POLMETH Mailing List Principles

Effective Date: August 11th, 2025

1. Mission

POLMETH is the mailing list of the Society for Political Methodology and the Political Methodology section of the American Political Science Association. The list provides a forum for discussion of political methodology and topics of interest to the members. The list supports announcements of conferences, open positions, and award opportunities; sharing of tools, datasets, calls, and resources that contribute to methodological innovation and the broader study of social science.

2. Audience & Access

The list is open to scholars, students, and professionals with interests in political methodology. Subscription and unsubscription can be completed through https://polmeth.org/mailing-list by emailing polmeth@lists.psu.edu.

The POLMETH mailing list is now hosted by Penn State University. The mailing list was previously hosted by the University of California, Riverside (through 1997), H-NET at Michigan State University (1998–2005), and Washington University in St. Louis (2005–2024). As of July 2025, the POLMETH listserv has 4,847 subscribers.

3. Posting Practices

A. Posting Process

Posts must be submitted in plain text format (no HTML or attachments or signature) to polmeth@lists.psu.edu. Moderators review and approve messages before distribution. Each post is allowed one original announcement and one follow-up reminder.

B. Content Requirements

To align with the mission of the POLMETH community, posts are encouraged to ensure clear relevance to **both** political science/politics **and** methodology/data science, unless the topic reflects a matter of broad community interest—such as funding changes or service opportunities that affect political science or social science researchers more generally.

When the relevance to political science and/or methodology is not self-evident, moderators may request clarification or suggest edits as appropriate, with the aim of supporting alignment with the list's focus and facilitating participation.

Commonly accepted topics include job postings, conference/workshop announcements, funding opportunities, calls for papers, award/committee nominations, new datasets or software packages, method-related course materials, or scholarly queries.

Posts that typically meet these expectations often fall into the following categories, each described in more detail below:

- Announcements from institutions or organizations clearly associated with political science and methods (e.g., established political methods conferences/workshops, political method/computational position openings) generally require no additional justification. General or subfield-specific calls and events are encouraged to briefly indicate their relevance to both political methodology and political science.

- Politics research content may span any discipline, including but not limited to political science, public policy, sociology, psychology, or computer science with a political or social component, as long as it substantively engages with both political and methodological or data science themes.

- Methods include quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods, computational, data science, or AI-related approaches. This includes both established and emerging techniques used in the design, measurement, analysis, or modeling of political and social phenomena, as well as practices such as structural estimation, pre-registration, meta-science, and other methodological best practices that advance transparency, reproducibility, and rigor in political methodology.

- Academic study-related requests—such as those involving participant recruitment or professional experiences of researchers—may also be considered when they hold relevance for the POLMETH community. Moderators may request clarification on purpose or audience before approving such posts.

More broadly, all posts should align with the scholarly and professional purpose of the list. Moderators may reject a post if they determine that its primary purpose is to promote products, services, or events in a manner that appears exploitative, predatory, or misaligned with the academic mission of the community.

This does not preclude the sharing of credible academic opportunities that may involve costs – such as software discounts, publication fee waivers, or training resources—when they are relevant and beneficial to the POLMETH community.

Posts intended primarily to promote an individual's own research output (e.g., a personal article or working paper) are generally not permitted. However, announcements of new datasets, software tools, or open-access resources that support research in political methodology may be shared when clearly relevant to the community.

C. Format Standards

Use plain text only. Do not include attachments, special formatting, or signature.

Write clear and descriptive subject lines. Ideally use tags such as [Job], [Conference], [Dataset], etc., to help subscribers quickly identify the post's content.

Submit final content only. The submitted text will appear exactly as-is to subscribers; no edits will be made after approval.

D. Follow-Up Practices

Posters who receive helpful responses to scholarly queries are encouraged to compile and share a brief summary of the key insights, which the moderator may circulate for the benefit of all subscribers.

4. Equity & Integrity

A. Commitment to Inclusion

The POLMETH list fully supports the Society's broader commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, as outlined in its official statement. We recognize that the open exchange of ideas, freedom of expression, and respectful scientific debate are essential to advancing the goals of the Society.

We welcome contributions from scholars of all backgrounds—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, color, religion, age, national origin, physical appearance, ancestry, or socioeconomic status. Posts that contain discriminatory, harassing, or exclusionary content are not permitted.

B. Privacy & Respect

Subscriber contact information must not be shared without permission. Content should maintain a professional tone and respect the privacy of individuals and institutions.

C. Fair Compensation

All job or research opportunity postings must offer appropriate compensation. Unpaid positions are not permitted.

D. Moderator Discretion and Enforcement

List moderators have the discretion to accept, reject, or request revisions to any post in accordance with these guidelines and the goals of the POLMETH community. Repeated or serious violations may result in warnings, suspension, or removal from the list. Appeals may be directed to the editorial committee.

5. Changes to Principles

These principles will be reviewed periodically. Updates are subject to approval by the POLMETH Executive members and POLMETH editorial committee and will be communicated to all subscribers.

6. Contact

For any questions or policy concerns, contact the list moderators at polmeth@lists.psu.edu.