Quality Suites Hotel- Exit Highway 6 bypass onto University Drive as shown on the preceding map. The hotel is on the left as you head toward the university from the freeway.

Map to Bush Presidential Conference Center- <http://www.tamu.edu/map/building/detail/BUSH.html> . Exit University Drive left onto Research through the Research Park entrance. Follow Research to 2010 Bush Academic Building West as shown on the map.

Map to Eppright Hall- <http://www.tamu.edu/map/building/overview/EPPR.html> . Exit Texas Avenue onto New Main Drive. Turn left on Bizzell and proceed as shown on the map. Parking is not available at this building, but you can use one of the parking garages on the map.

## **Thanks!**

Our thanks goes to the U.S. National Science Foundation and Texas A&M University for financial support.

We especially thank Professors [Dan Wood](#) and [Charlie Johnson](#) who are handling local arrangements at A&M and have already put in considerably time (and are about to put in a lot more!) to get this conference off the ground. Thanks also to the hard work of the program committee, composed of Professors Langche Zeng of George Washington University (Chair), Mohan Penubarti of UCLA, and Curt Signorino of Rochester.

# Schedule of Activities

## 1999 Summer Meeting of the Political Methodology Society

Texas A&M University, July 15-17, 1999

### *Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>*

**2:00-6:00 p.m.** Participants arrive at Easterwood Airport and get settled into accommodations.

**6:00-8:30 p.m.** Van service is available to local restaurants and sites of interest. See the schedule within this program for times of departure and pickup.

### *Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>*

**7:00-8:30 a.m.** Breakfast at the Commons Dining Hall. Admission cards for breakfast are in the welcome packets; a map from Eppright to the breakfast area is in the welcome packet.

**8:30-8:50 a.m.** Bus service from Eppright dormitory to the Presidential Conference Center. See the map in the welcome packet for the bus pickup location. Van service from the Hotel.

**9:00 a.m.** **Opening Remarks and Conference Coordination-**

Gary King, president of the Society for Political Methodology

Charles Johnson, Head of the Department of Political Science, Texas A&M

Woodrow Jones, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M

Marianne Stewart, National Science Foundation

Dan Wood, Department of Political Science, Texas A&M

**9:30 a.m.** **Panel 1, Auditorium B**

Elisabeth Gerber, Kristin Kanthak, and Rebecca Morton, UCSD and Iowa, "Selection Bias in a Model of Candidate Choice."

Discussant: R. Michael Alvarez, Caltech

- 10:50 a.m.** Coffee Break, Lobby
- 11:10 a.m.** **Panel 2, Auditorium B**  
William Greene, New York University. "Some Practical Issues in the Computation of Econometric Models."  
Discussant: Mohan Penubarti, UCLA.
- 12:30 p.m.** Lunch, 1011C
- 1:00 p.m.** Poster session room open for poster setup, 1011
- 2:00 p.m.** **Panel 3, Auditorium B**  
Gary King & Langche Zeng, Harvard and GWU. "Logistic Regression in Rare Events Data."  
Discussant: Philip Schrodtt, University of Kansas.
- 3:20 p.m.** Coffee Break, Lobby
- 3:40 p.m.** **Panel 4, Auditorium B**  
Curtis Signorino, Rochester. "Between the Unique and the General: The Statistical Implications of Choice and Structure."  
Discussant: Neal Beck, UCSD.
- 5:00 p.m.** **Poster Session, 1011**
- 6:30 p.m.** Reception, Lobby
- 7:00 p.m.** Dinner, 1011C

**8:30-9:00 p.m.** Bus service to Eppright dormitory. Van service to the Hotel

***Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>***

**7:00-8:30 a.m.** Breakfast at the Commons Dining Hall.

**8:30-8:50 a.m.** Bus service from Eppright dormitory to the Presidential Conference Center. Van service from the Hotel.

**9:00 a.m. Panel 1A, Auditorium B**

Jeff Lewis, Princeton. "Estimating Voter Preference Distributions from Individual-Level Voting Data (with Applications to Split-Ticket Voting)."

Discussant: Dean Lacy, Ohio State.

**Panel 1B, 1011B**

Janet Box-Steffensmeier & Chris Zorn, Ohio State & Emory. "Modeling Heterogeneity in Event History Analysis."

Discussant: John Freeman, U. Minnesota.

**10:20 a.m.** Coffee Break, Lobby

**10:40 a.m. Panel 2A, Auditorium B**

Jasjeet Sekhon, Harvard. "The Economic Sophistication of American Politics: American Public Opinion and Monetary Policy, 1973-1997."

Discussant: Chris Achen, Michigan.

**Panel 2B, 1011B**

Robert Sherman, Caltech. "Tests of the Validity of Complete-Unit Analysis in Surveys Subject to Item Nonresponse or Attrition."

Discussant: Ken Scheve, Harvard.

**12:00 a.m.** Lunch, 1011C

**Guest Speaker, David Alsobrook, Chief Archivist, George Bush Presidential Library, "Doing Research in a Presidential Library."**

**12:45 p.m.** **Tour of Presidential Library research area conducted by Archivists.**

**2:00 p.m.** **Panel 3A, Auditorium B**

Patrick Brandt, Burt Monroe & John Williams, Indiana U. "Time Series Methods for Compositional Data."

Discussant: Jonathan Katz, U. Chicago.

**Panel 3B, 1011B**

Brad Palmquist, Vanderbilt. "Models of Proportions Data."

Discussant: Charles Franklin, U. Wisconsin.

**3:20 p.m.** Coffee Break, Lobby

**3:30 p.m.** Posters need to be removed from poster boards by this time.

**3:40 p.m.** **Panel 4A, Auditorium B**

Jonathan Wand & Walter Mebane, Cornell. "Poisson-Normal Dynamic Generalized Linear Mixed Models of U.S. House Campaign Contributions."

Discussant: Jim Stimson, U. North Carolina.

**Panel 4B, 1011B**

Melvin Hinich & Hazem Ghobarah, Texas-Austin. "The MAP-B Program with Macro and Micro Applications."

Discussant: Michael Herron, Northwestern U.

**5:00-5:30 p.m.** Bus service to Eppright dormitory. Van service to the Hotel.



- 6:30 p.m.** Walk to Faculty Club from Eppright; van service from Hotel.
- 7:00-8:30 p.m.** Reception and dinner at the Faculty Club sponsored by STATA Corporation.
- 8:30-9:00 p.m.** Walk from Faculty Club to Eppright. Van service to the Hotel.

***Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>***

- 7:00-8:30 a.m.** Breakfast at the Commons Dining Hall.
- 8:30-8:50 a.m.** Bus service from Eppright dormitory to the Presidential Conference Center. Van service from the Hotel.
- 9:00 a.m.** **Panel 1, Auditorium B**
- Henry Brady & Laurel Elms, UC Berkeley. "Estimating Age-Period-Cohort Effects with Noisy Data and Imprecise Age Categories".
- Discussant: Jonathan Nagler, Harvard
- 10:20 a.m.** Coffee Break, Lobby
- 10:40 a.m.** **Panel 2, Auditorium B**
- Simon Jackman, Stanford. "Averaging Over Relevant Considerations: a Statistical Model of the Survey Response."
- Discussant: Jeff Gill, California Polytechnic.
- 12:00 p.m.** Lunch, 1011C
- 1:30 p.m.** **Panel 3, Auditorium B**
- Micah Altman & Michael McDonald, Harvard. "The Robustness of Statistical Abstractions:

A Look 'Under the Hood' of Statistical Models and Statistical Software".

Discussant: Vince Wiggins, Stata Corporation.

**2:50 p.m.** Coffee Break, Lobby

**3:10 p.m. Panel 4, Auditorium B**

John Londregan, UCLA. "Deliberation and Voting at the Federal Convention of 1787."

Discussant: Nolan McCarty, Columbia.

**4:30 p.m. Section Business Meeting, Auditorium B**

**5:15-5:45 p.m.** Bus service to Eppright dormitory. Van service to the Hotel.

**6:30 p.m.** Bus and van service to Messina Hof winery.

**7:30-9:00 p.m.** Reception and dinner sponsored by the Texas A&M University College of Liberal Arts

**9:00-9:30 p.m.** Bus service to Eppright dormitory. Van service to the Hotel.

***Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>***

**6:00-12:00 a.m.** Van service from Eppright to Easterwood Airport. Van service from Hotel to Easterwood Airport.

# List of Summer 1999 Methods Meeting Participants

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## Paper Presenters

Micah Altman & Michael McDonald, Harvard micah\_altman@harvard.edu, mcdonal@latte.harvard.edu  
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## Guest Speaker:

David Alsobrook, Texas A&M, David.Alsobrook@bush.nara.gov

## Discussants

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## Poster Sessions

### Graduate Student

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